

Fw: My Comments on Agreement for Management of the Snake Valley Groundwater System

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Sent:

Thursday, October 01, 2009 4:27 PM

To:

[Snake Valley](#)

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jo Anne Garrett](#)

To: snakevalley@utah.gov

Cc: [Simeon Herskovits](#) ; [Susan Lynn](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 7:06 PM

Subject: My Comments on Agreement for Management of the Snake Valley Groundwater System

Having reviewed most of the comments from other interested parties, and having been closely involved in the Las Vegas Water Grab since 1989, following are my comments on the "Agreement for Management of the Snake Valley Groundwater System":

- 1) This document appears to be the latest maneuver of SNWA to tie up access, or lay claim to water that sustains a large area of Nevada, and a significant part of Utah.
- 2) The valleys and mountain ranges and farms and streams and sheer beauty, that would be decimated by SNWA's plan to pump and pipe water 300 miles south, are priceless components of Nevada and of the United States. That SNWA proposes to extract scarce desert water from the valleys surrounding Great Basin National Park is plainly indicative of SNWA's utter disregard for any value other than monetary profit.
- 3) Indeed, the proposed "Agreement" can only be understood as an awkward effort at securing indefinite access to groundwater which can only increase in value with the passage of time. This may be a profitable investment strategy, but it's not responsible management of a public resource.
- 4) It is well known that SNWA can solve its water supply problem by emulating other Southwestern cities who have drastically reduced their per-capita consumption by instituting sharp rate increases beyond a reasonable base usage. SNWA has refused to employ this sure-fire conservation tool, having always pledged that conservation would be the last resort, *"after first securing SNWA's instate resource."*
- 5) Meanwhile, SNWA has made a PR show of paying customers by the square foot to tear up their front lawns--but has avoided the many proven methods of truly reducing water consumption that are now standard practice in Albuquerque, San Antonio, Tucson, etc., etc.
- 6) Surely the Great Basin, with its clear skies, its finely-tuned populations of plants, animals and birds, its productive agriculture, and the refuge it offers to tourists, need not be converted to a dustbowl on behalf of an unnecessary, ill-conceived, out-dated water grab from yesteryear.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Garrett
40-year resident of Snake Valley
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