

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

O R D E R

LAS VEGAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, the State Engineer designated and extended the designated areas of the Las Vegas Artesian Basin; ordered the curtailment of the use of groundwater for irrigation in certain areas of the Las Vegas Valley; and ordered a notice of regulation concerning water appropriation to the Las Vegas area as provided under the appropriate Statutes of Nevada or Nevada Revised Statutes by the following Orders of the State Engineer:

1. Order No. 175, dated January 10, 1941
2. Order No. 182, dated February 29, 1944
3. Order No. 189, dated November 22, 1946
4. Order No. 196, dated December 1, 1949
5. Order No. 212, dated November 20, 1953
6. Order No. 249, dated April 18, 1961
7. Order No. 275, dated May 25, 1964; and

WHEREAS, the 1955 Nevada State Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 104 which allowed the State Engineer to issue temporary permits to appropriate groundwater which may be revoked when water service can be furnished by an entity such as a water district or a municipality; and

WHEREAS, the State Engineer amended the description of the designated area of the Las Vegas Artesian Basin; and declared irrigation not to be a preferred use of the limited underground water resource by Order of the State Engineer (No. 833) dated December 27, 1983; and

WHEREAS, the State Engineer continually reviews the amount of water delivered to the Las Vegas Valley from the Colorado River through the Southern Nevada Water System and has noted significant increases of approximately 20 percent and 24 percent for the calendar years 1988 and 1989, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the State Engineer has issued approximately 17,500 acre-feet of revocable groundwater permits in the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Basin which will eventually be revoked when Colorado River water is made available through the utilities utilizing Colorado River water; and

WHEREAS, the State Engineer currently has an ongoing program for revocation of permits in areas of the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Basin that can be served by a water district or a municipality; and

WHEREAS, with continued increases in the amount of Colorado River water delivered through the Southern Nevada Water System as seen over the past two years, full commitment of Nevada's allocation of Colorado River water will occur in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the amount of groundwater pumped in the Las Vegas Valley under both non-revocable and revocable permits exceed the safe yield of the groundwater basin on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the groundwater levels continue to decline in some areas in the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Basin where revocable permits are being issued; and

WHEREAS, land subsidence continues to remain active in areas of the Las Vegas Groundwater Basin as a result of continued overdraft of the groundwater resource; and

WHEREAS, groundwater quality continues to be negatively effected by groundwater withdrawals in excess of perennial yield; and

WHEREAS, the State Engineer under the authority of NRS 534.120, section 1, is empowered to make rules, regulations and orders in an area that has been designated as deemed essential for the welfare of the area involved.

NOW, THEREFORE, the State Engineer, as of the date of this order, will not consider any application to appropriate groundwater except as provided under NRS 534.025 for any use within the designated area of the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Basin as set forth in State Engineer's Order No. 833 that exceeds 4,000 gallons per day for commercial, industrial, quasi-municipal, recreational, wildlife or environmental control uses.


R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E.
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada,
this 2nd day of MARCH, 1990.