

# GBWN Victorious In District Court

Judge Estes Rules Against SNWA — Again

Baker, Nev — In yet another victory in court for the Great Basin Water Network and White Pine County, Nevada's Seventh Judicial District Court Judge Robert Estes has denied an appeal by the Southern Nevada Water Authority — invalidating water rights for the Las Vegas water grab and pipeline.

The proposed 300-mile pipeline would siphon billions of gallons of groundwater per year from remote basins in Eastern Nevada, piping it to Las Vegas to feed green lawns, golf courses, and sprawl development. The resultant declines in the water table would decimate hundreds of springs, thousands of acres of wetlands, and impact Great Basin National Park and numerous National Wildlife Refuges.

Residents of Eastern Nevada and lovers of the Great Basin have been fighting the pipeline proposal for over 30 years. The Great Basin Water Network has partnered with White Pine County to fight the project in court, represented by public interest water attorney Simeon Herskovits with

## Advocates for Community and Environment.

"Judge Estes saw clearly through the various subterfuges and false reasoning advanced by both SNWA and the State Engineer, and he systematically ruled against them on every significant point in contention," said Herskovits. "In our view, the rigor and care in [Judge Estes's ruling](#) makes it highly unlikely that any part of this ruling would be subject to reversal on appeal. Under any reasonable reading, this powerful ruling should sound the death knell for this fatally misguided and potentially devastating groundwater export proposal."

The Southern Nevada Water Authority's pipeline proposal has lost repeatedly in both state and federal courts. In 2013, Judge Estes remanded the water rights applications back to the Nevada Division of Water Resources, finding many conflicts under the law. Following through on the remand, in 2018, the Division denied the water rights applications. Southern Nevada Water Authority then appealed the remand, resulting in today's order from Judge Estes.

Additionally, in 2017 a [federal district court judge remanded portions](#) of the federal Environmental Impact Statement for the pipeline's right of way back to BLM, finding it insufficient in its proposed mitigation measures and suggesting that some impacts may not be mitigated.

"SNWA has no right-of-way for the pipeline and no rights to water with which to fill the pipeline," said Kyle Roerink, GBWN executive director. "This project is dead in the water. It's time for SNWA to finally move on."