

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER 54029  
FILED BY Las Vegas Valley Water Dist.  
ON October 17 1989, TO APPROPRIATE THE  
WATERS OF White Pine County

PROTEST

Comes now Gilbert Wilson Jr.

Printed or typed name of protestant

whose post office address is 1 Burma Road Box 49

Street No. or P.O. Box, City, State and Zip Code

whose occupation is Retired

and protests the granting of Application Number 54029, filed on October 17, 1989.

by Las Vegas Valley Water District

Printed or typed name of applicant

to appropriate the

waters of underground

Underground or name of stream, lake, spring or other source

situated in White Pine

County, State of Nevada, for the following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit:

Please see the two attachments. My reasons and grounds will not fit in this space!

THEREFORE the protestant requests that the application be DENIED

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

and that an order be entered for such relief as the State Engineer deems just and proper.

Signed Gilbert Wilson Jr.

Agent or protestant

Address 1 Burma Road P.O. Box 49

Printed or typed name, if agent

Baker, NV 89311

Street No. or P.O. Box No.

City, State and Zip Code No.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1990

Bob Taylor  
Notary Public

State of NV

County of White Pine

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
BAKER TOWNSHIP  
BAKER, NV 89311

**\$10 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PROTEST. PROTEST MUST BE FILED IN DUPLICATE. ALL COPIES MUST CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.**

All of us who live in Snake Valley and all future generations do or will depend upon the water table which regulates the flow of springs, the yield of wells, and has a direct influence on the volume of stream flow. Some years ago the springs and streams and wells dried up in Owens Valley after Los Angeles had stolen the water from the valley. And now Las Vegas proposes to steal massive amounts of water from Snake Valley (along with many others).

What will Las Vegas do when our wells run dry and our springs become dusty depressions in the earth? Leave their deep wells and their monster pipeline sit idle and empty while our aquifer recharges and we survive the best we can in the meantime? I THINK NOT! All the actions and proposals of the Las Vegas Water District indicate to me that the public good is not one of their priorities.

This is not a matter of taking water away from the few who live in a sparsely populated area in order to give it to the many who live in an urban area. It is not for the benefit of the multitude of people who live in ordinary circumstances in Clark County! A representative illustration of the LVVWD's attitude toward the sensible use of the most precious commodity in an arid land is the new development in Henderson which is to be built with every establishment fronting on the shore of a huge man-made lake!

The populace will of necessity have to pay the cost through taxation of one kind or another in order to get our water from here to Clark County. But it will be the big property developers and the wealthy who will reap the benefits. Benefits for the few at the expense of the many!

I urge you to reject this application on the grounds that it is not in the best interests of the general public; unless of course, as I have heard, it is really true that you became State Engineer for the sole purpose of approving THE GREAT LAS VEGAS WATER GRAB. I have no idea whether or not this is the case. But of course, if it does happen to be true, then nothing anyone says, nor any consideration of the public good is going to make any difference, because if it is true, you will have already received your orders.

But assuming it is not true, please see the enclosed attachment.

  
Gilbert Wilson, Jr.

1 Burma Road  
Baker NV 89311

ATTACHMENT TO PROTEST OF APPLICATION NO. 54029  
BY LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

This application is one of nine filed by Las Vegas Valley Water District for a total of 51,100 acre feet to be appropriated from Snake Valley. Diversion and export of such a quantity of water will deprive Snake Valley of the water needed for its environmental and economic well-being, and will unnecessarily destroy environmental, ecological, scenic and recreational values that the State holds in trust for all its citizens.

Application No. 54027, if approved, would prevent or interfere with the development of the community water supply in Snake Valley. The Baker Water & Sewer General Improvement District was formed for this purpose after completion of an engineering study by Eric Beyer. This study designated a source for the Baker water system that is located adjacent to Application No. 54027. Said water system is critically needed for the health and economic well-being of Snake Valley, as well as for serving the needs of some 80,000 annual visitors to Great Basin National Park.

Approval of this application would jeopardize the community water supply that is now being developed in Snake Valley for the town of Baker, by means of the Baker General Improvement District. This quasi-municipal water system is necessary for the healthy growth and economic development of Snake Valley, and to serve the 80,000 annual visitors to Great Basin National Park.

This application is one of nine applications filed on water in Snake Valley for a total of 51,100 acre feet. The appropriation of this water when added to the already approved appropriations and dedicated users will far exceed the annual recharge and safe yield of the basin, adversely affecting existing rights and public interest.

According to USGS studies cited in Water Related Scientific Activities of the USGS in Nevada, 1985-89, pp. 47, 48, 57, and 58, it is impossible to predict the consequences of exporting water in such quantities. "Comprehensive studies of this aquifer system have not been made, and little appropriate data are available."

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 the service area of the District in Clark County. Diversion and export of such a quantity of water will: lower the static water level in Snake Valley; 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, grazing livestock and other surface area existing uses.

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

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 the Las Vegas Valley Artesian Basin. Diversion and export of such a quantity of water will deprive the area of origin of the water needed for its environment and economic well-being and will unnecessarily destroy environmental, ecological, scenic and recreational values that the State holds in trust for all its citizens.

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

The granting or approving of the subject application in the absence of comprehensive water resource development planning, including but not limited to, environmental impacts, socioeconomic impacts, and long term impacts on the water resource, threatens to prove detrimental to the public interest.

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

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

In the Matter of Application Number 54029

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.

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.

STATE ENGINEER  
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