

BLM_NV_NVSO_GWProjects

From: Richard Kanner <richard.kanner@hsc.utah.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 1:51 PM
To: BLM_NV_NVSO_GWProjects
Subject: Great Basin (Snake Valley) water for Las Vegas

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose the pipeline that the Southern Nevada Water Authority wishes to build to take the ancient water under the Snake Valley to enable developers to keep expanding Las Vegas. My opposition is based upon the following:

1. Las Vegas is in a desert and the lack of water limits its growth. By allowing it to expand using the finite supply of water merely prolongs the time when development must cease and probably when the city must reduce its size due to its inability to provide an adequate amount of fresh water.
2. It has been estimated that by conservation measures Las Vegas can gain the equivalent amount of water as can be obtained from the Snake Valley.
3. Draining the ancient water from the Snake Valley will dry up the landscape there putting ranchers out of business and endangering the communities that live downwind. The soil in the Snake Valley contains erionites, specifically zeolite, a mineral similar to asbestos, that can cause a cancer known as mesothelioma as well as other diseases of the membrane that covers the lungs. This has been noted in Turkey, in the Cappadocia area. Also, the fine particulates will be blown into the Salt Lake Valley, an area that already exceeds EPA standards for levels of PM2.5. The soil may also contain radioactive fallout from the 1950's nuclear testing.
4. The water under the Snake Valley cannot be replaced by precipitation and it would take another ice age with eventual melting to refill this aquifer.

Please do not allow this water grab to occur. It would allow developers in Las Vegas to make a quick profit while the costs of this ill-advised scheme would harm many others in east-central Nevada and along the populated areas of Utah for many, many years to come.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Kanner, MD

--

Richard E. Kanner, MD
University of Utah Health Sciences Center
26 North 1900 East
701 Wintrobe Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84132-4701
Tel: (801)581-5707
Fax: (801)585-3355
Beeper: (801)339-5592
Email: richard.kanner@hsc.utah.edu