

**Center for Biological Diversity Action Alert Letter Regarding the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Please uphold the Bureau of Land Management's public-trust mission and responsibility to the American people "to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations" by denying the right-of-way for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposed groundwater development pipeline.

According to the BLM's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, this project that would export 57 billion gallons of groundwater annually from rural Nevada and Utah to Las Vegas through a 300-mile long pipeline would cause irreversible, unacceptable impacts on entire ecosystems, wildlife, recreation, agriculture, tribes and rural communities. Several species of desert fish and springsnails would likely be driven to extinction, while others, such as the greater sage grouse, Bonneville cutthroat trout, Columbia spotted frog and others, would face immense threats and risk to their survival and viability.

The DEIS does an admirable job of cataloging the devastating effects on the Great Basin ecosystem from the huge, long-term and unsustainable groundwater withdrawals. But the document is deeply flawed because it fails to examine viable alternatives to the project, such as enhanced conservation in the Las Vegas Valley, as well as ocean desalting, which SNWA admits will be part of Las Vegas' water supply in the future. A recent Pacific Institute study concluded that greater water-use efficiencies and improved conservation measures would meet Las Vegas' needs for the foreseeable future, making the pipeline unnecessary.

Please choose the No Action Alternative and deny the permits for this wrong-headed and destructive groundwater mining project. Help Las Vegas find a more sustainable water future.