

## 5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This chapter describes the consultation and coordination activities the BLM has carried out with interested agencies, organizations and individuals while preparing this DEIS. NEPA and CEQ regulations require the public's involvement in the decision-making process as well as allowing for full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement is outlined in Title 43 CFR, Part 1610.2.

During the early phases of the scoping process, the BLM determined that an EIS would be required to comply with NEPA prior to taking action on LCWD's ROW application. An EIS is the most detailed and complex of NEPA documents, and it includes requirements for significant public coordination and involvement throughout its preparation and review. NEPA and CEQ require the BLM to identify any potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action so the BLM can consider them when making its final decision.

### 5.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the steps necessary to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists agencies in: (1) broadening the information base for decision-making, (2) informing the public about Proposed Actions and potential long-term impacts that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action, and (3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies. Public participation in the EIS process is required by NEPA at four specific points: 1) issue scoping, 2) review of the DEIS, 3) review of the Final EIS (FEIS), and 4) receipt of the Records of Decision.

**Scoping:** The public was provided a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. The BLM collected stakeholder comments at public meetings as well as comments sent via fax or mail. Six public meetings were held during the public comment period. These meetings were held in mid-April, 2006 in Caliente, Alamo, Mesquite, Las Vegas, Reno and Baker with a total attendance among all meetings of 70 people. The scoping period ended on May 1, 2006. Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping was combined with issues identified by the BLM and forms the scope of this DEIS.

**Draft EIS Review:** A 60-day DEIS review period would be initiated by publication of Notice of Availability for the DEIS in the Federal Register. This notice would include specific information about the public comment period including a timeframe, locations of public meetings and information about how comments may be submitted. Public participation associated with the DEIS is administered by the BLM. During the 60-day comment period, public meetings will take place in Alamo, Pioche, Carson City and Las Vegas.

**Final EIS Review:** After the public comment period for the DEIS, an FEIS would be prepared. This document would include descriptions of public comments and indicates how they were addressed in the FEIS. A Notice of Availability would be posted in the Federal Register announcing the completion of the FEIS. A 30-day FEIS review period would be initiated by publication of Notice of Availability for the FEIS in the Federal Register.

## 5.2 FORMAL CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED AGENCIES

Federal and state agencies were contacted individually to gather input for the DEIS. Other resource management agencies were consulted at the federal and state levels to identify common concerns related to the Proposed Action or Alternatives. Cooperating agencies on this DEIS include the USFWS, NDOW and the Moapa Valley Water District. In addition, the USGS has provided technical guidance related to water resources issues.

A Biological Assessment has been prepared for the Proposed Action and submitted to the USFWS as required by Section 7 of the ESA (1973). A species list was requested from the USFWS at the beginning of EIS development. The species list identified any plant and wildlife species listed as Threatened, Endangered or Candidate species within the project area. At the request of the USFWS, rare plant and desert tortoise surveys have been conducted within the project area. BLM will continue to coordinate with the USFWS throughout the EIS process.

BLM consulted with Native American Tribes that claim ancestral ties to, or traditional culture use of, project area lands. In March 2006, BLM mailed copies of an “interested parties” letter under NEPA guidance, to the following Tribal groups:

- Moapa Band of Paiutes
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
- Kaibab Paiute Tribe (Arizona)
- Yomba Shoshone Tribe
- Ely Shoshone Tribe
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Shoshone Paiute Business Council

The consultation letter briefly described the Proposed Action and requested 1) Tribal input regarding any concerns about traditional cultural practices or other issues that might be affected by the Proposed Action, 2) information on how they would like to be involved in the planning process, 3) names of other individuals or organizations that should be notified or consulted about the project, and 4) an invitation to the Tribal Coordination Meeting at the BLM Ely Field Office, Ely, Nevada, on May 18, 2006. A copy of the NOI, a map of the project area, and a brief description of the preliminary issues to be considered in the plan were enclosed with each of these letters.

The BLM received responses to this request from three Tribes: Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Paiute Tribe of Utah, and the Ely Shoshone Tribe. The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe did not provide input regarding any concerns about the Proposed Action, but wished to be kept informed of the project; the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah had no interest in the project; and the Ely Shoshone Tribe wished to continue consultations for the Proposed Action directly with the BLM.

On May 18, 2006, representatives from the Ely Shoshone Tribe and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe attended a Tribal Coordination Meeting at the BLM Ely Field Office in Ely, Nevada. Information about the Proposed Action was presented to Tribal representatives. The Ely Shoshone Tribe and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe expressed their concerns and interest in continued consultation regarding the Proposed Action.

In a further effort to elicit Tribal issues and concerns, the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe were invited by the BLM to visit the project area in person. This visit occurred on November 30, 2006. Representatives from the Moapa Band of Paiutes indicated they would submit written comments to the BLM expressing their concerns and interest in continued consultation regarding the Proposed Action. As of the writing of this DEIS, the BLM has received no formal responses from the Moapa Band of Paiutes or Las Vegas Paiute Tribe following the site visit. There are no known effects to the integrity of resources of concern or interest to the Tribes in the area or any specific expressions of concern for the Proposed Action. This DEIS has been provided to each of the aforementioned interested Tribes for review and comment.

### **5.3 LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS TO WHOM COPIES OF THE DEIS WERE SENT**

This section lists the agencies, officials and other interested parties who are receiving the DEIS. When the DEIS was issued, BLM filed copies with the EPA, who publishes a Notice of Availability of the DEIS in the Federal Register. The BLM also distributed paper and electronic (on CD-ROM) copies to federal agencies, key state agencies, elected officials, local libraries and other requesting parties. The BLM will provide copies to other interested organizations or individuals on request.

#### **5.3.1 Federal Government**

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. George Regulatory Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior – National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior – U.S. Geological Survey  
Nellis Air Force Base

### **5.3.2 State Government**

Nevada Bureau of Mines  
Nevada Department of Agriculture  
Nevada Department of Transportation  
Nevada Division of Energy  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Nevada Division of State Lands  
Nevada Division of State Parks  
Nevada Division of Water Resources  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Nevada Office of the Governor  
Nevada State Clearinghouse  
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
Nevada Department of Conservation  
Nevada Natural Heritage Program  
Nevada Division of Forestry

### **5.3.3 Local Governments**

Lincoln County  
Clark County  
White Pine County  
Nye County

### **5.3.4 Tribal Governments**

Duckwater Shoshone Tribe  
Ely Shoshone Tribe  
Kaibab Paiute Tribe (Arizona)  
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe  
Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah  
Shoshone Paiute Business Council  
Yomba Shoshone Tribe

### **5.3.5 Other Organizations**

Center for Biological Diversity  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited  
Sierra Club  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
The Nature Conservancy  
Natural Resource Defense Council  
Wild Utah Project  
Western Environmental Law Center

Desert Research Institute  
Trout Unlimited  
American Lands Alliance  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition  
Audubon Society

### **5.3.6 Elected Government Officials**

State of Nevada Governor, Jim Gibbons  
Jon Porter, U.S. House of Representatives  
Shelly Berkley, U.S. House of Representatives  
Dean Heller, U.S. House of Representatives  
John Ensign, U.S. Senate  
Harry M. Reid, U.S. Senate

### **5.3.7 Availability**

Copies of the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project DEIS will be available for public inspection at the following public libraries and BLM offices.

Lincoln County – Alamo Branch Library  
100 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Alamo, Nevada 89001

Lincoln County Library  
93 Main Street  
Pioche, Nevada 89043

Lincoln County – Caliente Branch Library  
100 Depot Avenue  
Caliente, Nevada 89008

White Pine County Library  
950 Campton Street  
Ely, Nevada 89301

BLM, Ely Field Office  
702 North Industrial Way  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

BLM, Nevada State Office  
1340 Financial Blvd  
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147

BLM, Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

BLM – Caliente Field Office  
U.S. Highway 93, Building #1  
Caliente, NV 89008-0237

## **5.4 LIST OF PREPARERS**

### **LEAD AGENCY – BLM**

#### **BLM CORE INTERDISPLINARY TEAM AND TECHNICAL SPECIALITY**

##### **BLM – Nevada State Office**

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Penny Woods – Nevada Groundwater Project Manager  
Dan Netcher – Deputy Project Manager  
JoLynn Worley – Public Affairs  
Dennis Samuelson – Rights-of-Way  
Robert (Bob) Boyd – Water Resources  
Kim Dow – Contract Administration

##### **BLM – Ely Field Office**

John Ruhs –Decision-Maker  
Jeff Weeks –Management Oversight  
Mark Henderson – Cultural Resources  
Jared Bybee –Wild Horses  
Steve Leslie – Wilderness, Visual Resource Management, Recreation  
Elvis Wall – Tribal Liaison  
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Kari Harrison – Soils and Vegetation

##### **BLM – Caliente Field Station**

Ron Clementsen – Management Oversight  
Troy Grooms – Range Management  
Alicia Styles – Wildlife  
Kyle Teel – Fire

##### **BLM – Carson City Field Office**

Tom Crawford – Socioeconomic Resources

## **COOPERATING AGENCIES**

### **Nevada Department of Wildlife**

Brad Hardenbrook – Supervisory Biologist, Habitat Bureau

Roddy Shepard – Habitat Biologist

Craig Stevenson – Habitat Biologist

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Annalaura Averill-Murray – Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Jeri Krueger – Fish and Wildlife Biologist

### **Moapa Valley Water District**

Brad Huza – General Manager

### **Lincoln County Water District**

Ronda Hornbeck – Financial Contract Oversight

Dr. Mike Baughman, PhD – President, Intertech Services Corp., Consultant to LCWD

Dylan Frehner – General Manager/General Counsel

### **Vidler Water Company**

Donald A. Pattalock – Vice President, Project Manager

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**EIS CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR**

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Water Resources	Dr. Peter Kroopnick, RG, PH Phoenix, AZ	PhD Earth Science 35 years experience
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