

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

1142

O R D E R

RESCINDING ORDER NO. 765
SANITARY SEAL REQUIREMENT OF ALL
WELLS IN THE FALLON AREA OF CARSON DESERT

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1981, the State Engineer made and entered in his official records at Carson City, Nevada, Order No. 765, notifying and ordering that all water wells drilled within the area of Fallon of the Carson Desert Designated Basin within Townships 18 North, Ranges 27, 28, and 29 East, and Townships 19 North, Ranges 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 East, must comply with the following:

1. Wells drilled to a depth exceeding 50 feet must have a minimum seal depth of 50 feet; and
2. For those wells drilled to a depth less than 50 feet shall have a minimum seal of 25 feet.

WHEREAS, a study published in 1985 by the United States Geological Survey entitled Geohydrology of the Basalt and Unconsolidated Sedimentary Aquifers in the Fallon Area, Churchill County, Nevada, USGS Water-Supply Paper 2263, indicates that a source of generally better quality water is found in the intermediate alluvial aquifer. The intermediate aquifer is typically located at depths greater than 80 feet and is a more reliable, long term water source than the shallow alluvial aquifer.

WHEREAS, subsequent to Order No. 765, many wells have been completed in both the shallow and intermediate aquifer. Water quality records from these wells confirm that water from the intermediate aquifer is of equal or better quality than the shallow aquifer. Also, the intermediate aquifer is less susceptible to:

- 1) infiltration of contaminants due to the seasonal fluctuation of the Carson River,
- 2) nitrate contamination associated with individual sewage disposal systems, and
- 3) fertilizers and pesticides associated with farm practices.

WHEREAS, beginning in 1990, the State Engineer began placing a permit term on all permitted groundwater wells located in the area delineated in the USGS Water Supply Paper 2263, requiring those wells to be completed in the intermediate alluvial aquifer and that in no instance shall the sanitary seal on the wells be less than 100 feet from ground level.

NOW, THEREFORE, Order No. 765, dated May 18, 1981 is herewith **RESCINDED** based on the new data and information available indicating the need to draw water from the intermediate aquifer which is generally better in quality, more reliable and less susceptible to surface contamination.

Sanitary seals for all wells drilled in the subject area, as stated above, shall be pursuant to either NAC 534.380 or 534.390.


R. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E.
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada, this

27th day of April, 1998