

# **Environmental Assessment**

## **Lone Mountain Community Pit Competitive Sale**

**Prepared by**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

,

This page intentionally  
left blank

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Identifying Information: .....	1
1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project: .....	1
1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action: .....	1
1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office: .....	1
1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number: .....	1
1.1.5. Applicant Name: .....	1
1.2. Purpose and Need for Action: .....	1
1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues: .....	2
<b>2. Proposed Action and Alternatives .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1. Description of the Proposed Action: .....	5
2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail: .....	7
2.2.1. No Action Alternative .....	7
2.3. Conformance .....	7
<b>3. Affected Environment: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1. Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species .....	14
3.2. Migratory Birds .....	16
3.3. Soil .....	16
3.3.1. Soils .....	16
3.3.2. Erosion .....	16
3.4. Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Animal Species .....	17
3.5. Water Resources .....	17
3.6. Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species .....	17
3.6.1. BLM Special Status Plant Species .....	17
<b>4. Environmental Effects: .....</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1. Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species .....	21
4.1.1. Proposed Action .....	21
4.1.1.1. BLM Sensitive Species .....	21
4.1.2. Mitigation Measures .....	22
4.1.3. ‘No Action’ Alternative .....	22
4.1.4. Cumulative Effects .....	22
4.2. Migratory Birds .....	22
4.2.1. Proposed Action .....	22
4.2.2. Mitigation Measures .....	23
4.2.3. ‘No Action’ Alternative .....	23
4.2.4. Cumulative Effects .....	23
4.3. Soil .....	23

4.3.1. Proposed Action .....	23
4.3.2. Mitigation Measures .....	23
4.3.3. 'No Action' Alternative .....	24
4.3.4. Cumulative Effects .....	24
4.4. Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Animal Species .....	24
4.4.1. Proposed Action .....	24
4.4.2. Mitigation Measures .....	24
4.4.3. 'No Action' Alternative .....	25
4.4.4. Cumulative Effects .....	25
4.5. Water Resources .....	25
4.5.1. Proposed Action .....	25
4.5.2. Mitigation Measures .....	25
4.5.3. 'No Action' Alternative .....	25
4.5.4. Cumulative Effects .....	26
4.6. Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species .....	26
4.6.1. Proposed Action .....	26
4.6.2. Mitigation Measures .....	26
4.6.3. 'No Action' Alternative .....	27
4.6.4. Cumulative Effects .....	27
<b>5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted: .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>6. List of Preparers .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Appendix A. City of Las Vegas Comments .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Appendix B. Clark County Department of Public Works Comments .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Appendix C. Identified Mitigation Measures .....</b>	<b>41</b>

**List of Figures**

Figure 2.1. Map illustrating the Lone Mountain Community Pit mine plan boundary and potential contract areas. .... 6

This page intentionally  
left blank

**List of Tables**

Table 3.1. Table showing elements of the affected environment that were considered for the proposed action .....	11
Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted .....	31
Table 6.1. List of Preparers .....	35

This page intentionally  
left blank

# **Chapter 1. Introduction**

This page intentionally  
left blank

## **1.1. Identifying Information:**

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

Title: Lone Mountain Community Pit Competitive Sale

EA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0066-EA

Type of Project: Mineral Material Competitive Sale

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

Located within a portion of the Lone Mountain Community Pit. Generally located in the northwest portion of the Las Vegas Valley. The Lone Mountain Community Pit is bound by the alignments of Alexander Road on the south, Tropical Parkway on the north, Hualapai Way on the east and an easterly boundary of the Red Rock National Conservation Area on the west.

T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 26, E2SWSW, W2SESW

T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 35, W2NW, W2NENW, SWNW, N2NESW, SESW, E2NE, S2SWNE, S2NESE, S2SE

T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 36, SWNW, SWNE, S2NESW, S2SW, SWSE,

T. 20 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 02, N2N2NWNE, N2N2NENW, N2N2N2NWNW, W2W2W2NWNW

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

LLNVS01000

Las Vegas Field Office

4701 N Torrey Pines Drive

Las Vegas, NV 89130

### **1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:**

Case file number N-43006-21

### **1.1.5. Applicant Name:**

LMCP Operators and prospective Operators

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

Six contracts at the Lone Mountain Community Pit (LMCP) expired on August 1, 2014. Per our regulations, an extension up to one year has been issued so the operators can continue operating

until new contracts can be issued. These operators have requested new contracts to replace their existing contracts. Additionally, companies that don't currently operate in the LMCP have requested information on how they can obtain a contract to operate and sell mineral materials from within the LMCP. The BLM has also seen an increase in sales from the LMCP and other areas within Southern Nevada. Due to the increased interest in obtaining contracts in the LMCP and the increased sales, the BLM has decided that it must issue new contracts in the LMCP competitively; that is, the BLM must hold an auction where it will take bids from prospective buyers and award new contracts to the highest bidder.

The multiple-use mission of the BLM includes authorizing and managing activities such as mineral development, energy production and recreation, while conserving natural, historic, cultural and other resources on public lands. The BLMs objective is to meet public needs for use authorizations while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values. The proposed sales from public lands would be in accordance with this objective.

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

This project was scoped internally by BLM specialists regarding issues related to air and water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, floodplains, hydrologic conditions, wetlands/riparian zones, wild and scenic rivers, soils, farmlands, wildlife and vegetation, T&E species, migratory birds, livestock grazing, ROW conflicts, woodland/forestry, visual resources, environmental justice, socio-economics, cultural resources, Native American religious concerns, paleontology, noxious weeds, fuels and fire management, wilderness, ACECs, BLM natural areas, and environmental coordination.

A primary principle of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is a full public disclosure and open public participation in the decision-making process. To support preparation of this Environmental Assessment (EA), the BLM solicited input from the public by publishing this project on the BLMs Land Use Planning and NEPA Registry web page. No public comments were received. The BLM also solicited input from the City of Las Vegas, the Clark County Department of Public Works and the Nevada State Clearing house. We received comments from the City of Las Vegas, the Clark County Department of Public Works and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Those comments have been incorporated into this document and summarized in Chapter 5.

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

This page intentionally  
left blank

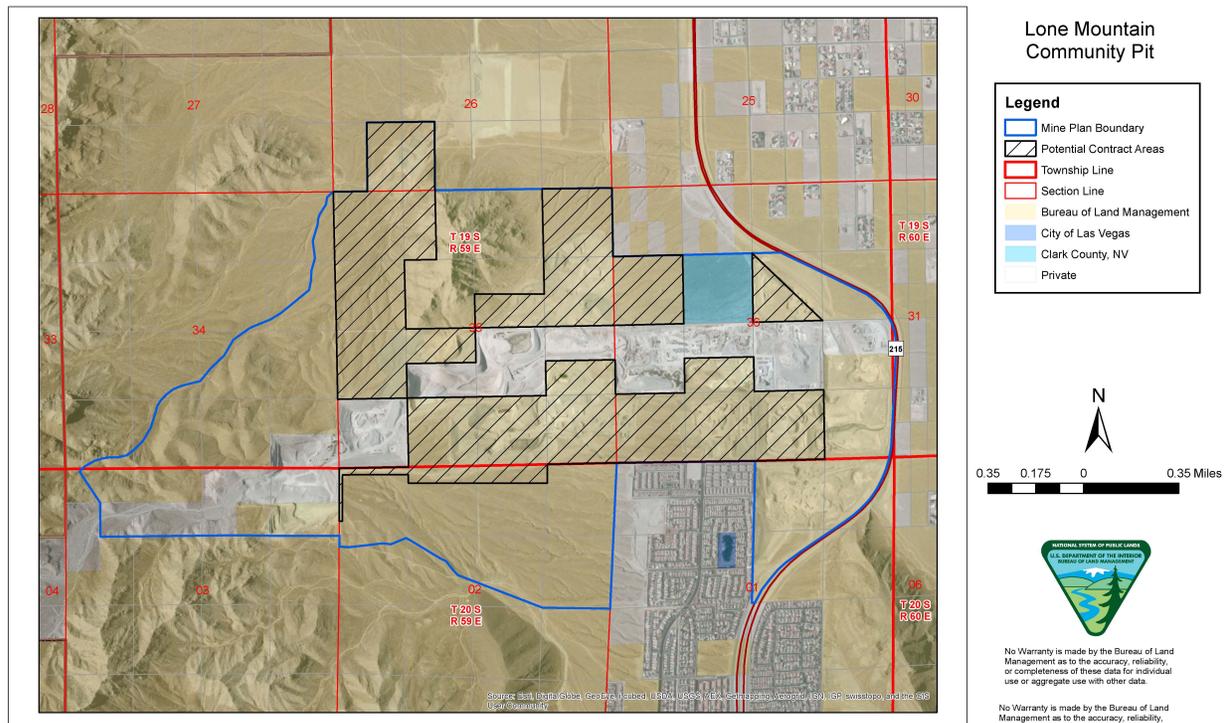
## 2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

Six contracts within the LMCP expired on August 1, 2014. Per our regulations, an extension up to one year has been issued so the operators can continue operating until new contracts can be issued. These operators have requested new contracts to replace their existing contracts. Additionally, companies that don't currently operate in the LMCP have requested information on how they can obtain a contract to operate and sell mineral materials from within the LMCP. The BLM has also seen an increase in sales from the LMCP and other areas within Southern Nevada. Due to the increased interest and increased sales, the BLM must issue new contracts competitively; that is, the BLM must hold an auction where it will take bids from prospective buyers and award new contracts to the highest bidder.

The LMCP is located generally in the northwest portion of the Las Vegas Valley. The LMCP is bound by the alignments of Alexander Road on the south, Tropical Parkway on the north, Hualapai Way on the east and an easterly boundary of the Red Rock National Conservation Area on the west. The sand and gravel being mined from the LMCP includes detritus emanating from the eastern flanks of the Spring Mountains, mostly from the Box Canyon drainage and associated alluvial fan. The bedrock being mined is primarily limestone and dolomite which makes up the eastern edge of the Spring Mountains.

The mined and processed rock, sand and gravel is principally used in asphalt, concrete and as aggregate base. Other uses include drain rock, landscape rock and specialty sands among other things. Rock, sand and gravel from the LMCP has been used for these purposes in Clark County for over 30 years.

Plans are to continue extraction from the LMCP in the current contract areas and to begin sales on new contract areas as needed. The area designated as the LMCP currently incorporates approximately 4,053 acres. The portion of that acreage included in the current mine plan is approximately 1,620 acres (see Figure 2.1; Mine Plan Boundary). The current disturbed area in the LMCP mine plan is approximately 620 acres. The total acreage of the contract areas being considered for competitive sales is approximately 670 acres (see Figure 2.1; Potential Contract Areas). Of that 670 acres, approximately 455 acres is previously disturbed.



**Figure 2.1. Map illustrating the Lone Mountain Community Pit mine plan boundary and potential contract areas.**

Mining is typically accomplished by a bulldozer that rips and pushes the material to a location where a loader feeds it to a crushing and/or screening plant. Mining of the bedrock may include drilling and blasting. When blasting is necessary, all requirements from state and local agencies will be followed. Other equipment that may be within contract areas includes conveyor belts, scrapers, water trucks, scales, portable offices, dump trucks, haul trucks, conex containers, concrete batch plants, asphalt batch plants, etc. Some of the processing equipment, stockpiles and office buildings are partially visible from the surrounding lands, however, operators are required to place equipment on pit floors where possible.

Water is utilized for dust control on active roads, in the active mining area, on stockpiled material and anywhere else fugitive dust could contribute to air quality issues. Operators are required to obtain and maintain all necessary air quality permits.

Reclamation will be carried out by individual site operators to leave sites in a safe and stable condition, not prone to wind and water erosion. It is not intended to return the reclaimed areas to pre-existing vegetation, topographic or other natural conditions. The excavated portions of the pit will not be filled in. All temporary structures, scales, equipment and non-mineral waste will be removed from the BLM material sale sites once mining is completed. The mined areas will be left in a state conducive to future development in accordance with the County and City Land Use Plans. Examples of future use for the mined out portions of the LMCP include detention basins, the re-aligned CC-215, public parks, a trail system, a business park and commercial centers.

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

No alternatives other than the proposed action and the No Action alternative were analyzed.

### **2.2.1. No Action Alternative**

The No Action alternative is an analysis of the impacts of continuing current management and is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action. Under this alternative no competitive sales would take place. Operators would be allowed to continue operating until the maximum one year extension on the existing contracts would run out. The BLM would continue to work toward holding a new sale before the extended contracts expired. If this was not possible many of the sand & gravel mines on BLM lands within the Las Vegas Valley would be closed as operators cannot operate without a valid contract. This would have a negative impact on development and construction throughout the Las Vegas Valley as the sand and gravel generated from the LMCP is used extensively throughout the valley.

The area is open to mineral material removal. While any potentially adverse impacts to a resource related to the proposed action and identified in this EA as having a may effect status could be precluded with the no action alternative, material would need to be transported from a source further away, from a source already in use for other projects or the BLM would need to look for new areas to make available for sand and gravel sales in the Las Vegas Valley. Increased traveling distances required to transport material from off site and any new disturbance created if another site on BLM or private land may create an equal or greater impact. This alternative would be preferred only if undue or unnecessary degradation were shown likely to potentially impact a resource.

### **2.3. Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with federal regulations and BLM policies. The action is in conformance with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (October, 1998), Minerals Management Section, Code MN. Detailed descriptions of the living and non-living environment can also be found in this document. The proposed action is in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures found in Appendix M Volume II for saleable minerals (Mineral Materials) Competitive Mineral Material Contracts.

This page intentionally  
left blank

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

This page intentionally  
left blank

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist below (Table 1). The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described here and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4.

The Proposed Action is located in the Las Vegas Valley in the Mojave Desert region. The region displays typical Basin and Range topography, with steep ranges oriented northeast to southwest interspersed by low valleys. The Las Vegas Valley slopes gently from the north to the south. The Las Vegas Valley is defined by the Desert National Wildlife Range to the north, the Frenchman and River Mountains to the east, the McCullough Mountains to the south, and the Spring Mountains to the west. The Proposed Action is located on detritus emanating from the eastern flanks of the Spring Mountains, mostly from the Box Canyon drainage and associated alluvial fan. The bedrock being mined is primarily limestone and dolomite which makes up the eastern edge of the Spring Mountains. The elevation of the project area is approximately 350 meters higher than that of the lower valley area (1000 meters above sea level). Vegetation primarily consists of low, widely spaced shrubs typical of the Mojave Desert.

**Table 3.1. Table showing elements of the affected environment that were considered for the proposed action**

Supplemental Authority	Not Present	Present/Not Affected	Present/May be Affected	Rationale for Determination
Air Quality		X		Air quality would be impacted by the proposed action during loading, hauling, dumping, and grading of mineral materials. Dust would occur during operating hours. Ensure dust control permit is obtained.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X			The proposed project area is not within an ACEC or any critical desert tortoise habitat.
BLM Natural Areas	X			Resource is not present.
Cultural Resources	X			The area was surveyed in 2007; An Archaeological Survey of Lands Associated with the Lone Mountain Community Gravel Pit Expansion Master Plan, Clark County, Nevada. No cultural resources were found to be present. In the event of an inadvertent discovery BLM Cultural staff should be notified.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		X		Currently there are no emission limits for suspected Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and no technically defensible methodology for predicting potential climate changes from GHG emissions. However, there are, and will continue to be, several efforts to address GHG emissions from federal activities, including BLM authorized uses.
Environmental Justice	X			No low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately affected by the proposed action.
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	X			There are no prime or unique farmland designations in the District.

Supplemental Authority	Not Present	Present/Not Affected	Present/May be Affected	Rationale for Determination
Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFWS Designated Species			X	See analysis below.
Floodplains	X			This project is located within the Las Vegas Valley and Clark County Regional Flood Control District responsible for flood control. This project is located outside of FEMA designated floodplain.
Fuels/Fire Management		X		Operators must comply with fire restrictions.
Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production		X		This is a mineral resource sale analysis.
Hydrologic Conditions		X		No impacts to local hydrologic conditions.
Invasive Species/ Noxious Weeds		X		To mitigate the spread of established weeds and reduce the risk of new establishment, the proponents must adhere to all BLM Weed Stipulations for Community Sand and Gravel Pit Operations as well as standard BMP's throughout project actions.
Lands/Access		X		No impact is expected.
Livestock Grazing	X			There are no active grazing allotments in the project area.
Migratory Birds			X	See analysis below.
Native American Religious Concerns	X			Given consultations/coordination for the development of the Lone Mountain Community Gravel Pit Expansion Master Plan and other actions in the area, there have not been any Native American issues/concerns that have been identified in relation to the project-specific area.
Paleontology	X			No fossil-bearing geological strata will be adversely affected by the undertaking as proposed.
Rangeland Health Standards	X			The project area is located within the Las Vegas Valley metropolitan area. No impacts to range land health expected.
Recreation	X			No recreation or access issues are present in the mining area.
Socio-Economics		X		The current Proposed Action would exist within existing pit area. Changes to current social values would be unlikely. The Proposed Action may provide economic benefit to the proponents and related businesses, but not to a degree that analysis would be required.
Soils			X	See analysis below.
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	X			Based on the habitat and known distribution, federally listed plant species are not expected to be present in or adjacent to the proposed project.

Supplemental Authority	Not Present	Present/Not Affected	Present/May be Affected	Rationale for Determination
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species			X	See analysis below.
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	X			Not present.
Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)			X	See analysis below.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	X			No permanent surface waters or wetlands exist in or near the project area.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X			No eligible, suitable or designated rivers are present.
Wilderness/WSA	X			Not within designated Wilderness, WSAs/ISAs.
Woodland/Forestry		X		The proposed action is within a high density area for cactus and yucca. Cactus and yucca are considered government property and are regulated under the Nevada BLM forestry program. Cactus and yucca present shall be salvaged using a contractor with at least three years experience salvaging cactus and yucca plants in the Mojave desert. The plants will be translocated to the Ann Road Stockpile prior to surface disturbance. If surface disturbance is scheduled between April and September-the contractor will be required to water the salvage plants weekly until September 30. Contact the BLM botanist for information regarding the stockpile location.
Vegetation Excluding USFWS Designated Species			X	See analysis below.
Visual Resources		X		The proposed project location is within VRM Class III – The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. This project will not negatively affect the visual character of the area.
Wild Horses and Burros		X		The proposed action is near the Red Rock Herd Management Area, however due to the specific location of this project there will be no impacts to wild horses or burros.
Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	X			There are no lands with wilderness characteristics designations within the Field Office.

### 3.1. Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species

The proposed project area supports wildlife characteristic of the Mojave Desert. Biological diversity varies according to topography, plant community, and proximity to water, soil type, and season.

Several 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*), and western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*).

Bird species that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza quinquestriata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*).

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 SPECIES

BLM sensitive species are species that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under the Endangered Species Act (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: peregrine falcon, western burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, LeConte's thrasher, bighorn sheep, chuckwalla, banded Gila monster, Mojave shovel-nosed snake, desert glossy snake, and Mojave Desert sidewinder.

#### Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Formerly listed as endangered under the ESA, the peregrine falcon was delisted in 1999. This raptor is a permanent resident in southern Nevada and current population trend for this falcon is increasing. Habitat generally involves areas near open water, desert scrub, and marshes, all of which are usually in close association with suitable nesting cliffs. Mountains, open forested regions, and human populated areas with tall structures can also be used as habitat. Nesting in Nevada has occurred on ledges or holes on faces of rocky cliffs or crags and ledges of city high-rise buildings. Peregrine Falcons have been observed within the La Madre/Lone Mountain Trails Complex area of the Red Rock Canyon NCA to the south of the project area. The project area contains potential foraging habitat for the species.

#### Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)

The Western burrowing owl is a diurnal bird of prey specialized for grassland and shrubsteppe habitats in western North America. The owls are widely distributed throughout the Americas and can be found from central Alberta, Canada to Tierra del Fuego in South America. Burrowing owl habitat typically consists of open, dry, treeless areas on plains, prairies, and desert floors. Burrowing owls most frequently use mammal burrows created by other animals such as prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.), ground squirrels (*Spermophilus* spp.), coyotes (*Canis latrans*) or desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*). The burrows are used for nesting, roosting, cover, and caching

*Chapter 3 Affected Environment:*

*Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species*

prey. In recent decades, the range and species count have been declining primarily due to agricultural, industrial, and urban development that reduce burrow availability.

#### Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

This species prefers open country with nesting habitat preference towards scattered trees and shrubs. They are commonly found in shrub habitat types comprising savanna, desert scrub and occasionally, open woodland. Perches are an important habitat component used for hunting. If natural perches are unavailable they will perch on poles, wires or fenceposts.

#### LeConte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*)

LeConte's thrasher is a year-round resident in the Mojave Desert of southern Nevada. In Nevada, they are associated with saltbush flats and wash systems and nest in cholla cactus, sagebrush, small trees or shrubs. This species prefers open habitats for foraging with sparse vegetation for cover and is a good indicator of habitat quality.

#### Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*)

The desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) is a species of management concern that is found mainly along desert mountain ranges in Nevada and California to west Texas and south into Mexico. Bighorn sheep are gregarious, sometimes forming herds of over 100 individuals, but small groups of 8-10 are more common. Mature males usually stay apart from females and young for most of the year in separate bachelor herds. They usually migrate seasonally, using larger upland areas in the summer and concentrating in sheltered valleys during the winter. The project is approximately one mile from Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) delineated desert bighorn sheep habitat in the La Madre Mountain area and thus bighorn sheep may occasionally use or cross the project area.

#### Banded Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*)

The Gila monster is a large, heavy-bodied lizard with a massive head, a short thick tail, and short limbs with strong claws. It has flamboyant dorsal coloration of black and pink, orange, or yellow and occasionally exceeds 50 centimeters (19.7 inches) in total length. The Gila monster's range includes extreme southwestern Utah, southern Nevada, and adjacent southeastern California south through southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and much of Sonora to Sinaloa, Mexico. Its habitat includes Mojave and Sonoran desert scrub, desert grassland, thorn scrub, and occasionally pine-oak woodland. Threats to this reptile include illegal collection, traffic fatalities, and most severe is habitat destruction from urban and agricultural development. Gila monsters have been documented near the project area in the past by NDOW.

#### Western chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*)

The western chuckwalla is a BLM sensitive species that is found throughout the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Chuckwallas inhabit rocky outcrops where cover is available between boulders or in rock crevices, typically on slopes and open flats below 5,000 feet. Typical habitat includes rocky hillsides and talus slopes, boulder piles, lava bed, or other clusters of rock, usually in association Mojave Desert Shrub vegetation. This species requires shady, well-drained soils for nests. The chuckwalla is a widespread species, but is regionally limited by its requirement for rock outcrops. Chuckwallas likely occur within the project area, but would be localized on rock outcroppings.

### Mojave shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis occipitalis*)

The Mojave shovel-nosed snake is a burrowing, nocturnal snake frequenting washes, dunes, sandy flats, loose soil, and rocky hillsides in sandy gullies or pockets among the rocks throughout the Mojave Desert.

### Desert glossy snake (*Arizona elegans*)

The desert glossy snake is a burrowing, nocturnal snake that occurs in a variety of habitat throughout the Mojave Desert including light shrubby to barren desert, glasslands and woodlands. The desert glossy snake generally prefers open areas where the ground is sandy to loamy.

### Mojave Desert Sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes cerastes*)

The Mojave Desert sidewinder is a nocturnal snake hiding in the day in animal burrows or coiled camouflaged in a shallow self-made pit at the base of a shrub. This species is most common where there are sand hummocks topped with creosote bushes, mesquite, or other desert plants but may also occur on flats, barren dunes, hardpan, and rocky hillsides.

## 3.2. Migratory Birds

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) and subsequent amendments (16 U.S.C. 703-711), it is unlawful to take, kill, or possess migratory birds. A list of the protected bird species can be found in 50 C.F.R. §10.13. The list of birds protected under this regulation is extensive and the project site has potential to support many of these species, including the BLM sensitive species the western burrowing owl. Typically, the breeding season is when these species are most sensitive to disturbance, which generally occurs from February 15th through August 31st.

## 3.3. Soil

### 3.3.1. Soils

Specific information on the soils in the project area is contained in existing data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 2006 Soil Survey of Clark County Area, Nevada.

### 3.3.2. Erosion

Water erodibility of the soil in the area is classified as slight, moderate, severe, or very severe. A rating of "slight" indicates that erosion is unlikely under ordinary climatic conditions; "moderate" indicates that some erosion is likely and that erosion-control measures may be needed; "severe" indicates that erosion is very likely and that erosion control measures, including revegetation of bare areas, are advised; and "very severe" indicates that significant erosion is expected, loss of soil productivity and off-site damage are likely, and erosion control measures are costly and generally impractical (NRCS 2010).

### 3.4. Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Animal Species

Threatened and endangered species are placed on a federal list by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and receive protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The only T&E species known to occur in the vicinity of the project area is the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*).

In the Mojave region, the desert tortoise occurs primarily on flats and bajadas with soils ranging from sand to sandy-gravel characterized by scattered shrubs and abundant inter-shrub space for herbaceous plant growth. They are also found on rocky terrain and slopes. A biological survey was conducted by PBS&J in 2007 as part of an assessment of the entire Lone Mountain Community Pit plan area. That survey found 5 tortoise burrows within the current proposed project area. Several live tortoise and numerous other tortoise burrows were found in areas neighboring the proposed project area.

### 3.5. Water Resources

Desert washes, which are the typical in the Mojave Desert region, are braided in plan view. These streams flow only intermittently during seasonal precipitation events, are unstable, and can migrate laterally during significant runoff. Water in this area commonly flows into the Colorado River. Dry washes can also carry destructive bedloads (boulders and gravels) during rain events.

Geologically, the Proposed Project site is located on an alluvial fan lobes that form large, cone-shaped, sedimentary deposits. This is a common depositional environment in this area. Most of Proposed Project area is on an alluvial fan that have originated from significant amounts of flowing water carrying, and subsequently depositing, sediments across their entire extent during their lifespan. The hydrologic processes that occur on alluvial fans can be random and difficult to model. Sediments, which can range from clay to large boulders, are transported across alluvial fans by water in desert washes, debris flows, and sheet floods. Flood events on alluvial fans in arid climates are triggered by significant storms. Specific to the Mojave Desert region, these would include the random summer cloud bursts that occur infrequently but can supply a large amount of water to a localized area, or a larger storm such as a tropical storm that occurs on a 100-year time scale.

### 3.6. Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species

#### 3.6.1. BLM Special Status Plant Species

BLM special status plant 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 yellow two-tone beardtongue is a BLM sensitive plant species known to occur within the Proposed Project area.

Yellow Two-tone Beardtongue (*Penstemon bicolor ssp. bicolor*)

The yellow two-tone beardtongue is restricted to western Clark County, Nevada including the western Las Vegas Valley, RRCNCA and the McCullough Mountains (Glennie 2003). The yellow two-tone beardtongue, and the closely related rosy two-tone beardtongue (*Penstemon bicolor ssp. roseus*), are short lived perennial herbs that reproduce from seed. All known sites are surrounded

by Sonora-Mojave Creosotebush-White Bursage Desert Scrub and Mojave Mid-Elevation Mixed Desert Scrub. Both sub species are generally restricted to naturally and artificially disturbed, often calcareous, moisture accumulating sites such as washes, roadsides, rocky slopes, crevices and talus between, 1800 and 5480 feet elevation (Smith 2005). As an important survival strategy, yellow two-tone beardtongue can persist in the soil seed bank for many years before germinating; therefore, a single survey may not accurately determine the species presence or absence. The historic distribution of the yellow two-tone beardtongue includes 43 recorded occurrences (Glenné 2003). Since 2003, 11 of the recorded occurrences within the BLM Las Vegas Valley disposal boundary have been developed. Based on a survey of the Lone Mountain Community Pit Area completed by PBS&J in 2007 and a subsequent survey by BLM staff, Fred Edwards (botanist) and Evan Allen, completed in May 2014 the yellow two toned beardtongue (*Penstemon bicolor* ssp *bicolor*) is present in one of the parcels proposed for mineral materials sale.

# **Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:**

This page intentionally  
left blank

## **4.1. Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species**

### **4.1.1. Proposed Action**

Wildlife species in the general area may be adversely but not significantly affected as lands are disturbed within the project area. The primary direct impacts of the proposed action on wildlife would be killing or maiming of ground dwelling animals and less mobile species (such as reptiles) during construction, displacement of individuals, the loss and fragmentation of habitat and increased potential for illegal kills and harassments of wildlife. Displacing animals into neighboring habitats may lead to increased competition with resident individuals in the those areas. Additional impacts associated with the mortality from vehicular traffic may also be realized upon the completion of construction and subsequent use of the project area. Most 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 not have significant impacts on populations of the species throughout the region.

#### **4.1.1.1. BLM Sensitive Species**

##### **4.1.1.1.1. Peregrine Falcon**

The project is not expected to lead to any loss of suitable nest locations for the Peregrine Falcon. The project could result in the loss of some foraging habitat and the localized decline in their prey base. These losses, though, are not expected to lead to a decline in their population in the region.

##### **4.1.1.1.2. Western Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, LeConte's Thrasher**

The direct impacts of the proposed action on these bird species would be loss of nesting habitat and forage, mortality and harassment of individual animals, and decrease in habitat value of adjacent remaining "wildland" areas due to increased human activity in the area. The species are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the proponent will be required to adhere to mitigation measures for migratory birds.

##### **4.1.1.1.3. Banded Gila Monster and Western Chuckwalla**

The direct impacts of the proposed action on western chuckwalla and Gila monster would be loss of habitat, mortality and harassment of individual animals if they wander into the area of activity, and decrease in habitat value of adjacent remaining "wildland" areas due to increased human activity in the area. These impacts, though, are not anticipated to cause significant effects to the species as a whole. The Gila monster is a Nevada state protected species.

##### **4.1.1.1.4. Desert Bighorn Sheep**

The project area is near NDOW delineated bighorn sheep habitat and bighorn have historically been known to occur in the general project area. Disturbance of currently undisturbed portions of the community pit could lead to loss of potential foraging habitat for the bighorn sheep herds in the La Madre Mountain area. Desert bighorn sheep may be disturbed by vehicles operating

adjacent to their habitat. Animals may seek cover on steep slopes and ridges to avoid vehicular activity and associated noise pollution. Use of explosives may startle sheep occupying adjacent areas. Solitude dependent species, such as the bighorn sheep, may abandon the area if human activities reduce the quality of their habitat but sheep in other areas of the field office are known to co-exist with mining activities.

### **4.1.2. Mitigation Measures**

1. The proponent will adhere to mitigation measures for migratory birds.
2. See attached protocols for removal of Gila monsters from construction sites if any are encountered

### **4.1.3. ‘No Action’ Alternative**

Under this alternative the existing contracts would be extended. Operators would still have the opportunity to expand their existing operations into undisturbed lands within their contract area provided they followed the mitigation measures. If new contracts in the LMCP weren't offered operators would most likely seek new areas to mine whether it be on BLM or private. Potential for new disturbance still exists under this alternative.

### **4.1.4. Cumulative Effects**

BLM will continue to dispose of lands as outlined in the 1998 RMP. As the development of the Las Vegas Valley continues, so does the cumulative loss of desert tortoise habitat. Continued infrastructure construction creates physical barriers to tortoise movements and gene dispersal. Desert tortoise habitat would continue to be fragmented, reduced in quality, and quantity. Banded Gila monster, western burrowing owl, and other special status wildlife species habitat will likely continue to be lost in the Valley as BLM land is disposed of and as associated rights-of-way are granted as well as leases authorized under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act.

Banded Gila monster, western burrowing owl, and other special status wildlife species habitat occurs in Nevada outside the Las Vegas Valley but mainly within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and National Conservation Areas in Nevada, as well as within Valley of Fire State Park, thereby receiving a greater level of protection from future threats. Therefore, the loss of such habitat in the Las Vegas Valley would not result in a critical reduction of habitat for these species.

## **4.2. Migratory Birds**

### **4.2.1. Proposed Action**

Migratory birds, including BLM sensitive species, may be present affected on the project site. Migratory birds would be displaced as lands are disturbed within the project area. The primary direct impacts of the proposed action on birds would be killing or maiming of ground dwelling birds during construction, displacement of individuals, the loss and fragmentation of habitat and increased potential for illegal kills and harassments of birds. Additional impacts associated with the mortality from vehicular traffic may also be realized upon the completion of construction and subsequent use of the project area. Migratory birds are especially affected during the breeding

season. The proponents must comply with the MBTA and avoid potential impacts to protected birds within the project area.

### **4.2.2. Mitigation Measures**

To minimize the effect this project has on migratory birds the proponents will be required to adhere to the following mitigation measures:

1. To prevent undue harm, habitat-altering projects or portions of projects should be scheduled outside bird breeding season. In upland desert habitats and ephemeral washes containing upland species, the season generally occurs between February 15th and August 31st.
2. If a project that may alter any breeding habitat has to occur during the breeding season, then a qualified biologist must survey the area for nests prior to commencement of construction activities. This shall include burrowing and ground nesting species in addition to those nesting in vegetation. If any active nests (containing eggs or young) are found, an appropriately-sized buffer area must be avoided until the young birds fledge.

### **4.2.3. ‘No Action’ Alternative**

Under this alternative the existing contracts would be extended. Operators would still have the opportunity to expand their existing operations into undisturbed lands within their contract area provided they followed the mitigation measures. If new contracts in the LMCP weren't offered operators would most likely seek new areas to mine whether it be on BLM or private. Potential for new disturbance exists under this alternative.

### **4.2.4. Cumulative Effects**

The Las Vegas Valley is not likely to contain the majority of any migratory bird species' population due to existing development and high human disturbance. The loss of 210 acres of habitat would represent a negligible loss of the 4,900 square miles of similar habitat estimated to occur in Clark County; therefore, it is expected that the proposed action will result in minimal contribution to migratory bird population declines.

## **4.3. Soil**

### **4.3.1. Proposed Action**

The disturbance associated with the site may increase erosion on and off-site, thereby increasing sediment loads in surface runoff, altering the discharge and retention rates of water and change the velocity of water moving through the system. This could result in the degradation of surface water quality.

### **4.3.2. Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures include implementation of best management practices during soil removal and dust suppression measures in conformance with the dust permit required by the Department of

Air Quality Management. The top six inches of topsoil would be stockpiled to salvage the native seedbank, biological soil crust components, and soil microbial organisms that would be replaced during reclamation. Stockpiled topsoil would be vulnerable to wind and water erosion, and would need to be protected by large rocks or fill, or stabilized by a wood fiber tackifier or straw matting.

### **4.3.3. ‘No Action’ Alternative**

Under this alternative the existing contracts would be extended. Operators would still have the opportunity to expand their existing operations into undisturbed lands within their contract area provided they followed the mitigation measures. If new contracts in the LMCP weren’t offered operators would most likely seek new areas to mine whether it be on BLM or private. Potential for new disturbance exists under this alternative.

### **4.3.4. Cumulative Effects**

The proposed project, construction projects in the area and associated roads, will change hydrologic patterns to elicit cumulative effects. These alterations will initiate the following cumulative effects in the watershed:

1. changes in sediment transport
2. alteration of discharge and retention rates of water
3. changes in velocity of water moving through the system

## **4.4. Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Animal Species**

### **4.4.1. Proposed Action**

This project lies within the Las Vegas Valley programmatic area. The project site falls within low density tortoise habitat. Of the overall 670 acres, this project will disturb a total of 210 acres of tortoise habitat that is currently undisturbed. Because tortoise sign has been found in the vicinity and undisturbed habitat exists in the area, there is potential for tortoises to wander into the project area. If not noticed and avoided during construction, desert tortoises could be either injured or killed (by crushing) or harassed (by being moved out of harm’s way).

The above action has a may affect determination for the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). This project will have no affect on any other federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Section 7 Consultation for this project is covered under the Request to Append a Proposed Mineral Material Sale in the LMCP to the Programmatic Biological Opinion and Conference Opinions for proposed Actions within the Las Vegas Valley, Clark County, Nevada (1-5-96-F-023R3.APD18) and is contingent on compliance with the attached terms and conditions.

### **4.4.2. Mitigation Measures**

Each contract area must have tortoise fencing installed by the proponent. The BLM wildlife biologist and geologist will work with the proponent to identify which areas, if any, will not need fencing due to existing barriers to tortoise movement such as steep cliffs. The proponent

is required to have an authorized biologist survey the fence alignment and work areas before fence construction and the enclosed area cleared of tortoise before the start of sand and gravel operations. If tortoises are encountered they must be moved out of harm's way as described in the terms and conditions. Proponents are also required to pay remuneration fees as described in the terms and conditions.

#### **4.4.3. 'No Action' Alternative**

Under this alternative the existing contracts would be extended. Operators would still have the opportunity to expand there existing operations into undisturbed lands within their contract area provided they followed the mitigation measures. If new contracts in the LMCP weren't offered operators would most likely seek new areas to mine whether it be on BLM or private. Potential for new disturbance exists under this alternative.

#### **4.4.4. Cumulative Effects**

No cumulative effects where identified.

### **4.5. Water Resources**

#### **4.5.1. Proposed Action**

The disturbance associated with the site may increase erosion on and off-site, thereby increasing sediment loads in surface runoff, altering the discharge and retention rates of water and change the velocity of water moving through the system. This could result in the degradation of surface water quality.

#### **4.5.2. Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures include implementation of best management practices during soil removal and dust suppression measures in conformance with the dust permit required by the Department of Air Quality Management. The top six inches of topsoil would be stockpiled to salvage the native seedbank, biological soil crust components, and soil microbial organisms that would be replaced during reclamation. Stockpiled topsoil would be vulnerable to wind and water erosion, and would need to be protected by large rocks or fill, or stabilized by a wood fiber tackifier or straw matting.

#### **4.5.3. 'No Action' Alternative**

Under this alternative the existing contracts would be extended. Operators would still have the opportunity to expand there existing operations into undisturbed lands within their contract area provided they followed the mitigation measures. If new contracts in the LMCP weren't offered operators would most likely seek new areas to mine whether it be on BLM or private. Potential for new disturbance exists under this alternative.

#### **4.5.4. Cumulative Effects**

The proposed project, construction projects in the area and associated roads, will change hydrologic patterns to elicit cumulative effects. These alterations will initiate the following cumulative effects in the watershed:

1. changes in sediment transport
2. alteration of discharge and retention rates of water
3. changes in velocity of water moving through the system

#### **4.6. Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species**

##### **4.6.1. Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action would directly and indirectly impact one out of 32 known population occurrences of yellow two-tone beardtongue habitat in Red Rock National Conservation Area and the Western Las Vegas Valley. The 2014 survey identified a population of 35 individual plants within the parcel located at the E2SWSW and W2SESW of T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 26. On the affected parcel mineral materials mining would result in the removal of all plants and soil containing seed of the species (soil seed bank). Following mining, the site could be developed as a commercial industrial site or residential community so reclamation may not take place. The population is located in disturbed habitat adjacent to a pit that was partially mined and has been used as an illegal trash dump and staging area for OHV activity.

On site conservation is not desirable due to the previous disturbance and current condition. Under these circumstances, off site mitigation, consistent with BLM Draft MS 1794-Regional Mitigation Manual, would better achieve BLM special status plant management needs. The removal of plants and the soil seed bank would lead to extinction of the local population. The loss of genetic diversity associated with local population extinction is a major threat to most rare plant species, including the yellow two toned beardtongue.

Offsite conservation will benefit the species and public by conserving genetic diversity. Seed from the species would be available for future conservation efforts by BLM and other federal agencies. In addition, the introduction of Palmers penstemon (*Penstemon palmeri*) to the area and hybridization with yellow two toned beardtongue, now threatens to erode the genetic integrity of many of the population occurrences. Offsite conservation would help address this threat by providing seed for genetic analysis and conserving seed in case it is needed to reestablish populations. Mineral materials sale of the remaining parcels would not impact the yellow two toned beardtongue because the species was not encountered during 2007 and 2014 surveys and they are not suitable habitat.

##### **4.6.2. Mitigation Measures**

Mineral Materials mining of the parcel located at the E2SWSW and W2SESW of T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 26 will not occur until yellow two toned beardtongue seed has been collected for at least three growing seasons or sooner if authorized by the BLM botanist.

BLM will place \$10,000 into an agreement with the Center for Plant Conservation, to provide for offsite mitigation of the Yellow two toned beardtongue through the National Collection of Endangered Plants.

### **4.6.3. ‘No Action’ Alternative**

Under this alternative the existing contracts would be extended. Operators would still have the opportunity to expand there existing operations into undisturbed lands within their contract area provided they followed the mitigation measures. If new contracts in the LMCP weren’t offered operators would most likely seek new areas to mine whether it be on BLM or private. Potential for new disturbance exists under this alternative.

### **4.6.4. Cumulative Effects**

The proposed project would contribute incrementally to cumulative impacts to yellow two toned beardtongue and its habitat. Reasonably foreseeable actions that will result in the loss of yellow two toned beardtongue population occurrences and habitat include: land disposals, issuance of recreation and public purpose leases and right of way authorizations in the western Las Vegas valley, proposed construction of two low water crossings in Red Rock National Conservation Area, and implementation of herbicide applications to create fuel breaks in Red Rock National Conservation Area.

This page intentionally  
left blank

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

This page intentionally  
left blank

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

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Robin Yoakum	City of Las Vegas Administrator	Requested that we only enter into 2 year contracts on the lands in which the City has a SNPLMA Reservation and requested that we obtain concurrence for any renewals. They also requested that excavation be to a depth no lower than two feet above the adjacent Clark County School District Bus Yard elevation (see Appendix A). The requested conditions will be written into the stipulations for any contracts issued at the subject location.
D. Bradford Hardenbrook	Nevada Department of Wildlife, Southern Region	Provided comments about document format with a focus on Wildlife. Changes where made where appropriate.
Denis Cederburg	Clark County Department of Public Works	Provided comments with respect to the Western Clark County 215 realignment. The County requests that we exclude certain areas from our proposed contract areas. This will ensure that there are no contract areas within the right of way for the 215 realignment and temporary construction areas (see Appendix B). The requested exclusions will be made.

This page intentionally  
left blank

# **Chapter 6. List of Preparers**

This page intentionally  
left blank

**Table 6.1. List of Preparers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document</b>
Evan Allen	Lead Geologist	Authoring Document, Geology/Mineral Resources/Energy Production
Lisa Christianson	Environmental Protection Specialist	Air Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Wastes
Mathew Hamilton	Project Manager	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species, Migratory Birds, Threatened or Endangered or Candidate Animal Species
Sendi Kalcic	Wilderness Planner	BLM Natural Areas, Wilderness/WSA, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Stan Plum	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Paleontology
Susan Farkas	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Socio-Economics
Krystal Johnson	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	Farmlands, Wild Horses and Burros
Boris Poff	Hydrologist	Floodplains, Hydrologic Conditions, Soils, Water Resources/Quality, Wetland/Riparian Zones
Ben Klink	Natural Resource Specialist	Fuels/Fire Management, Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Kerri-Anne Thorpe	Realty Specialist	Lands/Access
Fred Edwards	Botanist	Livestock Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards, Threatened or Endangered or Candidate Plant Species, Woodland/Forestry, Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species
Marilyn Peterson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers
Chris Linehan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources

This page intentionally  
left blank

# Appendix A. City of Las Vegas Comments



LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL

CAROLYN G. GOODMAN  
MAYOR

STAVROS S. ANTHONY  
MAYOR PRO TEM

LOIS TARKANIAN  
STEVEN D. ROSS  
RICKI Y. BARLOW  
BOB COFFIN  
BOB BEERS

ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL  
CITY MANAGER

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE  
DIRECTOR  
LARRY HAUGSNESS

CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES CENTER  
333 N. RANCHO DR.  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

VOICE 702.229.1030  
FAX 702.382.0848  
TTY 702.386.9108  
www.lasvegasnevada.gov

April 28, 2014

Shonna Dooman, Assistant Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines, Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

RE: Pit Operator within City of Las Vegas BLM SNPLMA Reservation  
(a portion of 126-36-201-003)

Dear Ms. Dooman:

The City of Las Vegas (City) holds a BLM SNPLMA Reservation on Assessor's Parcel Number 126-36-201-003. I have attached a copy of the City's SNPLMA Reservation submittal for your reference. Also attached is an aerial, Master Title Plat and Assessor's Parcel Map.

The BLM has expressed an interest in placing a pit operator on a 40 acre portion of this parcel, legally described as:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada  
T. 19 S., R. 59 E., sec. 36  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Containing approximately 40 acres.

The City will agree to that request as long as the following is acceptable to the BLM:

1. The contract by the BLM will be issued for no more than two years in case the City obtains funding for a project on that site.
2. If the operator wants to renew the contract, prior to issuance, the BLM will to come to the City for concurrence of the renewal.
3. The excavation of materials should be no lower than two feet above the adjacent CCSD Bus Yard.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robin Yoakum, Administrator  
Real Estate

RY:rlr

2014 APR 29 AM 8:06  
RECEIVED  
SOUTHERN NEVADA  
DISTRICT OFFICE

FM-0443-04-12



This page intentionally  
left blank

# Appendix B. Clark County Department of Public Works Comments

## Department of Public Works



500 S Grand Central Pky • Box 554000 • Las Vegas NV 89155-4000  
(702) 455-6000 • Fax (702) 455-6040

Denis Cederburg, P.E., Director • E-Mail: [dic@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:dic@ClarkCountyNV.gov)



October 8, 2014

Ms. Shonna Dooman, Assistant Field Manager  
United States Department of the Interior  
Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

**WESTERN CLARK COUNTY 215 BRUCE WOODBURY BELTWAY – CRAIG ROAD TO HUALAPAI WAY  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT N-43006-21 3600 (NVS0053)**

Dear Ms. Dooman:

I am writing in response to your notice of mineral material sale pertaining to several sites in the area of the Lone Mountain Community Pit.

Enclosed please find a marked-up version of the exhibit you included with your letter dated September 8, 2014. This exhibit indicates those areas that we plan to utilize in the construction of the Western Clark County 215 Bruce Woodbury Beltway between Craig Road and Hualapai Way. One of the locations, a portion of the SW ¼, NE ¼, of Section 36, Township 19 South, Range 59 East, will be temporarily impacted during construction, and an area 50 feet in width along the northeastern boundary is necessary. The Beltway through this area will be depressed with a trail along the west side cut into the embankment. The area is required to slope the embankment off the trail.

Another location, the SW ¼, SE ¼ of Section 36, Township 19 South, Range 59 East, is also required as a temporary construction area. The area is proposed as a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stockpile for the material removed within the BLM right-of-way grant during construction of the Beltway improvements, primarily in depressing the Beltway mainlines.

The final location is a very small portion of the S ½, SE ¼, SW ¼ of Section 36, Township 19 South, Range 59 East. An area approximately 75 feet in width is needed as a permanent grant to complete the transition of Lone Mountain Road.

For reasons outlined above, Clark County respectfully requests BLM remove the following locations from mineral competitive sales:

LOCATIONS

**Township 19 South, Range 59 East, Section 36, SWNE, S2SESW, SWSE**

Should you have questions regarding this request, please contact Mona Stammetti at (702) 455-6077 or via email [monas@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:monas@ClarkCountyNV.gov).

Best Regards,



Denis Cederburg  
Director of Public Works

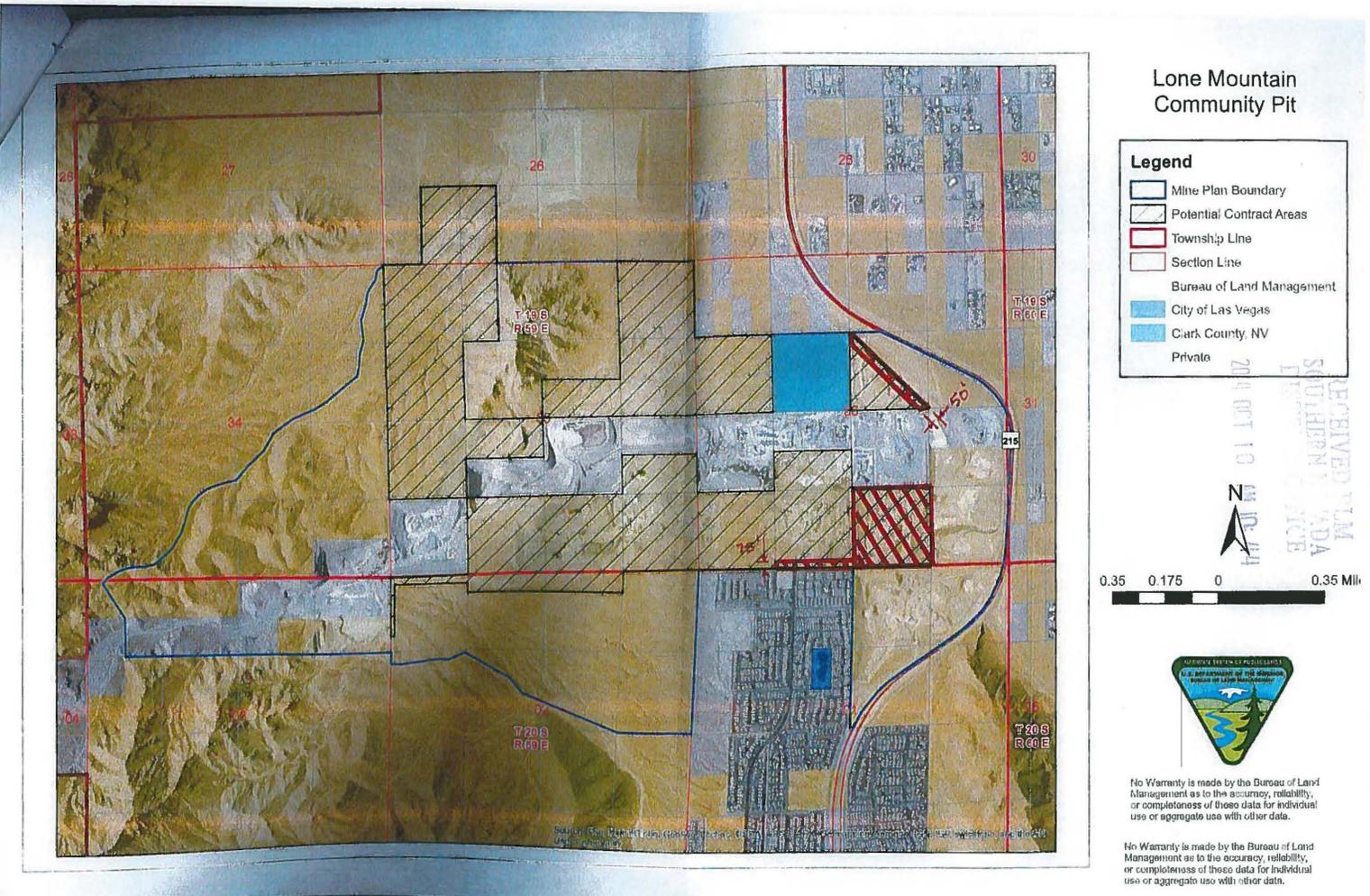
DC:MWS:cm

Enclosure

cc/enc: Joe Yatson, Manager, Design Engineering Division  
Mona Stammetti, Design Engineering Division

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
STEVE SISOLAK, Chairman • LARRY BROWN, Vice Chairman  
SUSAN BRAGER • TOM COLLINS • CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI • MARY BETH SCOW • LAWRENCE WEEKLY  
DONALD G. BURNETTE, County Manager

RECEIVED FILM  
 SOUTHERN NEVADA  
 DISTRICT OFFICE  
 2014 OCT 13 11:19:43



# Appendix C. Identified Mitigation Measures

## Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFWS Designated Species

1. The proponent will adhere to mitigation measures for migratory birds.
2. See attached protocols for removal of Gila monsters from construction sites if any are encountered.

## Migratory Birds

1. To prevent undue harm, habitat-altering projects or portions of projects should be scheduled outside bird breeding season. In upland desert habitats and ephemeral washes containing upland species, the season generally occurs between February 15th and August 31st.
2. If a project that may alter any breeding habitat has to occur during the breeding season, then a qualified biologist must survey the area for nests prior to commencement of construction activities. This shall include burrowing and ground nesting species in addition to those nesting in vegetation. If any active nests (containing eggs or young) are found, an appropriately-sized buffer area must be avoided until the young birds fledge.

## Soil

1. Mitigation measures include implementation of best management practices during soil removal and dust suppression measures in conformance with the dust permit required by the Department of Air Quality Management. The top six inches of topsoil would be stockpiled to salvage the native seedbank, biological soil crust components, and soil microbial organisms that would be replaced during reclamation. Stockpiled topsoil would be vulnerable to wind and water erosion, and would need to be protected by large rocks or fill, or stabilized by a wood fiber tackifier or straw matting.

## Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Animal Species

1. Each contract area must have tortoise fencing installed by the proponent. The BLM wildlife biologist and geologist will work with the proponent to identify which areas, if any, will not need fencing due to existing barriers to tortoise movement such as steep cliffs. The proponent is required to have an authorized biologist survey the fence alignment and work areas before fence construction and the enclosed area cleared of tortoise before the start of sand and gravel operations. If tortoises are encountered they must be moved out of harm's way as described in the terms and conditions. Proponents are also required to pay remuneration fees as described in the terms and conditions.

## Water Resources

1. Mitigation measures include implementation of best management practices during soil removal and dust suppression measures in conformance with the dust permit required by the Department of Air Quality Management. The top six inches of topsoil would be stockpiled to salvage the native seedbank, biological soil crust components, and soil microbial organisms that would be replaced during reclamation. Stockpiled topsoil would be vulnerable to wind and water erosion, and would need to be protected by large rocks or fill, or stabilized by a wood fiber tackifier or straw matting.

**Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species**

1. Mineral Materials mining of the parcel located at the E2SWSW and W2SESW of T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 26 will not occur until yellow two toned beardtongue seed has been collected for at least three growing seasons or sooner if authorized by the BLM botanist.
2. BLM will place \$10,000 into an agreement with the Center for Plant Conservation, to provide for offsite mitigation of the Yellow two toned beardtongue through the National Collection of Endangered Plants.

**City of Las Vegas**

1. Contracts located within the SW1/4NW1/4 of T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Section 36 require concurrence from the City of Las Vegas prior to signing, shall not exceed a 2 year term, and require concurrence from the City of Las Vegas prior to extending and renewing said contract.
2. Contracts located within the SW1/4NW1/4 of T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Section 36 may only be mined to a depth no lower than two feet above the adjacent Clark County School District Bus Yard located within the SE1/4NW1/4 of T. 19 S., R. 59 E., Section 36.

**Clark County Department of Public Works**

1. A portion of the SW1/4NE1/4 of Section 36, T. 19 S., R. 59 E. will be temporarily impacted during the construction of the Western Clark County 215 Bruce Woodbury Beltway realignment. Until construction is complete, only issue contracts within the SW1/4NE1/4 of Section 36, T. 19 S., R. 59 E., starting at C-E1/16 to the C1/4 to the C-N1/16 to the point of beginning (C-E1/16), adjusting the northeasterly boundary southwest a distance of 50 feet.
2. Exclude the SW1/4SE/14 of Section 36, T. 19 S., R. 59 E., from sales contracts and FUPs until construction of the Western Clark County 215 Bruce Woodbury Beltway realignment is complete.
3. Exclude the southern 75 feet of the SE1/4SW1/4 of Section 36, T. 19 S., R. 59 E., from sales contracts and FUPs until construction of the Western Clark County 215 Bruce Woodbury Beltway realignment is complete.
4. Exclude the

**Air Quality**

1. Ensure dust control permit is obtained.

**Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds**

1. To mitigate the spread of established weeds and reduce the risk of new establishment, the proponent must adhere to all BLM Weed Stipulations for Community Sand and Gravel Pit Operations as well as standard BMP's throughout project actions.

**Fuels/Fire Management**

1. Operators must comply with fire restrictions.

**Woodland/Forestry**

1. Cactus and yucca present shall be salvaged using a contractor with at least three years experience salvaging cactus and yucca plants in the Mojave desert. The plants will be translocated to the Ann Road Stockpile prior to surface disturbance. If surface disturbance is scheduled between April and September-the contractor will be required to water the salvage plants weekly until September 30. Contact the BLM botanist for information regarding the stockpile location.

**Standard Stipulations**

1. Standard stipulations for mineral material sales contracts will be included.