

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS 32846, )  
32847, and 32851 FILED TO APPROPRIATE )  
THE UNDERGROUND WATERS OF THE MESQUITE )  
VALLEY GROUND WATER BASIN IN CLARK )  
COUNTY, NEVADA )

R U L I N G

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INTRODUCTION

Application 32846 was filed on July 19, 1977, by Rosanna Struss Ueckert to appropriate 1.0 c.f.s. of the waters of an underground source to be diverted within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 35, T.24S., R.56E., M.D.B. & M., and to be used for the irrigation of 68.86 acres within Lot 5, Section 35, T.24S., R.56E., M.D.B. & M.

Application 32847 was filed on July 19, 1977, by Rosanna Struss Ueckert to appropriate 2.0 c.f.s. of the waters of an underground source to be diverted within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26, T.24S., R.56E., M.D.B. & M., and to be used for irrigation of 73.05 acres within Lots 2, 3, and 4 of Section 26, T.24S., R.56E., M.D.B. & M.

Application 32851 was filed on July 19, 1977, by Rosanna Struss Ueckert to appropriate 2.0 c.f.s. of the waters of an underground source to be diverted within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  (Lot 3) Section 27, T.24S., R.56E., M.D.B. & M., and to be used for irrigation of 96.44 acres within Lots 4 and 5 of Section 27, T.24S., R.56E., M.D.B. & M.

In 1968, Water Resources Reconnaissance Series Report No. 46, "Water Resources Appraisal of Mesquite - Ivanpah Valley Area, Nevada and California," by Patrick A. Glancy, was prepared cooperatively by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources and U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. This report is available from the State Engineer's office.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

The source of water to be used to reclaim lands under these applications is water from an underground source within the Mesquite Valley Ground Water Basin, Clark County, Nevada. 1/

II

Ground water recharge in the Mesquite Valley area is derived mainly from precipitation within the area. The estimated annual recharge to the Mesquite Valley ground water reservoir is 2,200 acre-feet. Fifteen hundred (1,500) acre-feet of this is derived from precipitation and 700 acre-feet is underflow from Pahrump Valley to the northwest. 2/

III

Estimated average annual ground water consumption in Mesquite Valley due to development was 1,400 acre-feet in 1968. Nearly all of this development was in the California portion of the valley. 3/ Since 1968, the Nevada State Engineer has issued permits to appropriate an additional 1,710 acre-feet per year from the Nevada portion of the basin. Total existing ground water rights in the Nevada portion amounts to 2,200 acre-feet per year. 4/

IV

There is potential for additional ground water development in the California portion of Mesquite Valley.

V

Should additional water be allowed for appropriation for the reclamation of lands under these applications, and subsequent development of ground water pursuant thereto detrimentally affect prior ground water rights, the State Engineer is required by law to order withdrawals be restricted to conform to priority rights. 5/

VI

The Pahrump Valley Artesian Basin is presently over-appropriated. Expected continued heavy use of ground water in Pahrump Valley may cause a reduction of ground water underflow to Mesquite Valley. 6/

CONCLUSIONS

1. The State Engineer has jurisdiction under NRS 533.370. 7/
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. 8/
3. If subject applications were granted, additional lands would be irrigated. This would result in additional consumptive use by farmland irrigation. The additional withdrawals and consumption would remove water from the ground water reservoir which would not be replaced, resulting in depletion of the ground water reservoir. The additional withdrawals and consumption of underground water for irrigation would, therefore, conflict with existing rights and threaten to prove detrimental to the public welfare.

RULING

Applications 32846, 32847, and 32851 are hereby denied on the grounds that their granting would tend to impair the value of existing rights and otherwise be detrimental to the public welfare.

Respectfully submitted,

*William J. Newman*

William J. Newman  
State Engineer



WJN/SK/gk

Dated this 17th day

of JUNE, 1981.

FOOTNOTES

1. Public Records in the State Engineer's office.
2. Water Resources Reconnaissance Series Report #46, pp. 24, 30.
3. Water Resources Reconnaissance Series Report #46, pp. 31, 32.
4. Public Records in the State Engineer's office.
5. NRS 534.110, Subsections 3 and 6.
6. Public Records in the State Engineer's office.
7. NRS 533.370.
8. NRS 533.370, Subsection 4.