

IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS 52837)
AND 52846 FILED TO APPROPRIATE THE)
PUBLIC WATERS OF AN UNDERGROUND)
SOURCE IN HIDDEN VALLEY (NORTH))
GROUNDWATER BASIN, CLARK COUNTY,))
NEVADA.)

RULING

3585

GENERAL

Application 52837 was filed on December 28, 1988, by J. Robert C. Leavitt to appropriate 6.4 c.f.s. of water from an underground source to be diverted within the NE1/4 SE1/4 of Section 29, T.16S., R.63E., M.D.B.&M. and to be used for the irrigation of 320 acres within the E1/2 E1/2 W1/2, W1/2 E1/2 and W1/2 E1/2 E1/2 of Section 20, T.16S., R.63E., M.D.B.&M.

Application 52846 was filed on January 5, 1989, by Earl M. Leavitt to appropriate 6.4 c.f.s. of water from an underground source to be diverted within the SE1/4 NE1/4 of Section 29, T.16S., R.63E., M.D.B.&M. and to be used for irrigation of 320 acres within the W1/2 E1/2 of Section 17, T.16S., R.63E., M.D.B.&M.

In 1968, Water Resources-Reconnaissance Series 50 "Water-Resources Appraisal of the Lower Moapa-Lake Mead Area, Clark County, Nevada" by F. Eugene Rush was prepared cooperatively by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, and U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

In 1974, a map "Static Ground Water Levels of Nevada" by F. Eugene Rush was prepared cooperatively by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, and U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

The report and map are available for viewing in the State Engineer's office.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I.

The source of water to be used to reclaim lands under these applications is water from an underground source within Hidden Valley, Clark County, Nevada.¹

¹ Public records in the office of the State Engineer.

II.

Groundwater recharge in Hidden Valley is derived primarily from local precipitation. A small percentage of precipitation infiltrates the groundwater reservoir in Hidden Valley due to the general lack of large areas of substantial precipitation which occur largely above the altitude of 4,000 feet.² The perennial yield (the maximum amount of natural discharge that can be salvaged each year over the long term by pumping without bringing about some undesired result) is estimated to be 200 acre feet per year.³

III.

The static water level or depth to water in Hidden Valley is greater than 500 feet from land surface.⁴

IV.

Previous Applications 32631, 32632, 32633, 32634, 32635, 32636, 32637, 32638, 32639, 32640, 33081, 33082, 33093, 33094, 33095, 33096, 33291, 33313, 33928 and 34029 were denied on the grounds that the granting of the applications where there was an inadequate water supply and where the pumping lift would not be economic for irrigation purposes would be detrimental to the public welfare.¹ The State Engineer is authorized to deny an application prior to publication when a previous application for a similar use of water within the same basin has been rejected.⁵

CONCLUSIONS

1. The State Engineer has jurisdiction under NRS 533.370.⁶

² Water Resource-Reconnaissance Series Report 50 pg. 23.

³ Water Resource-Reconnaissance Series Report 50 pg. 50.

⁴ Static Groundwater Levels of Nevada.

⁵ NRS 533.370(2)(3).

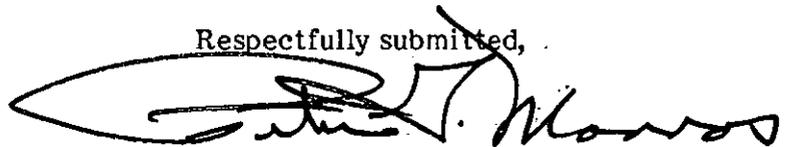
⁶ NRS 533.370.

2. If it were possible to capture all of the perennial yield, there is still an inadequate groundwater supply for the irrigation of crops.
3. The static water level is too great to allow for an economical pumping lift for farm crops.

RULING

Applications 52837 and 52846 are hereby denied on the grounds that the granting of the applications where there is an inadequate water supply and where the pumping lift would be economically prohibitive for irrigation purposes would be detrimental to the public welfare.

Respectfully submitted,



PETER G. MORROS
State Engineer

PGM/DL/bk

Dated this 14th day of
February, 1989.