

September 12, 2018

To: Southern Nevada Water Authority Board of Directors

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the Board of Southern Nevada Water Authority to vote against challenging in district court the recent ruling of the Nevada State Engineer regarding the Authority's water rights applications in Spring, Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar Valleys in east-central NV (NV State Engineer Ruling 6446 [August 17, 2018]).

After 3 decades and millions of dollars, SNWA has little to show for it, losing a series of legal challenges in both state and federal court, as well as the court of public opinion. This should make it clear to the Board that this pipeline project is economically and environmentally untenable, and that it cannot pass legal or scientific muster.

The recent denial of water rights applications by the State Engineer provides the opportunity to reflect. There are no water rights available for the pipeline, outside of those attached to SNWA's ranches. There is not a complete Environmental Impact Statement from the BLM. There is no agreement with the state of Utah. There is no current estimate on the financial feasibility for the project, factoring in mitigation costs or a reduction in water rights.

It is time for the Authority to abandon this environmentally and economically unsound pipeline project, and instead to invest its energies and resources in improved conservation measures and sustainable water supply alternatives to secure southern Nevada's water future. Continuing to throw good money after bad for this unviable project simply does not make sense, nor is it consistent with SNWA's obligation to provide cost-effective solutions to the legitimate water needs of southern Nevada ratepayers.

Signed,

