

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS 22467 )  
AND 22468 FILED ON MARCH 1, 1965, BY )  
ALVIN L. BELLS TO APPROPRIATE WATER )  
FROM AN UNDERGROUND SOURCE TO BE USED )  
FOR IRRIGATION AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES )  
IN PAHRUMP VALLEY, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA. )

R U L I N G

General:

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Applications 22467 and 22468 were filed by Alvin L. Bells to appropriate water from an underground source for irrigation and domestic purposes. The point of diversion under Application 22467 was to be within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 25, T. 19 S., R. 52 E., M.D.B.&M. Under Application 22468 the point of diversion was to be within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 36, T. 19 S., R. 52 E., M.D.B.&M. The place of use under both Applications 22467 and 22468 was to be 1,040 acres in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 25, and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section 36 all in T. 19 S., R. 52 E., M.D.B.&M., together with the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 30, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 31, all in T. 19 S., R. 53 E., M.D.B.&M.

Recharge to the unconsolidated material that forms the alluvial fans and the valley floor of Pahrump Valley has been estimated by the U.S.G.S. to be about 12,000 acre-feet per year. Some of this is lost to adjoining valleys leaving even less available as a perennial yield for irrigation. Appropriated water rights total over 90,000 acre-feet per year and pumpage records show that 37,500 acre-feet of water were pumped during 1964, some 25,500 acre-feet in excess of the average annual recharge.

Opinion:

It is the opinion of this office that granting additional subsurface rights for the irrigation of new land would adversely affect the existing water rights and would be detrimental to the orderly development of the area.

RULING

Applications 22467 and 22468 are hereby denied on the grounds that the granting of these applications would impair the

value of existing subsurface water rights and would be detrimental to the public interest in the already over appropriated basin.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Hennen  
State Engineer

By:   
Roland D. Westergard  
Assistant State Engineer

Dated this 6<sup>TH</sup> day  
of JULY, 1965.