



School of the Natural Order

BAKER, NEVADA 89311

August 27, 2011

Penny Woods, Project Manager
BLM Nevada State Office
P. O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

REC'D - BLM - NSO
9:00 AUG 31 2011
A.M.

Re Water Protest

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to register our concern and to protest the BLM's consideration of allowing SNWA to construct a water pipeline in Snake Valley, NV.

The School of the Natural Order is a spiritual school that was founded by Ralph DeBit (Vitvan) in 1946. Vitvan passed on in 1964. As a non-profit educational corporation, our main purpose now is to preserve and disseminate Vitvan's teachings in written as well as in audio form. The School's headquarters (Home Farm) have been located in the foothills of Snake Valley, just east of Great Basin National Park, since 1957. It is located on the site of one of the early homesteads and several of the original buildings remain, as well as several original fruit trees that are over 100 years old and still bear fruit.

Our facilities include a classroom, meditation center, library, guest quarters, a main house with offices, kitchen, dining room, laundry and food storage, several large gardens, orchard, maintenance shops, cemetery, barn, several private homes and rental mobile homes. Our activities include maintaining a website, publishing and selling Vitvan's spoken and written materials, and maintaining Home Farm, a 360-acre property, for organic gardening, seminars, classes and retreats.

In order to exist and maintain all of the above mentioned facilities and activities, we are totally dependent on our spring fed water system. We received a grant several years ago to develop some of the springs that we are fortunate enough to have located on our property. Previous to this, we relied on relatively undeveloped springs that did not provide enough water for our needs, necessitating frequent watering and flushing restrictions which if not strictly monitored, ran our water tanks dry. Needless to say we highly value our delicious spring water and the beautiful oasis it creates for our spiritual community. In this remote, high desert area we have learned the meaning of sustainability and of being dedicated custodians of our land.

In short, the survival of Home Farm, its homestead history, its natural beauty, and everything we have done here for almost 50 years to carry on Vitvan's legacy, is dependent on our water. If the proposed drilling and piping of water out of Snake Valley dries up our springs, as it almost certainly will do, this little community will cease to exist and an irreplaceable natural environment will be lost forever.

We plead with you to deny SNWA's applications, which are lacking in scientific evidence and are full of false promises, unknowns and uncertainties. We urge you to support the No Action alternative and fulfill your mission "to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of public lands."

Thank you for your consideration,

Marjorie J. Coffman, Chairman of the Board
The School of the Natural Order, Inc.