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Attorneys for Plaintiff-Intervenor
MINERAL COUNTY

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE)
15 TRIBE,)
)
Plaintiff-Intervenor,)
)
vs.)
)
WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION)
20 DISTRICT, a corporation, et al.)
)
Defendants.)
)

IN EQUITY NO. C-125-C-ECR
MINERAL COUNTY'S
AMENDED COMPLAINT IN
INTERVENTION

COMES NOW, Plaintiff-Intervenor, MINERAL COUNTY OF NEVADA, by
and through its attorneys of record, on its own behalf and for benefit of the citizens,
residents, and users of Walker Lake, and claims as follows:

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I.

INTRODUCTION

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1. This claim is made for recognition of a right of minimum level of water for Walker Lake by means of certain right being reserved and allowed to flow down the Walker River both east and west forks, in sufficient quantity to reach, replenish, and maintain Walker Lake. Such minimum levels are requested based upon sufficient water to sustain naturally occurring fish population, including, but not limited to, the Chub, Lahouton Sucker, and Cutthroat Trout.

II.

JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction over this claim is pursuant to the continuing jurisdiction of this Court over the waters of the Walker River and its tributaries in California and Nevada; and the matter in controversy arises under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.

III.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff-Intervenor, MINERAL COUNTY OF NEVADA, appears in this case on its own behalf and for the benefit of the citizens and residents of Mineral County and on behalf of the public, users of Walker Lake and for recreational, aesthetic preservation of wildlife and for economic purposes. Mineral County is duly

1 established under the laws of the State of Nevada and retains all rights delegated
2 pursuant to NRS 244.165 with the capacity to sue in its own name.

3 4. Respondents are all water users on the Walker River and its tributaries as
4 set forth in the Final Decree or have statutory or regulatory authority over the
5 allocation and protection of waters on the Walker River.
6

7
8 IV.

9
10 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

11 5. Plaintiff-Intervenor, MINERAL COUNTY OF NEVADA, hereinafter
12 referred to as, "County," currently benefits from the presence of sufficient levels of
13 water in Walker Lake. The Nevada Department of Wildlife holds in trust for Mineral
14 County, the right to 700 cfs. of surplus flows annually, Certificate No. 10860, granted
15 by the State Engineer of Nevada on December 28, 1983.
16

17 6. Walker Lake and approximately 16 linear miles of Walker River are
18 totally contained within the legal boundaries of Mineral County. The elevation of
19 Walker Lake in 1908 was 4,077 feet. The elevation of Walker Lake in 1993 was
20 3,950 feet which is equivalent to a loss of one-half of the Lake. The levels required
21 to maintain Walker Lake as a viable fishery are at an elevation of 3,972 feet. At the
22 present rate of depletion Walker Lake will be dry by the year 2020.
23

24 7. Walker Lake supports recreational fishing, boating, and wildlife habitat.
25 Activities and businesses attributable to the presence and use of Walker Lake
26 represents approximately 50% of the economy of Mineral County.
27
28

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1 holders in California and Nevada.

2 14. Imposition of responsibilities on the State of California and State of
3 Nevada to maintain the public trust in Walker Lake by protecting minimum flows for
4 naturally occurring fish populations.
5

6 15. The right to, at least, 127,000 acre feet of flows annually reserved from
7 the Walker River that will reach Walker Lake.
8

9
10 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff-Intervenor, prays:

11 1. The Court, pursuant to its continuing jurisdiction under paragraphs XIV
12 of the Final Decree, reopen and modify the final Decree to recognize the rights of
13 Mineral County, its citizens and residents and other users of Walker Lake and the
14 public to have minimum levels to maintain the viability of Walker Lake as a body of
15 water to sustain its naturally occurring fish population and for recreational benefits,
16 wildlife preservation, aesthetic and economic beneficial use.
17

18 2. That the Court order the State of Nevada to grant a certificate to
19 Mineral County for the benefit of Walker Lake in the amount of 127,000 acre/feet per
20 year.
21

22 3. That the Court recognize that a minimum of three feet above sea level in
23 Walker Lake is necessary to maintain the viability of Walker Lake as a body of water
24 to sustain its naturally occurring fish population and for recreational benefits, wildlife
25 preservation, aesthetic and economic benefits and that a minimum of 127,000 acre/feet
26 per year to Walker Lake is a beneficial use and in the public interest and required
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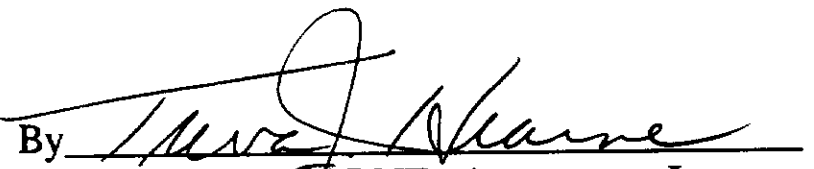
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under the doctrine of maintenance of the public trust.

4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper.

DATED this 10th day of March, 1995.

LAW OFFICES OF
ZEH, SPOO & HEARNE

By 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to FRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the Law Office of ZEH, SPOO & HEARNE, and that on this date I caused to be mailed a copy of the attached **MINERAL COUNTY'S AMENDED COMPLAINT IN INTERVENTION**, with postage fully prepaid to:

See attached Service List

DATED this 10th day of March, 1995.


MARILYN MITCHELL

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SERVICE LIST

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