



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
99TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE NEVADA**

99 CES/CENP
6020 Beale Avenue
Nellis AFB, NV 89191-6520

AUG 26 2014

Mr. Skip Canfield
Nevada State Clearinghouse

Dear Mr. Canfield,

The United States Air Force is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Nellis AFB School Initiative, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The need for the School Initiative is that acreage on which the current Clark County School District (CCSD) Lomie Gray Heard Elementary School is located is needed for mission-related purposes. The school, built in the 1950s, has exceeded its expected useful life, making maintenance and utility costs excessive. In addition, the majority of students now live in Area III on Nellis AFB and require vehicle transport to the school, which is located in Area I. Attached is a map showing the current school location and proposed location of the new school.

The preferred action is to replace the existing CCSD school in Area I by constructing and establishing a state charter school on Nellis AFB in Area III that would accommodate 800 to 1,000 students from kindergarten through eighth grade. The curriculum would emphasize a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. If local students expressing interest in attending the school exceed capacity, students would be selected through a lottery system.

An alternative to the preferred action is renewal of the lease to CCSD for Lomie Gray Heard Elementary School and potentially establishing a STEM curriculum. Another alternative is to work with CCSD to construct a new school in Area III. The no action alternative would be to let the current lease expire in 2015; Lomie Gray Heard students would be incorporated into the existing CCSD schools near Nellis AFB.

The first alternative would not meet the objective of moving the school from acreage needed for mission purposes and closer to the students. The second alternative is not feasible at this time due to CCSD budgetary constraints. The no action alternative is undesirable because the student populations in the existing schools near Nellis AFB already exceed capacity; the addition of 800 students to these schools would exacerbate overcrowding.

The EA will assess the potential environmental consequences associated with the preferred action and alternatives. Potential impacts could include traffic increases on Las Vegas Blvd North and Nellis AFB, impacts to air quality, and socioeconomic impacts. The EA will also examine the cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and any future proposals. In support of this process, we request your input in identifying general or specific issues or areas of concern you feel should be addressed in the EA.

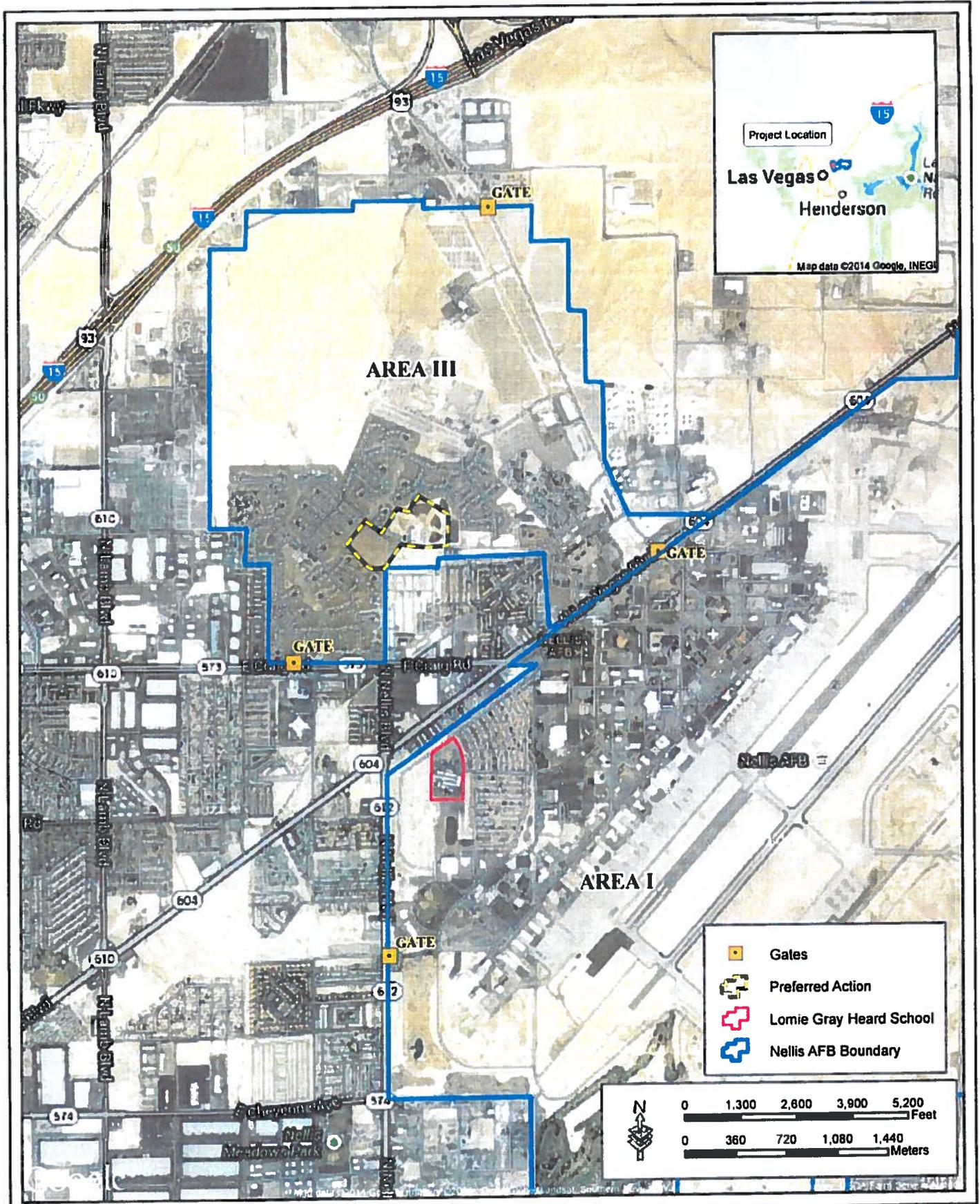
The Nellis AFB point of contact for Environmental Planning is Mr. Tod Oppenborn. Please send him your comments and concerns at 6020 Beale Ave, Nellis AFB, NV, 89191, or by e-mail at tod.oppenborn@us.af.mil. Though we will consider comments received at any time during the environmental impact analysis process to the extent possible, we would like to hear from you within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this effort.

Respectfully,



LYNN E. HAARKLAU
Chief, Portfolio Optimization

Attachment:
School Locations Map



School Locations Map