

BOB MILLER
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

PETER G. MORROS
DirectorR. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E.
State Engineer

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCESCapitol Complex
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June 5, 1996

Lyman F. McConnell
Project Manager
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
P.O. Box 1356
Fallon, Nevada 89407-1356

Re: Truckee Meadows Water Right Transfers

Dear Lyman:

Let me first apologize for the tardiness of this response to a letter that you wrote me on January 4, 1996, regarding Truckee-Meadows water right transfers. As you know, in the past, the Nevada State Engineer has allowed the transfer of agricultural rights in the Truckee Meadows to municipal rights based on the full decreed duty. We have done this full well knowing that we have expanded the season of those water rights and changed the regimen of the return flow. We have rationalized transferring the full duty with the idea that there was a return flow component of the water right as an agricultural use but that would be compensated for by the return flow of the municipal use as long as it was collected and treated through the Reno/Sparks Wastewater Treatment Plant.

You are correct in that the operators of the Reno/Sparks Wastewater Treatment Plant are now contemplating use of some of that effluent on parks and golf courses. If you will look at Exhibit 89 from the hearings held on the Truckee River unallocated water, you will see that the wastewater effluent is broken into two components. There are certain restrictions agreed to by all parties on how those two components will be used. But in any event, for every acre-foot put to reuse out of the sewage treatment plant, an acre-foot of water must be left in the river so as not to impair the rights of downstream users. It is true that the agreement allows for the credit storage of the groundwater component and I agree that there may be a timing issue as to when that water is released and becomes a part of the divertable flow of the Truckee River. We would be glad to meet to discuss any concerns you have over that issue.

EXHIBIT

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I share your concerns as to any additional water transferred to municipal use in the South Truckee Meadows as well as any municipal water use in the north valleys that may be sewered and not returned to the Truckee River. The formula for dedication of those municipal uses has not been agreed upon and I would welcome any comments you have on the various components to arrive at that formula. I am compelled by law to protect existing water rights and will do everything in my power to carry out that charge.

The last point you raise is the credit storage of some of Sierra Pacific Power Company's existing agricultural right conversions. The discussions have always been limited to the consumptive use portion of those rights. I understand the purpose of this credit storage to be an additional buffer to carry them through extreme drought periods. Again, we will try to ensure that the release of that water to the Sierra Pacific Power Company municipal system will also return through the Reno/Sparks Wastewater Treatment Plant, therefore, making that water available to downstream users when it otherwise probably would not be available because of drought conditions.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me and I would be more than happy to sit down with you and/or a representative to discuss your concerns and how we may alleviate them.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E.
State Engineer

RMT/bk