

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

ORDER

#1290

**CURTAILING NEW APPROPRIATIONS OF GROUNDWATER
WITHIN THE PINE FOREST VALLEY HYDROGRAPHIC BASIN (029)**

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) § 534.120 provides that within an area that has been designated by the State Engineer where, in his judgment, the groundwater basin is being depleted, the State Engineer in his administrative capacity is empowered to make such rules, regulations and orders as are deemed essential for the welfare of the area involved.

WHEREAS, the State Engineer designated the Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin, located within Humboldt County, Nevada, as provided under the provisions of NRS § 534.030, by Order No. 711 dated May 1, 1978.

WHEREAS, the State Engineer issued Order No. 831 on December 1, 1983, curtailing new appropriations of groundwater in the Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin for irrigation purposes.

WHEREAS, the Nevada Division of Water Resources estimates that 11,000 acre-feet of water annually are available as the perennial yield from the Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin.¹

WHEREAS, the committed groundwater appropriations of record in the Office of the State Engineer are approximately 33,350 acre-feet annually, which greatly exceeds the perennial yield of the basin.²

WHEREAS, the withdrawals of groundwater in the Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin have consistently exceeded the perennial yield of the basin at least since 1963.

WHEREAS, in portions of the basin, groundwater levels have declined over 100 feet since 2008 and the water level continues to decline.³

¹ William C. Sinclair, *Ground-water Resources of Pine Forest Valley, Humboldt County, Nevada*, Ground-Water Resources-Reconnaissance Series Report 4, (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and United States Geological Survey), January 1962.

² Nevada Division of Water Resources' Water Rights Database, Hydrographic Basin Summary, Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin (29), accessed August 24, 2017, official records in the Office of the State Engineer, available at <http://water.nv.gov/undergroundactive.aspx>.

³ Water Level Database, accessed August 24, 2017, official records in the Office of the State Engineer, available at <http://water.nv.gov/WaterLevelData.aspx>.

WHEREAS, the State Engineer finds that conditions warrant the curtailment of new appropriations of groundwater within the Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, with the following exceptions, any application to appropriate groundwater pursuant to NRS Chapters 533 and 534 within the designated Pine Forest Valley Hydrographic Basin will be denied. Applications filed under the exceptions below must also satisfy the criteria found in NRS Chapters 533 and 534.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Those applications filed for environmental use pursuant to NRS §§ 533.437 to 533.4377, inclusive.
2. Those applications for temporary appropriations of groundwater for establishing fire-resistant vegetative cover filed pursuant to NRS § 533.436.
3. Those applications filed for temporary stockwater use pursuant to NRS § 533.504 that seek appropriations of less than two acre-feet of water annually.
4. Those applications filed for diversion rate only with no corresponding increase in duty of water.
5. Those applications filed for non-consumptive uses.



JASON KING, P.E.
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada this

14th day of September, 2017.