

RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING THE WITHDRAWAL OF 177,000 – 200,000 ACRE FEET OF WATER BY THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY FROM 5 VALLEYS IN EASTERN NEVADA

WHEREAS the Southern Nevada Water Authority (hereafter referred to as SNWA) (aka the Las Vegas Valley Water District) filed for all the unappropriated water in 1989 in many valleys/groundwater basins of Eastern Nevada that include Spring, Snake, Cave, Delamar, and Dry Lake, in addition to Railroad, Three Lakes, Tikaboo, Hamlin, Garnet and other valleys, and

WHEREAS the SNWA main pipeline is proposed to carry water 300 miles in a 96” pipeline through White Pine, Lincoln and Clark Counties, but eventually moving into Nye and potentially Esmeralda and Elko Counties, and

WHEREAS roads, transmission lines, wells and wellfields, fencing, connector pipelines and feeder pipelines will criss-cross these many valleys, resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation, and

WHEREAS SNWA has chosen to move ahead with permitting processes through the State Engineer and the Bureau of Land Management Pipeline DEIS. Written comments are due to the State Engineer on December 2, 2011 after six weeks of hearings on SNWA's applications in Spring, Cave, Delamar, and Dry Lake Valleys in eastern Nevada, and

WHEREAS the BLM’s DEIS states that the complete proposed action in the first 5 valleys will have serious adverse effects on many resources within 75 - 200 years, many irreversible;

- dry or reduce flows in 44-57 major springs and an indefinite number of other springs and seeps
- dry or reduce flows in 80-112 miles of perennial streams with fish habitat
- dry 8000 acres of wetlands and meadows
- destroy 191,500 acres of shrubs (habitat) for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, and bighorn sheep, sage grouse and other upland birds
- on 2500 square miles of land surface, cause subsidence greater than 1-foot and on 575 square miles cause subsidence greater than 5-feet, further damaging aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and

WHEREAS the BLM’s DEIS inadequately addresses the need and purpose of SNWA's Groundwater Development Project, alternatives to and the cost of the pipeline, impacts to many natural resources and wildlife, and monitoring and mitigation of adverse impacts, and

WHEREAS the BLM touches on but mostly dismisses the cumulative and irreversible impacts of many of SNWA and Lincoln County’s many water pipelines and water development projects;

WHEREAS the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Commission are charged by the State Legislature to preserve, protect, manage and restore wildlife and wildlife habitat as part of the state's aesthetic, recreational, economic and natural resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Nevada Wildlife Commission contact the State Engineer before COB December 2, 2011 requesting denial of the SNWA applications for unappropriated water in Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar Valleys based on damages to Nevada’s wildlife, habitats, and hunting and fishing, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners opposes the proposed interbasin water transfer project as severely detrimental to Nevada’s wildlife and urges the SNWA Board of Directors to thoroughly examine other water supply options for southern Nevada.

ACTION TAKEN: this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2011

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

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Michael McBeath, Chairman