

# Clark County Public Lands Update

Marci Henson, Clark County

1/15/20

# Clark County Public Lands Bill

- Purpose & Need

- CC Cooperating Agency on BLM's amendment to the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan - 10+ years
- Local objectives not met in various drafts
- After more than a decade, BLM State Director put the RMP amendment on hold and the action has since been completely terminated by BLM
- Need a reliable mechanism to deal with crucial planning issues in southern Nevada
- In summer 2016, initiated discussions with stakeholders on principles and working map of a potential lands bill

# Clark County Public Lands Bill

- Met repeatedly with more than 31 stakeholder groups from a variety of disparate interests
- Held an open house to present potential principles to be included in the bill
- Presented principles and a working map to the BCC in June 2018.
- BCC adopted the principles and directed staff to draft legislative language and continue refining the working map

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Draft legislative language released in May 2019; updates released September and November 2019
- Senator Cortez Masto released her discussion draft on 1/15/2020
- Key Sections:
  - Expands the Moapa Band of Paiute lands (Sec. 101)
  - Protects Upper Lee Meadows and Camp Lee Canyon (Sec. 201)
  - Facilitates the creation of the Southwest Ridge Park (Sec. 202)
  - Ensures construction and access to critical flood control facilities to protect Las Vegas neighborhoods (Secs. 203, 204 and 705)
  - Expands the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act disposal boundary (Sec. 205)
  - Funds billions in parks, recreation, open space and other local and federal conservation and recreation projects. (Sec. 205)

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Key sections:

- Conveys parcels under R & PP and other federal leases to local government agencies (i.e. fire and police stations, parks and community centers, schools and other local infrastructure in southern Nevada) (Sec. 205)
- Saves Red Rock National Conservation Area from further development (Sec. 205)
- Aids in the acquisition and construction of affordable housing (Sec. 205)
- Establishes nine (9) new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern adding nearly 300,000 acres to southern Nevada's conservation portfolio (Sec. 206)
- Extends the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for another 50 years (Sec. 207)

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Key Sections:

- Creates four (4) new wilderness areas totaling more than 82,000 acres (Sec. 301)
- Enables the creation of the City of Mesquite River Park for recreation and watershed protection (Sec. 402)
- Creates a Mt. Charleston Public Safety Complex (Sec. 403)
- Ensures access to rural water infrastructure (Sec. 404)
- Supports the planning and implementation of the Lower Virgin Watershed Plan (Sec. 402)

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Key Sections:

- Creates four (4) new Off-highway Vehicle Recreation Areas (Sec. 701)
- Facilitates increased renewable energy transmission (Sec. 702)
- Protects water infrastructure (Sec. 703)
- Creates six (6) new erosion control weirs in the Las Vegas Wash to protect water quality (Sec. 704)

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Deep dive on Sections 702
  - This section is not related to SNWA's in-state groundwater pipeline program.
  - Proposes to combine ROWs for renewable energy transmission into one ROW issued to SNWA.
  - “Notwithstanding reference herein to N-78803, **nothing** in this section shall be interpreted to grant any rights-of-way for the groundwater development project referenced in N-78803 other than for the power lines identified therein.”
  - Limits the geographic extent of the action to Clark County and southern Lincoln County - not even the entire alignment for the pipeline.



# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Deep dive on Sections 703
  - This section is not related to SNWA's in-state groundwater pipeline program.
  - Proposes to convey “parcels on which water infrastructure owned or managed by that public water agency is located within Clark County.”
  - “Nothing in this section shall permit any public water agency to obtain title to federal lands for the purpose of constructing the groundwater development project referenced in right-of-way grant N-78803.”

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- By the numbers:
  - 41K+ acre expansion for Moapa Band of Paiutes
  - 800 megawatts of clean, renewable energy from the ENTP
  - 50-year extension of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
  - 121K+ acres of designated off-highway vehicle recreation areas
  - 298K+ acres of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
  - Estimated \$3.35 billion in additional parks, trails and natural areas funding
  - 6 weirs to protect lower Las Vegas Wash and drinking water supply
  - 49K+ acre expansion of the SNPLMA boundary (32K+ net acres of disposal)
  - 82K+ acres of additional wilderness
  - Estimated \$8.5 billion in SNPLMA funding

# Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

- Status and Next Steps

- Senator Cortez Masto has released a discussion draft. Please contact her office for a copy.
- Substantially similar to Clark County's draft with a few minor exceptions
- Section 702 is omitted in this draft
- Gather additional feedback and introduce legislation

- Website to review the County's draft:

[https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/airquality/lands\\_bill/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/airquality/lands_bill/Pages/default.aspx)

# Questions?

Marci Henson, Director

702-455-3118

[mhenson@clarkcountynv.org](mailto:mhenson@clarkcountynv.org)