

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

FILED  
FEB 4 1982  
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION

NUMBER 44815, FILED BY  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

PROTEST OF SOLDIER MEADOWS RANCH  
AND  
Willow CREEK Ranch

on October 29, 19 81, to APPROPRIATE  
THE WATERS OF

Comes now SOLDIER MEADOWS RANCH

whose post-office address is care of KENNETH H. EARP, 805 Fletcher Lane, Hayward, CA 94544.

whose occupation is a rancher, and protests

the granting of application number 44815, filed on

October 29, 19 81 by U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management

to appropriate the waters of underground sources at Section 5, T. 44N., R. 38E.,

situated in Humboldt County, State of Nevada, for the

following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit:

As Per Exhibit A-1 attached hereto and made a part hereof

WHEREFORE protestant prays that the application

be DENIED

(Denied, or issued subject to prior rights, as the case may be)

and that the use of water herein claimed by protestant be confirmed

and that an order be entered establishing said right and for such

other relief as the State Engineer deems just and proper.

*[Signature]*

Protestant.

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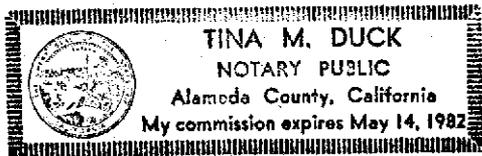
\$10 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PROTEST.  
PROTEST MUST BE FILED IN DUPLICATE.

MD

*Calif*  
STATE OF NEVADA  
COUNTY OF Alameda } ss.

\_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn,  
deposes and says, that he has read the foregoing protest and knows  
the contents thereof and that the same is true of his own knowledge,  
except as to the matters which are therein stated on information and  
belief, and as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6 day of January 19 82.



Tina M Duck  
Notary Public.

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EXHIBIT "A-1"

1. Beneficial use is the basis measure and limit of the right to use water. (NRS 533.035) Beneficial use refers to the amount of water actually applied by the appropriator to use. Appropriation must be coupled with the act of applying the water to a beneficial use recognized by Nevada. The United States does not own livestock or wildlife and so it is impossible for the United States to actually apply the water to beneficial use. In the case of livestock, only the person who owns or controls the livestock can apply the water to beneficial stockwater use and in the case of wildlife, only the State of Nevada can apply the water to wildlife use, whether on private lands or public lands.

2. The United States has no necessity for the use of the water applied for. The person who owns or controls the livestock has the necessity to water the livestock; and the State of Nevada has the necessity to water the wildlife. The U. S. therefore, is not permitted to use the waters under Nevada law. (NRS 533.045)

3. The Protestant is informed and believes that it has vested rights to use the water for stockwater purposes to the extent that to grant the application would impair the vested rights of the Protestant.

4. No application shall be for water to be used for more than one purpose. (NRS 533.330) The U. S. applications include both livestock and wildlife use.

5. NRS 533.340 requires that the application contain, if for stockwatering purposes, the approximate number and character of animals to be watered. If the application does not contain that information, it is defective. This statute does not list wildlife as a use specifically requiring application and appropriation.

6. The applications are detrimental to the public welfare. If granted they will undermine the sovereign control of the State of Nevada over wildlife by giving the United States Government control of the water sources for wildlife. Appropriating stockwater use to the U. S., which owns no livestock, will prevent Nevada residents and bona fide appropriators from appropriating stockwaters that may be available or become available through water development to water additional livestock in the future which may be grazed if forage increases. By granting the United States its appropriation, the State of Nevada is thereby delegating to the U. S. the right to determine how many livestock will use the Nevada public waters on each water source involved. In the event that the public lands upon which the water source is located, would be returned or transferred to the State of Nevada, this would create serious ownership and management problems for the State of Nevada. The State of Nevada would own the lands but the U. S. Government would have water right appropriations on the water sources on the lands and no use for such water. The application threatens to prove detrimental to the public interest. The proposed use or change that would result from granting the application conflicts with existing rights of the Protestant and would grant the U. S. the authority to reduce the Protestant's stockwater use on the water source and replace it with use by some other livestock owner or operator, or with other beneficial use contrary to the long established water law of the State of Nevada and without the State of Nevada exercising its jurisdiction over the water. NRS 533.370 requires the rejection of the application by the State Engineer.

7. The Protestant has a subsisting right to water range livestock at the place and source applied for and in sufficient

numbers to utilize substantially all that portion of the public range readily available to livestock watering at the place and source. Therefore, pursuant to NRS 533.495, the application must be denied.

8. Wildlife use is a natural use which does not require appropriation by any entity for the benefit of the wildlife.

9. The water of all sources in Nevada belong to the public. (NRS 533.025) Granting of the application will surrender this public ownership and the sovereign rights of the State of Nevada in and to the water, to the United States Government contrary to the best interests and the general welfare of the State of Nevada.

10. Granting the application would give the United States the authority and the opportunity to take from the Protestant, without compensation, property of the Protestant in the form of water development, water development improvements and costs and stockwater use that have been applied to the water source by the Protestant.

11. Granting the application would place the U. S. Government in the position of being able to charge fees and licenses for the use of Nevada's water through the licensing of livestock grazing.

12. Granting the application could give the U. S. Government the legal basis upon which to dictate to the State of Nevada the numbers and types of wildlife that could use the water source and their seasons of use. Thereby interfering with the jurisdiction of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game.

13. Consent of the State of Nevada to the acquisition by the United States of America for such water rights has not been given as required by Nevada Revised Statutes 328.030 through 328.150.

14. The historical use of the water source for stock purposes has made such water appurtenant to the Protestant's ranch through a vested right or appropriation. After Protestant's use is satisfied there may be no unappropriated water.

15. The source of the water applied for is on private lands owned or controlled by Protestant and the U. S. applicant has no legal access to the water source or right to use Protestant's lands to make use of the water.

16. The Protestant caused or contributed to the drilling and development of the well and in using the water for stockwatering purposes. There may not be enough water to satisfy Protestant's present and future needs and those applied for. Permitting others to use the water through BLM licensing would require the taking or using of Protestant's property without compensation.

\*17. There are no so-called wild horses or burros legally in the area and no water should be appropriated for their use.

\*17. The numbers of so-called "wild horses" to be watered under this application are in excess of those permitted by law and the use should be reduced.

\*18. Provisions unique to each ranch are:

Water rights are personal property rights and have a market value. By holding a water right, the Federal Government, in effect, owns rights not constitutionally intended by the framers of our Constitution. The Federal Government unfairly competes with the private citizen for these rights by using our own tax monies to acquire the water rights.