

IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER

IN THE MATTER OF FORFEITURE OF WATER)
RIGHTS UNDER PERMIT 25522, CERTIFICATE)
8750, OF THE WATERS OF AN)
UNDERGROUND SOURCE IN PAHRUMP)
VALLEY, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA.)

RULING

FINDINGS OF FACT

Application 25522 was filed by Ronny E. Floyd on April 2, 1970, to change the point of diversion and the place of use of a portion of Permit 24712 for irrigation and domestic purposes. The proposed place of use was the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 8, T.20S., R.53E., M.D.B.&M. A permit was issued under Application 25522 on February 7, 1972, for 0.35 c.f.s. of water for irrigation and domestic purposes.¹ Certificate 8750 was issued under said permit on April 5, 1976, for 0.33 c.f.s. and 91.0 acre-feet per year for the irrigation of 18.2 acres.²

II.

Evidence and testimony were received into the record at public hearings before the State Engineer (see Footnote 1) and the State Engineer took administrative notice of various matters as more specifically set forth.³

III.

Deeds were submitted to the State Engineer's office transferring the ownership of Permit 25522, Certificate 8750, from Ronny E. Floyd to Gary L. Hunter and Lee D. Mitchell as joint tenants.⁴

¹ State Exhibit No. 13-D. Public administrative hearings were held before the State Engineer in the matter of the subject permit and others on and at the following dates and places:

December 13, 1988	Pahrump, Nevada
December 14, 1988	Pahrump, Nevada

Transcripts are a matter of public record in the office of the State Engineer.

² State Exhibit No. 14-D, December 14, 1988, transcript.

³ See transcript of December 14, 1988, page 23.

⁴ Public record of the office of the State Engineer. See File 25522.

IV.

The entire 91 acre-feet of water for the irrigation of the 18.2 acres under the place of use of Permit 25522, Certificate 8750, was subject to a forfeiture determination.⁵

V.

Testimony and evidence establish that the lands described under Permit 25522, Certificate 8750, were not cultivated or irrigated during the period 1982 through 1987 inclusive, and that no water was diverted from the source and place to beneficial use under Permit 25522, Certificate 8750, during this time period.⁶

CONCLUSIONS

I.

The State Engineer has jurisdiction in the subject matter of this action.⁷

II.

The water right under Permit 25522, Certificate 8750, is a "permitted right" and a "determined right" as described in NRS 534.090 and therefore subject to the provisions of that statute.

III.

Forfeiture of a water right does not become final until expiration of a time of appeal of a ruling declaring such right forfeited.⁸

⁵ State Exhibit No. 15-D.

⁶ Testimony of Robert Coache, Hydraulic Engineer for the Division of Water Resources, Southern Nevada Branch Office; see transcript pages 119 through 120, inclusive, State of Nevada Exhibit 2, Volumes I, II and III; and State of Nevada Exhibit No. 11.

⁷ NRS 534.090.

⁸ NRS 534.090(4) and NRS 533.450.

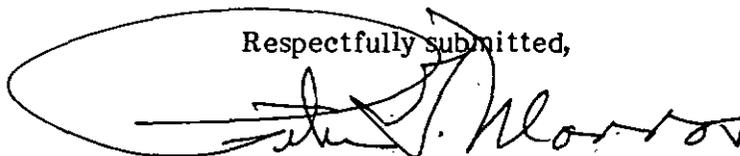
IV.

The record provides substantial evidence that, for the period between January 1, 1982, through December 31, 1987 (6 successive years), water from the underground source described has not been beneficially used for the purpose for which the water rights were acquired under Permit 25522, Certificate 8750.

RULING

The right to appropriate and beneficially use water to the lands described under the place of use under Permit 25522, Certificate 8750, has been forfeited because of failure for five successive years, on the part of the holder of the right, to beneficially use the underground water for the purposes for which the subject right was acquired.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Morros", is written over a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is fluid and cursive.

PETER G. MORROS
State Engineer

PGM/GWQ/bk

Dated this 26th day of
July, 1989.