

ADKT 576



Nevada

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March 19, 2024

David Gordon, Manager
Judicial Education
Nevada Supreme Court
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Mauricia Baca
State Director

Subject: Comment regarding Water Judges Pilot Program in Nevada

Dear Mr. Gordon,

We were pleased to see the decision to have judges with specialized water knowledge and training hear water cases in Nevada as well as the launch of the Water Judges Pilot Program that resulted from the Commission to Study the Adjudication of Water Law Cases. We are supportive of educating judges on water issues as Nevada faces increasing challenges of overuse of water supplies that affects conflicts with existing users and detriments to natural resources.

In reviewing the list of requirements for designated water judges (Exhibit B in the Order for ADKT 0576 filed on July 7, 2023), we suggest adding consideration of water interactions with nature in judicial training under "Scientific and Technical Knowledge." We recommend that judges receive training on water interactions with plants and wildlife so that they 1) consider the impacts of water decisions on water-dependent natural systems, and 2) are aware of the tradeoffs between further development of Nevada water resources while protecting the environment and public interest.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide some ideas about education for judges on water issues and consideration of impacts of water decisions on natural systems and wildlife. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Mauricia M. M. Baca
State Director
Nevada Chapter

cc: Laurel Saito, Nevada Water Strategy Director

FILED

MAR 20 2024

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

24-09823