



Southern Nevada
Water Authority

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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August 19, 2004

Gene Kolkman, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC33 Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Mr. Kolkman:

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY, CLARK, LINCOLN,
AND WHITE PINE COUNTIES GROUNDWATER
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Enclosed please find an application for rights-of-way for a proposed system of regional water supply facilities known as the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project. The project would include groundwater production wells, water pipelines, pumping stations, water treatment, power, and other appurtenant facilities. These facilities would access groundwater rights in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties as they are permitted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources. The project will contribute to ensuring a reliable water supply for southern Nevada.

The enclosed application identifies potential alignments and locations for major facilities. Within Lincoln County, we have concentrated our planning efforts on corridors identified in the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. Within White Pine County, we have identified other potential alternatives. We anticipate that additional alternatives will be identified as a result of discussions with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), other federal, state, and local agencies, and during public scoping. Groundwater production wells and well fields will be identified based upon the results of hydrologic effects analyses, agency discussions, and public scoping. As additional facilities and alternatives are identified, we will amend this application.

We look forward to working on this project with the BLM. If you have any questions, please contact me at (702) 258-3107.

Sincerely,

Kay Brothers
Deputy General Manager, Engineering/Operations

KB:LL:lmv

Enclosure

**APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION AND
 UTILITY SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES
 ON FEDERAL LANDS**

FORM APPROVED
 OMB NO. 1004-0060
 Expires: August 31, 1998

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

NOTE: Before completing and filing the application, the applicant should completely review this package and schedule a pre-application meeting with representatives of the agency responsible for processing the application. Each agency may have specific and unique requirements to be met in preparing and processing the application. Many times, with the help of the agency representative, the application can be completed at the pre-application meeting.

Application Number

Date Filed

1. Name and address of applicant (include zip code)

Southern Nevada Water Authority
 1900 E Flamingo Road, Suite 180
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

2. Name, title, and address of authorized agent if different from item 1 (include zip code)

1. TELEPHONE (area code)
(702) 258-3107

Applicant
 Southern Nevada Water Authority

Authorized Agent
 Kay Brothers
 Deputy General Manager,
 Engineering/Operations

4. As applicant are you? (check one)

- a. Individual
- b. Corporation*
- c. Partnership/Association*
- d. State Government/State Agency
- e. Local Government
- f. Federal Agency

5. Specify what application is for: (check one)

- a. New authorization
- b. Renewing existing authorization No.
- c. Amend existing authorization No.
- d. Assign existing authorization No.
- e. Existing use for which no authorization has been received *
- f. Other*

* If checked, complete supplemental page

* If checked, provide details under item 7

6. If an individual, or partnership are you a citizen(s) of the United States? Yes No **N/A**

7. Project description (describe in detail): (a) Type of system or facility, (e.g., canal, pipeline, road); (b) related structures and facilities; (c) physical specifications (Length, width, grading, etc.); (d) term of years needed; (e) time of year of use or operation; (f) Volume or amount of product to be transported; (g) duration and timing of construction; and (h) temporary work areas needed for construction (Attach additional sheets, if additional space is needed.)

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) proposes to construct and operate a system of regional water supply facilities known as the Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project (Proposed Project). SNWA holds groundwater rights and applications in Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties, as shown on Exhibit "A", and intends to develop those resources to meet existing and future water demands, diversify its existing water resource portfolio, and improve the reliability and responsiveness of SNWA's water supply system. The Proposed Project includes construction and operation of groundwater production wells, conveyance pipelines, pumping stations, water treatment, power, and other appurtenant facilities.

The specific facilities and site locations for the Proposed Project will be developed during agency and public scoping, and are dependent upon water rights permitted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed transmission facilities could range between approximately 125,000 and 200,000 acre-feet per year, as identified in SNWA's 2004 Resource Plan. SNWA plans to do a hydrologic effects analysis, which will be considered in the siting of groundwater production facilities and pumping and hydrographic management strategies. These facility locations on Federal land and reasonable alternatives will be identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to be prepared for the right-of-way (ROW) determination by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Preliminary proposed facilities are shown in Exhibit "B." Additional secondary pipelines, wells, power, and other facilities will also be required that are not shown on Exhibit "B". This application will be supplemented with those proposed locations when they are determined.

The Proposed Action is the issuance of ROWs by BLM. The extent of required pipeline ROWs will vary depending on facility size, and would include permanent and temporary easements. The total length of pipeline may be approximately 600 miles. Pipeline ROWs may range between 100-200 feet in width. ROWs for well sites, pumping stations, water treatment facilities, and the power system have not been determined at this time. The permanent ROWs are requested for the maximum term allowed by law, and facilities will be operated year-round. Temporary work areas will be required during construction.

Construction of the Proposed Project will occur in phases, under which facilities are constructed only as needed. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2006, and may extend through 2014 or longer, depending upon approvals and phasing.

8. Attach a map covering area and show location of project proposal **See Exhibits "A" and "B"**

9. State or Local government approval: Attached Applied for Not Required

10. Non-returnable application fee: Attached Not required

12. Give statement of your technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate system for which authorization is being requested.

The SNWA is a public agency with bonding capabilities and an annual operating budget of \$477 million. SNWA has professional and technical staff that supports management of SNWA's existing water resources and operation of SNWA's existing water system.

13a. Describe other reasonable alternative routes and modes considered.

Alternatives will be developed during agency and public scoping, and will be included in the NEPA document to be prepared for the ROW determination by BLM.

b. Why were these alternatives not selected?

See 13a.

c. Give explanation as to why it is necessary to cross Federal Lands.

It is necessary to cross Federal lands because the majority of lands in this area are federally-owned and/or managed, and it would not be possible to construct the Proposed Project without crossing Federal lands.

14. List authorizations and pending applications filed for similar projects which may provide information to the authorizing agency. (Specify number, date, code, or name)

N-76493 Coyote Spring Well and Moapa Transmission System Project
N-78395 Three Lakes Valley Water Development Project
N-78670 Groundwater Monitoring Wells in Lincoln County

15. Provide statement of need for project, including the economic feasibility and items such as: (a) cost of proposal (construction, operation, and maintenance); (b) estimated cost of next best alternative; and (c) expected public benefits.

The purpose and need of the Proposed Project is to deliver groundwater resources permitted by the Nevada State Engineer to meet existing and future water demands in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties.

Southern Nevada is highly dependent upon the State of Nevada's Colorado River water allocation to meet water demands. Colorado River water currently accounts for approximately 90% of southern Nevada's water supplies. Current use of Colorado River water by Nevada is approaching the allocation limit, and the ongoing drought in the Colorado River basin has reduced probabilities of surplus volumes of Colorado River water being available. This has influenced SNWA's planning by increasing emphasis on drought response and conservation measures, as well as accelerating development of additional in-state water resources. SNWA intends to diversify its existing water resource portfolio and improve the reliability and responsiveness of its overall water supply system.

The cost to construct the Proposed Project will depend upon the final arrangement of groundwater production wells, pipelines, and appurtenances selected, and will be developed during project planning and design. Operation and maintenance costs are currently not known, but will be developed during preliminary project design. Alternatives to the Proposed Project are anticipated to consist of alternate facility locations and pipeline routes, and possibly alternative pumping and hydrographic management strategies. The estimated cost of alternatives are expected to be similar to the Proposed Project.

As a public agency, SNWA is tasked with coordinating regional water supply issues and acquiring resources and developing facilities needed to deliver water to southern Nevada. The public will benefit from the Proposed Project by continuing to receive adequate and reliable water supplies.

16. Describe probable effects on the population in the area, including the social and economic aspects, and the rural lifestyles.

Potential environmental effects of the BLM's ROW determination on population in the ROW area, including social and economic aspects and rural lifestyles, will be considered in the NEPA document to be prepared for the BLM's action.

17. Describe likely environmental effects that the proposed project will have on: (a) air quality; (b) visual impact; (c) surface and ground water quality and quantity; (d) the control or structural change on any stream or other body of water; (e) existing noise levels; and (f) the surface of the land, including vegetation, permafrost, soil, and soil stability.

Potential environmental effects of the BLM's ROW determination on air quality, visual setting, surface and groundwater quality and quantity, streams or other bodies of water, noise, and surface of the land will be considered in the NEPA document to be prepared for the project. Groundwater that will be developed for the Proposed Action will be as permitted by the Nevada

Division of Water Resources, through the State's water rights process. The potential effects on surface water springs and other permitted water right holders will be considered in a hydrologic effects analysis.

18. Describe the probable effects that the proposed project will have on (a) populations of fish, plantlife, wildlife, and marine life, including threatened and endangered species; and (b) marine mammals, including hunting, capturing, collecting, or killing these animals.

Potential environmental effects of the BLM's ROW determination on fish, plantlife, and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, will be considered in the NEPA document and Endangered Species Act consultation procedures for the BLM action. Marine life and marine mammals will not be affected by the Proposed Action.

19. State whether any hazardous material, as defined in this paragraph, will be used, produced, transported or stored on or within the right-of-way or any of the right-of-way facilities, or used in the construction, operation, maintenance or termination of the right-of-way or any of its facilities. "Hazardous material" means any substance, pollutant or contaminant that is listed as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations. The definition of hazardous substances under CERCLA includes any "hazardous waste" as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq., and its regulations. The term hazardous materials also includes any nuclear or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq. The term does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under CERCLA Section 101(14), 42 U.S.C. 9601(14), nor does the term include natural gas.

Normal and customary procedures and materials for right-of-way, pipeline, and facilities will be used. Any hazardous waste or substances associated with these operations will be managed and disposed of in compliance with applicable state and federal hazardous substance and waste management requirements. No hazardous substances other than de minimis amounts needed for or generated in normal construction activities will be stored in the BLM ROW. All hazardous substances and hazardous wastes will be transported off-site for treatment and disposal at a permitted disposal facility. No hazardous substances or wastes will be released or disposed of on public lands. SNWA intends to acquire the lands needed for water treatment, to avoid the storage and use of hazardous substances on BLM lands during system operation.

20. Name all the Department(s)/Agency(ies) where this application is being filed.

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I am of legal age and authorized to do business in the State and that I have personally examined the information contained in the application and believe that the information submitted is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant



Kay Brothers
Deputy General Manager, Engineering/Operations

Date

8/19/04

Title 18, U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.