

FORM LETTERS:

BLM received 4 different form-letter emails during the availability period for the Final EIS. A total of approximately 40,000 emails were received. However, many of the emails were the sent from identical email addresses so the estimate is approximately 36,000.

To Secretary Ken Salazar:

I am writing because I care deeply and personally about the Great Basin and all the plants and animals that reside there.

I am appalled at the Southern Nevada Water Authority's request for right-of-way across federal public lands to pump and export more than 37 billion gallons of water annually from ancient aquifers in central and eastern Nevada to support unsustainable growth in southern Nevada. There are other viable means of meeting these water needs through increased conservation, smart growth management and desalination.

The BLM's own "final environmental impact statement" reveals the devastation that would occur. Water tables would drop up to 200 feet, and more than 137,000 acres of prime Great Basin shrub land habitats would be dried, destroyed and converted to dry-land grasses and annuals, supporting invasive species such as cheatgrass and Sahara mustard. More than 3,600 acres of wetlands would be destroyed, and more than 70 springs and 145 miles of perennial streams would be drained, some drying up completely.

The toll on species would also be staggering: 14 desert fishes such as the Moapa dace and least chubs and 25 species of rare Great Basin springsnails would most likely go extinct. The imperiled greater sage grouse, southwestern willow-flycatcher, Columbia spotted frog, northern leopard frog and Bonneville cutthroat trout -- along with iconic species such as mule deer, pronghorn and elk -- would also face widespread harm.

Furthermore, I want make clear my adamant opposition to any federal subsidies or bailouts to fund this ill-conceived and disastrous project.

Please deny the Southern Nevada Water Authority's pipeline right-of-way applications based on the severe environmental impacts that they would cause. There are other, largely unexplored options available to the Southern Nevada Water Authority to meet the region's water needs.

Thank you.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority proposes to pump and export up to 110,000 acre-feet of groundwater through hundreds of miles of pipelines south to Las Vegas to support growth and development.

Spring Valley and Snake Valley are prime targets for the pumping, valleys that border either side of the Great Basin National Park. Studies by the USGS show that Spring Valley is hydrologically connected to Snake Valley, and that both ground and surface water in and adjacent to the Park will be impacted.

The regional flow system will have far-reaching effects. The pumping will impact the Pahrnagat National Refuge and the Muddy River near Las Vegas. The impacts would be regional in scope, with multiple ecosystems and habitats at risk. Sage grouse, pronghorn, rich, diverse wetlands, native spring fauna, the threatened Moapa dace are all in the impact zone.

This is not a simple right-of-way decision.

The BLM study is not comprehensive enough to give assurance that the huge scope of impacts can be mitigated. The Great Basin National Park, the sagebrush country, the wetlands of Pahrnagat and the Muddy River deserve to be protected from this bad urban sprawl venture.

I urge you to select the "no action" alternative in the Environmental Impact statement.

Sincerely,

Dear Lueders,

I urge you to protect Nevada's economy and environment by opposing the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) water pipeline.

SNWA's proposed pipeline would devastate rural Nevada's ecosystem, while simultaneously raising water rates for Las Vegas.

I urge you to choose the No Action Alternative in order to stop the SNWA pipeline.

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