



February 23, 2021

Via Electronic Mail nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov
Elizabeth A. Brown
Nevada Supreme Court Clerk
201 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

FILED

MAR 01 2021

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

Re: **In the Matter of the Creation of a Commission to Study the Adjudication of Water Law Cases, In the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, ADKT 0576**

Dear Ms. Brown,

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) provides the following comments on the above-described administrative docket pursuant to Chief Justice Hardesty's February 8, 2021 Petition and Order.

TMWA is the largest municipal water purveyor in northern Nevada and serves nearly 443,000 customers. TMWA relies predominately on the Truckee River to meet its customers demands throughout the year and uses groundwater to meet peak summer water demands and during droughts on the Truckee River. TMWA's water resources are complicated in that they involve an interstate stream system subject to a Federal court decree, court-appointed water master, operating agreement involving the U.S. government, Nevada and California, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and which are also regulated by the Nevada State Engineer's Office.

TMWA supports a study to improve the education, training, specialization, timeliness, and efficiency of Nevada's district courts in judicial review of water cases and the creation of a Commission as described in the Order. TMWA submits that the Commission should be given more time to complete the study and submit a report to the Court. Given the broad scope described in the Petition, the September 30, 2021 deadline to conduct all hearings and submit a report to the Court may not allow enough time for a full consideration of the issues to be addressed. This concern is aggravated by the fact that the Nevada Legislature is in session and requires substantial involvement and time by many of the stakeholders listed in the Petition, including TMWA. This, coupled with the inefficiencies and difficulties caused by the pandemic, seem to necessitate a longer timeframe. TMWA suggests that the Commission be required to complete its study and submit a report to the Court by the fall of 2022 so that any recommendations that require legislative approval, if any, may be submitted in time for consideration during the 2023 legislative session. TMWA also suggests the Commission be expanded to include other stakeholders such as Nevada's Indian tribes and smaller municipal water purveyors.

TMWA intends to participate in the hearing on March 3, 2021 and looks forward to working with all stakeholders involved in the proposed Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Foree", with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark Foree
General Manager