

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION 45510 TO)
APPROPRIATE WATER FROM AN UNDERGROUND)
SOURCE IN THE IMLAY AREA, HUMBOLDT)
RIVER BASIN, PERSHING COUNTY, NEVADA)

R U L I N G

INTRODUCTION

Application 45510 was filed to appropriate underground water for irrigation and domestic purposes in the Imlay area of the Humboldt River Basin.

Ground Water Resources Reconnaissance Series Report No. 5, Ground Water Appraisal of the Imlay Area, Humboldt River Basin, Pershing County, Nevada, by Thomas E. Eakin, was prepared cooperatively by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey in 1962.

Water Resources Bulletin No. 32, Hydrologic Reconnaissance of the Humboldt River Basin, Nevada, by Thomas E. Eakin and Robert D. Lamke, was prepared cooperatively by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, in 1966.

Copies of these reports may be viewed in the office of the State Engineer.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

Application 45510 was filed by Joseph W. and Helen L. Buffalo April 7, 1982, to appropriate 2.7 c.f.s. of underground water for irrigation and domestic purposes. The point of diversion is within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 35, T. 33 N., R. 35 E., M.D.B.&M., and the place of use is 160 acres within the E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 35, T. 33 N., R. 35 E., M.D.B.&M. 1/

II

It is estimated that the perennial yield of the Imlay area ground reservoir is 3,000 acre-feet of ground water per year. 2/

III

Existing underground water rights could be exercised and developed to divert water in substantial excess of the estimated natural recharge from the Imlay area ground water drainage area. 3/

IV

The ground water table in the Imlay area slopes toward the Humboldt River from the mountains along the margin of the area. Ground water is naturally discharged by evapotranspiration on the Humboldt River flood plain and adjoining benchlands, by springs and seeps flowing to the Humboldt River and by underflow from the south end of the Imlay area. 4/

V

Humboldt River water rights in the Imlay area and downstream far exceed the mean annual flow of the Humboldt River at Imlay, which was 149,000 acre-feet for the 1912-1963 period. 5/

VI

Applications to appropriate underground water to irrigate additional land have been denied in the Imlay area. 6/

VII

By an Order dated January 31, 1978, the State Engineer designated and described the Imlay Area Ground Water Basin as being under the provisions of NRS 534. 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 Humboldt River stream system and the Imlay area ground water reservoir are interconnected. Water rights on the surface water system exceed the mean annual flow of the Humboldt River at Imlay. Water rights from the Imlay area ground water reservoir exceed the estimate of recharge to the reservoir from precipitation.

The potential exists for additional development and pumpage from the Imlay area ground water reservoir under existing rights.

RULING
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4. Application 45510, if granted, would result in additional consumptive use by farm land irrigation. The additional withdrawals and consumption would remove water from the ground water reservoir which:

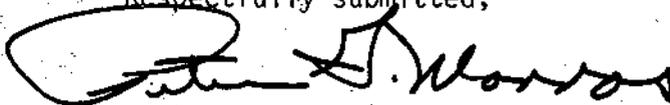
- A. would not be replaced resulting in a depletion of the ground water reservoir, or
- B. would be replaced by infiltrating surface water that would otherwise remain or return to the stream system. The additional withdrawal would conflict with and tend to impair existing rights, and be detrimental to the public interest and welfare.

5. The State Engineer is authorized and directed to designate preferred uses of water within designated ground water basins such as the Imlay Area Ground Water Basin. 10/ The consumptive use of ground water to irrigate additional land is not considered to be a preferred use of the limited water resources of the Imlay Area Ground Water Basin.

RULING

Application 45510 is denied on the grounds that the appropriation of underground water for irrigation purposes would conflict with and tend to impair the value of existing rights and be detrimental to the public interest and welfare.

Respectfully submitted,



PETER G. MORROS
State Engineer

PGM/GMT/br

Dated this 10th day of
AUGUST, 1983.

FOOTNOTES

1. Public records located within the office of the State Engineer.
2. Reconnaissance Series Report 5, pp. 1 and 37.
3. Public records located within the office of the State Engineer.
4. Reconnaissance Series Report 5, pp. 31 and 34.
5. Water Resources Bulletin No. 32, p. 84.
6. Public records located within the office of the State Engineer. See denied Applications 28473, 28474, 28475, 28480, 28485, 28486, 28487, 28488, 28489, 28490, 28491, 28493, 28494, 29083, 29084, 29085, 29086, 29087, 29088, 29089, 29090, 29091, 29092, 29093, 29094, 29095, 29096, 29097, 29103, 30619, 30620, 30621, 30773, 30885, 31487, 31488, 31489, 31490, 31491, 31492, 31631, 31632, 31633, 31634, 31635, 31636, 32488, 32489, 32490, 32491, 32492, 32493, 32494, 32495, 32496, 32497, 32498, 32499, 32500, 32501, 32797, 32798, 35058, 35059, 35060, 36050, and 37107.
7. Public records located within the office of the State Engineer.
8. NRS 533.025 and 533.030, subsection 1.
9. NRS 533.370, subsection 4.
10. NRS 534.120, subsection 2.