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GREAT BASIN
WATER NETWORK

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January 16, 2019

John Entsminger
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
RE: Board Meeting Agenda: Item 11

Mr. Entsminger:

The Great Basin Water Network believes sustainable growth in Southern Nevada depends on reliable, environmentally sound infrastructure and enhanced conservation measures.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority's investments in Intake No. 3, general system improvements, and Colorado River conservation represent the will of the people and the ingenuity of our community. It is our hope that SNWA invests in more commonsense solutions like those mentioned above while abandoning dangerous proposals like the untested and unsound Groundwater Development Plan.

Regarding "*Business Agenda: Item 11*" for the upcoming board meeting, SNWA's quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1998 provided an indispensable revenue source in recent years. While we applaud SNWA for its commitment to a number of forward-thinking initiatives funded by the sales tax, the community must have assurances that the Water Authority is spending all of the money responsibly.

Voters passed the provision with the understanding that the tax would sunset by 2025 or after it hit a \$2.3 billion threshold. An undeniable strength of the law is the requirement that the Clark County Commission reviews the merits of the quarter-cent sales tax every ten years. Before there is any reauthorization, we believe that Clark County residents deserve to see an exhaustive accounting of the \$1.4 billion SNWA has collected. A line-by-line accounting vetted in a public forum and prominently posted on the SNWA website would help demonstrate the long-term value of the tax for the Water Authority and a commitment to transparency and accountability for taxpayers.

At a time of unprecedented drought and historic drops in Lake Mead, Southern Nevadans — especially ratepayers — deserve to know how SNWA spends taxpayer dollars. While we don't always see eye-to-eye, our organizations can both agree that Southern Nevada residents cannot be left in the dark.

Sincerely,

Kyle Roerink
Executive Director
Great Basin Water Network

CC: SNWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS