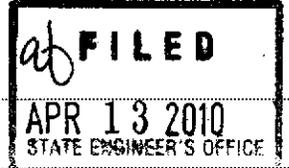


IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER 79633  
FILED BY Moapa Valley Water District  
ON February 22, 20 10, TO APPROPRIATE THE  
WATERS OF Underground



RECEIVED  
2010 APR 13 PM 2:09  
PROTEST  
STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE

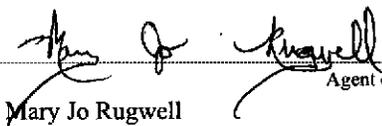


Comes now USDI - Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office  
Printed or typed name of protestant  
whose post office address is 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130  
Street No. or PO Box, City, State and ZIP Code  
whose occupation is Public Land Management and protests the granting  
of Application Number 79633, filed on February 22, 20 10  
by Moapa Valley Water District to appropriate the  
waters of Underground situated in Clark County

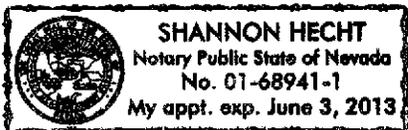
Underground or name of stream, lake, spring or other source

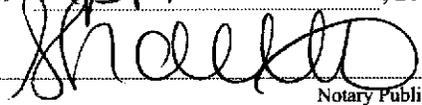
County, State of Nevada, for the following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit:  
See Attached.

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   
Agent or protestant  
Mary Jo Rugwell  
Printed or typed name, if agent  
Address 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Street No. or PO Box  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130  
City, State and ZIP Code  
702.515.5000  
Phone Number

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of April, 20 10



  
Notary Public  
State of Nevada  
County of Clark

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

## Attachment

The Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office (BLM) is protesting water rights application number 79633, filed by the Moapa Valley Water District (MVWD) to appropriate ground water in Lower Meadow Valley Wash (Hydrographic Basin 205).

This application is part of a group of three applications filed by the MVWD to annually withdraw a total of 18 cubic feet per second (about 13,000 acre-feet) of ground water from an area south of the Meadow Valley Mountains and northwest of Moapa, Nevada. The total amount of water requested in these three applications, combined with existing appropriations in the basin exceeds the estimated annual perennial yield of Hydrographic Basin 205. Pumping of large volumes of water from this relatively small area will capture natural recharge from local mountain ranges, remove water from aquifer storage, reduce or eliminate discharge at several local spring riparian areas, and result in excessive water table drawdowns and could impact BLM water rights in the basin (permit numbers 76055, R04287, R04289, R04294-R04297, R04309, R04311-R04315, R04318-R04335, R04337-R04338, R04340-R04342, R09415).

Removal of ground water would prove detrimental to the public interest by degrading habitat on BLM managed public lands. Activities that degrade the condition of natural vegetation on public lands or impair management of special status species habitat are not consistent with provisions of the BLM Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and other existing BLM policies. Water table drawdowns resulting from the proposed pumping would damage the health and vigor of springs and their associated riparian habitats within this basin and potentially connected ground water basins in the region. Riparian areas in southern Nevada provide nesting sites and food resources for a number of desert breeding birds, stopover sites for neotropical and other migratory birds, and habitat for many bat species. Many of these species are identified on BLMs list of Nevada sensitive species (see table 1 at the end of text). BLM sensitive species are taxa that are not already included as BLM special status species under (1) Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species; or (2) State of Nevada listed species. BLM policy is to provide these species with the same level of protection as is provided for candidate species, that is to ensure that actions authorized, funded or carried out do not contribute to the need for the species to become listed. The sensitive species designation is normally used for species that occur on Bureau administered lands for which the BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation status of the species through management.

**Table 1.** Avian and bat species on the BLM Nevada Sensitive Species List known to use riparian areas and mesquite woodlands in southern Nevada for foraging, breeding sites or migratory stopovers.

**Bird Species**

Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>
Lucy's Warbler	<i>Vermivora luciae</i>
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Opororis tolmiei</i>
Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>
Grey vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>

**Bat Species**

Greater western mastiff bat	<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>
Allen's big-eared bat	<i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>
California leaf-nosed bat	<i>Macrotus californicus</i>
Small-footed myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>
Long-eared myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>
Cave myotis	<i>Myotis velifer</i>
Long-legged myotis	<i>Myotis volands</i>
Yuma myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>
Big free-tailed bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>
Pale Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii pallenscens</i>
Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii townsendii</i>
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma macaulatum</i>