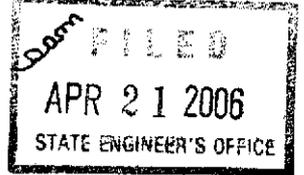


IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF THE STATE OF NEVADA



IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER 73197,  
FILED BY STEWART-NEVADA ENTERPRISES, LLC.,  
ON 31 AUGUST 2005, TO APPROPRIATE THE WATERS OF BASIN  
209, PAHRANAGAT VALLEY

} PROTEST

Comes now Keith Whipple, whose post office address is H.C. 61, Box 2, Hiko, Nevada 89017, whose occupation is owner and manager of the Keith Whipple Ranch, Hiko, Nevada, which ranch is the owner and user of about 60 shares out of a total of 600 shares of Hiko Irrigation and Water Company, which company has the right to the entire flow of Hiko Springs, Pahrnagat Valley, Lincoln County, Nevada, and supports, by way of this protest, the granting of Application Number 73197 filed on 31 August 2005 (with corrected application filed 27 January 2006) by Stewart-Nevada Enterprises, LLC, to appropriate underground waters situated in Lincoln County, State of Nevada, for the following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit:

**The pumping on Stewart's Hiko Ranch proposed by Application 73197 will not adversely affect the flow of Hiko Springs or any rights in that flow. The Stewarts have been pumping at Hiko Ranch for more than 50 years without any adverse impact on Hiko Springs. All experience and good science teach that the proposed pumping under Application 73197 will not adversely affect the flow of Hiko Springs. No good science supports the contrary view.**

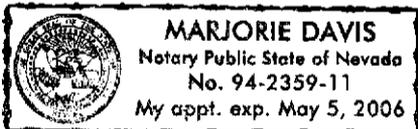
THEREFORE the Protestant requests that the application be granted and that an order be entered for such relief, consistent with the granting of the application, as the State Engineer deems just and proper.

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2006 APR 25 AM 10:29  
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Signed Keith Whipple  
By: Keith Whipple, Owner and Manager, Keith Whipple Ranch  
Address: H.C. 61 - Box 2  
Hiko, Nevada 89017

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of April, 2006.

Marjorie Davis  
Notary Public



State of Nevada

County of Lincoln

**+ \$25 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PROTEST. PROTEST MUST BE FILED IN DUPLICATE.  
ALL COPIES MUST CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.**

DCNR/DWR  
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APR 21 2006

LAS VEGAS OFFICE