

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority

December 14, 2007

RESOLUTION 07-01

RECOMMENDING THE FOLLOWING: 1) EVERY WATER BASIN IN A MEMBER COUNTY HAVE A LAND USE PLAN, AND 2) A LAND USE PLAN FOR A MEMBER COUNTY AND ANY CITY WITHIN A MEMBER COUNTY MUST BE BASED ON THE SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES WITHIN THE MEMBER COUNTY; HOWEVER, A LAND USE PLAN MAY BE BASED UPON THE ACQUISITION OF WATER RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE MEMBER COUNTY IF THE LAND USE PLAN HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A VOTE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE MEMBER COUNTY AND/OR CITY WITHIN THE MEMBER COUNTY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LAND USE PLAN

A. BACKGROUND

1. Nevada counties and cities are required to prepare land use plans that regulate and restrict the improvement of land, and such regulation must take into account the total population which the available natural resources will support without unreasonable impairment of the natural resources, including water resources.
2. The rapid growth in Nevada's urban counties and cities has shown that an effective link is lacking between land use plans and the sustainable water supplies needed to implement the land use plans. Therefore, land use plans for Nevada's urban counties have created land use entitlements and resulting property owner expectations that cannot be supported by available water resources within those urban counties and cities.
3. The disconnect between the land use plans adopted by Nevada's urban counties and cities and available water resources to implement those plans has encouraged public and private parties to develop plans to transport water from rural Nevada to the urban counties and cities.
4. Citizens and governments in rural Nevada have a right to an economic future, and they see a bright economic future as a result of employment opportunities associated with information technologies, tourism, recreational services, telecommunications, mining, development of new energy sources and people desiring to live in rural Nevada.
5. In rural Nevada, water is essential to the sustenance of present and future economic vitality and environmental amenities. Rural governments in Nevada recognize that unwise diversion of water from Nevada's rural areas to its urban areas potentially leads to economic, social and environmental harm in the rural areas, including negative effects on a) commerce and industry, b) agriculture and ranching, c) tourism, d) air quality, e) water quantity and quality, f) wildlife, and g) recreational opportunities.

6. Nevada's water resources (surface water and groundwater) are limited and must be wisely and conservatively managed, especially during periods of long-term drought and climate change. Therefore using rural Nevada water to accommodate future centralized growth in urban Nevada is costly and risky, not only in terms of a dependable water supply for new growth, but also in terms of cost/benefit.

B. CENTRAL NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY POLICY STATEMENT

The Authority believes there is a lot at stake when land use plans in a county create land use entitlements and resulting property owners expectations that cannot be supported by available water resources within that county. At a minimum, rural Nevada's scarce water resources are at stake and therefore rural Nevada's valued quality of life (i.e., streams, lakes, clean air, beautiful deserts, recreation opportunities, wildlife, etc.) and economic future. The Authority believes member counties and their cities should adopt a policy and implementing ordinance that links land use plans in a county to available water resources within the county. Such a policy should include the following critical elements:

- 1. Every water basin in a member county should have an adopted land use plan. The adopted land use plan will make apparent to the Nevada State Engineer, urban counties and cities, and water speculators the degree to which member counties require water for their future economic development and the continued protection and enhancement of the natural environment – critical for wildlife, recreation opportunities and quality of life.**
- 2. A land use plan for a member county and any city within a member county must be based on the sustainable water resources within the member county; however, a land use plan may be based upon the acquisition of water resources outside the member county if the land use plan has been approved by a vote of the residents of the member county and/or city within the member county responsible for the land use plan.**

C. CENTRAL NEVADA REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE

1. The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority believes in the collaborative process, and therefore believes Nevada's future can best be served if rural and urban governments avoid polarizing battles over water resources and instead work together at the elected official level, with staff support, to address Nevada's scarce water resource problem. By doing this, rural and urban Nevada governments will have a better understanding of the cumulative and long-term effects of their actions and hopefully will decide to pursue win-win solutions. The Authority will explore ways to develop and implement the desired collaborative process.

2. The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority will ask member counties and their cities to adopt this resolution and also take the appropriate steps to incorporate it into law.

The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority hopes non-member counties and their cities will adopt this resolution and take the appropriate steps to incorporate it into law.

3. The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority will post this resolution to its web site to be referred to and transmitted as necessary.

Adopted this 14th day of December 2007 by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority.

Joni Eastley

Joni Eastley, Chairman

Attest:

Susan G. Paprocki

