

November 5, 2014

State will continue to review water-pumping plan – Albuquerque Journal article

With a major legal challenge removed last week by the state Supreme Court, the state engineer's office can continue its review of an application by a private venture to pump drinking water from Augustin Plains Ranch to determine if it meets state water codes.... More in the Albuquerque Journal <http://www.abqjournal.com/491543/news/state-will-continue-to-review-waterpumping-plan.html>

Comments on news article:

We continue to fight the water miners' efforts to take the water from the Augustin Plains basin. It is important to understand that the refusal of the Supreme Court to hear our petition, while it was a disappointment, does not mean that we are out of options. We could just wait for the State Engineer to take his time evaluating the "new" application (he can wait indefinitely, there's no time limit). An alternative approach is an effort to enforce Judge Reynolds decision. As you will recall, Judge Reynolds denied the original water mining application on good, solid legal grounds. The water miners' attempt to do an end run around that decision, (as the Augustin Plains Ranch is attempting to do with its "new" application), should not be permitted.

Remember that Bruce Frederick has to fight this battle for us on the basis of legal technicalities, as the water miners have provided no substantive information. The applications, both new and old, fail to meet the requirements of the law. Submitting a "new" application is a game being played by the Augustin Plains Ranch. And we need to stop the game.

The wheels of justice move slowly, but stay tuned and we'll keep you posted on progress to stop the water grab.

- Carol Pittman