

Written version of public comment by Abigail Johnson at the Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar Remand hearing before the Nevada State Engineer, September 29, 2017

My name is Abigail Johnson. I am president of Great Basin Water Network. I am an original 1989 protestant in Spring Valley. I am also a property owner in Baker Nevada. I am speaking for myself and for the future of Nevada. I have some big picture comments. We appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment.

As you know this project was proposed in 1989, 28 years ago. **In many ways, this is a crude 20th century project being considered in 21st century times.**

1. Today's NRS 533.353 includes an advisory role for the target county. But not for applications prior to 2012. Pipelines as solutions? Not 21st century. Sustainability – a 21st century concept, along with climate change.
2. What has changed? As you heard earlier the Great Basin National Park now hosts an observatory, an investment of over \$850,000 that depends on dark skies and clear air. Look at the State of Nevada map. The cover is a photo of Wheeler Peak, in GBNP, with the dark skies resplendent. Robust tourism including dark skies tourism is resulting in an improved economy. Even Baker has several new business ventures as a result of tourism which will be jeopardized by this project.
3. My reading of SNWA's 3M plan is that they have all the power. That is not OK. **Senior water rights holders should not be compelled to hire experts and attorneys to prove impacts and defend against the rapacious SNWA.** The inherent feudalism of this project should not be perpetuated in the 21st century.
4. There is no county, local or NGO representation in the 3M process. That is 20th century thinking. **The State Engineer has the power and discretion to ensure that the 3M process does not continue in secrecy,** as it has since the 2006 stipulated agreements between SNWA and the federal agencies. Secrecy perpetuates the belief that neither the NSE nor SNWA wants the public to know what's going on. Trust is essential to this project and as you've heard, it is lacking.
5. I wish I could take credit for this term but I can't. **"Nature zoos" are not acceptable mitigation.** Saving the swamp cedars and Shoshone ponds and laying waste to the rest of Spring Valley is not acceptable or legal.

Please follow the law and deny these applications. You have tried it SNWA's way since 1989 and SNWA still has no groundwater rights in these valleys. The remand is a chance to re-evaluate the project through nearly 30 years of experience in science, law, economics, and environment.

Please stop this 15 billion dollar 20th century boondoggle now. Thank you for listening.

