

ADKT 576



Northern Nevada Office
639 Isbell Rd., Ste. 330
Reno, NV 89509

Southern Nevada Office
8329 W. Sunset Rd. Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89113

Tel (775) 322-4990

Tel (702) 737-8744

nature.org/nevada

March 19, 2024

David Gordon, Manager
Judicial Education
Nevada Supreme Court
201 S. Carson Street, Suite 250
Carson City, NV 89701

2023 BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

Andrew Strain
Chair

Bret Birdsong
Vice Chair

Carole Anderson
Duane Coombs
William Douglass
Robert Gifford
Kirk Hardie
Brooke Hart
Tyler Jones
Joel Laub
Mark Maffey
John McDonough
Jess Molasky
Erin Erving Mulvaney
Elizabeth Raymond
Jennifer Satre

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "M. Baca".

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