

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS 33223,)
33503, AND, 33505 FILED TO APPROPRIATE)
UNDERGROUND WATER IN PAHRUMP VALLEY,)
CLARK AND NYE COUNTIES, NEVADA)

RULING

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INTRODUCTION

In 1967, Geological Survey Water Supply Paper 1832 "Hydrology of the Valley-Fill and Carbonate-Rock Reservoirs, Pahrump Valley, Nevada-California" by Glenn T. Malmberg was prepared cooperatively by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U. S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

This report is available in the State Engineer's Office.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

Application 33223 was filed by George Rodriguez on August 19, 1977 to appropriate 2.7 c.f.s. of underground water for irrigation and domestic purposes. The point of diversion is within the NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 32, T.22S., R.56E., M.D.B.&M., and the place of use is 160 acres within the SW1/4 of said Section 32.

Application 33503 was filed by George L. Sturman on September 8, 1977 to appropriate 2.7 c.f.s. of underground water for irrigation and domestic purposes. The point of diversion is within the SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 22, T.22S., R.56E., M.D.B.&M., and the place of use is 160 acres within the SE1/4 of said Section 22.

Application 33505 was filed by Steve Molnar Sr. on September 8, 1977 to appropriate 2.7 c.f.s. of underground water for irrigation and domestic purposes. The point of diversion is within this SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 22, T.22S., R.56E., and the place of use is 160 acres within the SW1/4 of said Section 22.

II

The perennial yield of a ground water reservoir may be defined as the maximum amount of water of usable chemical quality that can be withdrawn and consumed economically each year for an indefinite period of time. If the perennial yield is continually exceeded, water levels will decline until the ground water reservoir is depleted of water of usable quality or until the pumping lifts become uneconomical to maintain.1/ The perennial yield of Pahrump Valley probably does not exceed 12,000 acre-feet.2/

Overdraft may be defined as the amount by which the net pumping draft exceeds the perennial yield. During the period 1959-62 the estimated net pumping draft averaged 25,000 acre-feet per year. Annual overdraft in Pahrump Valley during this period thus averaged about 13,000 acre-feet. Continued overdraft and the accompanying increase in pumping lifts will clearly result in an increase in pumping costs.3/

Should additional water be allowed for appropriation for the reclamation of lands under the Carey Act applications listed under Item I 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 with priority rights.4/

III

Permits and certificates have been issued in Pahrump Valley that could be used to withdraw over 60,000 acre-feet of ground water per year.5/

CONCLUSIONS

1. The State Engineer has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter of this action.6/
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.7/
3. Existing water rights for ground water in Pahrump Valley exceed the estimated perennial yield in this valley. These applications are to irrigate an additional 480 acres and if permits were issued an additional 2,400 acre-feet of ground water could be withdrawn annually.
4. To grant permits would result in additional withdrawals for consumptive use by farm land irrigation. This water would not be replaced resulting in a steady depletion of the ground water reservoir, substantial water-level declines and land subsidence. The additional withdrawals and consumption of underground water would, therefore, conflict with existing rights and threaten to prove detrimental to the public welfare.

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Applications 33223, 33503, and 33505 are hereby denied on the grounds

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that to grant additional water rights under the subject applications would conflict with existing rights and threaten to prove detrimental to the public welfare.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter G. Morros
State Engineer

PGM/TKG/kc

Dated this 3rd day of
September, 1981.

ALNO

FOOTNOTES

1. Water Supply Paper 1832, Page 37
2. Water Supply Paper 1832, Page 39
3. Water Supply Paper 1832, Page 39
4. NRS 534.110, subsections 3 and 6
5. Public Records in the State Engineer's Office
6. NRS 533.025 and 533.030, subsection 1
7. NRS 533.370, subsection 4