

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS )  
34932 AND 34933 TO APPROPRIATE )  
UNDERGROUND WATER FROM CALICO. )  
BASIN, LAS VEGAS VALLEY, CLARK )  
COUNTY, NEVADA. )

R U L I N G

GENERAL

212  
A report was prepared in 1975 by Robert F. Kaufman, Consulting Geologist, entitled "Availability and Quality of a Water Supply in Calico Basin, Clark County, Nevada." A copy of the report may be viewed in the Office of the State Engineer, Carson City, Nevada.

The 86 lot Red Rock Terrace Estates tentative sub-division plat was recommended for disapproval because of inadequate water quantity on October 19, 1977 by the Nevada Division of Water Resources.

A hearing before the State Engineer was held on June 21, 1978, in Las Vegas, Nevada. A copy of the transcript of the hearing may be viewed in the Office of the State Engineer, Carson City, Nevada.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

Applications 34932 and 34933 were filed on February 1, 1978 by Nevada Escrow Service, Inc., to appropriate underground water for quasi-municipal use in Las Vegas Valley. The point of diversion under both applications is within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 1, T.21S., R.58E., M.D.M.; and the place of use is 86 lots within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  said Section 1 and the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 6, T.21S., R.59E., M.D.M. Application 34932 is to appropriate 0.15 c.f.s., and Application 34933 is to appropriate 0.156 c.f.s. 1/

II

The principal ground water reservoir in Calico Basin is the alluvial fill or unconsolidated material that has accumulated in the basin. 2/

III

There is very little recharge from precipitation to the alluvial fill ground water reservoir in Calico Basin because of the limited precipitation, low elevation and small watershed area.

IV

Approximately 20 residences have developed domestic water supplies in Calico Basin. The quality and/or quantity of some of these water supplies are at best marginally suitable for domestic use. 3/

V

The limited data available indicates a lowering of the water table by the existing users. 4/

VI

There are residential lots that have not been built on in Calico Basin and the development of these existing subdivided lots would cause an additional draught on the Calico Basin ground water reservoir. 5/

VII

There are existing water rights on springs in Calico Basin. Permits on these springs have not been completely developed and when they are, additional water may be consumptively used. 6/ This would result in a smaller proportion of spring flow recharging the ground water reservoir.

VIII

The 650 foot well drilled by Nevada Escrow Service, Inc., in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 1, T.21S., R.58E., M.D.M., has not proved that adequate quasi-municipal water can be developed from consolidated formations beneath the limited alluvial aquifers. The pump test of this well does not indicate that it is a suitable well to supply the proposed 86 lots. 7/

CONCLUSIONS

1. The State Engineer has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter of this action. 8/
2. The State Engineer is prohibited by law from granting a permit where:
  - A. There is no unappropriated water at the proposed source, or
  - B. The proposed use conflicts with existing rights, or
  - C. The proposed use threatens to prove detrimental to the public welfare. 9/

3. The Calico Basin spring system and the alluvial fill ground water reservoir are interconnected. Water rights on springs and domestic well use of the alluvial fill ground water reservoir exceed the estimate of recharge to this ground water reservoir. The potential exists for additional domestic wells on already subdivided lots in the area.

The evidence does not indicate that the underlying consolidated formations can provide an adequate water supply for the proposed development. To grant additional water rights from the Calico Basin ground water reservoir under the subject applications, would overcommit this limited natural resource, conflict with existing rights, and threaten to prove detrimental to the public welfare. 10/

RULING

Applications 34932 and 34933 are denied on the grounds that the granting of additional water rights from the Calico Basin ground water reservoir would conflict with existing rights and threaten to prove detrimental to the public welfare in this area of limited ground water resources.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Roland D. Westergard  
State Engineer

RDW:JC:jw

Dated this 2nd day of  
August, 1978.

FOOTNOTES

1. Public records located within the Office of the State Engineer.
2. Kaufman Report p. 10.  
Hearing Transcript p. 75, 85.
3. Hearing Transcript pg. 69, 70.
4. Hearing Transcript p. 29, 65, 70, 76.
5. Hearing Transcript p. 69.
6. Public records located within the Office of the State Engineer, see Permits 30540, 30541 and 30542.
7. Hearing Transcript p. 39, 44, 47.
8. NRS 533.025 and 533.030, subsection 1.
9. NRS 533.370, subsection 4.
10. Hearing Transcript p. 84.