

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

(Nevada Revised Statutes 218.5363)

## SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The sixth meeting of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands for the 2003-2004 interim was held on Friday, May 28, 2004, at 9 a.m. at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's Web site at [www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/72nd2003/Interim](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/72nd2003/Interim). In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835).

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman  
Assemblyman John W. Marvel, Vice Chairman  
Senator Mark E. Amodei  
Senator Terry Care  
Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn  
Assemblyman Tom Collins  
Tim Perkins, Lincoln County Commissioner

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Michael J. Stewart, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division  
J. Randall Stephenson, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Gayle Nadeau, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

### OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Rhoads opened the meeting with Committee and staff introductions.

### APPROVAL OF THE "SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT" OF THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 6, 2004, IN LOVELOCK, NEVADA

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE "SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT" OF THE MAY 6, 2004, MEETING HELD IN LOVELOCK, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR CARE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

#### *Update of Public Lands Issues in Clark County and Southern Nevada*

#### **Review of Air Quality Issues in Clark County**

- John Koswan, Assistant Planning Manager, Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management, Las Vegas, testified about the status of Clark County's implementation plans for carbon monoxide and PM<sub>10</sub> particulate reductions. Please see [Exhibit B1](#) and [Exhibit B2](#).

## **Update of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Activities and Planning Efforts in the Las Vegas Field District**

- Mark Morse, Las Vegas Field Manager, BLM, United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Las Vegas, focused his testimony on the management of off-highway vehicles (OHV) on BLM lands in Clark County. Mr. Morse also provided an update on the Clark County shooting range, BLM land sales through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), and the status of a burro containment fence in the Red Rock National Conservation Area (NRA).

## **Update of National Forest Issues and Activities in Southern Nevada**

- Steve Holdsambeck, District Ranger, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Las Vegas, discussed the following challenges to the Spring Mountain NRA: (1) impact of over one million visitors each year; (2) fire and fuels management; (3) invasive species; (4) unmanaged recreation; (5) open space; (6) the SNPLMA; and (7) conservation initiatives. Please see [Exhibit C1](#) and [Exhibit C2](#).

### ***Overview of Programs and Activities of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)***

- Kay Brothers, Deputy General Manager, Engineering/Operations, SNWA, Las Vegas, provided a briefing on the following areas: (1) water resources; (2) the drought and conservation efforts; (2) SNWA's 2004 water resource plan; (3) in-state resources; (4) past legislation relative to the status of the quarter cent sales tax and groundwater management; and (5) the integrated water planning process. Please see [Exhibit D1](#) and [Exhibit D2](#).
  - Senator Amodei requested that SNWA provide to the Committee the list of consultants and contracts that was referenced at the Authority's April 2004 meeting.
  - Senator Amodei requested that a copy of the executed contract and billing invoices between SNWA and Joele Frank, Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher be provided to the Committee.

### ***Review of Activities and Programs of the Colorado River Commission***

- James H. Davenport, Chief, Water Division, Colorado River Commission (CRC) of Nevada, Las Vegas, testified on the following matters associated with the activities and programs of the Colorado River Commission: (1) Colorado River resources; (2) past developments in Colorado River Administration; and (3) ongoing and developing issues of Colorado River Administration. Please see [Exhibit E](#).
  - Senator Amodei requested that the CRC provide a written explanation to the Committee of the rules that guide the CRC in conducting its meetings.
- James D. Salo, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Las Vegas, explained the pending power-related litigation involving the Colorado River Commission and Nevada Power Company, as well as other related matters and parties to this issue.

### ***Report by the State Engineer Concerning General Water Issues in Southern Nevada***

- Hugh Ricci, State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carson City, reported on the following water issues in southern Nevada: (1) water right statistics; (2) groundwater pumpage and artificial recharge; (3) water consumption and groundwater recharge; (4) consumptive use from the Colorado River; (5) in-state groundwater for the Las Vegas Valley Water District; (6) criteria for approving a water right application; and (7) interbasin transfers. Please see [Exhibit F](#).

## ***Discussion and Review of the Development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Yucca Mountain – Caliente Railroad Corridor***

- Robin Sweeney, EIS Document Manager, Office of National Transportation, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, United States Department of Energy (DOE), Las Vegas, addressed the following areas pertaining to the Yucca Mountain - Caliente Railroad Corridor: (1) Nevada transportation analysis in the Repository Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); (2) administrative land withdrawal application; (3) mode and corridor record of decision and notice of intent to prepare a rail alignment EIS; and (4) the next steps in the process. Please see [Exhibit G](#).
- Jo Simpson, Chief, Office of Communications, BLM, DOI, Reno, Nevada, called attention to a question and answer handout and reported that the Ely BLM field office will be the lead office for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository and Transportation Corridor project since the corridor involves three different BLM districts. Please see [Exhibit H](#).

***Review of Invasive Species and Discussion of Programs and Activities of the Southern Nevada Office of the State Department of Agriculture (SDA)***

- Thomas Smigel, Regional Manager, Las Vegas Office, SDA, Las Vegas, called attention a brochure that lists the services provided by the State Department of Agriculture and identified the various divisions within the SDA. Mr. Smigel then began his presentation of invasive species and the programs and activities of the southern Nevada office of the SDA. Please see [Exhibit I](#) and [Exhibit J](#).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Peggy Maze Johnson, Executive Director, Citizen Alert, Las Vegas, expressed concern that insufficient public input has been obtained and evaluated regarding bringing nuclear waste into the State of Nevada.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gayle Nadeau  
Senior Research Secretary

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Michael J. Stewart  
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST OF EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda.”

[Exhibit B1](#) is a paper copy of an eight-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Clark County CO and PM<sub>10</sub> SIP Status,” provided by John Koswan, Assistant Planning Manager, Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit B2](#) is a paper copy of a 21-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Clark County Ozone,” provided by John Koswan, Assistant Planning Manager, Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit C1](#) is a nine-page copy of testimony given by Steve Holdsambeck, District Ranger, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Las Vegas.

[Exhibit C2](#) is a paper copy of a 51-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Spring Mountains National Recreation Area,” provided by Steve Holdsambeck, District Ranger, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, USFS, USDA, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit D1](#) is a 194-page bound spiral notebook titled “Southern Nevada Water Authority Public Lands Committee Briefing,” provided by Kay Brothers, Deputy General Manager, Engineering/Operations, SNWA, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit D2](#) is a paper copy of a 74-slide PowerPoint Presentation titled “Legislative Committee on Public Lands,” provided by Kay Brothers, Deputy General Manager, Engineering/Operations, SNWA, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit E](#) is a one-page copy of prepared notes furnished by James H. Davenport, Chief, Water Division, Colorado River Commission, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit F](#) is a paper copy of a 29-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Legislative Committee on Public Lands,” provided by Hugh Ricci, State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carson City.

[Exhibit G](#) is a paper copy of a 12-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement Information Session,” provided by Robin Sweeney, EIS Document Manager, Office of National Transportation, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, DOE, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit H](#) is a two-page document titled “Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository and Transportation Corridor,” provided by Jo Simpson, Chief, Office of Communications, BLM, DOI, Reno.

[Exhibit I](#) is a paper copy of a 64-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “A Review of Invasive Species and a Discussion of Programs and Activities of the Southern Nevada Office of the State Department of Agriculture,” provided by Thomas Smigel, Regional Manager, Las Vegas Office, SDA, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit J](#) is a brochure titled “Services Provided by the Nevada Department of Agriculture,” provided by Thomas Smigel, Regional Manager, Las Vegas Office, SDA, Las Vegas.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library by [e-mail \(www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm\)](mailto:www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.

