TO: Western Regional Water Commissioners
    Northern Nevada Water Planning Commissioners

RE: Commissioner’s Workshop: function and duties of the Western Regional Water Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in today’s discussion regarding the function and duties of the Western Regional Water Commission including discussion of possible dissolution and transfer of functions to other agencies.

The main responsibility of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) is to prepare the Regional Water Management Plan that is incorporated into and in conformance with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan. The goals of the Regional Water Management Plan are to 1) plan for the development of the sustainable water supplies; 2) plan for regional wastewater treatment and disposal requirements; 3) plan for the protection of human health, property, water quality and environment through regional flood plan and storm water management; and 4) support the implementation of the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan. The formation of the NNWPC is made up 12 voting representatives with one each from Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Governing Body of largest Indian Reservation (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe), Sun Valley GID, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, Truckee Meadows Flood Management Authority, Washoe County Water Resources (position assumed by additional representative from TMWA), Washoe County Water Conservation District, Domestic Well Owners, and Public at Large. There are also 7 non-voting members representing the State of Nevada, Washoe County Health, Nevada Landscape Association, and Public at Large.

I have found the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission to be very helpful in coordination and cooperation of regional initiatives with the Nevada Water Innovation Campus partnership with the University of Nevada to be a prime example. It allows us as a region to prioritize and keep informed on the various topics pertaining to the Regional Water Management Plan and to work together to update this important plan each 5 year cycle. I would hope that the Western Regional Water Commission has found the NNWPC to a dependable technical resource to aid them in their decisions. It has been very helpful to have elected officials engaged on these regional initiatives and priorities as well.

If it is the desire of the Western Regional Water Commission to dissolve, I would recommend that the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission report to the Regional Planning Governing Board for adoption and incorporation of the Regional Water Management Plan into
the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan. I would recommend that current staff be transferred to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency and that funding for current and future water planning activities be assigned to the Regional Planning Governing Board with the NNWPC continuing to make recommendations on projects and planning studies.

Sincerely,

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John Flansberg, P.E.
Director Public Works