

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION 38044)
FILED TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC)
WATERS OF AN UNDERGROUND SOURCE)
WITHIN THE GREAT SALT LAKE DESERT)
HYDROGRAPHIC BASIN (192), ELKO)
COUNTY, NEVADA.)

RULING

4896

GENERAL

I.

Application 38044 was filed on April 30, 1979, by Shelley Deegan to appropriate 5.4 cubic feet per second of underground water for irrigation purposes within 320 acres of land located within the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, T.33N., R.69E., and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, T.33N., R.70E., M.D.B.&M. The proposed point of diversion is described as being located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 25.¹

FINDINGS OF FACT

I.

Application 38044 was filed to appropriate underground water for use upon land that was to be removed from the federal domain through the approval of a Desert Land Entry application. By letter dated January 3, 2000, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was requested to provide information to the office of the State Engineer relating to the current status of the Shelley Deegan Desert Land Entry application. A timely response from the BLM was received in the office of the State Engineer that indicated that they had no record of a Desert Land Entry application filed in support of Application 38044.¹ The State Engineer finds that the applicant has failed to initiate the process necessary to obtain title to the lands representing the place of use under Application 38044,

¹ File No. 38044, official records in the office of the State Engineer.

therefore, said land remains under federal jurisdiction.

II.

A water right application is filed to appropriate water for a specific purpose, which in the case of Application 38044 is for the irrigation of 320 acres of land that were to be removed from federal control and transferred to the applicant through the filing and approval of a Desert Land Entry application. The State Engineer finds that the applicant's failure to file a Desert Land Entry application removes the purpose for which Application 38044 was filed.

CONCLUSIONS

I.

The State Engineer has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action and determination.²

II.

The State Engineer is prohibited by law from granting an application to appropriate the public waters where:³

- A. there is no unappropriated water at the proposed source;
- B. the proposed use conflicts with existing rights; or
- C. the proposed use threatens to prove detrimental to the public interest.

III.

Application 38044 requests an appropriation of water for a project that does not exist. The State Engineer concludes that to approve a permit where the need to appropriate the water has ceased would threaten to prove detrimental to the public interest.

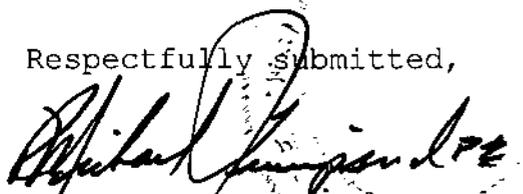
² NRS chapters 533 and 534.

³ NRS § 533.370(3).

RULING

Application 38044 is hereby denied on the grounds that its approval would threaten to prove detrimental to the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,



R. MICHAEL TURNPSEED, P.E.

State Engineer

RMT/MDB/dl

Dated this 31st day of
March, 2000.