



Walker River Irrigation District

Established in 1919

To: Commission to Study the Adjudication of Water Law Cases

From: Robert C. Bryan

Walker River Irrigation District, General Manager

Date: February 14, 2022

Re: Response to questions on water court or trained judges and scope

It is my belief that there should not be what is referred to as a "water court" because that would potentially cause more issues and concerns with the public in Nevada. The term "water court" seems to appear as threatening and perhaps impossible to create with our current commission. However, there should be the option for District Court judges throughout the State to receive the appropriate training that would educate them on water law and water science. The hope would be that if at least most of the different districts throughout the state would prefer to be educated in water curriculum, then all water cases should be heard by those judges in the districts that the water cases originate from.

Regarding the scope of the water cases, that should be heard by the specially trained judges and should pertain to adjudication of water rights and/or rulings and orders made by the Nevada State Engineer as well as any other type of case involving water except for simple ownership disputes.

If there are no district judges with the appropriate training in the district that the water case is to be held, then an appointed district judge with the appropriate education and training should be assigned that district to hear that case. There is extreme importance to keep the cases in the districts where those cases originate from as well as having a district judge with the knowledge and proficiency of water law.

All water cases will benefit from the education and training of district judges hearing those cases in each district which they originate from. I think that the range of recommendations that have been provided by this commission should be adopted for the training and education for those district judges.