

USGS Professional Paper #1628, "Regional Ground-Water Evapotranspiration and Ground-Water Budgets, Great Basin, Nevada" clearly show that the water budget of the valleys of eastern Nevada are presently in equilibrium e.g., there is no excess water (see Tables C11 and C15). USGS papers are produced by reputable scientists based on facts and are politically neutral. Based upon this report, any substantial withdrawal of water from the aquifers of eastern Nevada will have detrimental, short and long-term, ecological and environmental consequences. Recharge and evaporation data for eastern Nevada and western Utah basins illustrate that the proposed SNWA plan is ill-conceived and unsustainable. These conclusions are noted or inferred in the BLM Draft EIS for the SNWA groundwater development project. Based on this information, I would recommend the BLM adopt the No Action alternative.

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REC'D - BLM - MSO  
9:00 AUG 23 2011  
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