

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS 45926,)
45928 AND 46003, FILED TO APPROPRIATE)
THE WATERS OF AN UNDERGROUND SOURCE IN)
PAHRUMP VALLEY, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA.)

R U L I N G

INTRODUCTION

Applications 45926, 45928 and 46003 were filed to appropriate water from an underground source in Pahrump Valley Ground Water Basin, Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada.

In 1982, U.S. Geological Survey's Open-File Report 81-635, "Ground Water Storage Depletion in Pahrump Valley, Nevada-California, 1962-1975", by James R. Harrill, was prepared cooperatively by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. This report is available in the State Engineer's office.

The following publications were used in evaluating the ground water availability in the Pahrump Basin:

Geological Survey Professional Paper 712-C, "Hydrogeologic and Hydrochemical Framework, South-Central Great Basin, Nevada-California, with Special Reference to the Nevada Test Site", prepared by the United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1832, "Hydrology of the Valley-Fill and Carbonate-Rock Reservoirs, Pahrump Valley, Nevada-California", prepared in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

Water Resources Bulletin No. 5, "Geology and Water Resources of Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Indian Springs Valleys, Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada", by G. B. Maxey and C. H. Jameson.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

Application 45926 was filed by Clayton C. and Elanor M. Marsh on July 13, 1982, to appropriate 0.10 c.f.s. of underground water for commercial purposes. The point of diversion is within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, T. 19 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M., and the place of use is within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, T. 19 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M.

Application 45928 was filed by Outdoor Equipment Company on July 13, 1982, to appropriate 0.18 c.f.s. of underground water for quasi-municipal purposes. The point of diversion is within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, T. 20 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M., and the place of use is within the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, T. 20 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M.

Application 46003 was filed by Jose Morales on August 5, 1982, to appropriate 0.03 c.f.s. of underground water for quasi-municipal purposes. The point of diversion is within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, T. 19 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M., and the place of use is within the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, T. 19 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M. 1/

II

Applications 45926, 45928 and 46003 have points of diversion located on the Pahrump fan within the area designated as the Pahrump Artesian Basin. 2/

III

The perennial yield of a ground water reservoir may be defined as the maximum amount of water of useable chemical quality that can be withdrawn and consumed economically each year for an indefinite period of time. If the perennial yield is continually exceeded, water levels will decline until the ground water reservoir is depleted of water of useable quality or until the pumping lifts become uneconomical to maintain. 3/ The perennial yield of Pahrump Valley probably does not exceed 19,000 acre-feet. 4/

IV

Overdraft may be defined as the amount by which the net pumping draft exceeds the perennial yield. A substantial overdraft exists on the ground water reservoir. Overdraft on the system in 1982 was about 4,482 acre-feet, and under these conditions no new equilibrium is possible and water levels will continue to decline as long as this high level of pumping is sustained. 5/

V

The greatest declines of ground water levels in the Pahrump Valley have occurred along the base of the Pahrump and Manse fans where maximum declines of about 100 feet were observed between predevelopment in the basin and February, 1976 levels. 6/

Water levels within wells measured upon the Pahrump fan have shown a decline since 1976 to 1982. 7/

VI

Permits and certificates have been issued in Pahrump Valley that could be used to withdraw over 70,000 acre-feet of ground water per year. 8/

VII

Four previous applications for appropriation of the underground waters with points of diversion located upon the Pahrump fan have been denied. The manner of use for each application denied was for quasi-municipal use. 9/

CONCLUSIONS

1. The State Engineer has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter of this action. 10/
2. The State Engineer is prohibited by law from granting a permit where:
 - A. There is no unappropriated water at the proposed source, or
 - B. the proposed use conflicts with existing rights, or
 - C. the proposed use threatens to prove detrimental to the public welfare. 11/

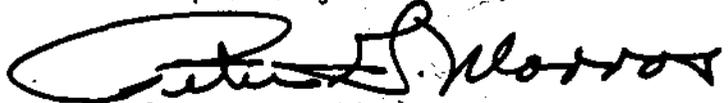
RULING
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3. An existing overdraft of the ground waters exists on the Pahrump fan. Applications 45926, 45928 and 46003 are requests to appropriate additional ground water on the Pahrump fan. If approved, Applications 45926, 45928 and 46003 could increase the overdraft of the ground water resource on the Pahrump fan and thereby conflict with existing rights.

RULING

Applications 45926, 45928 and 46003 are herewith denied on the grounds that the granting of these applications would increase the potential pumpage draft on the Pahrump fan, thus causing an increase in the overdrafts and thereby adversely affecting existing water rights.

Respectfully submitted,



PETER G. MORROS
State Engineer

PGM/GB/br

Dated this 7th day of
November, 1983.

FOOTNOTES

1. Public records in the office of the State Engineer.
2. U.S. Geological Survey, Open File Report 81-635. Map indicating "Generalized Geology of Pahrump Valley, Nevada-California".
3. U.S. Geological Survey Water Supply Paper 1832, page 39, "Hydrology of the Valley-Fill and Carbonate-Rock Reservoirs, Pahrump Valley, Nevada-California".
4. U.S. Geological Survey, Open File Report 81-635, page 71.
5. U.S. Geological Survey, Open File Report 81-635, page 71.
6. U.S. Geological Survey, Open File Report 81-635, page 30.
7. Public records in the office of the State Engineer.
8. Public records in the office of the State Engineer.
9. State Engineer's Ruling Nos. 1854, 1897, 1918 and 1919.
10. NRS 533.025 and 533.030, Subsection 1.
11. NRS 533.370, Subsection 4.