

# **Environmental Assessment: Multi-Site Post and Cable Fencing**

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# **Chapter 1. Introduction**

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## **1.1. Identifying Information:**

### **1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:**

Title: Multi-Site Post and Cable Fencing

EA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2011-0110-EA

### **1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:**

- 1) T. 19S R. 61E Section 6, Parcel Number 12406000001: Along the east side of Decatur Boulevard, north of Iron Mountain Road starting where the concrete wall ends continuing north to the southern boundary of the Desert NWR
- 2) T. 18S R. 60E Sections 31, 32, and 33, Parcel Numbers 10031000001, 10032000001, 10033000001: Along the north side of Moccasin Road (from the eastern paved terminus) west to the Paiute Reservation fence
- 3) T. 22S R. 60E Section 18, Parcel Number 17618301012: Along the west side of Grand Canyon Drive from Wigwam Avenue south to the Forbuss Elementary School fence
- 4) T. 22S R. 60E Sections 19 & 30, Parcel Numbers 17619801014, 17630201001, 17630301001: Along the west side of Fort Apache Road from Gary Road south to Cactus Avenue
- 5) T. 22S R. 60E Section 35, Parcel Number 17630301001: Along the south side of Erie Avenue from Jones Boulevard west to the Union Pacific Railroad fence
- 6) T. 21S R. 60E Section 21, Parcel Number 16321101017: Along the north side of Rochelle Avenue just east of Durango Drive
- 7) T. 21S R. 60E Section 20, Parcel Number 16320504001: On three sides of the parcel on the northeast corner of Rochelle Avenue and Riley Street
- 8) T. 21S R. 60E Section 17, Parcel Number 16317504001: On three sides of the parcel on the northeast corner of Spring Mountain Road and Riley Street
- 9) T. 20S R. 60E Section 27, Parcel Number 16317504001: Along the south and east sides of BLM parcel just east of Westcliff Drive and Underhill Court
- 10) T. 20S R. 62E Section 35, Parcel Number 14035701001: Along the south side of Stewart Avenue between Los Feliz Street and Probst Way

### **1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:**

Lead Office - Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office, Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, NV 89130

### **1.1.4. Applicant Name:**

BLM

### **1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:**

The purpose of this project is to construct a post and cable fence to deter the abuse of public lands via illegal OHV use and illegal dumping activity. Illegal dumping and illegal OHV use are public health and safety issues and numerous sites throughout the Las Vegas Valley are subject to repeated violation.

The need for this project is to comply with the BLM Las Vegas RMP section AR-1 and its requirement to comply with local, state, and federal air quality regulations. Clark County Air Quality Regulations Section 90 requires measures to be taken to limit disturbance on vacant lands due to illegal OHV use and illegal dumping.

### **1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:**

Internal Scoping:

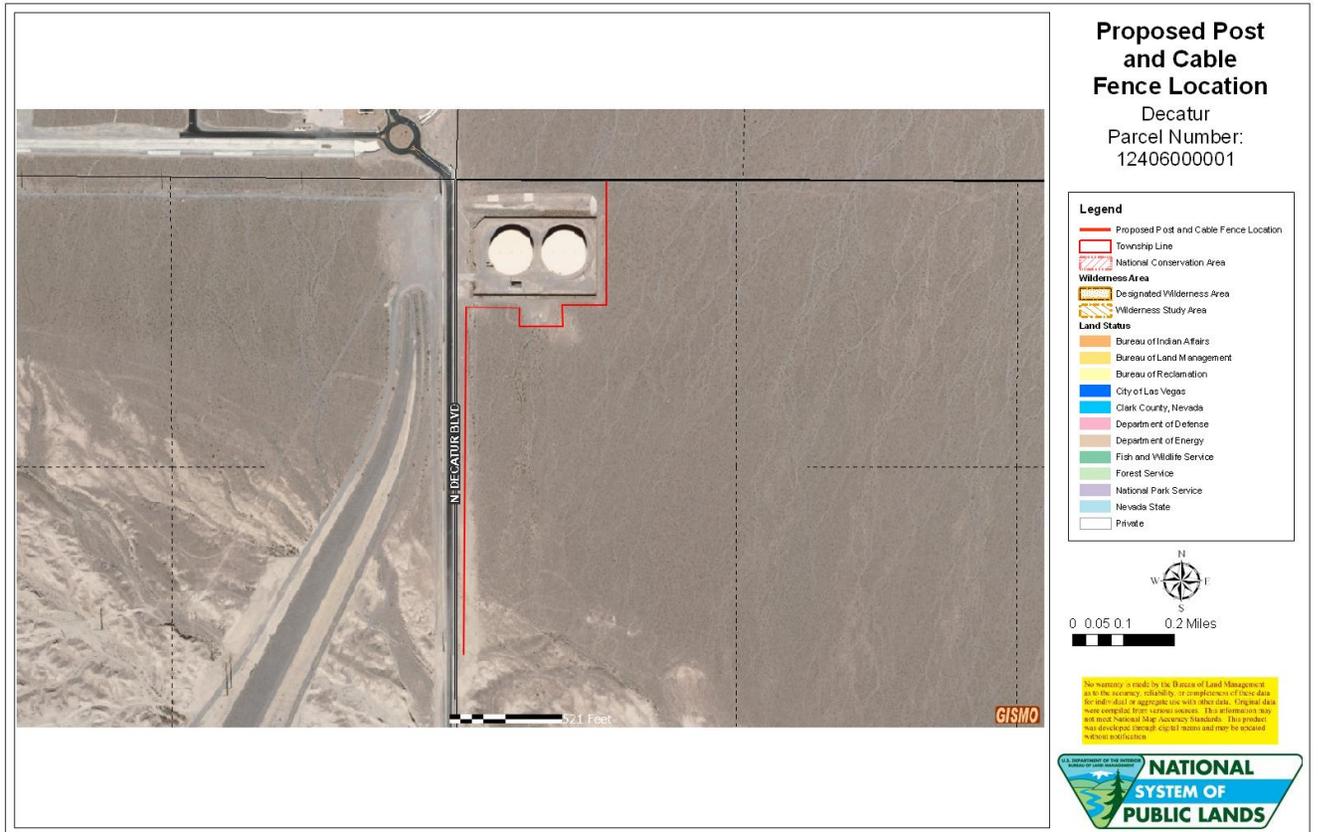
This proposal has been reviewed by Bureau of Land Management resource team members. Their comments and evaluations are included in this environmental assessment.

External Scoping:

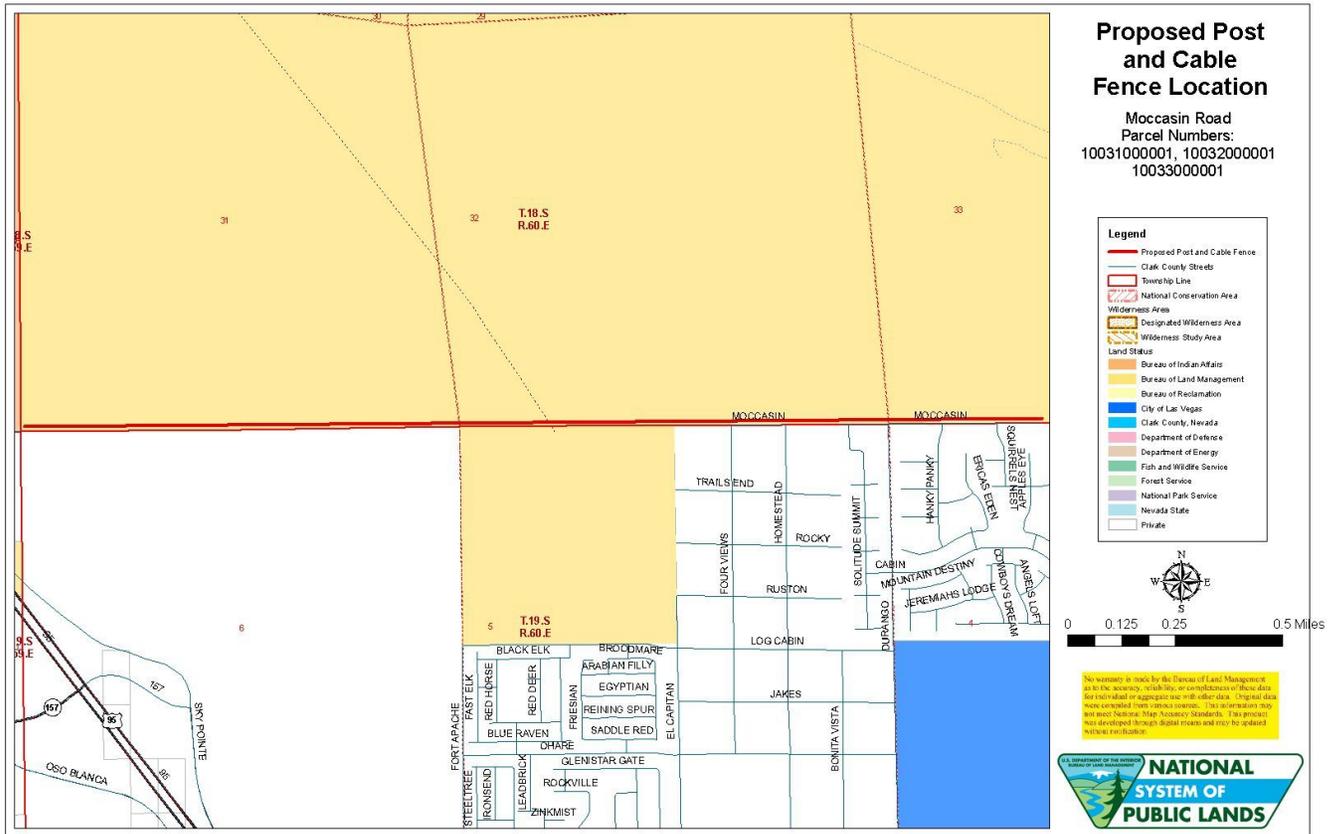
Several agencies have been contacted in order to gain insight regarding access issues for right-of-ways and are listed below. The majority of agencies had no issues with the proposed action provided access to rights-of-way is maintained. NV Energy requires grounding of fencing within a certain distance of power lines. Specifications for grounding the fence are included in the drawings below (Fig. 2.2). NV Energy also requires plan submittals for actions in their right-of-way that might restrict access.

# 1.4. Maps of Proposed Action Areas

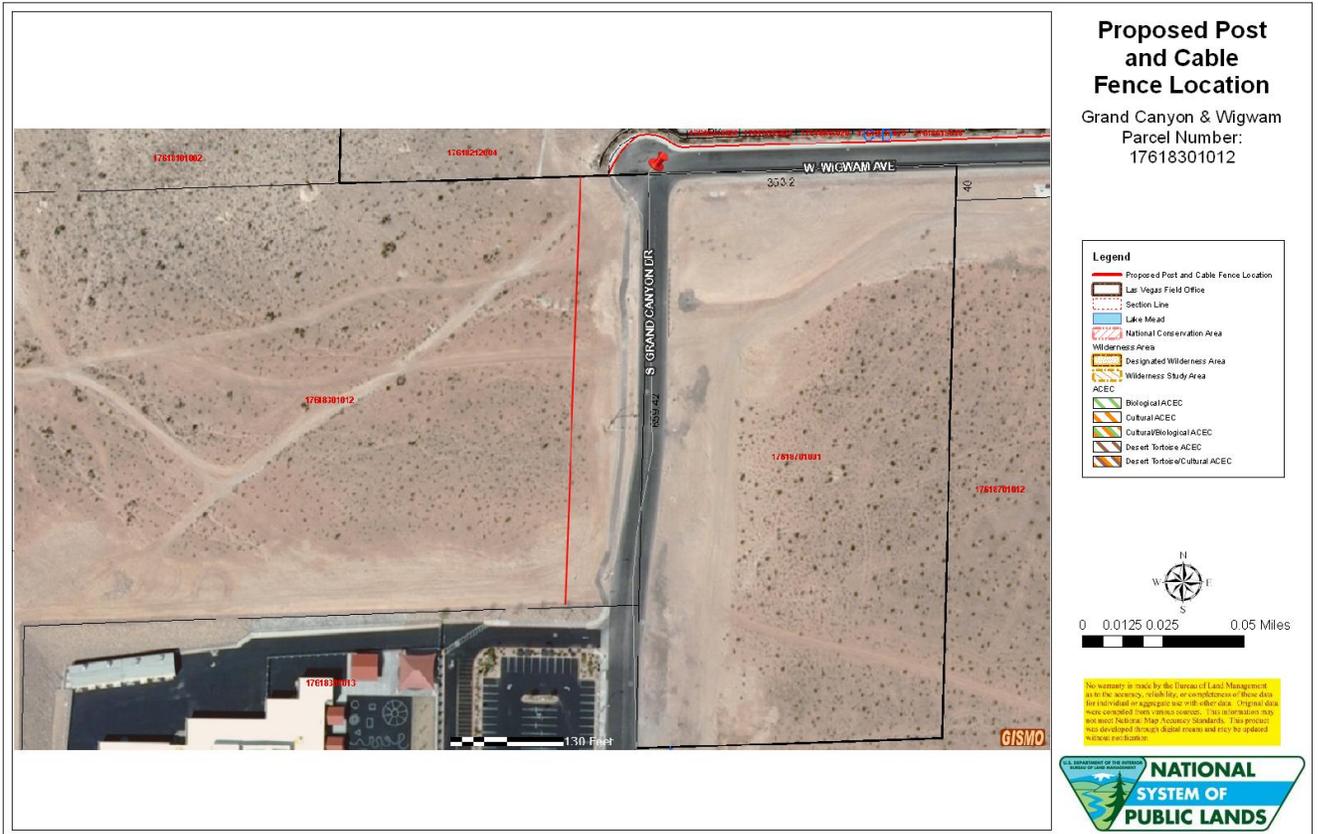
## 1.4.1. Map 1: North Decatur Boulevard



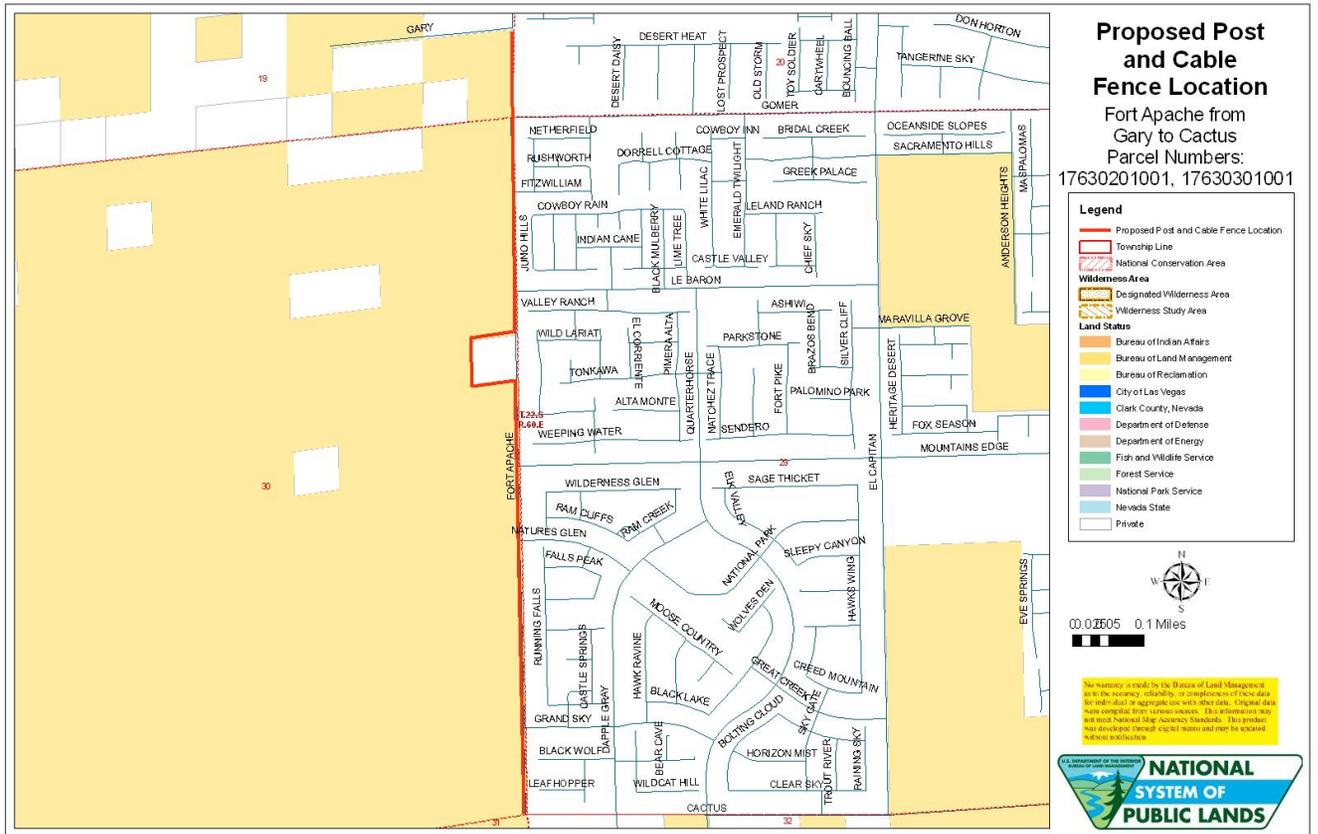
# 1.4.2. Map 2: Moccasin Road



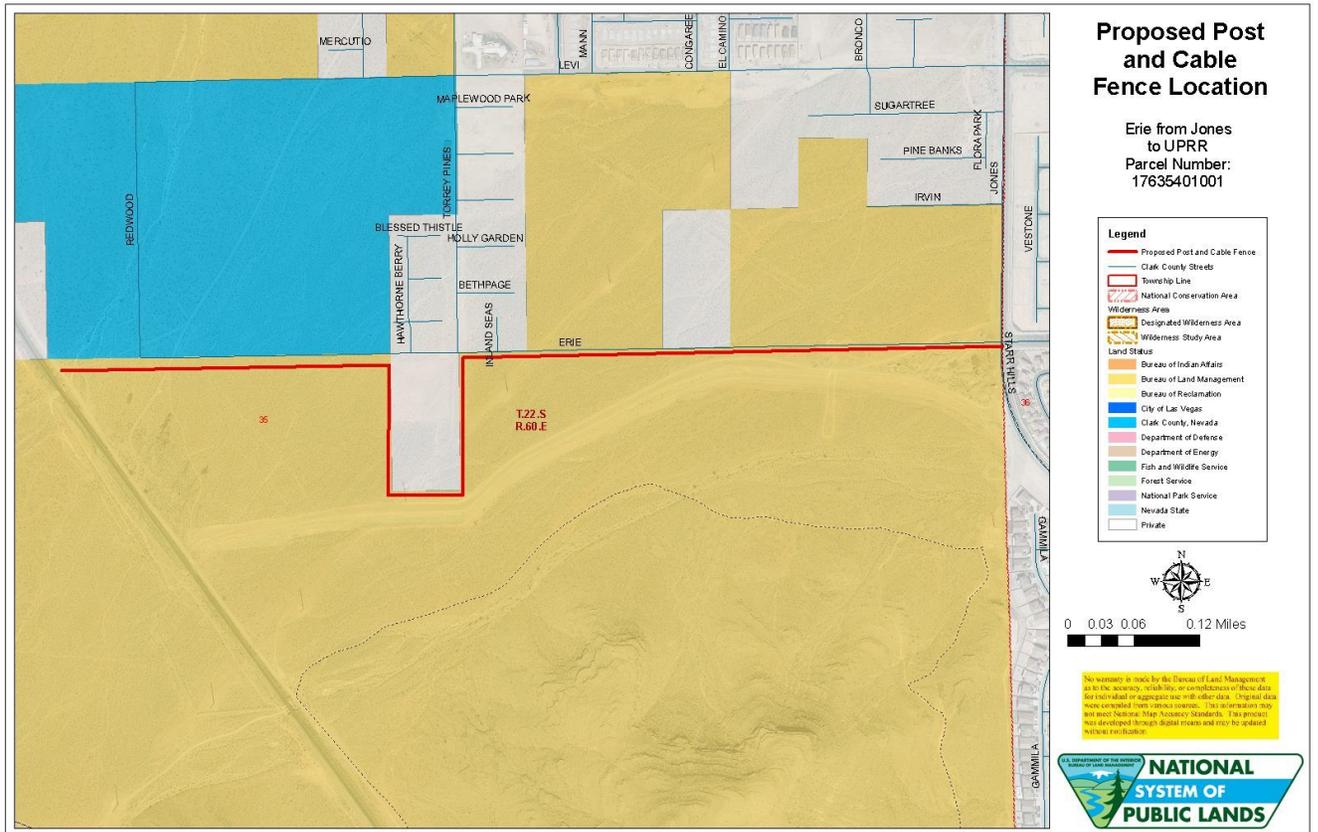
### 1.4.3. Map 3: Grand Canyon Drive and Wigwam Avenue



### 1.4.4. Map 4: South Fort Apache Road



# 1.4.5. Map 5: Erie Avenue



### 1.4.6. Map 6: Durango Drive and Rochelle Avenue



# 1.4.7. Map 7: Rochelle Avenue and Riley Street



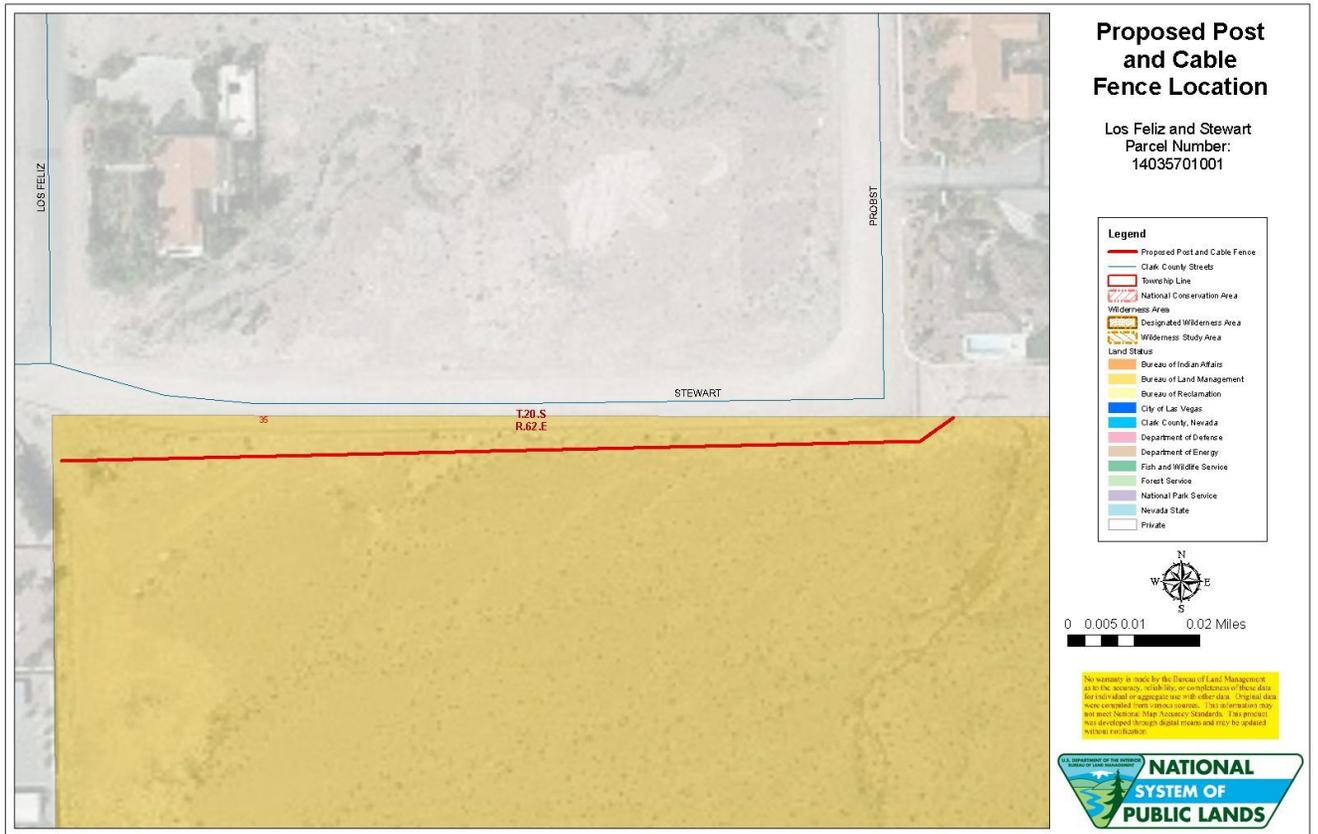
### 1.4.8. Map 8: Spring Mountain Road and Riley Street



### 1.4.9. Map 9: Westcliff Drive and Underhill Court



### 1.4.10. Map 10: Los Feliz Street and Stewart Avenue



# **Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

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## **2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:**

The BLM proposes to construct approximately 40,000 feet of post and cable fence in the areas described above. The proposed sites are parcels about which the BLM receives repeated complaints from the public, Clark County Code Enforcement, and the Southern Nevada Health District about illegal dumping and illegal OHV activity. Efforts in the form of volunteer cleanups, coordinator cleanups, destruction of OHV tracks, watering disturbed areas to stabilize soils, and sign placement have taken place numerous times on each site since 2008. Post and cable fences placed in other BLM managed areas have proven effective in controlling illegal activity.

Construction would be completed by the BLM Fire Crew during the off-season for fire, Great Basin Institute contractors, or Nevada Conservation Crew employees trained in post and cable fence construction. The fence will be constructed following guidelines and specifications approved by the BLM (See Figures 2.1 and 2.2). Holes for the posts will be dug by an auger attachment on a tractor, hand auger, or hand tools. The equipment will travel on existing roads and previously disturbed areas outside or along any rights-of-way. Water will be used to reduce dust emissions when needed. Appropriate authorities will be contacted to determine, if any, the location of underground utilities. Equipment storage and lay down areas will be located within previously disturbed areas. Very little new disturbance will result from this project. Since the project activity may increase risks of introducing and transporting weeds, all vehicles, equipment and personal gear will be clean and free of vegetation and soil before arrival on site. The disposal of waste will include weed vegetation both live and decadent. Access will be maintained for various rights-of-way that exist on the respective parcels. Appropriate locations will be equipped with a gate other means to restrict access to authorized users. Right-of-way holders will be informed of construction activities as they begin and will be involved in the coordination of determining the means by which access will be maintained.

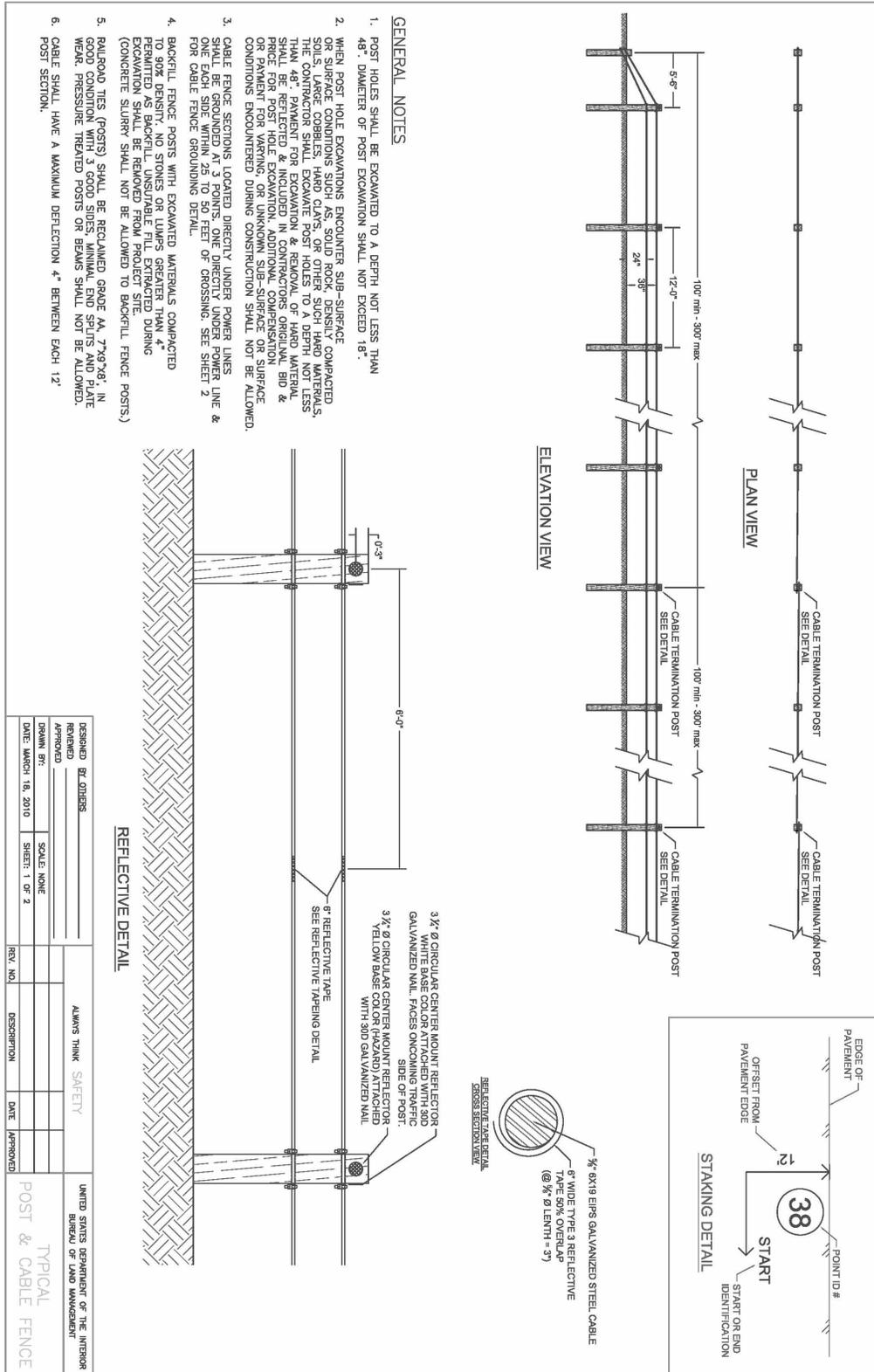


Figure 2.1. Post and Cable Specifications

Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives  
Description of the Proposed Action:

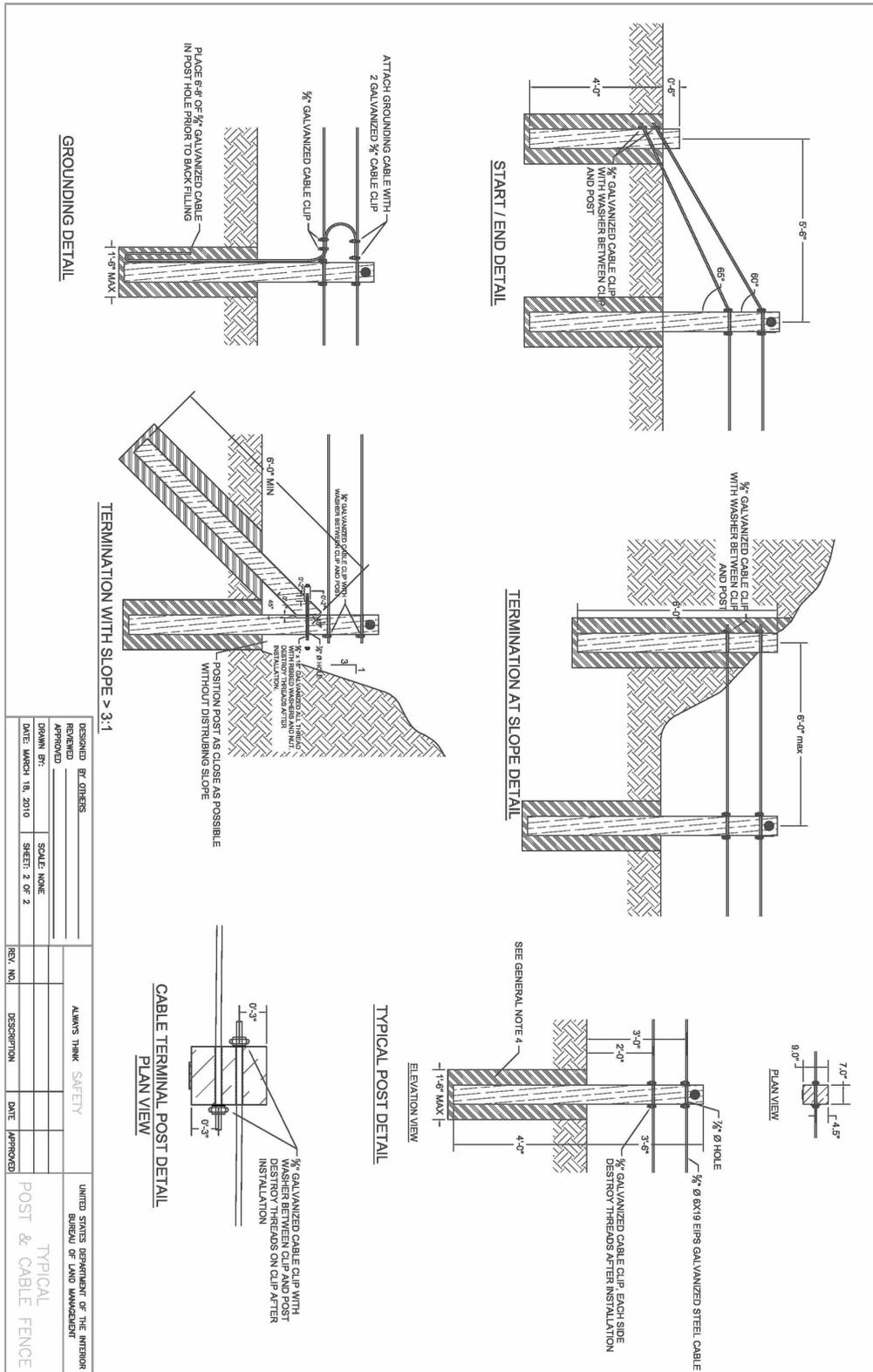


Figure 2.2. Post and Cable Specifications

## **2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:**

Under the No Action Alternative, no fences would be built and current methods used to remove illegally dumped refuse and stabilize soils would continue indefinitely.

## **2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail**

No Alternatives were considered.

## **2.4. Conformance**

The EA is in conformance with the NV Las Vegas RMP.

Date Approved: October 5, 1998

The proposed action is in conformance with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and complies with the following objectives and management direction:

AR-1-b — Permit only those activities on BLM-administered lands that are consistent with Federal, State, and local air quality standards and regulations. Require that all appropriate air quality permits are obtained before BLM approval of an action is granted. Where applicable, demonstrate how proposed management actions comply with local, state, tribal and Federal air quality laws, regulations and standards.

Clark County Air Quality Regulations Section 90: Fugitive Dust from Open Areas and Vacant Lots — If open areas and vacant lots are 5,000 square feet or larger and are disturbed by any means, including use by motor vehicles, off-road motor vehicles or material dumping, then the owner/operator of such open areas and vacant lots shall implement one or more of the control measures described in Subsection 90.2.1.1. Subsection 90.2.1.1(a) describes control measures that can include barriers, fences, gates, posts, signs, etc.

The proposed action is in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, and is consistent with the applicable plans and policies of county, state, tribal and federal agencies.

## **Chapter 3. Affected Environment:**

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<b>Supplemental Authority</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>Present/Not Affected</b>	<b>Present/May be Affected</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
		<b>X</b>		
Air Quality Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	<b>X</b>			
Cultural/ Historical	<b>X</b>			
Paleontological Resources	<b>X</b>			
Environmental Justice	<b>X</b>			
Farmlands Prime or Unique	<b>X</b>			
Noxious Weeds/Invasive Non-native Species		<b>X</b>		Standard mitigation measures are sufficient for this action.
Native American Religious Concerns	<b>X</b>			
Floodplains	<b>X</b>			
Riparian/ Wetlands	<b>X</b>			
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	<b>X</b>			
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species.		<b>X</b>		No impact to desert tortoises or their habitat are expected. installation of the post and cable fence will be beneficial to adjacent tortoise habitat and any individuals in the area.

<b>Supplemental Authority</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>Present/Not Affected</b>	<b>Present/May be Affected</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Migratory Birds		<b>X</b>		As there will be only minimal surface disturbance, there will be no impact on migratory birds.
Waste - Hazardous/Solid				
Water Quality	<b>X</b>			
Wild & Scenic Rivers	<b>X</b>			
Wilderness (Study Area)	<b>X</b>			
Forests and Rangelands (HFRA only)	<b>X</b>			
Human Health and Safety				

Other resources of the human environment that have been considered for this environmental assessment (EA) are listed in the table below. Elements that may be affected are further described in the EA. Rationale for those elements that would not be affected by the proposed action and alternative is listed in the table below.

<b>Other Resources</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>Present/Not Affected</b>	<b>Present/May be Affected</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Grazing Management	<b>X</b>			
Green House Gas Emissions (Climate Change)		<b>X</b>		Currently there are no emission limits for suspected Greenhouse Gas emissions.
Minerals	<b>X</b>			
Paleontological Resources	<b>X</b>			

Other Resources	Not Present	Present/Not Affected	Present/May be Affected	Rationale
Socio-Economic Values		X		This project will not disproportionately impact social or economic values.
Soils/Hydrology		X		No issues as the project area is within the valley and is already disturbed.
Vegetation		X		Due to the minimal amount of disturbance, potential impacts to BLM sensitive species would be negligible.
Visual Resources		X		Since project areas are locate close or adjacent to existing developments, the fence will repeat basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the natural landscape to the extent practical.
Recreation		X		
Fuels/Fire Management		X		Normal conformance with seasonal fire restrictions are adequate.
Wildlife		X		An overall benefit for the health of wildlife and habitat is expected to result from the completion of the project.

## Wildlife

Several common species of reptiles that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the western whip-tail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburniana*), zebra-tail lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*) and garter snake (*Thamnophis* sp.). Common bird species that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). The proposed project area is adjacent to lands that support wildlife characteristic of the Mojave Desert. Biological diversity

varies according to topography, plant community, and proximity to water, soil type, and season. ), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza quinquestrata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*). Common mammal species include the black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) and many species of rodents.

### **BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species**

BLM sensitive species are species that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under ESA and that have been identified in accordance with procedures set forth in BLM Manual 6840. The following sensitive species are known to potentially occur within the parcel: western burrowing owl. Western burrowing owl occur in washes and Mojave Desert scrub uplands in undeveloped parcels. Western burrowing owls are also known to occur in disturbed areas such as undeveloped lots.

### **Vegetation**

The project has the potential, during construction, to introduce and transport weeds in the project areas. Mitigating measures mentioned in the project description will ensure minimal weed dispersal. The long term benefit of the project will be decreased surface disturbance resulting in reduced weed dispersal.

# **Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:**

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## **Wildlife**

Wildlife species in the general area include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. These species may be found on the adjacent undisturbed lands and could wander into the proposed project area. The primary direct impacts of the proposed action on wildlife would be mortality resulting from construction activities. Wildlife species in the general area are common and widely distributed throughout the area and the loss of some individuals and/or their habitat would have a negligible impact on populations of the species throughout the region. As the goal for construction of the fence is to minimize further disturbance by vehicles parking in undisturbed areas, the project as a whole will be beneficial to all wildlife inhabiting the area.

## **BLM Sensitive Species**

Western burrowing owl

Potential western burrowing owl habitat occurs adjacent to the project area. Direct loss of individuals is not anticipated as the proposed action will not create any new disturbance. Upon completion of the proposed action, habitat will be better protected from further disturbance.

## **Threatened, Endangered Species**

The above proposed action has a no affect determination on the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). This project will have no affect on any other federally listed species or designated critical habitat. The project lies within the Las Vegas Valley programmatic area and falls adjacent to low density tortoise habitat. As the goal for construction of the fence is to minimize further disturbance by vehicles parking in undisturbed areas, the project as a whole will be beneficial to adjacent tortoise habitat and any individuals in the area. No impacts to desert tortoises or their habitat are expected. Additionally, compliance with the special stipulations below will help to ensure that no affect to desert tortoises occurs. 1) A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing access roads. 2) Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord. 3) Workers will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles and equipment before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles during the active season.

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## **Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:**

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[Describe consultation efforts here.]

**Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
John Runiks	Manager of Roadway Operations, City of North Las Vegas	No issues.
Charles O'Neill	Planner, Comprehensive Planning Department, Clark County	Fence must adhere to zoning standards outlined in Clark County Development Code Title 30, Section 30.64.
Layne Weber	Principle Engineer, Clark County Development Services-Civil, Drainage	No issues as long as access is maintained.
Cindy Skromak	Senior Right of Way Agent, NV Energy	No issues if necessary plan submittals are prepared and approved for appropriate sites. Access and NESC/NV Energy standard clearances will be maintained.
Michael Shannon	Southwest Liason, Town and Liason Services, Clark County	No issues.

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# **Chapter 6. List of Preparers**

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**Table 6.1. List of Prepares**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document</b>
Eric Delynko	Air Quality Tech. (Contractor)	