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

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| In the Matter of Application Number 53977, Filed by the Las Vegas Valley Water District on October 17, 1989, to appropriate the waters of Nye County. | **PROTEST** |

Comes now **THE CITY OF CALIENTE** whose post office address is **POST OFFICE BOX 158, CALIENTE, NEVADA 89008** whose occupation is **MUNICIPALITY/WATER PURVEYOR**, and protest the granting of Application Number 53977, filed on October 17, 1989 by the **Las Vegas Valley Water District** to appropriate the waters of **underground** situated in Nye County, State of Nevada, for the following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit:

(See Attachment)

**THEREFORE** the protestant requests that the application be DENIED and that an order be entered for such relief as the State Engineer deems just and proper.

Signed George T. Rowe

George T. Rowe, Mayor

Address P.O. Box 158

Caliente, Nevada 89008

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of July, 1990.

Mona D. Prince

State of Nevada

County of Lincoln

MONA D. PRINCE
Notary Public-State of Nevada
County of Lincoln-Nevada
Comm. Exp. 9/13/92

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APPLICATION NO. 53977

LIST OF REASONS TO PROTEST THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT APPLICATIONS TO APPROPRIATE GROUND AND SURFACE WATER FROM CENTRAL, EASTERN AND SOUTHERN NEVADA

1. This Application is one of 145 applications filed by the Las Vegas Valley Water District seeking to appropriate 804,195 acre feet of ground water primarily for municipal use within Clark County. Diversion and export of such quantity of water will: lower the static water level in Railroad Valley (North) Basin; adversely affect the quality of remaining ground water; and further threaten springs, seeps and phreatophytes which provide water and habitat critical to the survival of wildlife and grazing livestock.

2. The appropriation of this water when added to the already approved appropriations and existing uses in the Railroad Valley (North) Basin will exceed the annual recharge and safe yield of the basin. Appropriation and use of this magnitude will: lower the static water level and degrade the quality of water from existing wells and cause negative hydraulic gradient influences as well as other negative impacts.

3. This Application is one of 146 applications filed by the Las Vegas Valley Water District seeking a combined appropriation of some 864,195 acre feet of ground and surface water primarily for municipal use in Clark County. Diversion and export of such a quantity of water will deprive the area of origin of the water needed to protect and enhance its environment and economic well being, and the diversion will unnecessarily destroy environmental, ecological, scenic and recreational values that the State holds in trust for all its citizens.

4. The granting or approving of the subject Application in the absence of comprehensive planning, including but not limited to environmental impact considerations, cost considerations, socioeconomic impact considerations, and a water resource plan (such as is required by the Public Service Commission of private purveyors of water) for the Las Vegas Valley Water District Service area is detrimental to the public welfare and interest.

5. The granting or approval of the above-referenced Application would conflict with or tend to impair existing rights in the Railroad Valley (North) Basin because if granted it would exceed the safe yield of the subject basin and unreasonably lower the static water level and sanction water mining.

6. The granting or approval of the above referenced Application would be detrimental to the public interest in that it, individually and together with the other applications of the water importation project, would:

(a) Likely jeopardize the continued existence of endangered

and threatened species recognized under the federal Endangered Species Act and related state statutes;

(b) Prevent or interfere with the conservation of those threatened or endangered species;

(c) Take or harm those endangered or threatened species; and

(d) Interfere with the purpose for which the federal lands are managed under federal statutes including, but not limited to, the Federal Land Use Policy Act of 1976.

7. The approval of the subject application will sanction and encourage the willful waste of water that has been allowed, if not encouraged, by the Las Vegas Valley Water District.

8. The subject Application seeks to develop and transport water resources on and across lands of the United States under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. This application should be denied because the Las Vegas Valley Water District has not obtained necessary legal interest (e.g., right-of-way) in the federal land such that the applicant may extract, develop and transport water resources from the proposed point of diversion to the proposed place of use.

9. The Application should be denied because it individually and cumulatively with other applications of the water importation project will perpetuate and may increase the inefficient use of water in the Las Vegas Valley Water District service area and frustrate efforts at water demand management in the Las Vegas Valley Water District service area.

10. The Las Vegas Valley Water District lacks the financial capability for developing and transporting water under the subject permit which is a prerequisite to putting the water to beneficial use.

11. The above-referenced Application should be denied because it fails to include the statutorily required:

(a) Description of the place of use;

(b) Description of the proposed works;

(c) The estimated cost of such works; and

(d) The estimated time required to put the subject water to beneficial use.

12. The subject Application should be denied because it individually and cumulatively with other applications of the proposed project will exceed the safe yield of the Railroad Valley (North) Basin thereby adversely affecting phreatophytes and creating air contamination and air pollution in violation of State

and Federal Statutes, including but not limited to, the Clean Air Act and Chapter 445 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

13. The Application cannot be granted because the applicant has failed to provide information to enable the State Engineer to safeguard the public interest properly. The adverse effects of this Application and related applications associated with the proposed water appropriation and transportation project (largest appropriation of ground water in the history of the State of Nevada) cannot properly be evaluated without an independent, formal and publicly-reviewable assessment of:

(a) cumulative impacts of the proposed extraction;

(b) mitigation measures that will reduce the impacts of the proposed extraction;

(c) alternatives to the proposed extraction, including but not limited to, the alternatives of no extraction and aggressive implementation of all proven and cost-effective water demand management strategies.

14. The subject application should be denied because the population projects upon which the water demand projections are based are unrealistic and ignore numerous constraints to growth, including traffic congestion, increased costs of infrastructure and services, degraded air quality, etc.

15. The subject application should be denied because previous and current conservation programs instituted by the Las Vegas Valley Water District are ineffective public-relations oriented efforts that are unlikely to achieve substantial water savings. Public policy and public interest considerations should preclude the negative environmental and socio-economic consequences of the proposed transfers on areas of origin when the potential water importer has failed to make a good-faith effort to efficiently use currently available supplies.

16. The subject Application should be denied because the enormous costs of the project will result in water rate increases of such magnitude that demand will be substantially reduced, thereby rendering the water transfer unnecessary.

17. The granting or approval of the above-referenced Application would be detrimental tot he public interest and not made in good faith since it would allow the Las Vegas Valley Water District to lock up vital water resources for possible use sometime in the distant future beyond current planning horizons.

18. The subject Application should be denied because current and developing trends in housing, landscaping, national plumbing fixture standards and demographic patterns all suggest that the simplistic water demand forecasts upon which the proposed transfers are based substantially overstate future water demand needs.

19. The subject application should be denied because the current per capita water consumption rate for the Las Vegas Valley Water District is double that of similarly situated southwestern municipalities. This suggests enormous potential for more cost-effective supply alternatives, including demand management and effluent re-use. These alternatives have not been seriously considered by the Las Vegas Valley Water District.

20. Inasmuch as a water extraction and transbasin conveyance project of this magnitude has never been considered by the State Engineer, it is therefore impossible to anticipate all potential adverse affects without further information and study. Accordingly, the protestant reserves the right to amend the subject protest to include such issues as they may develop as a result of further information and study.

21. The undersigned additionally incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein and adopts as its own, each and every other protest to the subject application filed pursuant to NRS 533.365.