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CLARK, LINCOLN, AND WHITE PINE counties  
GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
SCOPING MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

On Thursday, August 11, 2011

At 4:00 p.m.

At the Hampton Inn & Suites

307 N. Admiral Byrd Road

Salt Lake City, Utah

Reported by: Deborah Ann Hines, CCR #473, RPR

1 PAM ALEXANDER. 1684 East 6430 South, Salt  
2 Lake, 84121. I think this is a bad idea. When would  
3 they stop pumping, because I read that they would  
4 stop pumping if the water got to X, whatever their X  
5 is. But they won't stop. This is just like old men  
6 convincing young women to have sex: I will pull out  
7 before I cum and you won't get pregnant. When are  
8 they going to pull out?

9 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: We're going to  
10 start a few minutes early. Some folks are on kind of  
11 a tight time schedule, so to accommodate we'll get  
12 things moving here fairly quickly.

13 If you have additional questions or would  
14 like some clarification, the staff from AECOM and BLM  
15 will be walking around the room. Please feel free to  
16 grab anybody with a name tag, talk with them  
17 privately and continue your conversation if you'd  
18 like.

19 I'm not going to go through the list of  
20 things that you received when you came in again  
21 tonight, I think everybody is pretty much up to speed  
22 on that. We're going to ask you to keep your  
23 comments to five minutes. We'll explain how this is  
24 going to work. And I will hold up a reminder card  
25 when you've got about a minute of your five minute

1 period of time.

2           If you have anything in writing that you  
3 believe is going to take longer than five minutes, if  
4 you would please leave it with Debbie, our court  
5 reporter, we will make sure that everything you have  
6 to say is included in the formal public record.  
7 Everything that you say tonight publicly will be  
8 included in the environmental impact study. Any  
9 questions will be answered. Any comments that you  
10 bring will be addressed in that document.

11           So with that let me introduce Dr. Michael  
12 Dwyer, our public hearing officer, and he will walk  
13 you through the rest of the process.

14           DR. MICHAEL DWYER: Good evening, everyone,  
15 and welcome. Thank you for being here for this  
16 important meeting. Our purpose tonight, the purpose  
17 of this part of the meeting, this public hearing, is  
18 to hear your comments on this document, the bigger  
19 form of this document, the Clark, Lincoln and White  
20 Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Draft  
21 Environmental Impact Statement.

22           This document was prepared by the Bureau of  
23 Land Management with the help of our environmental  
24 contractor AECOM and with the cooperation of 16  
25 cooperating agencies, including Juab, Millard and

1 Tooele counties and the State of Utah.

2 We prepared this document in response to an  
3 application we received from the Southern Nevada  
4 Water Authority in August of 2004 for the facilities  
5 to convey groundwater from east central Nevada to the  
6 Las Vegas area.

7 Let me be clear that no decision has been  
8 made by BLM to date on this application. The  
9 National Environmental Policy Act requires that  
10 before that decision is made on that application that  
11 the Bureau of Land Management document and consider  
12 the impacts that would be associated with that  
13 project. This document is the vehicle that will be  
14 used to convey those impacts to the decision maker,  
15 so it's important that it's clear, it's  
16 comprehensive, it's accurate and that's how we need  
17 your help. That's why we're here tonight.

18 There are seven alternatives that are  
19 analyzed in this document. Six of those are action  
20 alternatives that involve different rates of  
21 production and different water basins. One of those  
22 alternatives is a No Action alternative that we  
23 analyzed the impacts that would occur if we were to  
24 deny the Southern Nevada Water Authority's  
25 application.

1           Let me clarify what this hearing is not.  
2 First it's not about the allocation of water rights.  
3 That is not a BLM decision. That is a decision  
4 that's in the hands of the State of Nevada, and  
5 specifically the Nevada state engineer. The state  
6 engineer will conduct separate public hearings this  
7 fall on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's  
8 application to the State for water rights.

9           Second, this part of the meeting is not a  
10 debate. The first part of the meeting was designed  
11 to answer your questions. This part of the meeting  
12 is about listening to you. So we're going to be  
13 quiet and we want to hear your comments on this.

14           It's a formal public hearing in which each  
15 person who wants to make a comment in this forum will  
16 be given the opportunity to do so, and everything you  
17 say, all of your comments and questions, will be  
18 captured by Debbie, our court reporter, verbatim and  
19 they will be addressed in writing in the final  
20 version of this environmental impact statement.

21           Please be aware that if you ask a question  
22 while you're at the podium, we will note it for the  
23 record and we will address it in the final EIS but we  
24 won't answer it in this forum. If you think of a  
25 question while you're sitting here that you'd like to

1 have answered, you're very welcome to stand up and  
2 seek out a BLM or AECOM employee and maybe step out  
3 and get your question answered.

4 We want to hear from everyone who has  
5 something to say. As John said, we've allocated  
6 about five minutes per speaker, and John will display  
7 some cards to help you manage your time while you're  
8 at the podium. Please wrap up your comments when you  
9 see the card that says time expired.

10 If you have comments that are more extensive  
11 than can be conveyed in five minutes, we want them.  
12 Please submit them to us in writing. We've extended  
13 the comment period by 30 days so you now have until  
14 October 11th of 2011 to submit those comments.  
15 Written comments carry every bit as much weight as  
16 those you give orally here tonight.

17 Regarding audience participation, please  
18 treat the speaker as you would like to be treated  
19 when you're at the podium. Please don't interrupt  
20 the speaker, and please note that audience comments  
21 and reactions won't be part of the transcript.

22 Finally let me explain what happens from  
23 this point forward. The comments that we collect  
24 here tonight, along with all of those from other  
25 public meetings and the written comments we receive,

1 will be used to help develop the final version of  
2 this environmental impact statement. They expect to  
3 have it available to the public in mid 2012, and it  
4 will include a comment response document that  
5 explains how we used everyone's comments.

6           When the final EIS is ready for release,  
7 we'll publish a notice in the Federal Register, as  
8 well as in local newspapers, and we'll post it on the  
9 website. A decision on the right-of-way application  
10 for this pipeline can be made any time 30 days after  
11 that notice of availability is published.

12           When that happens, when the decision is  
13 made, we'll publish a formal record of decision in  
14 the Federal Register and in the local newspapers.

15           Finally I'd just like to extend my sincere  
16 thanks to all of you for being here tonight. It's  
17 been my experience, I've worked on a lot of  
18 environmental impact statements in my 31 years with  
19 BLM and they're always better in the end for vigorous  
20 public review and comment. So thank you very much  
21 for being part of this process.

22           With that I'll open the hearing and ask John  
23 to please call our first speaker.

24           FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: When I call your  
25 name, if you would please step to the podium and if

1 you would spell your name and give us your home  
2 address, I would appreciate that. We'll call the  
3 names in the order that we received them but we  
4 always defer to elected officials if they elect to  
5 speak first.

6 Mayor Corroon said that he would be happy to  
7 wait, but if you don't mind stepping up first, Mayor,  
8 we'd appreciate having you.

9 PETER CORROON: Happy to do so. I don't  
10 want to cut in line. Usually lose votes that way.

11 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Mayor Peter  
12 Corroon.

13 PETER CORROON: I think there's only two  
14 people ahead of me so I lost two votes. I'm not  
15 running for reelection.

16 Thank you for holding this hearing, and I  
17 appreciate the ability to come here. I'm glad nobody  
18 has got a tie on because I didn't wear my tie today.

19 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Mayor, would you  
20 mind spelling your name and giving us your address  
21 please.

22 PETER CORROON: Peter Corroon,  
23 C-o-r-r-o-o-n. Address is the Salt Lake County  
24 Government Center, which is 2001 South State Street,  
25 Salt Lake City.

1           Essentially I'm here representing Salt Lake  
2 County and some other counties as well, but our  
3 concern along the Wasatch Front is an air quality  
4 concern. We fear that the depletion of the water  
5 levels will essentially hurt plant life and then  
6 create dust which will blow towards Salt Lake County  
7 and other counties along the Wasatch Front.

8           And it's our understanding that the sparse  
9 vegetation, erosion of bare surfaces and wildland  
10 fires possibly resulting from groundwater drawdown  
11 can generate wind blown dust, haze and climate  
12 impacts as well. And the report estimates that the  
13 wind blow dust after full build-out under the  
14 proposed option, the option showing maximum  
15 build-out, would be 180 tons per year and will  
16 increase over time from 24,000 to 34,700 tons per  
17 year, so that concerns us.

18           One of the things that we would like to see  
19 is the impact of that dust coming towards Salt Lake  
20 County. We already live in a non-attainment area in  
21 Salt Lake County, meaning the federal government has  
22 told us that our air is not clean enough and we need  
23 to do something about it, so we are concerned about  
24 the air quality impacts. And we'd love to see the  
25 study address that along the Wasatch Front, even

1     though it's not located in the immediate area, and so  
2     we'd love to learn about potentially negative  
3     impacts.

4             Salt Lake County is also partnered with  
5     other concerned counties in the Utah Association of  
6     Counties to help fund an independent study by the  
7     U.S. Geological Survey Utah Water Science Team. The  
8     purpose of the study is to better understand current  
9     hydrological conditions in the Snake Valley area,  
10    which in turn will allow for greater understanding of  
11    the affects groundwater withdrawals will have.

12            So we will be submitting more detailed  
13    comments but I just wanted to put those comments on  
14    the record in this hearing tonight. So thank you  
15    very much.

16            FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: David Ludwig.

17            DAVID LUDWIG: My name is David Ludwig. My  
18    address is 9958 South Pinehurst Drive, Sandy, Utah.

19            I'm sure that probably I'm going to guess  
20    that everybody in this room has at one point in time  
21    actually driven down the west desert of Utah along  
22    the border, and it does look very stark. But it's  
23    actually quite an environment out there and it's, of  
24    course, driven by water, like every other environment  
25    is.

1           And when you drive upon like Fish Springs,  
2           it's just all of a sudden it's an oasis in the  
3           desert. And it supports a lot of wildlife. It  
4           supports birds and even migratory birds. It's  
5           probably been doing that for hundreds of years.

6           There's a lot of ranches out there. People  
7           make a living out there. And if you've ever noticed,  
8           there's a lot of year-round springs or streams that  
9           come down out of the Deep Creek Mountains, and I  
10          haven't seen that addressed yet in any of these  
11          studies how the long-term in the Deep Creeks would be  
12          affected by that also.

13          You know, I'm not a geologist, I'm not a  
14          hydrologist, but from a common sense point of view I  
15          think over the long-term this could be very  
16          devastating environmentally to the whole  
17          infrastructure in the west desert of Utah.

18          And moving on to a different look at it, I  
19          didn't know until today that the one person that's  
20          going to make the final decision is the Nevada Water  
21          Engineer is going to make -- he's going to make a  
22          decision that's going to affect Utah. And, frankly,  
23          one man making a decision on something this important  
24          scares me, especially when he's not representing our  
25          state.

1           And like everything else I don't believe  
2 that this particular project is really going to be  
3 used as a humanitarian project for Las Vegas. I  
4 think it's going to be -- I think it's driven by  
5 everything else in this country: Money and politics.  
6 Somebody stands to make a lot of money off of this  
7 project and basically that's where I'm at. I'm  
8 against the project. And thank you very much.

9           FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Curtis McCarthy.

10           CURTIS MCCARTHY: Curtis McCarthy,  
11 C-u-r-t-i-s, M-c-C-a-r-t-h-y, 14324 Country Classic,  
12 Bluffdale, Utah 84065.

13           When you first come in they ask why you're  
14 here and I wrote down the public but maybe I'm a  
15 little more selfish than that because of my  
16 grandchildren that live in this valley.

17           What is BLM doing here? Because they're  
18 taking care of the land for us, the people. Like I  
19 said, I've lived in this valley for 30 years. My dad  
20 was a doctor. He died 17 years ago. And he told  
21 me -- he worked during World War II. He was  
22 stationed at Kerns Flying Field. Most people don't  
23 even know that there was a flyer field that's about  
24 five miles south of here.

25           And at the time it was top secret at the

1 time, but those stations at Kerns Flying Field had  
2 the highest respiratory infection rate of any  
3 military base anywhere in America. And he said that  
4 was because of the dust, the storms that would come  
5 through. And a lot of it was because they were  
6 building and the dust would come in. But since then,  
7 all these lawns they've put down and they returned  
8 the land back to its stable state.

9 I believe, and like the other man mentioned  
10 before, they need to have a study to see how much  
11 this will change the balance of the ecosystem. And  
12 obviously drawing the water down and sending the  
13 water hundreds of miles away instead of using it in  
14 that area, you change the ecosystem.

15 I know in Utah they don't allow you to move  
16 the water more than a couple of miles, except if it's  
17 coming from an area with a lot of water. And there  
18 is not a lot of water in the west desert. Obviously  
19 they could probably take it from Lake Tahoe but  
20 that's not part of their scope. It shouldn't come  
21 from the desert. Thanks.

22 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Randy Parker.

23 RANDY PARKER: Thank you. My name is Randy  
24 Parker, R-a-n-d-y, P-a-r-k-e-r. I'm the CEO of the  
25 Utah Farm Bureau Federation. Our address is 9865

1 South State Street, Sandy, Utah 84070. Welcome to  
2 Utah. Good to have you here. Thanks for the  
3 opportunity to make comments on the proposed  
4 trans-basin transfer of Snake Valley water.

5 Farm Bureau is the largest farm and ranch  
6 organization in the State of Utah representing more  
7 than 30,000 families in the state. Water is the  
8 lifeblood of the arid west. Availability of water is  
9 critical to Utah's farm and ranch families and their  
10 associated rural communities. Even the slightest  
11 lowering of the groundwater resource adversely  
12 impacts farmers and ranchers. It increases pumping  
13 costs that could render agriculture economically  
14 unfeasible in that area and in a broader region.

15 I'd like to compliment Utah's governor Gary  
16 Herbert, Mayor Corroon and other political leaders  
17 for aggressively working to protect the sovereign  
18 rights of the State of Utah as far as water,  
19 agricultural interests and the fragile desert  
20 ecosystem.

21 This aquifer we're talking about today  
22 straddles the borders, and that's our interest in  
23 being here. History and the local farmers tell us  
24 that the Snake Valley aquifer is in balance. The  
25 discharge and the recharge are equal to one another.

1 I would say a hundred years or a hundred plus years  
2 of history for those farmers is something we ought to  
3 take and consider.

4 Southern Nevada Water proposes to extract  
5 groundwater, and that transfer to Las Vegas will have  
6 a direct impact on agriculture, the ecosystem and  
7 Utah's interest. Nevada and Utah are the most arid  
8 of the 50 states. During western droughts, residents  
9 of Snake Valley tell us springs dry up, plant life  
10 changes and wildlife numbers change. And even in the  
11 spring when the agricultural pumping begins, they see  
12 a change in the flowing wells and so forth just with  
13 that discharge. To remove 20, 30 or 48,000 acre feet  
14 out of Snake Valley in this transfer could create  
15 irreparable damage.

16 Some like to minimize the socioeconomic  
17 contributions of farmers and ranchers. Well, let's  
18 be clear. Food and agriculture in the state of Utah  
19 is a major contributor to the economy, the tax base  
20 and to jobs. Agriculture contributes \$15 billion,  
21 food and agriculture contribute \$15 billion to Utah's  
22 economy. That's 15 percent of our GDP and it employs  
23 73,000 Utahans. Our view is BLM has to fully assess  
24 the socioeconomic impacts and the history of the  
25 residents in this important region.

1           The Snake Valley aquifer lies largely in  
2 Utah. The recharge mainly does come from the Nevada  
3 side. Some have suggested that maybe because of that  
4 more of that water ought to move into the Nevada  
5 side. Though intriguing, wester water law doesn't  
6 allow that. California and Arizona would scream a  
7 little bit if we changed the allocation on the  
8 Colorado River.

9           So let's take a look at the issues. Number  
10 one, Farm Bureau supports the state engineer  
11 prohibiting changes in diverse, water transfers, and  
12 new well permits that would impact the existing water  
13 rights, and we hope that the Nevada State Engineer  
14 would do the same.

15           History and those old-timers tell us that  
16 the aquifer is in balance. By contrast BARCAS has  
17 said there's unallocated water. Is the future of  
18 Snake Valley really a gamble we want to take on those  
19 differences? 84 percent of the groundwater-dependent  
20 lands are located in the state of Utah irrigating  
21 crops, rangeland for livestock, dairy farming,  
22 municipal and domestic water use, and stabilizing  
23 what's already been referred to as those fragile  
24 soils that could affect our quality of life up here  
25 along the Wasatch Front.

1           The U.S. Geological Service says that  
2 groundwater resources in the southwest are the most  
3 overused in the United States. I think there's a  
4 warning in that. The hydrological connection between  
5 Snake and Spring Valley and even further into Cave  
6 Valley and beyond that are significant. Pumping  
7 associated with Spring Valley may have a direct and  
8 indirect impact on Utah water rights and the  
9 residents of Snake Valley, and we have concerns about  
10 that.

11           If approved by the BLM and ultimately damage  
12 is done, is there a mitigation plan to remediate  
13 those impacts, not just money, not buying out  
14 affected interests, is the Southern Nevada Water  
15 Authority really prepared to pull the plug and shut  
16 this down, as Pat Mulroy suggests in the media, if it  
17 does adversely impact; or once those homes are tied  
18 up to this pumping out of the west desert, will that  
19 take precedent and we'll forget about the  
20 commitments?

21           Anyway, we're glad you're here. We're  
22 hopeful that our comments are of value. And to the  
23 Utah Farm Bureau and our 30,000 member families, the  
24 risk for Utah are just too great. Thank you.

25           FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Rupert Steele.

1           RUPERT STEELE: Rupert Steele, 1378 West  
2           4200 South, Taylorsville, Utah. A project of this  
3           magnitude taking groundwater resources away from its  
4           originating source that adversely affects the local  
5           water resources should not be allowed without any  
6           in-depth cumulative impact analysis that the project  
7           will have on the natural environment.

8           The Southern Nevada Water Groundwater  
9           Project EIS, the DEIS does not address the water  
10          aquifer recharge rates, affects of climate change,  
11          evaporation, etc. Ideally, as was mentioned before,  
12          discharge should equal recharge. Water supply in the  
13          valleys depends on natural occurring yearly water  
14          supply, weather patterns and water management.

15          Unfortunately the Southern Nevada Water  
16          Authority Groundwater Development Draft Environmental  
17          Impact Statement and associated agreements takes a  
18          wait and see approach, or we won't find out what  
19          happens until we start pumping. That is not  
20          acceptable.

21          The valleys contain many cultural sites and  
22          natural features, especially wetland areas which  
23          include, but are not limited to, springs, creeks,  
24          marshes, wet meadows, streams, rivers. There's no  
25          rivers out there to replenish the aquifer.

1           Riparian areas and federal mineral water  
2 resources, which is a great spiritual and cultural  
3 importance, the EIS seriously fails to recognize the  
4 project affects on the water resources need to  
5 sustain the natural environment in those valleys.

6           The stipulated agreement signed by the board  
7 of Department of Interior agency for mitigation and  
8 monitoring does not include any management or  
9 protections for the water-dependent species and the  
10 environment. The stipulation agreement as written is  
11 inadequate to address additional impacts and  
12 uncertainties posed by the change application  
13 required by distributed pumping.

14           There will be a domino effect on the  
15 environment that goes out in many branches that you  
16 can actually never keep count. The monitoring and  
17 mitigation plan is unenforceable, it's unfunded and  
18 lacks the baseline data and triggers for specific  
19 responses to adverse impacts.

20           As the saying goes, a closed mind creates a  
21 closed heart. Too many of us think we will not run  
22 out of water and that the water aquifer in the Great  
23 Basin will sustain its availability in perpetuity  
24 despite all the pumping. We have been taking water  
25 for granted for too long. We have to start

1 respecting the water and live within our means.

2 Nature controls our destiny.

3           Some don't believe in climate change or any  
4 sort of environmental protection and regulation. One  
5 is how is Southern Nevada going to help the local  
6 residents in the area when the project sucks dry the  
7 groundwater and the aquifer? Without adequate  
8 rainfall and snow accumulation to provide sufficient  
9 recharge, the discharge will surpass recharge  
10 resulting in drying out of the natural environment.

11           The EIS does not address the prolonged,  
12 compounded affects on a multitude of species and  
13 organisms and habitat because of the way they're  
14 chained and linked together. Local water sources  
15 will dry up when the groundwater is lowered. Crops  
16 will wither and animals and fish will die from the  
17 lack of oxygen and of thirst.

18           The EIS does not recognize long-term drought  
19 impacts and its affect on water recharge. Too many  
20 times a top down driven agenda does not acknowledge  
21 the public concerns and our positions are not even  
22 considered in this EIS process.

23           The groundwater development project will  
24 create systemwide problems that will leave a sad  
25 legacy of environmental destruction and has a very

1 high potential of becoming the subject of  
2 environmental racism.

3 Questions that need to be answered: Is it  
4 economically feasible? Is there sufficient water  
5 available to sustain the project? What will be the  
6 short and long-term adverse impacts of the whole  
7 water aquifers in the valley?

8 I strongly urge the Bureau of Land  
9 Management to select the No Action alternative on the  
10 Southern Nevada Groundwater Project because of its  
11 uncertainty, its cost, its irreparable impacts on the  
12 natural environment and depletion of the water source  
13 in Nevada. Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Jeff Salt.

15 JEFF SALT: Hi, my name is Jeff Salt,  
16 S-a-l-t, executive director of Great Salt Lakekeeper.  
17 Lakekeeper is a single word.

18 We're here to offer comments on this  
19 project. And the first comment is that we would ask  
20 the BLM to consider extending the comment period  
21 beyond October 11th to accommodate a decision by the  
22 Nevada State Engineer regarding the adjudication of  
23 water rights and what impact that would have on the  
24 environmental impact statement for this project.

25 We also would ask that the BLM continue this

1 hearing and comment period to allow for the USGS  
2 report on Snake Valley to be published, which is very  
3 soon to come out.

4 All of this information is relevant for the  
5 public to provide meaningful public comment, which is  
6 our right to be heard, and we would extend an  
7 invitation to the BLM to prolong this comment period  
8 to at least December 11th, if not January 11th,  
9 because of the way holiday seasons work.

10 At this point Great Salt Lakekeepers'  
11 members would prefer the No Action alternative. This  
12 project is about the pipeline project that would  
13 service a groundwater completion project, so your  
14 responsibility is to decide about the pipeline. But  
15 they're related. And so the environmental impacts  
16 that are associated with the project that will be  
17 accommodated by the pipeline is relevant to your  
18 decision.

19 Why would a decision about a pipeline in  
20 Eastern Nevada concern people in Salt Lake County or  
21 the Great Salt Lake watershed? Snake Valley is part  
22 of the hydrologic system of the Great Salt Lake  
23 watershed and it is part of our watershed community.  
24 We are concerned about impacts anywhere in our  
25 watershed.

1           There are concerns about the groundwater  
2 depletion and how that would affect the surface water  
3 systems. Mostly the analysis that's been done  
4 suggests that groundwater has no impact on the  
5 surface water. That's not true. Rivers and streams  
6 are made up of the groundwater that feeds the  
7 channel, and so any depletion of groundwater affects  
8 the functionality of a stream system and the riparian  
9 zone.

10           This valley is actually important because of  
11 the sage steppe environment. And there are  
12 significant federal resources being deployed at this  
13 point for sage steppe recovery. I was part of the  
14 initiation of Utah Partners for Conservation and  
15 Development program to address the sage steppe  
16 problem in Utah. It's a multistate problem, and have  
17 to do everything we can to preserve the fundamental  
18 infrastructure to keep the sage steppe community  
19 alive to avoid listing it.

20           And we do have Peregrine hawk populations in  
21 this area. They're a very incredible wildlife  
22 species that would be detrimentally impacted by the  
23 loss of sage steppe habitat. Gunderson grouse, other  
24 species that are of concern.

25           So we have to look at these broader

1 implications. We need sufficient time to provide  
2 those comments and the additional information that we  
3 would get from the USGS and from the Nevada State  
4 Engineer are relevant, and we would ask you to  
5 postpone those hearings until we can get those  
6 studies. Thank you.

7 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Linda Johnson.

8 LINDA JOHNSON: Linda Johnson, spelled the  
9 simple ways, L-i-n-d-a, J-o-h-n-s-o-n, 1356 East 4500  
10 South, Salt Lake City, 84117.

11 To the BLM I would like to say thank you for  
12 writing an excellent DEIS and for extending the  
13 comment period as much as you have so far. That has  
14 given me an opportunity to consult my League of Women  
15 Voters of Salt Lake board so that we can comment as a  
16 group. I am co-president and natural resources  
17 director of the league of Salt Lake City.

18 I have a few comments but generally endorse  
19 the information in the format of the DEIS. I also  
20 thank you for having a hearing in Salt Lake City.  
21 After reading the entire DEIS, I would like to submit  
22 the following comments briefly. Written comments for  
23 the league will be later.

24 They're not technical, they're the result of  
25 an interested and informed citizen. I think no DEIS

1 should be published until the well locations, costs,  
2 water rights and other uncertainties are addressed.  
3 I believe particularly that the upcoming USGS UNR  
4 hydrology study on the Great Basin National Park must  
5 be included. Please delay closing the comment period  
6 or at least agree to issue at least a supplemental  
7 EIS after the missing information is obtained.

8 I'm particularly concerned that the DEIS  
9 considers primarily the impacts to wildlife, animal  
10 and vegetable, only in conjunction with the pipeline.  
11 I believe that the EIS should include, or at least  
12 address in some detail, the entire potential impact  
13 to all our publically owned BLM land. The DEIS is  
14 clear that construction of the pipeline probably  
15 means destruction and desertification on the adjacent  
16 land, and I believe that extrapolates to mean on all  
17 BLM land in the valleys. That I think is an  
18 inappropriate outcome. I would like to know exactly  
19 the degree of damage that will be done on all the  
20 public BLM land affected by the water removal.

21 I'm concerned with the DEIS's discussion of  
22 probable desertification downwind of the Wasatch  
23 Front causing up to perhaps 24,000 tons of blowing  
24 dust to be created. I suggest that you consult with  
25 the climatology department of the University of Utah

1 which has some very lovely photographs of the dust  
2 from the southwest from the area that will be  
3 affected blowing directly into our air shed.

4 Our specific interest is in Utah of course.  
5 The Utah portion of the proposed water removal is not  
6 addressed in this particular DEIS, but I believe  
7 proposed removal of the underground water is likely  
8 to damage the water table and water supplies in Utah  
9 as well as in Nevada.

10 I think leaving out the Snake Valley was a  
11 deliberate effort on the part of the Southern Nevada  
12 Water people to not discuss this in this DEIS. Snake  
13 Valley was considered to be a prime pumping area and  
14 water source for the Southern Nevada Water's earlier  
15 plans, and I expect those haven't changed. They had  
16 an earlier plan to do groundwater monitoring and  
17 mitigation if harm was done. I believe mitigation  
18 means a plan to buy out our ranchers in the Snake  
19 Valley and create more wasteland.

20 Considering those issues, I believe the No  
21 Action alternative should be BLM's position for sure  
22 now, and probably after supplemental information is  
23 received. And I'd also like to add that after I went  
24 out to Baker to see the BLM presentation there, I  
25 drove through four or so of the valleys, both

1 horizontally and vertically, so to speak, and they  
2 are not wasteland now and they should never be  
3 wasteland. They're beautiful places. Thank you.

4 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Steve Erickson.

5 STEVE ERICKSON: My name is Steve Erickson.  
6 I'm with Great Basin Water Network. I live at 444  
7 Northmont Way in Salt Lake City.

8 This is a lovely venue. I can't criticize  
9 the Hampton Inn and Suites; however, I think that  
10 next time you come here for your supplemental  
11 environmental impact statement please try to pick a  
12 location that's in town so that people don't have to  
13 drive out here on a yellow alert air quality day.  
14 There are people who may have wanted to ride the  
15 tracks or the bus or on their bicycle to get to this  
16 hearing and they are not able to do that because of  
17 the location, so please consider that next time  
18 you're here.

19 I'm going to disagree with my friend Randy  
20 Parker from the Farm Bureau and I'm going to ask, are  
21 there members of Congress here today? I didn't think  
22 so. Any member of the Congressional staff from the  
23 State of Utah? No, I don't think that they're here.  
24 I think that's really odd because this area  
25 encompasses thousands of square miles that are right

1 in the middle of Jason Chaffetz' district, they're a  
2 part of Rob Bishop's district, and it seems to me  
3 like dereliction of duty for our Congressional  
4 delegation to not be here tonight to speak out  
5 against this project. It may be that Senator Hatch  
6 and Senator Lee just are too busy burnishing their  
7 Tea Party credentials to stick up for agriculture in  
8 Utah, but it's about time somebody asked them where  
9 have they been. I can say they've not been on this  
10 issue at all. Ever since the very beginning of it  
11 they have not lifted a finger to help.

12 I don't see legislators here tonight.  
13 They've been pretty good about supporting our  
14 initiatives at the legislature relative to the  
15 Southern Nevada Water project but I don't see them  
16 here.

17 I don't see anybody from the governor's  
18 office here. Is anybody here from the governor's  
19 office? One, okay. We'll let the governor off the  
20 hook for the moment, but it seems to me that we have  
21 a collective failure of leadership here in the state  
22 of Utah and I wonder why that is and when people are  
23 going to point it out as forcibly as it needs to be  
24 done.

25 I would ask are there any hunters here

1     tonight?  A couple hunters.  Any hunting  
2     organizations here tonight?  Huh.  Maybe some of you  
3     who hunt want to remind your hunting organizations  
4     that, in fact, they have a lot of stake here with  
5     hundreds of, actually thousands, up to 200,000 acres  
6     of prime elk and deer and pronghorn habitat will be  
7     at risk as a direct result of the pumping proposed by  
8     Southern Nevada Water.

9             Anybody here fish?  I know there's some  
10    fishermen out there.  You may never be able to catch  
11    a Bonneville cutthroat trout again if this project  
12    goes forward.  It's our state fish.  It's one of the  
13    few native fish we've got and they're about to be  
14    disappeared by a project with the kind of impacts  
15    that this one has.

16            Any wild horse advocates?  A couple.  Good.  
17    I know there are lots of animal rights activists in  
18    Salt Lake.  They ought to be aware that the wild  
19    horse population in the west desert are going to be  
20    decimated when there are no springs and seeps and  
21    sub-irrigated meadows, no wetland for them to water  
22    at.

23            The BLM has identified some information  
24    about wild horse impacts in its study but has done an  
25    inadequate job of analyzing the impacts on the Utah

1 herds. We need to know about the compromising of  
2 springs and seeps that are in the Choke Cherry,  
3 Confusion, Conger, Kingtop and Sulphur horse  
4 management areas in Utah. So if you take a hard look  
5 at that, that's an area where I think you have failed  
6 to meet the requirements of NEPA.

7 I've got to say that when we talk mitigation  
8 and monitoring and compensation that this just simply  
9 can't be done. If you take the water out of the  
10 desert the way that Southern Nevada Water wants to in  
11 their proposed action, you're going to have  
12 groundwater drawdowns of up to 200 feet, a hundred  
13 feet in Snake Valley, and those are guesstimates but  
14 those are devastating numbers. You're not going to  
15 see any recovery to equilibrium for hundreds if not  
16 thousands of years. There simply isn't enough  
17 recharge for that to take place if you dewater the  
18 aquifer in these valleys.

19 How are you going to mitigate -- how are you  
20 going to offset subsidence, ground levels dropping  
21 five feet or more over hundreds of square miles in  
22 Nevada and Utah? That's impossible to monitor and  
23 mitigate. You can't pay people off enough to deal  
24 with their ground dropping as if they were in a  
25 sinkhole.

1           I'll finish with a comment that was made by  
2 the major proponent of this project, Miss Pat Mulroy,  
3 who's the general manager of Southern Nevada Water  
4 Authority. She said to High Country News in 1994  
5 that taking water out of rural Nevada and piping it  
6 down to Las Vegas was, quote, the singularly most  
7 stupid idea anyone ever had.

8           It remains that. And Pat Mulroy has had  
9 lots of second thoughts about having said that, and  
10 she's had other proposals that she's brought to the  
11 table, alternatives like going to the Mississippi  
12 River, going to the Missouri River, taking flooding  
13 waters out of the Midwest and pumping them to Nevada.

14           Well, why don't we help her take up some of  
15 those potential alternatives like desalinization,  
16 like better conservation, like reuse of water rather  
17 than taking return flow credit. All of those should  
18 be on the table with the BLM and have not been on the  
19 table. We can at least ask that she give us a  
20 reasonable cost estimate for this project, because I  
21 believe they won't be able to finance it. Thanks.

22           FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Joseph Thalman.

23           JOSEPH THALMAN: My name is Joseph Thalman.  
24 My mailing address is P.O. Box 1321, Salt Lake City,  
25 84110.

1           And I, first of all, want to go on the  
2 record as adamantly opposed to this whole project,  
3 but what I want to speak on this afternoon is what  
4 lies down the road after it's either approved or  
5 disapproved. Because, as this gentleman just said,  
6 this SNWA director, Pat Mulroy, I'm going to quote  
7 from the Tribute last May 20th, says SNWA director  
8 Pat Mulroy has tried everything from wheeling to  
9 threatening to get Utah to agree to sacrifice its  
10 water to support growth in Las Vegas. But when she  
11 failed to convince judges in her own state, her  
12 tactics lost momentum.

13           But that doesn't mean she's going to give  
14 up. Whether she gets the water or not, she is going  
15 to go after water elsewhere. She is going to go  
16 after every state in the Colorado compact to get  
17 water, either threatening them, sue them or what  
18 other process she can use.

19           For that reason I have discussed the  
20 proposal with several of my friends who are attorneys  
21 and they think it's worth a shot. And I propose  
22 going to the attorney general in the State of Utah,  
23 getting him to join with the attorney generals from  
24 all the other water compact states and ask Nevada,  
25 State of Nevada and the City of Las Vegas to

1 voluntarily create a moratorium on the addition of  
2 any hotel units. They can construct new hotels only  
3 if they had equal number of abandoned or torn down,  
4 so there can be no increase in hotel rooms.

5 And if Nevada refused to do that, then the  
6 attorney generals of all states file a suit in  
7 Federal Court to get a judgment of moratorium on any  
8 increase in the size of hotels and hotel rooms in Las  
9 Vegas. There's going to be a natural growth in Las  
10 Vegas of course with the population there, but at  
11 least it will cut down on the -- they remind me of  
12 a -- Las Vegas reminds me of a drunk sailor. Just  
13 can't get off the habit. They just keep building  
14 more hotels and more hotels.

15 I like to refer to this Pat Mulroy as the  
16 Wicked Water Witch of the West. And so I'm just  
17 curious to know how many people support me going to  
18 the attorney general, say aye. Any opposed?

19 The reason I didn't give my residence  
20 address is because I know that Nevada has kind of a  
21 funny tradition of putting out contracts on people  
22 they don't like. So with that that's all I have to  
23 say. Anybody want to go with me to the State, I've  
24 got a list you can sign here. Thank you.

25 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Ann Merie Johnson.

1                   ANN MERIE JOHNSON:  A-n-n, M-e-r-i-e, last  
2 name Johnson, J-o-h-n-s-o-n, Post Office Box 1143,  
3 West Jordan, Utah 84084.

4                   I'm here as a concerned citizen of the state  
5 of Utah.  I have been appalled since day one about  
6 this water crap.  Dress it up however you want,  
7 that's exactly what it is.  Las Vegas needs to learn  
8 the lesson of everybody else in the world.  When the  
9 water is gone, the water is gone.  You live within  
10 your means or you do without.

11                   They are worried about the Colorado River  
12 impact of getting less water than they have now due  
13 to depletion of the Colorado River.  That water is  
14 over-allocated right now.  It's not getting better.  
15 The alternative to this is to drain every ounce of  
16 water from the Great Basin until it's gone.  And as  
17 been noted before, when it's gone, it's gone.  The  
18 damage, as the documentation has shown, is  
19 irretrievable and irreversible.  The damage will be  
20 forever.

21                   I am hoping the BLM and the Nevada vote "no"  
22 alternative.  The alternative is to live within your  
23 means or do without.  As all of the citizens here  
24 have learned in this economic downturn, if you don't  
25 have it, you do without.  Nevada does not need more

1 hotels, more casinos, more golf courses, more water  
2 fountains. If they cannot provide for themselves for  
3 the future, they don't take what belongs to other  
4 people. Thank you.

5 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Lorry Horman. I'm  
6 sorry if I not pronouncing that correctly.

7 LORRY HORMAN: Lorry Horman, L-o-r-r-y,  
8 H-o-r-m-a-n, 2035 Browning Avenue, Salt Lake.

9 I'm here to say something nice about Las  
10 Vegas, and that's not easy because it's a theme park  
11 for Sodom and Gomorrah in the middle of the desert  
12 with nothing around it but urban sprawl. But the  
13 redeeming grace, if what I hear is true, nobody gets  
14 more out of a gallon of water than Las Vegas. They  
15 can become a role model for every community in the  
16 United States. Add this to the entertainment,  
17 gambling, whatever. Show this country how they do it  
18 so we can do it too because the birds are coming home  
19 to roost. I don't care where you live. Water is  
20 going to become a problem if we continue to do with  
21 it what we've done in the past. Thank you.

22 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Michael Garabedian.

23 MICHAEL GARABEDIAN: Good afternoon. I'm  
24 Michael Garabedian, 7143 Garden Vine, Citrus Heights,  
25 California. I'm here representing Water Keepers, a

1 Nevada nonprofit. Our purpose is to keep water in  
2 the basins of origin.

3 Getting off the Colorado River, Southern  
4 Nevada, it's their choice to go off the Colorado  
5 River water, that the compact does not require them  
6 to do that. The EIS needs to deal with this and  
7 explicate -- the assumptions about the Colorado River  
8 need to be explained, the myth that has been created  
9 around this in the early meetings from Southern  
10 Nevada.

11 The question is what if no off-river water  
12 is available to Southern Nevada? That is the  
13 question. It's really a question about an  
14 alternative, should be reviewed in the environmental  
15 impact statement. In fact, Southern Nevada has  
16 options on the river under the compact, and the EIS  
17 is too limited in not giving that background and  
18 explaining it.

19 Now unfortunately federal policy encourages  
20 Southern Nevada to go off the river. Basically  
21 Congress has provided a federal water welfare program  
22 for Southern Nevada. The BLM land sales of the BLM  
23 land around Las Vegas, the money from that that's  
24 gone to subsidize Southern Nevada, subsidize this  
25 effort, the trade-off between money from that going

1 to help Lake Tahoe and the trading off the Great  
2 Basin for increasing the demand, increasing the  
3 growth of Las Vegas and the demand on the water.

4 Make no mistake, the application to you is  
5 asking the BLM to lock up public lands by turning  
6 them into urban watershed, urban water supplies.  
7 Think Owens Valley for L.A. or Hetch Hetchy for San  
8 Francisco or the mass pipe, those watersheds or  
9 Catskills for New York City. Once you have lands  
10 dedicated to urban use like they're asking the BLM,  
11 which it cannot do under its authority, it becomes  
12 locked up. It becomes a conversion to another use.

13 A couple comments about the land use  
14 chapter. Only going one mile off on land use issues,  
15 one mile past the right-of-way and the facilities,  
16 that may be good for construction impacts but  
17 adjacent, you have to deal with adjacent lands, you  
18 have to deal with the impacts on other lands as was  
19 commented here.

20 There's a total failing to understand the  
21 agricultural import of what you say, and most of the  
22 land is public land. Those small homesteads, the  
23 desert land entries, my goodness, BLM has the data.  
24 They know about the investments on agriculture that's  
25 been made on those farms and ranches. That should be

1 dealt with. That is an economic investment that  
2 would be lost. So we need some kind of dealing with  
3 that. You need a map in there where you can see  
4 where the private lands are and so that you -- BLM  
5 understands it but the EIS does not understand the  
6 critical nature of that.

7           Agricultural economics, the Farm Bureau  
8 discussed some of those issues. You have all kinds  
9 of excuses. I've heard all kinds of excuses of why  
10 agricultural dollar impacts is not dealt with  
11 adequately in this. I have a Bachelor of Science in  
12 forestry and conservation. I had five years of  
13 agriculture policy work in the legislature. I had  
14 five years of ag land preservation work in  
15 California. Two years ago I took an agricultural  
16 economic class.

17           The current standard, the current research  
18 that's being done on ag econ is apparently not known  
19 at all to the people who work on this. This farm  
20 ownership pattern changes are critical things to  
21 know. The BLM seems to have deep six'ed scoping  
22 comments. I'd like to know what the criteria was to  
23 drop and not cover them in the EIS.

24           Finally the 30-day -- the decision could be  
25 made on this in 30 days. This is atrocious. What

1 should happen is once the final EIS is out, you need  
2 to issue a proposed record of decision. You need to  
3 put out proposed terms and conditions. If you're  
4 going to go ahead with the right-of-way, you need to  
5 tell the public what the criteria are for your  
6 decision, and you have to hold public hearings at  
7 that point with that information so that you can get  
8 the public's input and not just make the decision  
9 based just on the EIS. The EIS is not enough. And  
10 the hearings have to be outside Nevada and Utah. The  
11 Colorado River is a perfect example. Other states  
12 are affected by this. National parks are affected by  
13 this. You must be broader. Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Zachary Frankel.

15 ZACHARY FRANKEL: Thank you for the  
16 opportunity to speak. My name is Zachary Frankel.  
17 I'm executive director of the Utah Rivers Council.  
18 Address is 1055 East 2100 South, Suite 204 up here in  
19 Salt Lake City, Utah.

20 So I don't believe this is a water grab, I  
21 think this is a mining project. This is a mining  
22 project for the west desert. This is mining project  
23 for the farms and ranchers of the Snake and Spring  
24 Valleys. It's mining the future of these areas.  
25 It's mining the springs and aquifers. It's mining

1 the fish and wildlife that are dependent on those  
2 areas. It's mining the very future of the towns at  
3 stake.

4           And with all due respect to the BLM, which  
5 has been very gracious in coming to Salt Lake for  
6 this meeting, I think that the EIS does not go far  
7 enough in documenting the purpose and need. The  
8 Southern Nevada Water Authority asserts that it needs  
9 this water, but when you carefully look at its water  
10 use and you look at the No Action alternative, you  
11 see that water conservation has not been given enough  
12 of a real consideration to not need to mine these  
13 areas of the one thing they need to exist, which is  
14 water.

15           So the purpose of this project seems solely  
16 to benefit those who build it. It seems that we're  
17 being told it's being done for the future of Las  
18 Vegas but really when we're talking about watering  
19 grass or specifically over-watering grass, it's  
20 really nobody's future, it's just grass.

21           Las Vegas can continue to grow without this  
22 water if it was more creative in its water  
23 conservation planning. True they have been good in  
24 some respects in their water conservation planning,  
25 but a report by the Pacific Institute and the Western

1 Resources Advocate found that Las Vegas could  
2 significantly reduce its water use through efficient  
3 improvements. That report is readily available  
4 online, and it should be a part of it. It should be  
5 addressed as part of this draft EIS. It needs to be  
6 included in the consideration of the No Action  
7 alternative.

8 I also think that I want to agree with my  
9 colleague, Steve Erickson. In 2004 Congress passed  
10 something it did not understand, the Lincoln County  
11 Conservation, Recreation and Development Act. And  
12 that law was passed basically tying the hands of the  
13 BLM south of the White Pine County line, both  
14 counties of Clark County and Lincoln County. And it  
15 says that the BLM will approve the right-of-way in  
16 those counties. Why? Why would Congress decide that  
17 these areas must be mined for the lawns of Las Vegas?  
18 That makes no sense to me.

19 So I hereby commit to write Congressional  
20 legislation to strike down that section of the LCCRDA  
21 and ensure that the BLM is allowed to prepare a true  
22 No Action alternative which has no impacts, which is  
23 really the requirement of NEPA. Because it seems  
24 ridiculous to say that these lands, these BLM lands,  
25 which are held in trust for all Americans, are owned

1 by all Americans, must have a pipeline approved upon  
2 them for the lawns of Las Vegas, for the gluttonous  
3 waste of Las Vegas. It makes no sense to me.

4 So since the area affected by this proposed  
5 water project lies in one of the forthcoming  
6 congressional districts, I hereby ask all candidates  
7 for Congress from that district or the state of Utah  
8 if they will support and sponsor an amendment to the  
9 LCCRDA which forces the BLM to prepare a legal and  
10 complete No Action alternative for the right-of-way.  
11 That's the reason that the No Action alternative is  
12 gibberish because even the No Action alternative  
13 allows for the drying up of some of these pristine  
14 and vital springs and aquifers and creeks that  
15 support so many communities up there. It's  
16 absolutely nonsensical that Congress would do this.

17 I'd also like to know if Utah's  
18 Congressional delegation voted for that, and why, if  
19 they approved that, why they would go ahead and  
20 approve that.

21 Las Vegas' water use is far too high. Las  
22 Vegas's water use is more than twice the national  
23 average. So any consideration of the purpose and  
24 need of this project must include water conservation  
25 measures in Las Vegas. So I would implore the BLM to

1 procure a subcontractor, or whatever expertise is  
2 needed, to actually make sure that the Southern  
3 Nevada Water Authority doesn't just do smoke and  
4 mirrors about its true water use. Its water rates,  
5 for example, are far below the market value, and  
6 until there's a full internalization of the very  
7 serious environmental cost of this and they're  
8 amortized into the price of that water, then there  
9 hasn't been a real purpose and need addressed to  
10 evaluate the impacts of this project. I thank you  
11 very much for your time.

12 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Joel Ban. Am I  
13 reading that correctly?

14 JOEL BAN: My name is Joel Ban. I'm a  
15 resident of Salt Lake City. I'm representing myself.  
16 I do practice law but it's not representing any  
17 particular interest other than my own.

18 For the record I do oppose this project. I  
19 haven't gone through the EIS in detail yet, I've read  
20 some summaries of other people's analyses of the EIS  
21 and I do understand there will be a number of impacts  
22 that will amount to an irretrievable commitment of  
23 resources and definite adverse environmental impacts  
24 in terms of the impacts to wildlife, wetlands, these  
25 other environmental resources that are of tremendous

1 value and for that reason I oppose it.

2           The other impact that might not have been  
3 discussed yet is the loss or the commitment of  
4 resources that would detract from Indian water  
5 rights. I understand there are some tribes in that  
6 area, and they do, under my understanding of the law,  
7 have superseding water rights to those in the Vegas  
8 area. There are also federal water rights related to  
9 some of the national parks and national wetland,  
10 wildlife refuge areas; and those types of resources  
11 are also very important, that it seems that the  
12 drawdown on the aquifer would very much adversely  
13 impact those superseding federal Indian water rights.

14           The other somewhat controversial thought I  
15 had was that even though I very much oppose this  
16 project, I have heard about some projects, and I'm  
17 not sure to what degree they're successful, but in  
18 Vegas I know they do use certain things like paying  
19 people to take out grass in their yards. And of  
20 course there are many other places where, you know,  
21 they use water and water grass and golf courses and  
22 those types of things I very much oppose, but I think  
23 there could be some things like that that we should  
24 be doing here in the Salt Lake City area. And in  
25 northern Utah we don't think about water conservation

1 as much or to the same extent that they might in  
2 Southern Nevada.

3 I also understand that a lot of casinos are  
4 recycling water and these types of things, but at the  
5 same time they're obviously going to be using this  
6 water for improper purposes and I definitely oppose  
7 that.

8 My only point with this part of my  
9 discussion is I think we should be doing a lot more  
10 of that type of thing in Northern Utah and I'm for  
11 people, government, everyone else to, you know, take  
12 a close look at our own usage of water and see what  
13 we can do to conserve to a greater extent and perhaps  
14 implement some of these similar practices. Thank  
15 you.

16 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Brian Moench.

17 BRIAN MOENCH: My name is Brian Moench. I'm  
18 the president of the Utah Physicians for a Healthy  
19 Environment. That group is a volunteer organization  
20 of 200 physicians and consultants in other scientific  
21 fields like toxicology, biology, engineering and  
22 ecology.

23 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Dr. Moench, could  
24 you give us an address please.

25 BRIAN MOENCH: 4091 Splendor Way, Salt Lake

1 City, Utah 84124.

2 I'm speaking on their behalf today. Our  
3 mission is to protect public health from the  
4 consequences of environmental degradation in Utah.  
5 We are alarmed about the proposed agreement allowing  
6 a pipeline to drain aquifers in the west desert and  
7 ship the water to Las Vegas. So far the agreement,  
8 statements from agencies of both states and many key  
9 elected officials appear to ignore in total the  
10 potential for serious public health consequences.

11 Every resident of the Wasatch Front is all  
12 too familiar with the poor air quality that we  
13 experience about 20 percent of the time. We get the  
14 grades of F for the two most important criteria  
15 pollutants: Ozone and PM 2.5 from the American Lung  
16 Association. We're a non-attainment status with the  
17 EPA for most of those criteria pollutants, and  
18 sometimes we have the worst air pollution in the  
19 country.

20 Medical research is steadily expanding our  
21 understanding of the health consequences of air  
22 pollution. We have known for many years that air  
23 pollution causes the same kind of systemic  
24 inflammatory responses as is caused by exposure to  
25 secondhand cigarette smoke. The clinical

1       manifestations are virtually identical.

2                 Utah's current levels of air pollution cause  
3       between one and 2,000 premature deaths every year,  
4       according to a formula established by the America  
5       Heart Association. Our current levels of air  
6       pollution cause the average person to experience  
7       about the same health consequences as if we all lived  
8       with an active smoker, or about one-fourth as much as  
9       if we smoked ourselves, and that impact is on our  
10      children as well.

11                The spectrum of pollution-caused diseases  
12      includes increased mortality rates from all causes in  
13      both adults and children, especially accelerated  
14      heart and lung disease, more hospitalizations,  
15      strokes, blood clots in the legs and lungs,  
16      permanently stunted lung development in children,  
17      more birth defects, premature birth, low birth weight  
18      syndrome, and miscarriages.

19                In the last few years it has become well  
20      established that air pollution causes genetic damage  
21      in human embryos leading to a myriad of diseases  
22      later on in life, including cancers, diabetes,  
23      arthrosclerosis, immunosuppression, diminished  
24      intelligence and even Alzheimer's. Studies of even  
25      short-term air pollution episodes demonstrate an

1 increased community-wide mortality rate for as long  
2 as 30 days after an episode of air pollution that can  
3 last as long as 24 hours. And impaired lung  
4 function, even in healthy persons, can last at least  
5 a week after a short-term episode of air pollution  
6 has ended.

7 We have all observed significant dust  
8 pollution from the west desert prior to storms moving  
9 into the state. If the Las Vegas water pipeline is  
10 built, this phenomenon will become much worse, as  
11 will all of the above-mentioned health impacts to  
12 Utah residents.

13 The BLM estimates that there will be a  
14 release of 24,000 tons of dust per year as a result  
15 of this project. That is more particulate matter air  
16 pollution than is emitted by the entirety of Salt  
17 Lake County already. So we can count on all those  
18 air pollution impacts being exacerbated.

19 Nevada soils, however, contain unique  
20 threats beyond just desert dust. Mixed into Nevada  
21 soils are significant concentrations of some of the  
22 most toxic substances on Earth. On a per weight  
23 basis mercury is the second most toxic substance  
24 after plutonium, causing brain and neurologic damage  
25 even at unimaginably small concentrations. It is

1 deposited ubiquitously throughout the environment  
2 because it is carried into the global atmosphere,  
3 primarily from the stack emissions of power plants.  
4 However, it is also released during the smelting  
5 process at gold mines, most of which are in Nevada.

6 Testing by the U.S. Geological Survey of 300  
7 streams in this country revealed mercury  
8 contamination of every single fish tested. The Great  
9 Salt Lake already has the highest concentration of  
10 mercury of any inland body of water in the United  
11 States.

12 Arenite is a fibrous mineral similar in  
13 microscopic configuration to asbestos, and in fact  
14 causes the same deadly mesothelioma cancer that  
15 asbestos does. Arenite is found in the residue of  
16 weathered volcanic rock and it is widely distributed  
17 throughout Nevada soils. In some parts of Turkey  
18 where it exists in high concentrations, arenite is  
19 the leading cause of death.

20 Nevada soils also contain residual  
21 radioactive isotopes from over 900 nuclear bomb  
22 detonations that occurred in Nevada from 1951 to  
23 1992. Specifically these radioactive isotopes are  
24 alpha emitters, and as little as one millionth of a  
25 gram of these radioactive isotopes can cause fatal

1 cancer if swallowed.

2 Valley Fever, or coccidiomycosis, is  
3 difficult to diagnose but sometimes fatal but  
4 frequently a chronic debilitating fungal disease that  
5 has quadrupled in occurrence in the last ten years in  
6 the southwestern United States. It is a greater  
7 threat to immunosuppressed patients like diabetics  
8 and pregnant women. One gram of alkaline Nevada soil  
9 contains as many as a billion microorganisms that can  
10 carry this and other serious diseases when they  
11 become airborne. Other diseases now thought to be  
12 transmitted through dust are influenza, SARS, hoof  
13 and mouth disease and meningitis.

14 Already the Utah residents along the Wasatch  
15 Front experience significant health conquests from  
16 the air pollution that is already here. We simply  
17 cannot tolerate the public health consequences of  
18 having our air pollution exacerbated by this project.  
19 It is a guaranteed public health disaster. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR JOHN GODEC: Kyla Mullen. I  
21 hope I'm reading that correctly.

22 KYLA MULLEN: You are. My name is Kyla  
23 Mullen. I'm representing myself and many concerned  
24 citizens across this front and obviously in  
25 California, Nevada and many other places.

1           I personally work for the Redirect Guide,  
2 and I've thought about the issue of sustainability  
3 for a very, very, very long. I was about to fill up  
4 some water to have a sip before coming up here, and  
5 thinking about a cup that's empty, with a little  
6 dribble there, is basically what's going to be  
7 happening in this area.

8           I noticed that in many places people really  
9 love to water concrete. That's very true of Las  
10 Vegas, of Salt Lake City. I've worked with an  
11 organization called De-Pave, which has done a lot of  
12 community work to take up asphalt and rethink this  
13 fine nation and what it really stands for.

14           We're a nation that's built on farmers and  
15 agriculture, yet we don't directly think about food.  
16 So I don't have much to say. I'm very tired and I  
17 need some food but I did want to state for the record  
18 that I'm opposed to this. Thank you very much.

19           DR. MICHAEL DWYER: Would anybody else like  
20 to speak? That was the last person that signed up,  
21 but you're more than welcome if you'd like to step  
22 forward.

23           If not, we'll go ahead close the formal  
24 hearing but we'll hang around a while if you've got  
25 more questions or you'd like to visit with folks, so

1 thank you all again for being here and for everyone  
2 who commented.

3 HUGO RODIER: 12433 Fourth Street, Draper,  
4 84020. I represent the Utah Medical Association.  
5 I'm a chairman of the Environmental Public Health  
6 Committee and so I have an official statement from  
7 the UMA saying that the UMA opposes the agreement as  
8 it stands because there's no assurance that the  
9 health of the people in the Salt Lake Valley and  
10 other parts of Utah will be protected, in that the  
11 dryness that might result from draining those  
12 reservoirs of water may lead to significant soil  
13 depletion and dryness and dust storms which will come  
14 into our part of the country in Utah and compromise  
15 our air quality, which is already very poor.

16 So the UMA is not opposed to any sort of  
17 agreement that would assure that it's not going to  
18 happen. As it is right now, the assurance is not  
19 there. So we fear for poor air quality as a result  
20 of the agreement as it stands now. It's not my  
21 opinion but that of the UMA, so I'm representing  
22 doctors of Utah.

23 PAUL TUSTING: 2012 South 1300 East, Salt  
24 Lake City, Utah 84105.

25 My major concern, spending a lot of time in

1 the Snake and Spring Valley region, is that the  
2 sources of water there, there are not many of them  
3 and they tend to be shallow. So if there is a drop  
4 in the water table, I'm concerned that many of them  
5 will go away completely.

6 On top of that, as someone who spends a lot  
7 of time in that region, those mountains and those  
8 valleys are unusually lush. Just to give a few  
9 examples, the northern and southern Snake range, the  
10 Deep Creek range and the Kern Mountains are  
11 exceptionally lush in contrast with the Confusion  
12 range, the House range, the Needle range and most of  
13 the Great Basin ranges to the south. My concern is  
14 that this draw of water will result in those mountain  
15 ranges and the surrounding valleys becoming a lot  
16 more arid and much more like the less unique and less  
17 bio-diverse valleys nearby.

18 My second general comment is I'm wondering  
19 why it's in the best interest of the BLM and the  
20 public in general, which the BLM represents since  
21 they're federal lands, to make this deal for something  
22 that would probably benefit a fairly small community.

23 (Thereupon the proceedings  
24 were concluded at 6:13 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEVADA )

SS:

COUNTY OF NYE )

I, Deborah Ann Hines, certified court reporter, do hereby certify that I took down in shorthand (Stenotype) all of the proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the time and place indicated; and that thereafter said shorthand notes were transcribed into typewriting at and under my direction and supervision and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings had.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my hand this 14th day of September, 2011.

Deborah Ann Hines, CCR #473, RPR