



Robert Rothenberg
<rrothenb@gmail.com>

08/14/2011 07:10 PM

To nvgwprojects@blm.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on Draft EIS for Southern Nevada Groundwater
Development Project

Penny Woods
BLM Project Manager
PO Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

Dear Ms. Woods:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS for SNWA's Groundwater Development Project. I greatly appreciate the BLMs efforts to identify the severe and lasting impacts the proposed project will inflict upon public and private lands in Nevada and Utah. As a native Utahn, I have become very familiar with the western desert and the environs of Great Basin National Park. I have also been a "downwinder", subject to the effects of earlier generations of unfortunate events in Nevada. I know first-hand how events in Nevada can affect my home in northern Utah. While not a subject matter expert, from numerous articles I have read about the proposed wells and pipelines, I believe that the effects from this project would likely be irreparable damage to the Basin and an unacceptable lowering of the quality of life for the million-plus people who live along the Wasatch Front. I strongly urge the BLM to choose the No Action Alternative, and deny the Right of Way for this project. To do otherwise would violate its public trust responsibilities.

Less than two weeks ago I was in Las Vegas. With every visit there, I am continually amazed at the huge amounts of water that are wasted for the sake of entertaining a few visitors. The fountains, pools, ponds and waterfalls at numerous Las Vegas venues are water wasters that should be tapped before any attempt to acquire additional water in this arid area. The numerous golf courses and other huge areas of green, green grass do not fit into the desert landscape and should be replaced with native flora, enabling the redirection of vast flows of water for more productive uses.

Again, I urge the BLM to do all within its power to disapprove this project in any and all forms that might be proposed. There are too many unknowns connected with the impact of this project, and a great likelihood of major devastation over a vast area of our country and a huge number of our citizens. No prospect of economic development for Southern Nevada can justify the dire consequences to the land, people, flora and fauna of a large area of the American West.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Rothenberg

2114 Winter Way
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005-4279
(801) 789-3139
rrothenb@gmail.com