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07/22/2011 11:31 AM

To nvgwprojects@blm.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Southern Nevada Water Authority Great Basin Pipeline /
Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement
concerning Nevada B.L.M. Groundwater Development
Project

I commend the Ground Water Development Project Team and their manager for their efforts. The Nevada B.L.M. Office has done a commendable job in multiple use management of vast areas of the Great Basin for a long time without the environmentally devastating impacts of the proposed intrusion of Southern Nevada Water Authority into these areas. Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) would be very hard pressed to explain the rationale for and the sustainability of pumping and piping the water found in archaic aquifers in one of the driest areas on Earth. With fifty years experience of being born, raised, educated, and ranching in the Great Basin in Nevada (7 years as a Nevada resident) and Utah and ranching in non-basin areas of Utah and Colorado I find the destruction of hundreds of thousands of acres of Great Basin range lands unconscionable and totally unacceptable. I support the multiple uses of livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, prospecting, mining, exploration, natural resource development, gas and oil production, water shed, and the preservation and enjoyment of the natural beauty. I also support stream irrigated and responsible pump well irrigated farming as well as municipal water systems in the Great Basin; all of which would be impacted by a SNWA pumping and piping project. The majestic and geological beauty and environmental integrity of Great Basin National Park would be severely impacted by SNWA pumping billions of gallons of water out of the echo system which sustains this national treasure. Exploration, development, establishment of production sites, and production on private mineral rights owned by me as an individual proprietor on private and public lands in the Utah counties of Millard, Sevier, and Paiute would be impacted by a lack of water and a dust hazard in what could be a totally destroyed environmental and echo system causing unanticipated impacts. If this pipeline were to be constructed into the Great Basin I would fear for the environmental integrity and safety of my home. Because the huge aquifers left in the Great Basin when Lake Bonneville receded have almost insignificant recharge in relation to their size and are essential for the maintenance and sustainability of the environment and echo system, as a rancher, an irrigated property and home owner, a stockholder and the president of Paxton Mineral Corporation, a mineral rights owner, a stock holder in the Corn Creek Irrigation Company, and a resident of Kanosh, Millard County, Utah and the Great Basin, all of which I believe would be impacted by a SNWA pipeline into the Great Basin, I oppose any intrusion of SNWA into any of what I believe are the interconnected archaic aquifers of the Great Basin. Thank you.

Frank T. Paxton