

Categorical Exclusion (CX)

Renewal of Right-of-Way for a Paved Road, Drainage, Sewer, and Related Facilities

Background

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2013-0143-CX

As Sandy Valley grows, the need for additional roads, drainages and related facilities increases. Clark County has applied for a renewal of right-of-way (ROW) N-19983, which has expired, for a road, drainage, sewer, and related facilities on public lands. The proposed drainage, and related facilities are designed to accommodate the anticipated public needs associated with current and planned development in the area, and comply with the current Master Plan for the area.

BLM Office:

Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

LLNVS01000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

This is an existing ROW that expired under N-19983 It has been issued a new serial number N-91778.

Proposed Action Title/Type:

Renewal of Right-of-Way (ROW) for a paved road, drainage, sewer, and related facilities on public lands.

Location of Proposed Action:

LOCATION AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Located in Sandy Valley, Nevada, along Cherokee Street, Turquoise Avenue, Cook Street, and State Line Road.

The Legal Description is:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada T. 25 S., R. 57 E., sec. 15, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; sec. 16, lots 3, 4, 5, and 7; and sec. 21, lots 1, 2, and 3.

Description of Proposed Action:

Description: Administrative action. Clark County Department of Public Works (County) has applied for a renewal of expired ROW grant N-19983 for a paved road, drainage, sewer, and related facilities. This file has been assigned new serial number N-91778. The road varies in width from 50 ft to 100 ft and is approximately 12,325 ft in length. No new disturbance associated with the project. Because the need for the roadway, utility and drainage is ongoing, the ROW request is in perpetuity.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:

Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP), and the Record of Decision for the Approved Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Date Approved/Amended:

RMP dated October 5, 1998.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) :

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable RMP because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s):

ROW Management. Objective: RW-1. "Meet public demand and reduce impacts to sensitive resources by providing an orderly system of development for transportation, including legal access to private inholdings, communications, flood control, major utility transmission lines, and related facilities."

Management Direction. Objective: RW-1-h. "All public land within the planning area, excepted as stated in RW-1-c through RW-1-g, are available at the discretion of the agency for rights-of-way under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act."

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, NEPA Handbook, Appendix 4 E. (9): "Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations."

This is a renewal of existing ROW N-19983 which has expired and has been given a new serial number, N-91778.

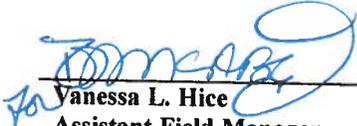
This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Comments providing substantive new information relevant to the analysis and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Exhibit A stipulations which are attached to this document.

I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

Approval and Contact Information

Authorizing Official:


for Vanessa L. Hice
Assistant Field Manager
Division of Lands

6/11/14
Date

Contact Person:

Jamie L. Moeini, Realty Specialist
Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
phone: 702-515-5000

Exhibit A
Stipulations for N-91778

1.0 General Stipulations

- 1.1. The right-of-way (ROW) is issued subject to all valid existing rights.
- 1.2. No signs of advertising devices shall be placed on the premises or on adjacent public lands, except those posted by or at the direction of the authorized officer.
- 1.3. The holder shall ensure that the road has a proper drainage system and should include the best combination of various design elements, such as ditches, culverts, drainage dips, crown, in-slope or out-slope, low-water crossings, subsurface drains and bridges per Clark County standards.
- 1.4. The ROW shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times. Waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an approved waste disposal site. "Waste", as used in this paragraph, shall mean all discarded matter of any kind.
- 1.5. Holder shall mark the exterior boundaries of the ROW with stake and/or lath at 100 to 200 foot intervals. The intervals may be varied at the time of staking at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. The tops of the stakes and/or laths will be painted and the laths flagged in a distinctive color as determined by the Holder. Holder shall maintain all boundary stakes and/or laths in place until final cleanup and restoration is completed.
- 1.6. Holder shall conduct all activities associated with construction, operation, maintenance and termination of this ROW within its authorized limits.
- 1.7. Holder shall maintain the ROW in a safe, useable condition, as directed by the Authorized Officer. A regular maintenance program shall include, but is not limited to, soil stabilization.
- 1.8. Holder shall maintain copy of the authorization along with stipulations on construction site at all times. In the event that the public land underlying this ROW, encompassed in this grant, or a portion thereof, is conveyed out of Federal ownership and administration of the ROW or the land underlying the ROW is not being reserved to the United States in the patent/deed and/or the ROW is not within a ROW corridor being reserved to the United States in the patent/deed; the United States waives any right it has to administer the ROW, or portion thereof, within the conveyed land under Federal laws, statutes, and regulations, including the regulations at 43 CFR Part [2800][2880], including any rights to have the holder apply to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for amendments, modifications, or assignments and for BLM to approve or recognize such amendments, modifications, or assignments. At the time of conveyance, the patentee/grantee, and their successors and assigns, shall succeed to the interests of the United States in all matters relating to the ROW, or portion thereof, within the conveyed land and shall be subject to applicable State and local government laws, statutes, and ordinances. After conveyance, any disputes concerning compliance with the use and the terms and conditions of the ROW shall be considered a civil matter between the patentee/grantee and the ROW Holder.

- 1.9. Within 90 days of construction completion, the Holder shall provide the Authorized Officer with data in a format compatible with the Bureau's Arc-Info Geographic Information System to accurately locate and identify the ROW:

Acceptable data formats are:

Corrected Global Positioning System files with sub-meter accuracy or better, in UTM NAD 83; Zone 11;
ARCGIS export files on a CD ROM, shapefile, geodatabase.

Data may be submitted in any of the following formats:
ARCGIS interchange, shapefile or geodatabase format.
CD ROM in compressed or uncompressed format.

All data shall include metadata for each coverage, and conform to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Contact the GIS Department at (702) 515-5000.

2.0 Air Quality

- 2.1. The Holder shall not violate applicable air standards or related facility siting standards established by or pursuant to applicable federal, state, or local laws or regulations. The Holder shall be responsible for dust abatement within the limits of the ROW and is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from appropriate authorities for acceptable dust abatement and control methods (e.g., water, chemicals). The Holder shall be solely responsible for all violations of any air quality permit, law or regulation, as a result of its action, inaction, use or occupancy of the ROW.

Notwithstanding whether a violation of any air quality permit, law or regulation results, the Holder will cooperate with the Authorized Officer in implementing and maintaining reasonable and appropriate dust control methods in conformance with law and appropriate to the circumstances at the sole cost of the Holder.

- 2.2. Ensure dust control permit is obtained through the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management (DAQEM) for all soil disturbing activity of .25 acres or greater. All dust control permit conditions and stipulations must be in compliance for the duration of the project activity. At present, water is the only means by which BLM authorizes dust suppression for construction activities, as well as for operations and maintenance of public land activities known to generate fugitive dust.
- 2.3. Prior to relinquishment, abandonment, or termination of this ROW, the Holder shall apply reasonable and appropriate dust abatement and control measures to all disturbed areas. The abatement and measures shall be designed to be effective over the long-term (e.g., rock mulch or other means) and acceptable to the Authorized Officer.
- 2.4. During excavation, backfilling, and contouring, the disturbed soil should be wetted sufficiently in order to effectively reduce airborne dust and reduce soil erosion.
- 2.5. Fuels/Fire Restrictions: Normal conformance with fire restrictions is adequate. Fire restrictions are normally enacted May through October. For the life of the ROW, due diligence is required for maintaining a wildfire defensive space of low to zero burnable vegetation and fuels in this area.

3.0 Cultural

- 3.1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the Holder, or any person working on his behalf on public or Federal lands shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The Holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation. Any decision regarding suitable mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the Holder. Holder shall be responsible for the resultant mitigation costs.

4.0 Hazardous Material/Pesticides/Liability

- 4.1. No hazardous material, substance, or hazardous waste, (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*, or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, *et seq.*) shall be used, produced, transported, released, disposed of, or stored within the ROW area at any time by the Holder. The Holder shall immediately report any release of hazardous substances (leaks, spills, etc.) caused by the Holder or third parties in excess of the reportable quantity as required by federal, state, or local laws and regulations. A copy of any report required or requested by any federal, state or local government agency as a result of a reportable release or spill of any hazardous substances shall be furnished to the Authorized Officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved federal, state or local government agency.
- 4.2. The Holder shall immediately notify the Authorized Officer of any release of hazardous substances, toxic substances, or hazardous waste on or near the ROW potentially affecting the ROW of which the Holder is aware.
- 4.3. As required by law, Holder shall have responsibility for and shall take all action(s) necessary to fully remediate and address the hazardous substance(s) on or emanating from the right-of-way.
- 4.4. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the Holder shall obtain from the Authorized Officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers and any other information deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer.

The plan shall be submitted no later than December 1 of any calendar year that covers the proposed activities for the next fiscal year.

Pesticides shall not be permanently stored on public lands authorized for use under this ROW.

- 4.5. The Holder shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air, water, hazardous substance, solid waste, or other environmental laws and regulations, existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. To the full extent permissible by law, the Holder agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, within the limits, if any, established by state law (as state law exists on the

effective date of the ROW), the United States against any liability arising from the Holder's use or occupancy of the ROW, regardless of whether the Holder has actually developed or caused development to occur on the ROW, from the time of the issuance of this ROW to the Holder, and during the term of this ROW. This agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability shall apply without regard to whether the liability is caused by the Holder, its agents, contractors, or third parties. If the liability is caused by third parties, the Holder will pursue legal remedies against such third parties as if the Holder were the fee owner of the ROW.

Notwithstanding any limits to the Holder's ability to indemnify and hold harmless the United States which may exist under state law, the Holder agrees to bear all responsibility (financial or other) for any and all liability or responsibility of any kind or nature assessed against the United States arising from the Holder's use or occupancy of the right-of way regardless of whether the Holder has actually developed or caused development to occur on the ROW from the time of the issuance of this ROW to the Holder and during the term of this ROW.

- 4.6. No mining claims or mining operations present. Ensure that the proponent understands that they may not remove mineral materials from the property. All mineral materials generated during road maintenance must stay within the ROW. If the proponent wishes to remove mineral materials from the ROW, they will need a free use permit or mineral material sales contract.

5.0 Survey Monuments

- 5.1. Holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the authorization area. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. If any of the above are to be disturbed during operations, the holder shall secure the services of a Professional Land Surveyor or Bureau cadastral surveyor to perpetuate the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States and Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 329, Perpetuation of Corners. The holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monuments, the holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

6.0 Vegetation/Noxious Weeds/Land surface Treatment/Soil/Water/Riparian

- 6.1. Cactus and yucca are considered government property and regulated under the BLM Nevada forestry program. Because the proposed action is an administrative action for renewal of an existing ROW, no new impacts to cactus and yucca and other forestry products are expected.
- 6.2. The segments of the ROW in section 16 and 21 that run north and south have not been constructed based on current aerial imagery and a site visit conducted by BLM Wildlife Biologist on August 21, 2013, when all existing roads in the area were identified by GPS. If some of the existing roads are associated with this ROW, an updated map needs to be provided showing their location. Presently, the north and to south segments are not needed to access any existing properties, since other dirt roads are prevalent. These roads may be relinquished in the future. If these roads are to be relinquished they will likely need to be restored, seek guidance from BLM Wildlife Biologist and Botanist on current guidelines.

- 6.3. At this time, the proposed action is simply to renew the existing ROW for the north and south segments in section 16 and 21 (if they are shown to exist), which will have no impacts on cactus and yucca and other forestry products. The proposed action does not authorize any road improvements including, widening, drainage, pavement, etc. as these activities would result in new disturbance, which needs to be further analyzed for their potential impacts to cactus and yucca and other forestry products.
- 6.4. The environmental assessment (EA) was completed in 1979. Many of today's weed problems were not present at that time. The EA did not specifically analyze weeds or provide measures for mitigation. Due to frequent vehicle traffic, ROW's are often vectors for the spread and establishment of invasive species/noxious weeds. From the time of this ROW renewal moving forward, the proponent must adhere to all the Standard BLM Weed Stipulations and applicable best management practices (BMP's) to adequately mitigate the potential of spread and establishment of invasive/noxious weeds.
- 6.5. The Holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the ROW. The Holder is responsible for consultation with the Authorized Officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods within limits imposed in the ROW stipulations. This proposed action will follow the guidelines of the LVFO Noxious Weed Plan that was approved on December 18, 2006. The following are project specific stipulations that will attempt to control Nevada listed noxious weeds on this project.
- 6.6. The project proponent shall limit the size of any vegetation and/or ground disturbance to the absolute minimum necessary to perform the activity safely and as designed. The project proponent will avoid creating soil conditions that promote weed germination and establishment.

Locate equipment storage, machine and vehicle parking in areas that are relatively weed-free. The project proponent shall avoid or minimize all types of travel through weed-infested areas.

BLM or the project proponent shall determine equipment-cleaning sites (if equipment is infested with weed seeds, plant parts or mud and dirt). Project related equipment and machinery (this especially includes the nooks and crannies of undercarriages) will be cleaned using compressed air or water to remove mud, dirt and plant parts before moving into and from relatively weed-free areas. Seeds and plant parts will be collected, bagged and deposited in dumpsters destined for local landfills.

Project workers shall inspect, remove, and dispose of weed seed and plant parts found on their clothing and personal equipment, bag the product and dispose of in a dumpster for deposit in local landfills.

- 6.7. Land surface treatment for areas previously disturbed: Following excavation, trenches will be backfilled with the excavated soil. The soil will be distributed and contoured evenly over the surface of the disturbed area. The soil surface will be left rough to help reduce potential wind erosion.
- 6.8. Land surface treatment for areas previously undisturbed: Strip the top three to six inches of soil material with associated plant material over all surfaces to be disturbed by construction. Stockpile this material along the course of construction will be salvaged and transplanted out of harm's way but still within the right of way. At the conclusion, including trench

backfilling and compaction, replace the stockpiled soil with plant debris uniformly back on the surface of the disturbed area.

- 6.9. Soil/Water/Riparian: If work is to occur in Ephemeral channels, need to consult with Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP). If drilling boreholes, holder needs to follow Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) protocols for drilling. Consult with ACOE to make sure you do not need a 404 permit.

7.0 Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species

- 7.1. The segments of the ROW in section 16 and 21 that run north and south have not been constructed based on current aerial imagery and a site visit conducted by BLM Wildlife Biologist on August 21, 2013, when all existing roads in the area were identified by GPS. If some of the existing roads are associated with this ROW, an updated map needs to be provided showing their location. Presently, the north and to south segments are not needed to access any existing properties, since other dirt roads are prevalent. These roads may be relinquished in the future. If these roads are to be relinquished they will likely need to be restored, seek guidance from BLM Wildlife Biologist and Botanist on current guidelines.
- 7.2. At this time, the proposed action is simply to renew the existing ROW for the north and south segments in section 16 and 21 (if they are shown to exist), which will have no impacts on wildlife habitat. The proposed action does not authorize any road improvements including, widening, drainage, pavement, etc. as these activities would result in new disturbance, which needs to be further analyzed for their potential impacts to wildlife and their habitat.
- 7.3. The segment of the ROW in section 21 that runs east/west is existing dirt road and the segment of the ROW in section 15 that runs north and south is an existing road which is mostly paved with a small portion unpaved. Renewal of these two segments of the ROW will result in no new surface disturbance and includes regular maintenance activities within the existing roads; therefore there will be no impacts on wildlife habitat. Wildlife species in the general area include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. Although there is no new surface disturbance associated with this project, direct impacts associated with mortality of wildlife from vehicular traffic may result during maintenance activities in the project area.

8.0 Migratory Birds

- 8.1. The segments of the ROW in section 16 and 21 that run north and south have not been constructed based on current aerial imagery and a site visit conducted by BLM Wildlife Biologist on August 21, 2013, when all existing roads in the area were identified by GPS. If some of the existing roads are associated with this ROW, an updated map needs to be provided showing their location. Presently, the north and to south segments are not needed to access any existing properties, since other dirt roads are prevalent. These roads may be relinquished in the future. If these roads are to be relinquished they will likely need to be restored, seek guidance from BLM Wildlife Biologist and Botanist on current guidelines.
- 8.2. At this time, the proposed action is simply to renew the existing ROW for the north and south segments in section 16 and 21 (if they are shown to exist), which will have no impacts on migratory birds. The proposed action does not authorize any road improvements including, widening, drainage, pavement, etc. as these activities would result in new disturbance, which needs to be further analyzed for their potential impacts to migratory birds.

- 8.3. The segment of the ROW in section 21 that runs east/west is existing dirt road and the segment of the ROW in section 15 that runs north and south is an existing road which is mostly paved with a small portion unpaved. Renewal of these two segments of the ROW will result in no new surface disturbance and includes regular maintenance activities within the existing roads; therefore there will be no impacts on migratory birds.

9.0 Threatened and Endangered Species

- 9.1. The above proposed action has a no affect determination for the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). See notes below that would require additional analysis in the future if there will be any additional construction or road widening. This project will have no affect on any other federally listed species or designated critical habitat.
- 9.2. The segments of the ROW in section 16 and 21 that run north and south have not been constructed based on current aerial imagery and a site visit conducted by BLM Wildlife Biologist on August 21, 2013, when all existing roads in the area were identified by GPS. If some of the existing roads are associated with this ROW, an updated map needs to be provided showing their location. Presently, the north and to south segments are not needed to access any existing properties, since other dirt roads are prevalent. These roads may be relinquished in the future. If these roads are to be relinquished they will likely need to be restored, seek guidance from BLM Wildlife Biologist and Botanist on current guidelines.
- 9.3. At this time, the proposed action is simply to renew the existing ROW for the north and south segments in section 16 and 21 (if they are shown to exist), which will have no impacts on tortoise habitat. The proposed action does not authorize any road improvements including, widening, drainage, pavement, etc. as these activities would result in new disturbance, which needs to be further analyzed for their potential impacts to desert tortoise or their habitat.
- 9.4. The segment of the ROW in section 21 that runs east/west is existing dirt road and the segment of the ROW in section 15 that runs north and south is an existing road which is mostly paved with a small portion unpaved. Renewal of these two segments of the ROW will result in no new surface disturbance and includes regular maintenance activities within the existing roads; therefore there will be no impacts on desert tortoise habitat.
- 9.5. This project is located in low density tortoise habitat. As this project is an administrative action for renewal of an existing ROW, no new disturbance will occur. Hence, no impacts to desert tortoise or their habitat are expected and no remuneration fees are required.

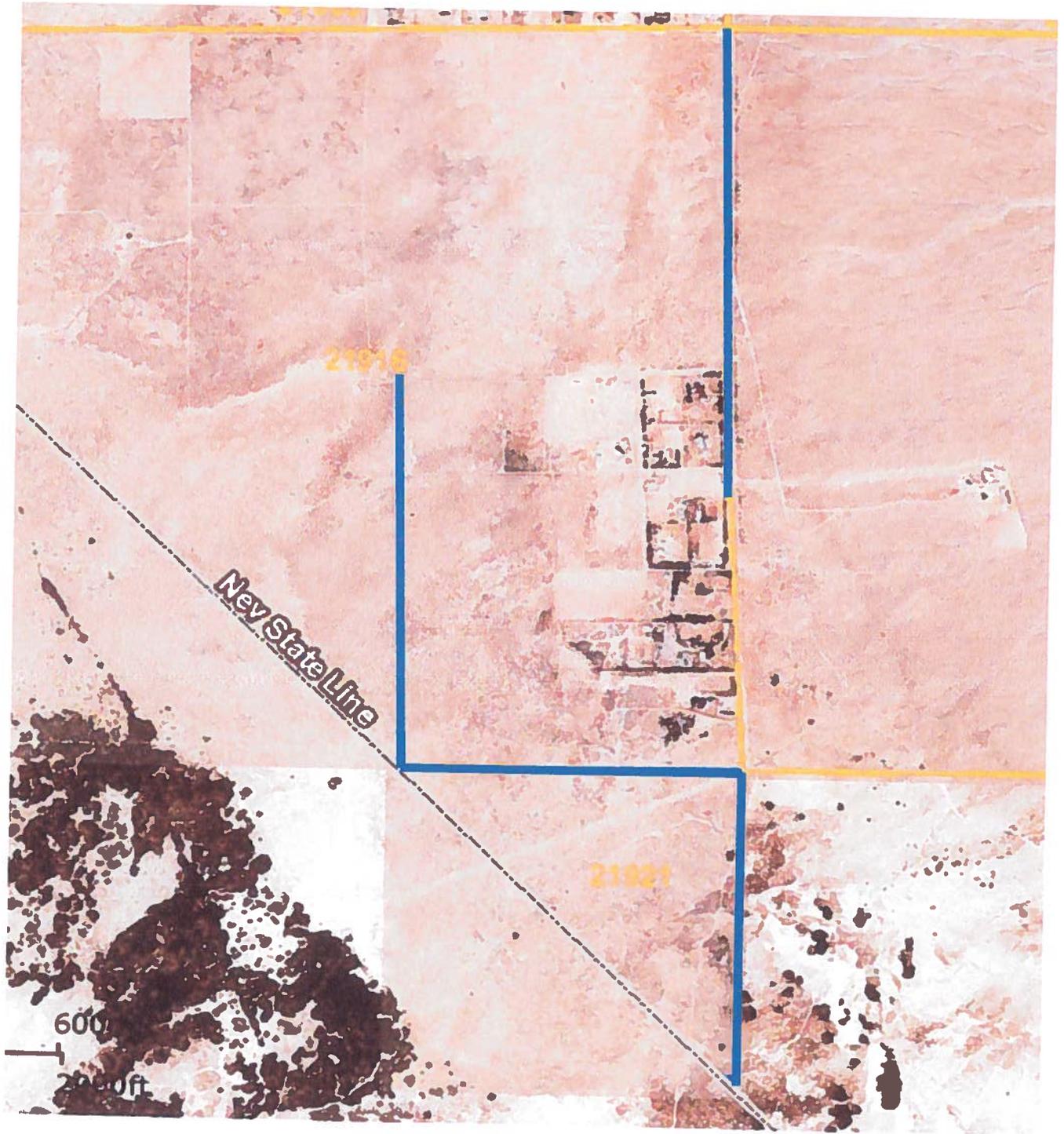


Exhibit B

N-91778

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