

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION 36902)
FILED TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC)
WATERS OF AN UNDERGROUND)
SOURCE WITHIN THE SUSIE CREEK)
AREA HYDROGRAPHIC BASIN (050),)
ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA.)

RULING

#5367

GENERAL

I.

Application 36902 was filed on March 7, 1979, by Dorothy Jefferson to appropriate 5.4 cubic feet per second of water from an underground source for irrigation purposes in support of a Desert Land Entry. The proposed place of use is described as being 320 acres located within the E½ of Section 13, T.33N., R.52E., M.D.B.&M. The proposed point of diversion is described as being located within the NW¼ SE¼ of said Section 13.¹

II.

Application 36902 was timely protested by Maggie Creek Ranch, Inc. on the following grounds:¹

- 1.) To grant the draft of water for this and neighboring applications for D.L.E. irrigation would work to lower the water table in the vicinity to a point which may adversely effect spring and pond stockwater sources, which protestant now enjoys.
- 2.) Protestant is sole owner of fee land in the vicinity, and is sole holder of a U.S.B.L.M. grazing lease to that public land covered by this application.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I.

The applicant and her agents were notified by certified mail dated October 8, 2003, to submit additional information regarding Application 36902 to the State Engineer's office. The applicant was warned that failure to respond within 30 days

¹ File No. 36902, official records in the Office of the State Engineer.

would result in denial of the application. The applicant's certified letter was returned to the Office of the State Engineer, by the U.S. Postal Service, stamped "Unclaimed". The letter was re-sent by regular mail and was returned by the U.S. Postal Service stamped "Attempted – Not Known". Properly endorsed certified mail receipts were received from the applicant's agents. To date, the applicant and her agents have expressed no interest in pursuing this application and have not submitted the additional information requested.¹ The State Engineer finds that the applicant and her agents were properly notified of the request for additional information regarding interest in pursuing Application 36902 and have failed to respond.

II.

The State Engineer finds that there has been no correspondence from the applicant or her agents regarding Application 36902 for at least 15 years.¹ The State Engineer finds that it is the responsibility of the applicant or her agents to keep this office informed of a current mailing address.

CONCLUSIONS

I.

The State Engineer has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action and determination.²

II.

Before either approving or rejecting an application, the State Engineer may require such additional information as will enable him to properly guard the public interest.³

III.

The State Engineer is prohibited by law from granting a permit under an application to appropriate the public water where:⁴

- A. there is no unappropriated water at the proposed source;
- B. the proposed use or change conflicts with existing rights;
- C. the proposed use or change conflicts with protectible interests in existing domestic wells as set forth in NRS § 533.024; or

² NRS chapters 533 and 534.

³ NRS § 533.375.

⁴ NRS § 533.370(4).

- D. the proposed use or change threatens to prove detrimental to the public interest.

IV.

The applicant and her agents were properly notified of the requirement for additional information and have failed to submit the information to the State Engineer's office. The State Engineer concludes that the failure to express any interest in the application for over 15 years and the failure to maintain a current mailing address demonstrates the applicant's lack of interest in pursuing Application 36902. The State Engineer concludes it would threaten to prove detrimental to the public interest to issue a permit under these circumstances.

RULING

Application 36902 is hereby denied on the grounds its issuance would threaten to prove detrimental to the public interest. No ruling is made on the merits of the protest.

Respectfully submitted,


HUGH RICCI, P.E.
State Engineer

HR/TW/jm

Dated this 8th day of
June, 2004.