

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

ORDER

NOTICE OF CURTAILMENT OF WATER APPROPRIATION

Effective this date the State Engineer will not grant permits to appropriate ground water for IRRIGATION PURPOSES within the following area designated as the Pahrump Artesian Basin:

East Half ( $E\frac{1}{2}$ ) Township 19 South, Range 52 East,  
M.D.B.&M.

All of Township 19 South, Range 53 East, M.D.B.&M.

East Half ( $E\frac{1}{2}$ ) Township 20 South, Range 52 East, M.D.B.&M.

All of Township 20 South, Range 53 East, M.D.B.&M.

West Half ( $W\frac{1}{2}$ ) Township 20 South, Range 54 East, M.D.B.&M.

Sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, Township 20 South,  
Range 54 East, M.D.B.&M.

Section 1, Township 21 South, Range 52 East, M.D.B.&M.

Portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 36,  
Township 24 North, Range 8 East, S.B.M.

All of Township 21 South, Range 53 East, M.D.B.&M.

All of Township 21 South, Range 54 East, M.D.B.&M.

Portions of Sections 1, 2, and 12, Township 22 South,  
Range 53 East, M.D.B.&M.

All of Township 22 South, Range 54 East, M.D.B.&M.

The U. S. Geological Survey estimates that 12,000 acre-feet of water are available as a perennial yield from the alluvial sands and gravels in the Pahrump Artesian Basin. Pumpage records for the last five years indicate the following

volumes of water were pumped from the Pahrump Artesian Basin:

	Irrigation	Other	Total
1969	40,506 acre-feet	388 acre-feet	40,894 acre-feet
1968	47,632 acre-feet	317 acre-feet	47,949 acre-feet
1967	41,324 acre-feet	177 acre-feet	41,501 acre-feet
1966	37,944 acre-feet	166 acre-feet	38,110 acre-feet
1965	36,514 acre-feet	N/A	36,514 acre-feet

A review of the water rights of record as of May 1, 1970, confirms that appropriations have been approved for 45,607 acre-feet under certificated rights and 45,416 acre-feet under permitted rights which could legally make a total demand of 91,023 acre-feet of water per year within the designated area of the Pahrump Artesian Basin. This condition results in an over-draft of water which will deplete the ground water reservoir.

The State Engineer has designated the Pahrump Artesian Basin as provided under NRS 534.010 to 534.190, inclusive, by the following Orders:

1. Order No. 176 dated March 11, 1941.
2. Order No. 193 dated January 15, 1948, extending the boundary of the Pahrump Artesian Basin.
3. Order No. 205 dated January 23, 1953, extending the boundary of the Pahrump Artesian Basin.

By the authority granted under the provisions of NRS 534.120, Section 1, when the ground water basin is being depleted, the State Engineer on January 19, 1965, instituted a regulation to the effect that permits to appropriate underground water for the development and irrigation of new land would not be allowed within the Pahrump Artesian Basin and, as regards appropriations for irrigation use, only applications to appropriate ground water to supplement existing water rights have been granted since that time.

Further, NRS 534.120, Section 2 directs the State Engineer, in the interest of public welfare, to designate preferred uses of water in acting on applications to appropriate ground water within the areas designated by him from which the ground water is being depleted within the following limits: Domestic, municipal, quasi-municipal, industrial, irrigation, mining, and stockwatering uses.

Therefore, the safeguarding of the limited ground water supply within the aforementioned designated area of the Pahrump Artesian Basin necessitates and demands that irrigation use be excluded from the preferred uses of the ground water resources within the above described area and that no additional permits be allowed within this area to appropriate ground water for the irrigation of lands.

This Order does not affect Applications to Appropriate ground water filed in the Office of the State Engineer prior to the date of this Order.

  
Roland D. Westergard  
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada  
this 1st day of June, 1970.