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
Questions?

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