

BLM_NV_NVSO_GWProjects

From: scottyphi@cox.net
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 9:14 PM
To: feedback; BLM_NV_NVSO_GWProjects; ccdistf@clarkcountynv.gov
Cc: sblynn@sbcglobal.net; deanbaker@peoplepc.com
Subject: Proposed \$15.5 BILLION dollar water pipeline from Northern Nevada to Las Vegas
Attachments: TO1.doc

Dear DOI Secretary KEN SALAZAR, BLM NV state Director AMY LUEDERS, and Clark CO Commission Chair SUSAN BRAGER

ATTACHED below is my two page letter regarding the FEIS on the proposed water pipeline. It says "TO1" in the subject line. Anyway, please just click on the ATTACHMENT BELOW and it will open up my input letter.

I kindly ask that you read it carefully and give it your utmost attention.

This pipeline issue is of immense importance not only for Nevada but the well being and quality of life for the American West.

I profoundly thank you in advance for your attention to my concerns.

SCOTT H. PHILLIPS
PO Box 493
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

TO: U.S. Secretary of Interior KEN SALAZAR Sunday, Sept 30th, 2012
Nevada State BLM Director AMY LEUDERS
Clark County Commission chair SUSAN BRAGER
FROM: Scott H. Phillips, Hailey, Idaho
SUBJECT: FEIS on proposed water pipeline from Northern Nevada to Las Vegas

I am writing to you to express my utter dismay and vehement opposition regarding the proposed water pipeline which would dewater and ruin two Northern Nevada Counties. I care greatly about the Great Basin and the people, plants, and wildlife that are an integral part of the mosaic of life in rural northern Nevada. I am appalled at the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) request for a right-of-way across our Federal Public Lands to pump and export over 37 BILLION GALLONS ANNUALLY from ancient aquifers in central and eastern Nevada to support UNSUSTAINABLE GROWTH in sprawling Las Vegas. This is simply obscene. There are viable means of meeting Las Vegas reasonable future water needs through increased conservation, smart growth management, and desalination options. To be blunt, if Las Vegas has to downsize so be it! Absolutely dewatering and ruining an area the size of Vermont would be morally reprehensible. Ranchers would in many cases be wiped out and agriculture destroyed. Wildlife, fish and plants would be drastically impacted. Great Basin National Park and surrounding Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forest public lands would be greatly diminished.

The BLM's own FEIS reveals the devastation that would occur. Under preferred alternative "F", water tables would drop up to 200 feet, and over 137,000 acres of precious and scarce Great Basin wildlife habitat, shrubland, and rangeland would be destroyed . 3,600 acres of wetlands would be wiped out. 70 springs and 145 miles of perennial streams would be adversely impacted and/or completely dried up.

The social and human cost would be incalculable. I am not an armchair philosopher here either. I visit White Pine County and Great Basin National Park at least twice a year traveling to southern Utah Redrock canyon country. I gladly spend tourist dollars in Nevada. I have climbed Wheeler Peak, the highest point in the state. I have camped out and hiked in Great Basin National Park and surrounding Nevada public lands. The basin and range landscape of northern NV is a national treasure. It is a vital ecosystem in the arid American West that does not deserve this kind of ham-handed ecological and socio/economic ruination.

I stress in the strongest terms that I do not want the Department of Interior and BLM to be an "enabler" for this horrific boondoggle water theft. These precious Public lands the pipeline would traverse are owned by 300 million American citizens. WE the PEOPLE of the Nation must not be subsidizing this greed-driven proposal to prop up the artificial neon jungle and money making gaming industry that characterizes Las Vegas. Handing over a ROW on our Public lands to "grease the skids" is patently unacceptable. In short, DOI and BLM must DENY the right-of-way for the proposed pipe. The ecological, human, wildlife, and upside-down-economic-costs are infinitely too great.

Scientists have stressed that continuing DROUGHT conditions are likely to be the new norm for the American southwest and the Great Basin. For goodness sake, rapidly accelerating global warming is sending our society a loud and clear message! The Dept of Interior (of all the federal agencies!) should be listening intently to the scientists. Alternative "F" would be a wrong-headed and disastrous capitulation. Alternative "F" is a FAILURE. ***THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE IN THE FEIS is the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. *******

There would be staggering and unacceptable MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH COSTS to pay as well. The FEIS estimates that tens of thousands of TONS of new dust will be generated annually in the long term. Lung and respiratory diseases will increase exponentially. People will DIE and have their life spans significantly shortened to keep the golf courses green in Las Vegas. A group of extremely concerned physicians in northern Utah has pointed out the dire medical ramifications of increased respiratory disease and deaths on the heavily populated and rapidly growing Wasatch Front.

Last but not least are the totally absurd ECONOMICS of this proposed scam. It is highly probable that SNWA will seek to secure a federal TAXPAYER BAILOUT to pay for the \$15.5 BILLION \$\$\$ (and still counting) project.

****** I adamantly oppose any federal subsidies or taxpayer bailouts being handed over to fund this ill-conceived and disastrous pipe project. ******

Those are my thoughts. They happen to be shared by thousands of upset and concerned citizens and taxpayers.

An implacable NO! to irreversibly fouling the Basin and Range ecosystem in Northern Nevada.

Again, DOI and BLM must not grant a right of way for the pipe and only the NO ACTION alternative is acceptable for overwhelming human, wildlife, landscape, medical, and ecological reasons. The totality of clear scientific evidence of massive destruction is virtually screaming out saying - - - NO PIPE!

We have a great country. Our society must save what is left of it for future generations and that means the incomparable public and private Basin and Range country of central and Northern Nevada.

Sincerely,

**SCOTT H. PHILLIPS (Public Lands stakeholder, retired Forest Service employee in Outdoor Recreation Management, common sense citizen, dismayed taxpayer)
PO Box 493, Ketchum, ID 83340 Phone: 208 788 - 4435 ScottyPhi@cox.net**

**CC: Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval by fax
Susan Lynn, Great Basin water network
Rancher Dean Baker, Baker, NV**

