

FILED
DEC 22 2005
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

BEFORE THE STATE ENGINEER, STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATER
RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF
CHANGE APPLICATION NUMBER: 73245
FILED BY: CITY OF FERNLEY
ON: SEPTEMBER 13, 2005, TO CHANGE THE
PLACE & MANNER OF USE OF A PORTION
WATERS OF THE TRUCKEE RIVER

PROTEST & REQUEST TO
DENY APPLICATION 73245;
PETITION FOR HEARING
PURSUANT TO NRS 533.365;
PETITION FOR A HYDRO-
LOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDY PURSUANT TO
NRS 533.368

COMES NOW: CHURCHILL COUNTY

WHOSE ADDRESS IS: 155 NORTH TAYLOR STREET, SUITE 153, FALLON NV 89406

WHOSE OCCUPATION IS: A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF NEVADA AND PROTESTS
THE GRANTING OF CHANGE APPLICATION NUMBER: 73245 FILED ON: SEPTEMBER 13, 2005
BY: CITY OF FERNLEY TO CHANGE THE PLACE OF USE AND MANNER OF USE OF A PORTION OF
TRUCKEE RIVER WATERS HERETOFORE APPROPRIATED UNDER CLAIM #3, TCID S.R. #841
SITUATED IN CHURCHILL COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS AND
ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS, TO WIT:

1. THE APPLICANTS SEEK TO TRANSFER THE FULL DUTY OF 4.5 ACRE-FOOT/ACRE. IF
THE APPLICATION IS GRANTED AT FULL DUTY, IT WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT RETURN FLOWS,
GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND WETLANDS. THERE ARE DOWN GRADIENT SURFACE WATER
RIGHTS WHICH RELY UPON RETURN FLOWS FROM THESE LANDS INCLUDING THE STILLWATER
WETLANDS. THE MASSIE AND MAHALA SLOUGHS, LOCATED DOWN GRADIENT OF THE
EXISTING PLACE OF USE, HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS BY THE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DUE TO THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE STILLWATER
WETLANDS AND THE INTERSTATE AND NAVIGABLE CARSON RIVER. ALTHOUGH THE ORR
DITCH DECREE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY DICTATE A CONSUMPTIVE USE REDUCTION UPON A
MANNER OF USE CHANGE, THE STATE ENGINEER HAS RECENTLY IMPOSED A 2.5 ACRE-
FOOT/ACRE CONSUMPTIVE USE LIMITATION ON TRUCKEE RIVER CHANGE APPLICATIONS. IF
THE APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED THEY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 2.5 ACRE-FOOT/ACRE WITH
THE REMAINING DUTY MADE AVAILABLE FOR MITIGATION WITHIN THE CHURCHILL COUNTY
PORTION OF THE TRUCKEE DIVISION.

2. THE APPLICATION, IF GRANTED WOULD VIOLATE FEDERAL RECLAMATION LAW, 43
U.S.C. §389, IN SEVERAL RESPECTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: I) THE DETRIMENTAL
EFFECT ON EXISTING WATER RIGHTS WITHIN THE NEWLANDS PROJECT; AND II) VIOLATION OF
THE TRUST AND CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ALL
OWNERS OF NEWLANDS PROJECT WATER RIGHTS INCLUDING CHURCHILL COUNTY.
SPECIFICALLY, THE WATER TRANSFER SOUGHT CONFLICTS WITH AND HINDERS THE

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SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S ABILITY TO REACH EFFICIENCY REQUIRED BY NEWLANDS PROJECT OPERATING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES.

3. THE APPLICATION, IF GRANTED WOULD VIOLATE N.R.S. 533.370 IN THAT IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND CONFLICT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS BY REMOVING WATER RESOURCES FROM LANDS WITHIN AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS WHICH IN TURN WOULD DEplete THE GROUNDWATER WHICH CHURCHILL COUNTY'S RESIDENTS RELY ON TO SUPPLY THEIR WATER FROM DOMESTIC WELLS WHICH HAVE PROTECTABLE INTEREST UNDER NEVADA LAW. THE APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED WITHOUT A CONDITION ON THE TRANSFER FOR MITIGATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS TO GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES.

4. THE APPLICATION, IF GRANTED WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE COST OF CHARGES FOR WATER DELIVERY AND LESSEN THE EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF WATER RIGHT OWNERS SERVED BY THE NEWLANDS PROJECT, INCLUDING CHURCHILL COUNTY, IN VIOLATION OF N.R.S. 533.370 1(B).

5. THE APPLICATION, IF GRANTED WOULD BE CONTRARY TO AND VIOLATE FEDERAL LAW, 42 U.S.C. §4300, THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) BECAUSE IS WOULD IMPLEMENT MAJOR ACTIONS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT HAVING PREPARED THE REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF THE CUMULATIVE AND SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS OF SAID ACTIONS TO THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT BY EITHER AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

6. THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO NEVADA LAW, N.R.S 533.368, TO DETERMINE WHETHER HYDROLOGIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ARE NECESSARY. IF SO, SUCH STUDIES SHOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION.

7. THE APPLICATION, IF GRANTED WOULD VIOLATE THE FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT BECAUSE ITS DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER QUANTITY WOULD HAVE A CORRESPONDING NEGATIVE IMPACT ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY UPON WHICH CHURCHILL COUNTY DEPENDS TO SUPPLY DRINKING WATER TO ITS RESIDENTS.

8. THE APPLICANTS SEEK TO CHANGE THE PLACE OF USE FROM THE PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED USE IN CHURCHILL COUNTY TO A DIFFERENT USE IN LYON COUNTY. N.R.S. 533.363 REQUIRES THAT THE CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECEIVE NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION AND ARE AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO NOTICE THE APPLICATION AND HOLD A HEARING ON THE MATTER AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE ENGINEER. CHURCHILL COUNTY HAS NOT RECEIVED SUCH NOTICE.

9. IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECENT DATA AND BRIEFINGS FROM THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE, MANY BASINS OR SUB-BASINS WITHIN LYON COUNTY ARE OVER APPROPRIATED AND

OVER PUMPED, RESULTING IN DECLINING WATER TABLES. ENTITIES WITHIN LYON COUNTY AND FERNLEY ARE REACHING OUT AND ATTEMPTING TO ACQUIRE GROUND AND SURFACE WATERS FROM ADJACENT COUNTIES AND HYDROGRAPHIC BASINS FOR CONTINUED RAPID DEVELOPMENT WITH LITTLE OR NO EFFORT TO BALANCE OR MITIGATE THE IMPACTS. THE POTENTIAL RESULT COULD BE LARGE SCALE WELL FAILURES IN FERNLEY AND LYON COUNTY AND A REGIONAL WATER CRISES THAT CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY THE STATE TAKING RESOURCES FROM OTHER COUNTIES. UNTIL LYON COUNTY AND ALL MUNICIPALITIES SHARING SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER SOURCES WITHIN LYON COUNTY DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATE APPROVED PLAN TO MITIGATE OR REBALANCE CURRENT GROUNDWATER MINING, NO NEW APPROPRIATIONS OR SURFACE WATER TRANSFERS FROM LYON OR ADJACENT COUNTIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED. ALTHOUGH N.R.S. 533.370 5. APPLIES TO INTERBASIN GROUNDWATER TRANSFERS, THESE SAME CRITERIA SHOULD APPLY TO SURFACE WATER TRANSFERS BETWEEN COUNTIES AND HYDROGRAPHIC BASINS.

10. CHURCHILL COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 17.77 (DUST ORDINANCE) REQUIRES A PERSON WHO TRANSFERS WATER RIGHTS OFF A PARCEL OF LAND FIVE (5) ACRES OR MORE, OR WHO CEASES TO IRRIGATE SAID PARCEL, TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM CHURCHILL COUNTY TO MITIGATE FUGITIVE DUST WHICH RESULTS FROM THE CESSATION OF IRRIGATION. BY FILING THE APPLICATION, APPLICANTS HAVE CAUSED THE CESSATION OF IRRIGATION AND ARE THEREFORE SUBJECT TO THE DUST ORDINANCE. TO DATE THE APPLICANTS HAVE TAKEN NO ACTIONS UNDER THE ORDINANCE. IF THE APPLICATION IS GRANTED BEFORE THE APPLICANTS COMPLY WITH THE DUST ORDINANCE, IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

11. APPROVING THE APPLICATION WITHOUT DUST MITIGATION WILL RESULT IN NUMEROUS PROBLEMS RELATED TO FUGITIVE DUST INCLUDING HARM TO PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, A NUISANCE TO PROPERTY OWNERS DOWNWIND OF THE PARCELS WHICH THE APPLICANTS HAVE STRIPPED OF WATER RIGHTS, AS WELL AS BLOWING DUST WHICH CREATES A HAZARD TO PUBLIC HEALTH, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON ADJACENT COUNTY ROADS AND STATE HIGHWAYS. AS SUCH, IF THE APPLICATION IS GRANTED WITHOUT CONDITIONS OF MITIGATION, THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BE HARMED.

THEREFORE, FOR THE FORGOING REASONS, THE PROTESTANT RESPECTIVELY REQUESTS THAT THE STATE ENGINEER REQUIRE A HYDROLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO N.R.S. 533.368, THAT THE STATE ENGINEER HOLD A HEARING ON THE APPLICATION AND THAT THE APPLICATION BE DENIED AND AN ORDER BE ENTERED BY THE STATE ENGINEER DENYING SAID APPLICATION.

Chris C. Mahannah

SIGNED:

CHRIS C. MAHANNAH, P.E., SWRS#976 (AGENT)
WATER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
P.O. BOX 5007
RENO, NV 89513
(775) 747-1100

STATE OF NEVADA

COUNTY OF WASHOE

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 19th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2005,
BY CHRIS C. MAHANNAH



Keith Weaver

STATE OF: NEVADA
COUNTY OF: WASHOE

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

**STATE OF NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
REQUEST FOR NOTICE**

**IN REGARDS TO APPLICATION/PERMITS NUMBERS: 73245, 73246 & 73161 - 73165
FILED IN THE NAME OF CITY OF FERNLEY**

**PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE MAILING LIST AND SEND COPIES OF ALL
CORRESPONDENCE TO THE ADDRESSES BELOW:**

- 1. MR. BRAD GOETSCH, MANAGER
CHURCHILL COUNTY
155 N. TAYLOR ST, SUITE #153
FALLON, NV 89406**

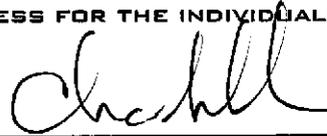
- 2. MR. RUSTY JARDINE, Esq.
CHURCHILL COUNTY DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
155 N. TAYLOR ST., SUITE # 170
FALLON, NV 89406**

- 3. CHRIS C. MAHANNAH, P.E.
WATER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
P.O. Box 5007
RENO, NV 89513-5007**

I AM THE AGENT OR REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHURCHILL COUNTY.

**THIS FORM ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE MAILING ADDRESS FOR THE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED
ABOVE.**

SIGNATURE: _____



**CHRIS C. MAHANNAH, P.E., SWRS #976 (AGENT)
WATER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
P.O. Box 5007
RENO, NV 89513
(775) 747-1100**