



P.O. Box 75 Baker, Nevada 89311  
(775) 881-8304

**GREAT BASIN**  
**WATER NETWORK**

info4gbwn@gmail.com  
GreatBasinWaterNetwork.org

**Comments of Great Basin Water Network at  
Nevada Drought Forum Meeting, July 17, 2015**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Drought Forum Board:

My name is Abby Johnson. I am president of Great Basin Water Network. We are a regional, nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving rural water at its source. Counties, Tribes, ranchers and farmers, irrigation districts, small businesses, conservationists, and communities are part of our network, but apparently are excluded from this board. Certainly state officials and university folk are concerned about the state, but the lack of representation from all parts of the state including rural areas is alarming. And let's be clear: Southern Nevada Water Authority does not speak for or represent all water authorities in the state or all local governments.

This is the first meeting that we have attended. The previous meeting was not well announced; people who asked to be notified of the meeting, including us, were not. Do not mistake lack of participation with lack of interest.

It should be the intention of this board to involve the public and to be fully transparent in all its deliberations and actions. However, we are frequently asked whether this is a worthwhile process or whether there's a predetermined outcome. We don't know. But we hope that at this meeting, at future meetings and at the Summit, you will prove these doubters wrong.

Any consideration of drought in Nevada must respect the entire state. It is unacceptable to sacrifice rural Nevada for urban Nevada. This Drought Forum should be used to develop sustainable long term solutions that enable all parts of the state to survive and thrive.

Excluding the public and leadership of Nevada's wide open spaces from the drought forum conference table further divides the state and ultimately brings Nevada no closer to coping with the effects of drought on a statewide basis. Making public participation a priority is one of the few ways that outcomes of the Forum may have a chance to serve the entire State of Nevada.