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Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition

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April 27, 2017

Mr. Charles Donohue, Administrator
Nevada Division of State Lands
901 S. Stewart Street, Ste. 5003
Carson City, NV 89701-5246

Dear Mr. Donohue,

In compliance with NRS 278.02584, I'm enclosing the 2017 Report on Land Use, Transportation and Air Quality for Southern Nevada. This report covers calendar years 2015 and 2016 and was approved by the SNRPC Coalition Board on April 25, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Rodney Langston via telephone (702-455-1661) or e-mail (Langston@clarkcountynv.gov).

Sincerely,

Katherine Rodriguez-Lopez
SNRPC Secretary
Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition

Enclosure: 2017 Report on Land Use, Transportation and Air Quality for Southern Nevada

BIENNIAL REPORT FOR LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION AND AIR QUALITY FOR CLARK COUNTY

Air Quality

This biennial report covers calendar years 2015 and 2016. During this reporting period, Clark County's Department of Air Quality (DAQ) completed and submitted a five-factor analysis and Clark County area designation recommendations for the recently promulgated 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). DAQ also completed and submitted the 2015 and 2016 Ozone Advance progress reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) documenting Clark County's ongoing efforts to achieve the 2015 Ozone NAAQS. Clark County portion of the Nevada PM_{2.5} I-SIP was also completed and submitted during this reporting period. DAQ developed a model exceptional event document and collaborated with the California Desert Air Working Group to form a Region 9 Interagency Exceptional Event Working Group.

The DAQ Permitting, Compliance/Enforcement, Small Business Assistance Programs, Monitoring Division, and Planning Division operate their programs under the provisions of federal requirements, State Implementation Plans, Clark County Air Quality Regulations in order to attain and maintain the NAAQS for all criteria pollutants. The Monitoring Division operates 13 monitoring sites throughout the year and an additional four seasonal ozone sites. The division developed and submitted annual monitoring network plans and data certifications to the U.S. EPA. The Planning Division reviewed the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) transportation conformity modeling for the new Regional Transportation Plan. Division staff participates in the Transportation Conformity Working Group and other transportation-related committees as requested by the RTC. DAQ is also a participant in the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition, with participants on the Planning Director's Committee and the Technical Committee.

The next major air quality challenge for Clark County is attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standard, under which Clark County has been tentatively designated as Marginal Nonattainment based on the most recent three years of ozone data. To address this issue DAQ is exploring the feasibility of conducting a comprehensive 2017 Fires Asian Stratospheric Transport Las Vegas Ozone Study (FAST-LVOS) to better understand Asian and wildfire-driven ozone transport and stratospheric intrusions associated with metrological events. DAQ also completed photochemical model runs for 2017 and 2025 ozone design values as part of its ongoing data analysis, and has initiated emissions processing for 2020 photochemical modeling of the projected design value.

DAQ collaborated with land use planning agencies through their environmental review processes. During the reporting period, DAQ reviewed a total of 34 Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments, and an additional 140 other environmental reviews, including non-conforming zone changes, high impact projects, and planned unit developments. During this reporting period, DAQ conducted an active outreach program, participating in numerous events during 37 days. Approximately 12,000 people visited DAQ booths, and 886 signed up for the Enviroflash mobile application for air quality conditions. As part of outreach efforts, DAQ developed an info-calendar with air quality-themed photos and associated information that have proven very popular with the public.

Land Use

In January 2015 the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition adopted the Southern Nevada Strong (SNS) Regional Plan (Plan). The SNS Plan replaces the previous Regional Policies Plan and is the region's first federally recognized regional plan. The Plan was then approved by the member agencies of the SNRPC, including the local jurisdictions and the Clark County School District. The Plan was developed under the leadership of the City of Henderson and synthesized intensive data collection and public outreach to nearly 70,000 Southern Nevadans. The Plan calls for goals and strategies organized under four core themes: Improve Economic Competitiveness and Education; Invest in Complete Communities; Increase Transportation Choices; and Build Capacity for Implementation.

After adoption, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) assumed responsibility of administering the implementation of the Plan in 2015. In this capacity, the RTC laid the necessary foundational work in 2015 and 2016 to ensure continued successful implementation of the Plan. Some of the work done to this extent was the formation of a new Southern Nevada Strong Steering Committee, creation of a new website, the hiring of staff, implementation of the first annual SNS Summit, reporting quarterly on progress, and organization of numerous educational series on topics in the Plan. More information about Southern Nevada Strong, supporting documentation, and accomplishments can be found at www.southernnevadastrong.org.

Major updates occurred in 2016 related to local comprehensive plans as well. Clark County updated the transportation element of its comprehensive plan. The City of Las Vegas created a new Downtown Master Plan, known as Vision 2045. The Clark County Schools District adopted a new school siting policy as presented to the SNRPC in 2016. The City of Henderson embarked upon a complete overhaul of its comprehensive plan and is expected to finish the document, now known as Henderson Strong, in 2017.

The SNRPC Planning Directors reviewed 2 applications and made conformity determinations against the Regional Plan in 2016 – both for the Regional Flood Control District. This conformity review process ensures that there is cross-jurisdiction coordination when major changes are proposed to agency guiding documents, such as comprehensive plans.

Transportation

The RTC also started a major update of its Regional Transportation Plan in late 2015. Access 2040, which is expected to receive final approval in early 2017, provides a framework for long-term transportation investments in the Las Vegas region. As required by the federal government, Access 2040 is fiscally constrained and is expected to demonstrate positive air quality conformity for a period of at least 20 years. The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), now known as the High Priority Investment Program, will enable state and local agencies to secure federal funding for transportation projects in the first four years and is included in the appendix of the draft Access 2040.

Input from the public as well as stakeholders is important in the development in the Regional Transportation Plan. Nearly 7,000 survey responses on transportation priorities were gathered from the public in the first half of 2016 and helped influence the draft plan. The RTC

coordinated a Land Use Working Group, consisting of planning departments from local governments, and utilized land use information as key inputs to the Travel Demand Model (TDM) for RTP development. Additionally, the RTC convened an Air Quality Conformity Working Group with representatives from Federal, state, regional, and local governments to review the assumptions and outputs of the air quality model and ensure proper methodology and documentation. The land-use and air quality process and analysis are documented in the RTP and TIP documents which are subject to a public review and comment process prior to approval by the RTC Board.

Other significant regional transportation planning initiatives of the past two years include completion and adoption of following documents: Congestion Management Process which identifies strategies to improve transportation system performance and reliability; Title VI Reports for Transit and Planning which demonstrate that the RTC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national origin; the Coordinated Transportation Plan which outlines how projects which serve persons with disabilities and elderly individuals are derived from a locally developed, and the Public Participation Plan which outlines the strategies the RTC will take to engage the public and stakeholders as part of the planning process. Over a dozen other important regional transportation studies, as identified in the Unified Planning Work Program, were concluded in 2015 and 2016 and can be downloaded from: <http://www.rtcsv.com/planning-engineering/transportation-planning/>.