

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

ORDER

#1276

**CURTAILING NEW APPROPRIATIONS OF GROUNDWATER
WITHIN THE BUENA VISTA VALLEY HYDROGRAPHIC BASIN (129)**

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) § 534.120 provides that within an area that has been designated by the State Engineer where, in his judgment, the groundwater basin is being depleted, the State Engineer in his administrative capacity is empowered to make such rules, regulations and orders as are deemed essential for the welfare of the area involved.

WHEREAS, the State Engineer designated the Buena Vista Valley Hydrographic Basin, located within Churchill and Pershing Counties, Nevada, as provided under the provisions of NRS § 534.030, by Order No. 732 dated October 2, 1979.

WHEREAS, the Nevada Division of Water Resources estimates that 10,000 acre-feet of water annually are available as the perennial yield from the Buena Vista Valley Hydrographic Basin.¹

WHEREAS, the committed groundwater appropriations of record in the Office of the State Engineer total 23,900.67 acre-feet annually, which greatly exceeds the perennial yield of the basin.²

WHEREAS, the most recent published *Crop Inventory* report indicates that the average water pumped for agriculture over the past five years of published record is 10,879.6 acre-feet.³

WHEREAS, the State Engineer finds that conditions warrant the curtailment of new appropriations of groundwater within the Buena Vista Valley Hydrographic Basin.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, with the following exceptions, any application to appropriate groundwater pursuant to NRS Chapters 533 and 534 within the designated Buena Vista Valley Hydrographic Basin will be denied. Applications filed under the exceptions below must also satisfy the criteria found in NRS Chapters 533 and 534.

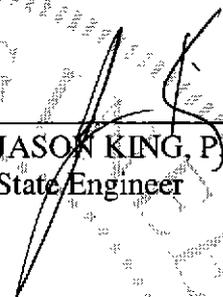
¹ O.J. Loeltz, et al., *Geology and Ground-Water Resources of Buena Vista Valley, Pershing County, Nevada*, Water Resources Bulletin No. 13, (State of Nevada, Office of the State Engineer and United States Geological Survey), p. 7, 195

² Nevada Division of Water Resources' Water Rights Database, Hydrographic Basin Summary, Buena Vista Valley Area Hydrographic Basin (129), accessed May 12, 2016, official records in the Office of the State Engineer, available at <http://water.nv.gov/data/underground/>.

³ Nevada Division of Water Resources' Crop Inventory Report, 2013, official records in the Office of the State Engineer, available on-line at <http://images.water.nv.gov/images/Crop%20Inventories/2013/BuenaVistaCropInv2013.pdf>.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Those applications filed for environmental permits pursuant to NRS §§ 533.437 to 533.4377, inclusive.
2. Those applications filed for temporary appropriations of groundwater for establishing fire-resistant vegetative cover pursuant to NRS § 533.436.
3. Those applications filed for temporary stockwater use pursuant to NRS § 533.504 that seek appropriations two or less acre-feet of water annually.
4. Those applications filed for diversion rate only with no corresponding increase in duty of water.
5. Those applications filed for non-consumptive uses.


P.E.

JASON KING, P.E.
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada this

23rd day of May, 2016.

