

# FINAL SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

## Lincoln County Land Act Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared for

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Nevada State Office**

Prepared by

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a right-of-way application submitted by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD or Applicant) to construct and operate a system of regional water facilities known as the Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way (Project). The EIS will consider the environmental impacts associated with granting of rights-of-way across public land for the purposes of construction and operation of the proposed facilities (Proposed Action). The BLM will use the EIS in rendering a decision whether to grant the requested rights-of-way. BLM's action is to either grant or deny the request for rights-of-way through public land administered by the BLM. If granted, the right-of-way would authorize LCWD to construct infrastructure required to utilize groundwater resources approved for use by the Nevada State Engineer and located in Lincoln County to help meet anticipated future water needs in southeast Lincoln County. This Scoping Summary Report includes a description of the scoping process and a summary of the comments submitted by the public.

The primary purpose of scoping is to aide in the identification of significant issues related to a federal action; in this case - approval or denial of the right-of way application submitted by the LCWD. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations defines scoping as “an early and open process for determining the issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action” (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1501.7). The objective of the scoping process is to coordinate with affected federal, state, and local agencies, affected American Indian tribes, and the public, and determine the scope of the project, including the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an EIS.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the *Federal Register* (Volume 71. No. 62) on March 31, 2006, formally announced that the BLM Nevada State Office was preparing an EIS for the Proposed Action. Although the official scoping period ended on May 1, 2006, the BLM will consider issues brought forward any time during the EIS process; however, only comments submitted during and shortly after the scoping period are summarized in this report.

The BLM distributed press releases announcing the dates, locations and times of scoping meetings to local and regional print and broadcast media. The press release was sent to newspapers, as well as radio and television stations for airing of public service announcements. Paid legal notices indicating the dates, locations and times of scoping meetings were published in the local newspapers serving the Reno, Las Vegas, Baker, Caliente, and Mesquite, Nevada areas.

The BLM held concurrent scoping meetings for both the proposed LCLA Project and the proposed Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project (KSV Project). The BLM is preparing a separate EIS for the proposed KSV Project in response to a right-of-way application submitted by the LCWD for groundwater development in the Kane Springs Valley hydrographic basin.

Scoping meetings were held in Caliente, Nevada on April 11, 2006; Alamo, Nevada on April 11, 2006; Mesquite, Nevada on April 12, 2006; Las Vegas, Nevada on April 13, 2006; and Reno, Nevada on April 17, 2006. Meetings were held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at each location. A

sixth scoping meeting was added in Baker, Nevada on April 18, 2006 at the request of area residents. This meeting was held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the project and to provide comments. To facilitate public input to both projects, the scoping meetings for both the proposed LCLA and KSV Projects were held concurrently.

During the public scoping period, a total of 103 responses, containing 253 comments were received. However, not all comments dealt with the scope of issues to be considered in the EIS. A response is defined as one completed comment form, e-mail, fax, letter, or website submittal. Because some responses had more than one comment, the total number of comments received is greater than the number of respondents, or individuals who submitted comments. Of the 103 responses, 23 included comments specific to the Proposed Action, 35 addressed concerns or issues for both the proposed LCLA and KSV Projects, and 45 responses were requests to be kept informed of both project. A summary of scoping comments received during the scoping period is provided in **Appendix A**.

Based on the issues and recommendations identified during the scoping process, as well as guidance from NEPA, three general categories were identified: NEPA Process; Impacts to Social Resources; and Impacts to Physical Resources. Sub-categories to be considered in the evaluation of the Proposed Action and alternatives are listed below.

**NEPA Process** – Eight-nine comments were received specific to the NEPA process. To the fullest extent possible, federal agencies, including the BLM, “*are required to work according to the policies set forth in NEPA and its implementing regulations.*” The EIS must be legally defensible and meet the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations. The EIS will follow the requirements of NEPA, Administrative Procedures Act, CEQ regulations [40 CFR 1500 – 1508], Departmental Manual Part 516 DM 2 and DM6, Appendix 5, and BLM standards outlined in the BLM Handbook H-1790-1.

**Social Resources** – Forty-eight comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives to human or built environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Aesthetics (Including Visual Resources and Noise); 2) Cultural Resources (Including Paleontology); 3) Land Use (Including Transportation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Areas, and Other Special Use Areas); 4) Recreation; 5) Socioeconomic Resources; 6) Public Health and Safety; and 7) Environmental Justice.

**Physical Resources** – 116 comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives to components of the physical environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Air Quality and Climate; 2) Biological Resources (Including Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, Range Resources, Vegetation, Noxious Weeds, Wetlands/Riparian Habitat, and Wild Horses and Burros); 3) Geology, Soils, and Minerals; and 4) Water Resources.

## **SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS**

The next formal comment period will open when the Draft EIS is published. The availability of the Draft EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, as well as other media, such as local print and broadcast media. In addition, the BLM will circulate a notice of the Draft EIS to interested parties included in the project mailing list. Following the release of the

Draft EIS, there will be a 60-day public comment period and additional public meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS.

Following the comment period, the Final EIS would be prepared. The Final EIS would consider and incorporate any other comments received during the review period. The availability of the Final EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, at which time a 30-day public review period will commence. The final opportunity for public comment on the EIS will be this 30-day public review period. No sooner than 30 days after publication of the Final EIS, the Secretary of the Interior will issue a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD would explain all factors, including environmental impacts that the BLM considered in reaching its decision. The ROD will also identify the environmentally preferred alternative, or alternatives. If mitigation measures, monitoring, or other conditions are adopted as part of the BLM's decision, these would be summarized in the ROD, as applicable.

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The LCWD has applied to the BLM for issuance of a right-of-way to construct and operate a system of regional water facilities known as the Lincoln County Land Act Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project (LCLA Project). The Proposed Action is the construction and operation of the proposed groundwater facilities. The Nevada State Office of the BLM is the lead federal agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and will direct preparation of the EIS in compliance with the NEPA. The BLM Nevada State Office has been designated by the Nevada BLM State Director and the Ely Field Manager, as the Lead for the Project.

The EIS for the Proposed Action will consider the environmental impacts associated with granting of rights-of-way across public land for the purposes of construction and operation of the proposed facilities. The BLM will use the EIS in rendering a final decision whether to grant rights-of-way requested by LCWD. If granted, the right-of-way would authorize LCWD to construct infrastructure required to pump and convey groundwater resources approved for pumping by the Nevada State Engineer and located in Lincoln County to help meet anticipated future water needs in southeastern Lincoln County.

## 1.1 Proposed Project

The LCWD has submitted applications to the Nevada State Engineer to appropriate groundwater in the Tule Desert and Clover Valley hydrographic basins in Lincoln County, Nevada. LCWD intends to develop groundwater resources in this area to meet existing and future water demands, diversify its existing water resource portfolio, and improve the reliability and responsiveness of their water supply system.

The Proposed Action includes the construction of up to eight (8) production water wells to be located in the previously permitted Toquop Energy Project proposed well field area located in the Tule Desert hydrographic basin and up to ten (10) production water wells to be located in the Clover Valley hydrographic basin. Collectively, wells in the Tule Desert basin would pump up to 9,344 acre feet of groundwater per year. Wells in the Clover Valley would pump up to 14,480 acre feet of groundwater per year. A system of buried pipelines would collect pumped water for conveyance through a main transmission pipeline southeast to the LCLA development area, north of Mesquite, Nevada, following in part, a utility corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act (LCCRDA) of 2004 (Public Law 108-424).

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution/transmission power lines and communication lines to be placed in the utility easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. In addition, a natural gas pipeline would parallel the water pipeline from the existing Kern River Natural Gas pipeline south to the Lincoln County Land Act area.

Pursuant to Section 301 of the LCCRDA of 2004, rights-of-way for the project which are located within utility corridors established by the Act for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system would be granted in perpetuity.

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## 2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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The process the BLM will use to determine whether the application for rights-of-way should be granted is comprehensive and includes compliance with the requirements of NEPA and CEQ regulations, BLM planning regulations, manuals and handbooks, and applicable policy documents. This includes the recent CEQ memorandum to the heads of federal agencies on the subject of “Cooperating Agencies in Implementing the Procedural Requirements for NEPA,” to ensure federal agencies actively engage state, local, and other federal agencies in preparation of NEPA analyses and documentation.

NEPA is a procedural act designed to ensure that the environmental consequences of major federal decisions are known and available to the public and public officials before decisions are made and actions are undertaken. Public participation is a requirement of the environmental review process. It provides a means to inform the public about activities that involve a federal action and solicit their concerns and issues regarding the Proposed Action. The BLM will use the concerns and issues identified through public participation to assist with the development of the scope, content, and alternatives analysis for the EIS for the Proposed Action. Throughout the NEPA process, the public participation effort will focus on gathering input and dispersing information about the following key areas:

- The purpose and need for the Proposed Action and related goals and objectives.
- The potential set of reasonable alternative actions, including the No Action alternative.
- Methodologies that will be used to assess impacts.
- Potential impacts and associated mitigation

### 2.1 Public Scoping Outreach Activities

Public scoping outreach activities included publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*, direct mailings, media releases to print and broadcast media, paid advertisements announcing public scoping meetings, publication of the project information on the BLM web site, and public scoping meetings. These activities are described in the following sections.

#### 2.1.1 Notice of Intent

A *Federal Register* NOI to prepare an EIS and initiate a 30-day scoping period was published on March 31, 2006 (Volume 71, No. 62). A copy of the NOI is included in **Appendix B**. The NOI invited the participation of the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public in determining the scope and significant issues to be addressed and analyzed in the EIS. The official scoping period ended on May 1, 2006. Comments submitted during, and shortly after the scoping period are summarized in this report.

#### 2.1.2 Media Notices

The BLM distributed press releases to local and regional newspapers, as well as radio and television stations for airing of public service announcements. A list of print and broadcast media outlets receiving the public notice, and a copy of the BLM press release is included in **Appendix C**. The *Lincoln County Record*, a weekly newspaper serving the Caliente and Alamo areas, and the *Desert*

*Valley Times*, published twice a week, in Mesquite, Nevada printed articles announcing the public scoping meetings. A public meeting notice was published in the legal section of the *Reno Gazette Journal* and the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, both of which are daily newspapers. A display ad was also published in the *Ely Times*, a local weekly newspaper serving White Pine County, including Ely and Baker.

### **2.1.3 Direct Mailings**

A public scoping notice was prepared and mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; special interest groups and organizations; and the general public on March 31, 2006. The distribution list was compiled from a list of individuals, organizations, and agencies who had expressed interest in other BLM Ely Field Office projects. There were approximately 1,725 addresses on the distribution list that were sent the scoping notice.

The notice served to inform the public about the scoping process for the preparation of the EIS and the scheduled scoping meetings. It invited the public to participate in the scoping process and to share any concerns or comments, submit information, and identify issues to be addressed during the EIS process. A copy of the public scoping notice is provided in **Appendix D**.

### **2.1.4 Project Website**

The BLM Nevada State Office is hosting a website to inform the general public about the three groundwater development projects managed under the Nevada Groundwater Projects Office within the BLM Nevada State Office. In addition to the proposed LCLA Project, the Nevada Groundwater Projects Office is overseeing the preparation of two other EIS's for groundwater development projects in eastern Nevada. The KSV Groundwater Development Project is a separate right-of-way application from the LCWD to the BLM to develop groundwater resources in the Kane Springs Valley hydrographic basin. The Southern Nevada Water Authority has submitted right-of-way applications to develop and transport water from White Pine, Lincoln and rural Clark counties to the Las Vegas metropolitan area of Clark County, Nevada. The website, located at: <http://www.nv.blm.gov/>, is updated periodically as new information is made available. The site contains background information on all three projects, and includes project data, maps, and other information to inform the public on how to stay involved during the EIS process. The website also allows members of the public to be added to the mailing list and to submit comments and concerns throughout the EIS process.

### **2.1.5 Public Scoping Meetings**

The BLM held six public scoping meetings to identify issues and concerns about the Proposed Action. Moreover, these scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed LCLA Project and to provide comments. Meeting locations, dates, and times are provided in **Table 2.1**. The scoping meetings for both the proposed LCLA Project and the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project were held concurrently. A total of 72 individuals attended the public scoping meetings.

**Table 2.1  
Public Scoping Meetings.**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Caliente, NV	April 10, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	11
Alamo, NV	April 11, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	5
Mesquite, NV	April 12, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	10
Las Vegas, NV	April 13, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	20
Reno, NV	April 17, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	17
Baker, NV	April 18, 2006	4p.m. – 8p.m.	9
<b>Total</b>			<b>72</b>

These counts reflect only those attendees that elected to sign in at the door. A few attendees elected not to sign in.

Representatives from the BLM, LCWD, Vidler Water Company (which provides financing and technical expertise to LCWD), and Greystone /ARCADIS (BLM EIS consultant) were available to describe the proposed LCLA Project to the attendees and answer questions. The public scoping meetings were held using an open house format to allow for an informal one-on-one exchange of information. Attendance at each public scoping meeting was recorded using a sign-in sheet at the registration station at each meeting location. A scoping package containing a public scoping notice, comment form, and an 8 ½ x 11 color map of the project area was provided to each attendee (**Appendix D**).

Informational display posters illustrating the Applicants’ proposed pipeline corridor, project specifications, and the NEPA process, were placed around the room for viewing. The attendees were encouraged to review the informational displays, ask questions, and make comments. Recommendations and concerns raised during informal discussions were recorded on flip charts and later entered into the comments database. A summary of all comments received during the public scoping process is included in **Appendix A**.

## **2.2 Agency Coordination**

During the EIS process, ongoing agency consultation efforts will occur related to environmental and archaeological resources or historic properties potentially affected by the Proposed Action. As resources are identified, various federal, state, and local agencies, including Native American tribes will be consulted to assist in characterizing the sensitivity of resources to project activities as well as to aid in determining mitigation measures to ensure that effects on resources are minimized. The following sections discuss current consultation efforts.

### **2.2.1 Cooperating Agencies**

The Moapa Valley Water District, National Park Service – Lake Mead National Recreational Area, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S Geological Survey (USGS), and the Virgin Valley Water District were invited to participate as cooperating agencies in preparation of the EIS for the Proposed Action. The Moapa Valley Water District, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and USFWS have agreed to participate as cooperating agencies; the Virgin Valley Water District is reviewing the invitation. The USGS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Park Service have declined cooperating agency status. The USGS noted that they will continue to provide science support to the BLM, “...when [their] data and scientific expertise have relevance to the proposed action undergoing NEPA process. Such assistance could include attending or making presentations

at scoping and technical meetings, and conducting species studies and data collection projects.” No response was received from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

A cooperating agency assists the lead federal agency (i.e. BLM) in developing the EIS. The President’s CEQ regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) implementing NEPA defines a cooperating agency as any agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental issue that should be addressed in the EIS. Any federal, state, tribal or local government agency with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency. The benefits of a cooperating agency status include disclosure of relevant information early in the analytical process, receipt of technical expertise and staff support, avoidance of duplication with state, tribal and local procedures, and establishment of a mechanism of addressing intergovernmental issues.

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

To comply with section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, BLM initiated consultation with the USFWS as part of the EIS process. Representatives from the BLM, LCWD, Vidler Water Company and Greystone/ARCADIS met with representatives from the USFWS on April 17, 2006. The intent of the meeting was to provide the USFWS with an overview of the proposed LCLA Project and to understand areas of interest and issues the USFWS and BLM may have regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives. The USFWS provided a species list dated May 10, 2006 (Service File No. 1-5-06-SP-500) to the BLM in accordance with section 7 of the ESA. In that correspondence, the USFWS listed the threatened, endangered, and candidate species, as well as designated critical habitat that may occur within or near the project area. On May 18, 2006, the USFWS submitted public scoping comments based on the information provided in the scoping document, and how it pertains to their conservation responsibilities and management of trust resources, including threatened and endangered species, designated critical habitat, migratory birds, and other rare and sensitive species.

The BLM will continue to coordinate with the USFWS and other agencies and organizations involved in planning efforts in the project area to ensure the Proposed Action and alternatives do not conflict with future conservation measures or actions under development, including, but not limited to, the Southeastern Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan, the Coyote Springs Investment Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Program.

### **2.2.3 Native American Consultation**

In recognition of the relationship of American Indian tribes with the U.S. Government, agencies are to consult with tribal governments at an official government-to-government level. The BLM submitted tribal consultation letters on May 12, 2006 to representatives of eight Native American tribes informing them of the proposed LCLA Project and requesting their input on potential impacts on culturally significant areas. Natives American tribes contacted include the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Las Vegas Paiutes, Ely Shoshone Tribe, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Yomba Shoshone Tribe, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute Tribe, and the Shoshone-Paiute Business Council.

The tribes were also invited to participate in a Tribal Coordination meeting on May 18, 2006 in Ely, Nevada to discuss the Proposed Action with representatives from the BLM, LCWD, and the EIS consultant. Representatives from the Ely Shoshone and the Duckwater Shoshone tribes attended. The purpose of the meeting was to present information regarding the Proposed Action and gather

comments focusing on traditional cultural issues as they relate to the proposed federal action. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Tribal representatives were encouraged to provide their input by providing oral or written comments. No comments were received during the Tribal Coordination meeting; however, the BLM will continue consultation with the tribes throughout the EIS process.

#### **2.2.4 Nevada State Historic Preservation Office**

Federal agencies responsible for planning and implementing undertakings must consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to determine if the undertaking would affect historic properties, and consider measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any identified adverse effects. Section 106 consultation required by the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), and Executive Order 11593 (May 13, 1971) provides direction for protection of cultural resources by federal agencies. The BLM will initiate formal consultation with the Nevada SHPO in accordance with the Nevada BLM Protocol Agreement with the Nevada SHPO.

#### **2.3 Interdisciplinary Team**

An Interdisciplinary (ID) Team has been formed to assist in evaluating the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. The ID team composed of resource specialists from various BLM field offices, representatives from cooperating agencies, the Applicants consultants, and the EIS consultant team, will use an interdisciplinary approach in identifying the environmental issues related to the Proposed Action, develop alternatives to be analyzed, and collaborate on key issues to be analyzed in the EIS.

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## 3.0 SCOPING COMMENT ANALYSIS

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During the public scoping period, a total of 103 responses, containing 253 comments were received. Comments were reviewed, documented, and entered into a database to facilitate organization, sorting, analytical review, and management of comments into topic categories. Each comment document received a unique identification number to track the document throughout the comment analysis process. To identify each comment within the comment document, the body of the text was enumerated to easily identify where the comment was extracted from the document.

Comments were categorized by the driving topic unless the associated topics were of equal importance to the issue being presented, in which case the comment was placed under both comment categories. The comments were further sorted into broader summaries to develop a framework of issue topics to be addressed in the EIS. Individual comments were categorized by primary topic, regardless of the position of the comment towards the topic. The primary issue topics include the NEPA Process (e.g. scoping, consultation, etc.), Social Resources, and Physical Resources.

A summary of comments received during the scoping period is provided in **Appendix A**. The comments are largely reproduced verbatim; however, for efficiency and ease of analysis, some of the comments have been paraphrased or summarized. In all cases, every effort was made to retain the original nature and intent of each comment. While some comments are outside of the scope of this EIS, all comments received during the scoping process are listed equally regardless of applicability or relevance to the Proposed Action or the EIS process. However, only issues or concerns represented in those comments that can be applied directly to preparation of the EIS will be further analyzed. For example, many respondents provided personal statements of opinion or conjecture on the value (negative or positive) of groundwater development; only the issue areas they raised in conjunction with their views are presented.

The following governmental and non-governmental organizations submitted written comments.

### **Federal Agencies**

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

### **State or Local Governmental Agencies**

Nevada Department of Agriculture  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Nevada Division of State Lands  
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
Nevada System of Higher Education

### **Organizations / Businesses**

Earth Justice  
Great Basin Water Network  
Nevada Farm Bureau  
Lund Irrigation and Water Company

Irlbeck & Turner Ranches  
National Pony Express – Nevada Division  
Nature Conservancy of Nevada  
Partnership for the West  
Round Mountain Gold Corporation  
Snake Valley Citizens Alliance  
Southwest Center for Biological Diversity  
Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Western Environmental Law Center

### 3.1 Significant Issues to Be Considered in the EIS

The extent to which public scoping comments will be addressed in the EIS is dependent on several factors. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The scope, specificity, or ambiguity, of the issue or comment;
- The degree of speculation that would be required to address the issue; and
- The necessity for such an analysis to facilitate the decision-making process among alternatives.

The Council of Environmental Quality regulations require an analysis of impacts of a project on the “human environment.” These impacts include effects on natural, human, and cultural resources. Discussions with affected public or agencies, such as those that have occurred through this scoping effort, help to define and evaluate effects of the different alternatives on the human environment. Comments relating to environmental impacts will be considered by the BLM in developing the scope of EIS technical studies. Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) and Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) of the EIS will address the issues incorporated into the study. Concerns about the EIS studies and decision-making processes will be considered in refining and modifying these processes throughout the remainder of the EIS preparation.

Based on the issues and recommendations identified during the scoping process, as well as guidance from NEPA, three general categories were identified: NEPA Process; Impacts to Social Resources; and Impacts to Physical Resources. Sub-categories to be considered in the evaluation of the Proposed Action and alternatives are listed below.

**NEPA Process** – Eight-nine comments were received specific to the NEPA process. To the fullest extent possible, federal agencies, including the BLM, “*are required to work according to the policies set forth in NEPA and its implementing regulations.*” The EIS must be legally defensible and meet the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations. The EIS will follow the requirements of NEPA, Administrative Procedures Act, CEQ regulations [40 CFR 1500 – 1508], Departmental Manual Part 516 DM 2 and DM6, Appendix 5, and BLM standards outlined in the BLM Handbook H-1790-1.

**Social Resources** – Forty-eight comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives to human or built environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Aesthetics (Including Visual Resources and Noise); 2) Cultural Resources (Including Paleontology); 3) Land Use (Including Transportation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Areas, and Other Special Use Areas); 4) Recreation; 5) Socioeconomic Resources; 6) Public Health and Safety; and 7) Environmental Justice.

**Physical Resources** – 116 comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives to components of the physical environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Air Quality and Climate; 2) Biological Resources (Including Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, Range Resources, Vegetation, Noxious Weeds, Wetlands/Riparian Habitat, and Wild Horses and Burros); 3) Geology, Soils, and Minerals; and 4) Water Resources.

**Table 3.1** summarizes the number of comments on concerns or issues within each of the topic categories.

<b>Table 3.1</b>	
<b>Number of Comments in Each Topic Category</b>	
<b>Topic Category</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>
<b>NEPA PROCESS</b>	
- Consultation and Coordination	9
- Public Involvement / Scoping Process	5
- Need for Additional Studies / Validity of Data	11
- Public Review of Data / Qualification of Technical Team	8
- Project Description / Project Study Area	10
- Methodology for Analysis	6
- Monitoring and Mitigation	7
- DEIS Format / Plain Language	6
- Alternatives	10
- Connected Actions / Cumulative Impacts	17
<b>SOCIAL RESOURCES</b>	
- Aesthetics (including Visual Resources and Noise)	6
- Cultural Resources	3
- Land Use (Including Management Areas, Recreation, and Transportation)	19
- Public Health and Safety	1
- Socioeconomic Resources	16
- Environmental Justice	3
<b>PHYSICAL RESOURCES</b>	
- Air Quality and Climate	6
- Biological Resources	
Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species	16
Fire Management	4
Fisheries	3
Migratory Birds	4
Noxious Weeds / Invasive Species	3
Range Resources	2
Vegetation	3
Wetlands / Riparian Habitat	8
Wildlife / Wildlife Habitat	13
Wild Horses and Burros	1
- Geology, Soils and Paleontology (including caves)	9
- Water Resources	
Water Supply and Use	24
Water Rights	8
Hydrogeological Characteristics	7
Water Quality	5

The following section describes how specific comments and key issues identified during the public scoping process will be addressed in the EIS. The proposed level of treatment in the EIS represents the first step in developing the EIS content. The BLM will further review these issues and refine

them throughout the EIS process. The Draft EIS will include a rationale for the level of analysis of the various issues.

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Consultation and Coordination / Cooperating Agencies**

- Coordination needed between BLM and other federal, state and local agencies with jurisdiction over various aspects of the Proposed Action; specifically coordination between the States of Utah and Nevada.

**Response:** *The involvement of governments, resource agencies, the public, and other interested parties and organizations in the NEPA process is solicited via the scoping process. Local, state, and federal agencies may participate in the EIS process according to their jurisdiction and as described in NEPA as they see fit. The USFWS, NDOW, and Moapa Valley Water District have formally requested cooperating agency status for this project. Draft Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between the cooperating agencies and BLM. Consultation with Native American tribes that have cultural interests in the Project Area has been initiated by the BLM and will continue throughout the NEPA process.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process – Public Involvement**

- Consistency of the public involvement/scoping process with NEPA requirements.

**Response:** *Public involvement is an important part of the NEPA process. Public input is sought during the scoping process by means of scoping meetings and through written comments. Public input is also requested later in the process as part of the public review and comment period for the Draft EIS. Future notification of opportunities for comment will be publicized pursuant to requirements for public review under NEPA.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Need for Additional Studies / Validity of Data**

- Requests for additional data collection and studies to understand baseline environment before project continues.
- Concerns regarding the adequacy of existing data and scientific knowledge; specifically existing water resources data.

**Response:** *The EIS will analyze impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives based on the best available data and methods, which will be described and disclosed to the public as required by law and regulation. As part of the EIS development, the BLM will assess the sufficiency and adequacy of available information to describe and analyze the baseline conditions and the impacts of different alternatives.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Public Review of Data / Technical Team Qualifications**

- EIS process integrity, including public disclosure of data and analysis used to prepare the EIS, and qualifications of the technical team and EIS preparers; potential fragmentation of data analysis.

**Response:** *The BLM is required under law to disclose all data and analysis used to prepare the EIS. The selected EIS contractor has entered into an agreement with the BLM guaranteeing that the EIS will be prepared objectively and with no financial or other interest in the outcome of the Proposed Action. BLM selected the EIS contractor from among competing proposals following a review of company and individual qualifications.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Project Description / Project Study Area**

- Fully describe project plan of development including area of impact (identify groundwater basins), pipeline and well locations, construction and operation schedules, projected water volume withdrawals, facility design, construction methods, reclamation activities, project costs (both direct and indirect), and ownership (disclose relationship between LCWD and Vidler Water Company).

**Response:** *The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA regulations, and will include clear descriptions of the project purpose and need, the proposed action and alternatives, the affected environment/environmental setting, environmental consequences, and mitigation measures.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Methodology for Analysis**

- The DEIS should clearly and fully describe existing natural and economic resource conditions; and describe how the BLM will analyze the direct and indirect impacts of groundwater pumping and exportation on these existing and future resources.

**Response:** *The EIS will analyze the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives using the best available data and methods, which will be described and disclosed to the public as required by law and regulation. The data and analysis developed will commensurate with the significance of the impact.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Monitoring and Mitigation**

- Identification of all monitoring and mitigation strategies (including costs and responsible parties) that will be used to reduce or eliminate impacts to the natural and social environment from implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives.

**Response:** *Depending on the results of the EIS impact analysis, mitigation measures, including the need for additional studies or monitoring, may be developed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - DEIS Format / Plain Language**

- The DEIS should be clearly written, in plain language to ensure that all readers understand the intent of the document.

**Response:** *The development of the EIS will adhere to the intent of 40 CFR 1502.8, which directs that NEPA documents be written in plain language and use appropriate graphics so that decision-makers and the public can readily understand the intent of the document.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process – Alternatives**

- No Action alternative
- Construction of desalinization facilities in California and piped to Nevada and other western states.

- Following the pipeline alignment authorized under the Lincoln Country Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-424).
- Alternative facility locations, construction phasing, development and pumping scenarios and management strategies in response to environmental or land management issues.

**Response:** *The BLM must consider, at a minimum, the proposed action, other reasonable alternatives, and the "no action" alternative. The Draft EIS will include feasible alternatives meeting the purpose and need for the project that represent a range of resource protections and potential environmental impacts, as required by NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14), and other laws and regulations.*

**Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Connected Actions / Cumulative Impacts**

- Determination of whether the Proposed Action and other proposed groundwater development projects (KSV, SNWA projects), should be included in a Programmatic EIS.
- Evaluation of the cumulative effects of other existing and proposed groundwater development projects; energy development projects, and other projects in the regional area.

**Response:** *The BLM is required under NEPA to consider three types of actions in the EIS: connected actions, cumulative actions, and similar actions. Connected actions are those where: 1) one action automatically triggers another action, 2) an action cannot proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or (3) the actions are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification. BLM undertook an analysis of the proposed LCLA Project, the proposed KSV Project, and all SNWA project proposals and determined that they are not connected actions and are therefore addressed within separate EISs. The EIS will include an analysis of cumulative effects for resources affected by the Proposed Action and selected alternatives. The analysis will consider cumulative effects at a variety of spatial and temporal scales, depending on the resource. Resource impacts will be analyzed in sufficient detail necessary to facilitate decision-making among alternatives. Cumulative actions are actions, which, when viewed with other proposed actions, have cumulatively significant impacts. Similar actions are actions that when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography.*

**Primary Issue: Aesthetics (Including Visual Resources and Noise)**

- Modification to natural landscapes from infrastructure development (i.e. power lines and other above ground facilities).
- Growth inducing impacts, including increased residential development and traffic.

**Response:** *Wells fields, pump stations, water storage tanks ,and related electrical distribution facilities would have a direct impact on the visual quality of an area. BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes set limits to the amount of contrast that will be allowed in areas between a management activity and the existing landscape. An analysis of visual impacts and noise resulting from the Proposed Action and alternatives will be presented in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Cultural Resources**

- Effects of construction and water development on cultural resources, paleontological resources, and Native American sites and properties
- Identification and protection of archeological sites potentially disturbed by project construction;

- Consultation with affected Native American tribes

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on cultural resources in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Land Use**

- Project compatibility with existing land uses (i.e. recreation, grazing, agricultural use, and protected areas) and management plans.
- Effects of groundwater development and withdrawal on surface water sources and rangeland productivity.
- Effects of water development on local and regional growth.
- Effects of construction of facilities and water development on recreational opportunities and the recreational experience.

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on existing and future land use in the affected environment, both private and public, will be addressed in the EIS. Existing management plans will be reviewed to determine compatibility with existing plans and actions.*

**Primary Issue: Public Health and Safety**

- Security measures from vandalism or terrorism on project components (i.e. pipeline, wells, power lines, etc.)
- Mobilization of wind-borne dust containing radioactive particles.

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on public health and safety, and worker health and safety during construction, will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Socioeconomic Resources**

- Effects of induced population growth (both in existing rural and urban areas), and impacts to businesses, lifestyles and values, tax base, infrastructure development, and local economies.
- Assignment of responsibility for mitigation and compensation for any irreversible impacts to groundwater quality and quantity to environmental, economic, and social resources.
- Financial costs and benefits to federal, state, and local governments from project construction and operation.

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on socioeconomic resources in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Environmental Justice**

- Disproportionate project effects on low-income and minority populations

**Response:** *By Executive Order 12898, environmental justice is considered one of the critical elements of the human environment that must be addressed in an EIS. This Executive Order was designed to focus the attention of federal agencies on the human health and environmental conditions in minority communities and low-income communities. The potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on environmental justice issues will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Air Quality and Climate**

- Potential reduction of air quality resulting from impacts groundwater removal on vegetation and induced growth
- Potential increases in particulate levels and mobilization of dust from construction activities.

**Response:** *The potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on climate and air quality in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Biological Resources**

- Characterization of terrestrial and aquatic communities and populations potentially affected by project construction and operation.
- Project construction effects (habitat reduction/fragmentation, increased human presence and traffic).
- Impacts from above-ground project components on raptor collisions, electrocution hazards.
- Effects of groundwater withdrawal on viability and extent of groundwater and surface water terrestrial, aquatic, and cave-dwelling species population and associated habitat.
- Identification of biological resource monitoring and mitigation, including assignment of financial responsibility and management, during and after project construction.

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on biological resources, including threatened, endangered, and candidate species in the affected environment, will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Geology, Soils, and Minerals**

- Effects of short- and long-term groundwater withdrawal on cave formation processes, watershed health, and subsidence, fissuring, degradation of hydrological properties, seismic instability leading to earthquakes, and structural damage to basin aquifers.
- Protection of paleontological resources.

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on geology, soils, and mineral resources in the affected environment, will be addressed in the EIS.*

**Primary Issue: Water Resources**

- Effects of water development on aquifers present in and down gradient of proposed pumping.
- Effects of water development on the quantity, distribution, and quality of surface water in and down gradient of the proposed pumping areas and the potential to adversely affect current uses of ground and surface waters
- Effects on water rights present in the project area.

**Response:** *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on water resources in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS.*

### **3.3 Summary of Future Steps**

The next formal comment period will open when the Draft EIS is published. The availability of the Draft EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, as well as other media, such as local print and broadcast media. In addition, the BLM will circulate a notice of the Draft EIS to interested parties included in the project mailing list. Following the release of the Draft

EIS, there will be a 60-day public comment period and additional public meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS.

Following the comment period, the Final EIS will be prepared. The Final EIS would consider and incorporate any other comments received during the review period. The availability of the Final EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, at which time a 30-day public review period will commence. The final opportunity for public comment on the EIS will be this 30-day public review period. No sooner than 30 days after publication of the Final EIS, the Secretary of the Interior will issue a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD would explain all factors, including environmental impacts that the BLM considered in reaching its decision. The ROD will also identify the environmentally preferred alternative, or alternatives. If mitigation measures, monitoring, or other conditions are adopted as part of the BLM's decision, these would be summarized in the ROD, as applicable.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **SUMMARY SCOPING REPORT**

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**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Comments Received During Public Scoping**  
**for the Lincoln County Land Act Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project EIS**

**NEPA PROCESS - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION / COOPERATING AGENCIES**

1.	1B	The Lincoln County Land Act requires that the states of Nevada and Utah come to an agreement about the sharing of water from this aquifer BEFORE it is can be transported through the pipelines on BLM land. Those negotiations have not yet begun! If anything, BLM should be drilling test wells in several spots over the aquifer in order to establish control and collect data for the negotiations.
2.	13B	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife should be a cooperative agency. White Pine County should be funded to participate.
3.	13L	Why is any EIS going forward without the required discussions and agreement between Utah and Nevada required in the Lincoln County Development and Wilderness Act of 2004?
4.	16L	The Lincoln County Land Act Development and Wilderness Act of 2004 required an agreement be reached between Nevada and Utah on shared carbonate aquifer water before any groundwater would be transported through pipelines on public lands. Why is the EIS being started before there is any discussion or agreement between the two states on shared ground water? The BLM must set up a coordinating process with both NV and UT state and field offices.
5.	17L	Will the Nevada Department of Wildlife be a cooperating agency in the EIS process? Without NDOW, the BLM and its technical team will be greatly impacted in its ability to address wildlife impact issues. The BLM should implement a mechanism for meaningful involvement by local governments denied Cooperating Agency Status.
6.	20L	Public Law 108-424 requires an agreement be reached between Nevada and Utah on shared carbonate aquifer water before any groundwater would be transported through pipelines on public lands. Why is this EIS being started before there is any discussion or agreement between the two states on shared groundwater? Will this EIS address these shared resources in a way that takes into account how water withdrawals in this proposal affect interstate aquifers?
7.	21B	Have you contacted the Moapa Band of Paiutes to consult?
8.	33B	The SHPO looks forward to consulting with the federal agency as is required in the existing protocol agreement.
9.	30B	Increase cooperation and coordination between agencies at all levels of government and between agencies and users of public lands and encourage local level planning efforts.

**NEPA PROCESS - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT / SCOPING PROCESS**

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10.	15L	Due to the complexity of issues, and widely affected areas, the comment period should be extended, and should include ALL groundwater pumping and piping applications and inter-basin transfers located anywhere in the carbonate aquifer and associated alluvial areas. Extensive scientific study of the area should include ecological and environmental issues, as well as social and economic ones.
11.	16L	BLM must re-issue the project description and re-initiate the scoping process with more complete project information.
12.	17L	We urge the BLM to continue scoping for this EIS while vigorously implementing 40 CFR 1501.2. The inclusion of NDOW in the EIS process is essential, so BLM should resolve any administrative issues preventing NDOW's participation.
13.	19L	Given the technical nature of the DEIS and the need for careful public review and analysis, the DEIS's public comment period should also be extended to a minimum of 120 days.
14.	20L	A complete project description must be supplied and the scoping process extended or the EIS should be canceled. Maps, in appropriate scale, should be made easily available to everyone interested in this project prior to the end of scoping or the scoping period should be extended to allow for this information or the EIS should be canceled. BLM is required to provide NEPA training. The only training provided was a few minutes at the beginning of the scoping hearings. There was very little training other than an overview of NEPA and the scoping hearings, not what makes for effective written scoping comments. Citizens groups had to research the internet and consult experienced non-governmental agencies and groups to find useful information. The scoping period should be extended because of the many proposals that seek to withdraw and export water from regional aquifers. The number of stakeholders is large as is the geographical area possibly affected. More time should be allowed for scoping and a broader notification to reach all possible stakeholders should be attempted.
<b>NEPA PROCESS - NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STUDIES / VALIDITY OF DATA</b>		
15.	5L	Will the eight proposed production wells to be located in the Tule Desert and the 10 production wells to be located in the Clover Valley be drilled, test pumped and analyzed by the USGS prior to the due date (5/30/06) for completion of the draft water resource report ?
16.	8B	The crux of these projects is to "plunder" water from north central Nevada to supply developers in Clark Co. and southern Lincoln Co. I don't believe sufficient studies have been conducted addressing the impact of massive water withdrawals and transferring them out of the basin(s). Growth must learn to live within the resources available in the same area as the growth is taking place.
17.	11B	Both EIS need to be addressed thoroughly whether the water can be withdrawn without damaging the environment, the local economy and the welfare of the people, plants and animals (including fish, birds, and all species).
18.	11L	If aquifers and flow systems are connected shouldn't we have a clear understanding of how one water project could affect others proposed or currently in existence? Wouldn't a regional flow model as proposed by the USGS in a BARCASS II study be a wise and prudent tool to better understand impacts from various water projects that are occurring in southern and eastern Nevada?

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19.	13L	How will the EIS studies cope with the fact that the amount of the water withdrawals are unknown at this time, since the State Engineer has not yet ruled on the proposed amounts, and the expected change of points of diversion that may follow any rulings? Traditionally SNWA has applied for water, then for a change in the point of diversion. How is it possible to conduct a meaningful EIS without knowing for sure where the water will be pumped? And since they have acquired no water whatsoever at this point, the EIS process should be stopped until the precise locations and amounts are known. It seems that the number of monitoring wells is too few. Also, the entire aquifer should be monitored, not just the area closest to the point of diversion.
20.	14L	The NPS believes there is insufficient data to conclude there will be no adverse affects from ground water pumping associated with the LCLA Project. NSE Ruling 5181 issued only 2,100 afy and set significant checks and balances for release of the additional 7,244 afy held in abeyance. The NPS continues to asset its protest of any amount sought by LC&VWC above this limit.
21.	15L	We are concerned that the scientific information available at this time may not provide an adequate basis for the required biological opinion under section 7 of the ESA, a scientifically rigorous impact analysis for the EIS, or for the development of defensible project terms and conditions.
22.	16L	BLM should use the 36 months of the BARCASS study, which is well underway, to collect baseline hydrologic and other resource information, in cooperation with the USGS and cooperating agencies, of the total project area, including data from pump tests if such tests can be agreed on by Nevada and Utah counties as well as the Nevada and Utah State Engineers. Scoping should be reinitiated when this data is available. The Lincoln County Act states that the Secretary of Interior shall grant to the Lincoln County Water District nonexclusive rights-of-way to federal land in Lincoln County, Nevada, for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system. Such facilities would include arterial water pipelines and secondary feeders and transmission lines. But all other permitted facilities are not included in the project description, so how can their impacts be analyzed in this EIS? The BLM must reconsider its piecemeal approach to NEPA in preparing individual EISs for water pipeline projects in the carbonate aquifer and related pipeline projects in eastern and southern Nevada. One programmatic EIS which looks at the potential impacts of all of the projects in the entire carbonate aquifer system is necessary, with individual EISs which study environmental impacts of pumping and exportation in specific basins would comply with NEPA far better than the current fragmented approach.
23.	17L	BLM should use the predictive model developed in the BARCASS Phase II study for assessing impacts of the proposed federal action. It is the only third-party, independent model which will be available on which BLM can base the critical impacts assessment. The BLM should base its EIS on the hydrological data results from the USGS BARCASS study of the carbonate aquifer before judging NEPA disclosure and analysis to be adequate and complete.
24.	20L	How is the EIS study going to get adequate hydrological information if the USGS is saying more information is needed? These are issues to consider in the Lincoln County projects and must be studied in the EIS of each project: The Project needs more adequate study of the aquifers involved. The Project needs study of inter-basin connectivity of aquifers. These issues must be addressed in the EIS and mitigation measures planned. I am

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		concerned that the Lincoln County projects are not based on sound science or accurate water models. BLM must make sure that everything that goes into the ETS study is available to the scientific community to evaluate. Any benefit of doubt about uncertain information should be in favor of no action, NOT in favor of the project's approval. Do groundwater models adequately take into account all pumping from all projects? Maximum pumping quantities should be used to determine possible negative impacts to the environment. The size of the water withdrawal project and what remains unknown about the aquifers -- and what is likely to remain unknown about the aquifers (given the fact that the USGS study mandated under Public Law 108-424 is too short, underfunded, and will not study the effects and impacts of water withdrawal) makes it mandatory that any pumping be accompanied by bonds to insure that impacts that can be mitigated are responsibly dealt with. The financial extent of possible impacts must be part of the EIS studies.
25.	27B	Little knowledge exists to define where each flow system gets its total recharge and where all discharge takes place.
<b>NEPA PROCESS - PUBLIC REVIEW OF DATA / TECHNICAL TEAM QUALIFICATIONS</b>		
26.	1B	It is of supreme importance that BLM make available to the public all models and water data used to estimate the impacts of pumping this water. The public, including independent hydrologists, need to see how BLM has determined whether lower water table levels and reduced spring flows come from these projects, from the Tule Desert/Clover Valley Project, and the White Pine County Project. Who will be responsible for mitigation? The primary issue here is the planning concerning water resources. I urge you to move with great care, making sure that all data is as accurate as possible and planning is thorough, and that the process is transparent at every step.
27.	13L	ALL data collected by BLM and other agencies, applicants, and authorities, including Southern Nevada Water Authority, Vidler, and others, MUST be made public and subjected to peer review before any decisions are made.
28.	16L	The BLM must assemble a science team which evaluates the schedule currently envisioned to determine if it is scientifically feasible to answer critical questions of impacts from water export on people and wildlife. The BLM must provide for a peer review of all data and methods for collecting the data as well as for all models used in the EIS. The BLM must provide a peer reviewed, scientific evaluation of the uncertainty in both the data used and models and scientific methods used to calibrate the models. The BLM must include a peer reviewed, scientific evaluation of the impacts of the proposed groundwater pumping for at least 100 years, as impacts of groundwater pumping and export over such a large area of the carbonate aquifer may take time to become evident. The BLM must provide for complete disclosure of all hydrologic and other resource data used in the preparation of the EIS, using the web for public review as data and model results become available. The BLM should use only public data and models in the EIS preparation. All data and models used in the EIS should be peer-reviewed and disclosed on a working website for public review, long before the draft EIS is written and released. Additional science briefing meetings should be held for the public after the BLM's science team has examined existing data and models and made its recommendations on their adequacy, reliability and usefulness to the EIS as well as on the proper schedule for EIS completion. The public should be allowed to present its input to the BLM on these technical issues after review of the science team's recommendations. The Ely BLM is currently preparing 7 EISs, a heavy workload, and other EISs are soon to be initiated. This EIS is being rushed, without the benefit of the USGS BARCASS study of the carbonate aquifer. The EIS contractors are paid by the project proponent, not the BLM, and are under no obligation to comply with NEPA requirements, as is the BLM. But EIS contractors will be under considerable pressure to keep to the published EIS schedule regardless of the adequacy of the scientific data and necessary impacts models. The EIS contractor should be closely

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		supervised by the BLM and remain totally neutral throughout the EIS process. The BLM must disclose the names and qualifications of government, private and contractor scientific reviewers so that the public can determine the independence of the panel assembled to review the science of the EIS.
29.	17L	BLM should disclose, ASAP, the hydrological and biological data and the assumptions underlying any models used in the EIS process. The BLM should provide for regular public update and comment on technical issues deliberated in closed sessions of the "technical team." Public outreach could include by: 1) providing web-enabled interactive public discussion on technical topics; 2) maintaining a website containing technical documents and transcripts of closed meetings; 3) hosting open public meetings on technical issues shortly after each closed technical meeting.
30.	19L	The BLM should disclose to the public, as soon as possible, the hydrological and biological data and assumptions underlying any models that will be used for the DEIS. The BLM's DEIS must also include complete and accurate information.
31.	20L	I am concerned about the technical teams (e.g., hydrology, biology) used to study these Lincoln County projects which may be related to the SNWA groundwater proposal. Will the same participants in the SNWA EIS be involved with the Lincoln County EIS(s)? If so, I am concerned that this will be a hardship on many of the participants. If not, I am concerned that the EIS evaluations will be fragmented. This is another reason why the various studies should be combined to better evaluate cumulative impacts of all the related water withdrawal projects.
32.	20L	How is BLM going to study impacts? BLM must make available to the public all water data and all models which have any bearing on not only the Lincoln County proposals but also as the Lincoln County proposals may combine with the SNWA groundwater proposal. What will be the overall estimates impact of all pumping?
33.	22L	It is our understanding that, as part of the aforementioned ruling, the NSE granted LC&VWC an appropriation of 2,100 acre- feet annually, holding the balance of their applications in abeyance until the applicants complete additional studies of the groundwater basin. These studies were to include a peer-reviewed recharge analysis that would consider the impacts of pumping the amount of water granted in the ruling. We are interested in obtaining information on the status of these studies, as well as the status of the groundwater monitoring plan, in order to fully understand the extent of potential effects of pumping groundwater in the amount requested for the proposed project.
<b>NEPA PROCESS - PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PROJECT STUDY AREA</b>		
34.	3B	The question I have is what is the water from both projects going to be used for?
35.	13B	These projects affect land and water resources in the White Pine County. These EIS's are premature.
36.	15L	Identify indirect effects that are a consequence of project development (e.g., groundwater pumping). Identify direct effects that are a result of project construction and operations (e.g., groundwater production wells, water conveyance facilities, and power facilities). The EIS should provide a scientific justification for the geographic extent of the areas and resources subject to project effects. A number of existing scientific reports (e.g., USGS Water Resource Investigation Reports 95-4173 and 91-4146; USGS Professional Papers 1409-D and 712-C) variously describe the extent and

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		connectivity of the regional groundwater flow systems. These reports, among other information, evidence connections between groundwater and surface water resources over a wide geographic area, encompassing a number of basins, surface drainages, and the territory of several states.
37.	16L	The Lincoln County Act states that the Secretary of Interior shall grant to the Lincoln County Water District nonexclusive rights-of-way to federal land in Lincoln County, Nevada, for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system. Such facilities would include arterial water pipelines and secondary feeders and transmission lines. But all other permitted facilities are not included in the project description, so how can their impacts be analyzed in this EIS?
38.	17L	The project description should identify the regional flow systems and the groundwater basins from which water would be pumped, as well as the source of water - alluvial, carbonate or other aquifers or surface water. Why were hydrological basins adjacent to those planned for direct groundwater development, but within the larger regional flow systems (Death Valley, White River, and Great Salt Lake Regional Flow Systems) not included in the project area? We challenge the implied assumption that neighboring basins will not be affected, either hydrologically or biologically, by proposed groundwater pumping and exportation. The project description should identify the dates and locations of well applications and af/y amounts of water expected, as well as the status of any other water rights in the project area, whether Vidler Water Co./Lincoln County water District (Vidler/LCWD) has any certificated water rights, etc. in each groundwater basin in the project area.
39.	20L	I am concerned that inadequate information has been made available by SNWA and BLM to determine whether the project pipeline corresponds to the utility corridor authorized in the Lincoln County Lands Act. Such information should have been provided in the scoping package distributed at scoping hearings. How much water will be needed by these projects at time of construction? What are the sources of this water? What are the impacts of exporting water from other areas for construction?
40.	21L	In consideration of minimizing impacts, will gas lines, power corridors, communication lines, roads and water pipelines be in close alignment to minimize affected wildlife and wildlife habitats? Will water and power lines be above or below-ground; there being differential benefits to wildlife and habitat resources depending on site characteristics and values.
41.	30B	There should be a clear discussion on timing of implementation of actions and the ownership of the implementation of the actions.
42.	33B	The EIS's for these water transmission lines should not be limited strictly to right's-of-way as since such a limited analysis will not consider the true scope of potential impacts. Such a limited analysis would also not consider monitoring effects of groundwater pumping and mitigation of these effects such as limiting or stopping pumping when impacts are, or begin to be, detected. A full scale analysis with full consideration of all effects is necessary to adequately address the environmental impacts of these proposed actions.
43.	34B	The DEISs should fully document groundwater sources - how, when, and by whom groundwater is used? There should also be documentation of long-term groundwater trends within the applicable groundwater basins, water rights law, water allocation~ process and regulations in Nevada, and the history of water allocation in Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, and the Mesquite area. The DEISs should clearly

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		<p>describe existing conditions, including information on existing water supply management and water allocation systems, surface and groundwater quality, drinking water quality and treatment systems, biological resources, and air quality. If applicable, the DEISs should also describe current and historical, litigation, tentative agreements, and the underlying assumptions, water rights, and legal mandates of the proposed water supply projects and alternatives.</p>
<b>NEPA PROCESS - METHODOLOGY FOR ANALYSIS</b>		
44.	15L	<p>The EIS should describe the scientific analysis used to determine whether or not prolonged and extensive groundwater pumping will lead to irreversible effects on ecological resources. The EIS should evaluate the effects of the proposed action on the elements of biological diversity present within the project area, including threatened, endangered, sensitive, and endemic species; wildlife and wildlife habitat; terrestrial ecological systems that may be directly affected; and freshwater systems that may be directly or indirectly affected (e.g., wetlands, springs, spring outflows, seeps, and riparian areas). The enclosures included with this letter include maps of the conservation areas, and lists of the elements of biological diversity that occur within these areas.</p>
45.	16L	<p>The use of key species in the EIS is not acceptable, as it omits environmental impacts analysis of the vast majority of fish and wildlife species, all of whom are at risk from the loss of habitat from large-scale, regional groundwater pumping and exportation. The BLM must conduct a thorough analysis of environmental impacts to fish and wildlife in the project area instead of using the inadequate "key" species approach.</p>
46.	17L	<p>Using independent and peer-reviewed data collection methods, the BLM and other local, state, and federal government agencies, private water users, and the project proponents should collect the following baseline data in the project area in Nevada and Utah: water rights status, including recorded water rights, vested water rights, applications for water rights in the project area, water rights needed for reasonable expectations of local growth, historical and current water uses, mapped locations of all springs and seeps, on both public and private lands, mapped locations of wet meadows and other areas with water dependent flora and fauna, test wells for assessing the connectivity between alluvial groundwater and the deeper carbonate-rock aquifer groundwater and for assessing the recharge rates of both aquifers.</p>
47.	19L	<p>The indirect effects of the Tule Desert project that will need to be addressed in the DEIS include, but are not limited to, any future growth and development of the region resulting from the project and the indirect effects on the region's human and wildlife communities that will result from the proposed pumping of the aquifer.</p> <p>The DEIS will need to carefully analyze the direct impacts of the proposed action. This includes analyzing the impacts of both the construction and long-term operation of the wells, pipelines, electrical supply lines and ancillary facilities. Of particular importance/concern are the direct impacts of the proposed action on eastern Nevada's aquifers (valley fill and carbonate), springs, seeps, wetlands, and wet meadows, water dependant vegetation, wildlife populations and habitat (including threatened and endangered species), and existing water rights (including vested rights). The BLM's DEIS will need to establish the proper baseline upon which to base its impacts analyses and conduct the requisite "trends analysis," i.e., an assessment of the environmental impacts of all activities affecting the various resources over an extended period of time.</p>

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48.	21L	What survey protocols will be used? Would both physical and biotic attributes be surveyed as impact indicators? Will surveys be accomplished along all pipeline routes and utility line right of ways and why? How often will these surveys be conducted and why? How long after completion of the projects will the areas be surveyed? Would species specific protocols be adopted such as those for Burrowing Owl (see attached) and for how long?
49.	32B	The EIS and BLM's decision must be based on an adequate inventory of the resources of the public lands that may be affected by the proposed projects.
<b>NEPA PROCESS - MONITORING AND MITIGATION</b>		
50.	13L	How will wild animals dependent on the spring, seeps, and sub-irrigated areas for water and food be affected? Who will monitor their condition? Who will be able to mitigate the loss of their habitat? How will wildlife, habitat, cultural resources, sensitive species, etc. be protected from increased use and damage as access to the surrounding areas is easier?
51.	15L	At a minimum, development of an extensive water monitoring, management, and mitigation program with a well-defined action criteria will be very important for whatever final alternative is selected. The EIS should include a detailed discussion of mitigation measures that could reasonably be undertaken to offset the adverse effects of project construction and operations. There should also be a discussion of mitigation feasibility within the context of the existing and future social, economic, and political environment. The EIS should provide the details of an effects monitoring program, including the nature of the monitoring system (number of wells, construction details, surface gages, etc); nature of the modeling tools and calibration efforts; assessment of boundary conditions; assessment of impacts to water quality and temperature; and methods for estimating perennial yield of the groundwater basin(s). The monitoring program should include identification of triggers that may be detected in advance of the realization of any irreversible effects, and the immediate mitigation steps, including project cessation, to be taken in the event that triggers are tripped. A monitoring strategy should also be developed that addresses the direct and indirect effects of facilities construction and operation, and groundwater pumping on the species and ecological systems of concern listed in the enclosures. The EIS should also identify a robust monitoring program for gauging the effects of pumping from test groundwater wells sufficient to assess the relationship and connectivity between surface water and groundwater resources. If approval to proceed with any part of the project is given, that approval should be conditioned upon a monitoring program designed to detect pending adverse effects upon biological resources, with prompt cessation of all pumping if adverse effects are noted.
52.	16L	What monitoring is necessary to determine impacts from Vidler/LCWD groundwater pumping on public lands and resources? On existing water users? On TES species? On national and state parks, wildlife areas, and BLM special areas? How often must monitoring be done? What kinds of monitoring must be done? Electronic? Site visits? Who will be responsible for monitoring? Who will pay monitoring costs? How will monitoring data be published for public review? Who will evaluate monitoring data to determine the severity of impacts? Will the BLM set impact thresholds beyond which pumping must be reduced or stopped? What are acceptable and unacceptable impacts? What happens if monitoring is not done by the responsible parties? Who is responsible for monitoring impacts on TES species? What are acceptable and non-acceptable impacts for TES species? Can BLM withdraw the ROW permit for the pipeline if monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts in the basins losing water?
53.	17L	Will mitigation for declining flows in springs which support TES species be immediate, rather than held hostage to lengthy legal proceedings about

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		<p>exactly whose groundwater pumping is causing the environmental harm? How will BLM make public up-to-date reports on monitoring and mitigation for the proposed project?</p>
54.	18B	<p>Any road or power line construction has a serious detrimental effect on the plant life and animal environment. The desert doesn't heal well-pioneer trails are still evident after over 100 years since usage.</p>
55.	20L	<p>How will the BLM determine whether impacts (e.g., reduced spring flows or water table levels) come from the Kane Springs Valley Project, the Tule Desert/Clover Valley Project, or the SNWA groundwater proposal and who is responsible for mitigation? What if, after the pumps and pipeline are built, the area suffers another 8-year drought? Does that mean SNWA would stop pumping at just the time they most need the water because, without wet years, they could not recharge the aquifers? Or would they keep pumping all the way through the dry years, as her statement implies, knowing that the aquifers were not being recharged? If the project is not denied, monitoring and mitigation should very carefully specify how much water can be withdrawn in dry years. These issues must be addressed in the EIS and mitigation measures planned. What is acceptable mitigation for declining water tables which affect wells, springs, wetlands, creeks, lakes, rivers? What is acceptable mitigation for the loss of vegetation, increased erosion and air pollution from dust storms? What is acceptable mitigation for economic losses by ranchers, farmers, small businesses, local and tribal governments? Describe mitigation monitoring and reporting program to ensure compliance and what action would be taken should extraction rate result in significant impacts. Stakeholders should be notified if monitoring determines that negative impacts are resulting from the project. Notification must be timely and readily available. Some parts of the impact area are rural, without ready access to news media. Electronic means of communication should be available (e.g., e-mail updates). What is acceptable mitigation for loss of population, opportunities for growth in rural communities, and rural quality of life? What is acceptable mitigation for urban impacts of additional residents on urban and rural schools, parks, health and safety, crime, infrastructure and other government costs, employment/unemployment, taxes, real estate values, and quality of life? What is acceptable mitigation for the loss of wildlife populations and habitats from project impacts? What is acceptable mitigation for the loss of or severe impacts to TES species and their habitats? Who sets mitigation requirements? What are the costs of required mitigation? Who pays mitigation costs? Who enforces mitigation requirements? How will mitigation be triggered? How will adverse impacts on affected springs from pumping in Kane Springs Valley be determined when other carbonate aquifer wells will also be operating in the same part of the flow system? Describe which agencies would have authority and responsibility to determine safe yield amount of groundwater extraction and exportation and which agencies would be responsible for enforcing mitigation or program performance measures. These need to be determined for impacts in Utah as well as Nevada, and may need to be extended to California and Idaho. Worst case scenarios should be used to extend the range of monitoring as far as needed from the wells. Would impact threshold criteria be established to identify groundwater levels that will trigger protective enforcement action?</p>
56.	21L	<p>What types of baseline information and monitoring will be appropriate to determine the impact thresholds and trigger effective minimization and/or mitigation measures pre-, during, and post-construction? Will monitoring information be compiled, analyzed, and openly reported concerning impact assessments to wildlife, habitats, and ecosystem health? What measures will be taken to monitor affects of wells and water withdrawals on vegetation and wildlife communities? Will sensitive species and habitats in nearby adjacent watersheds be monitored for affects from water withdrawals? Reasonable and meaningful mitigation is anticipated for incorporation into the EIS. An aspect in determining when and where mitigation is warranted is development of impact safeguards using threshold-based mechanisms which trigger timely, corrective actions at various impact thresholds. Would Watershed Assessments be available to serve wholly at in part as baseline for environmental monitoring purpose?</p>

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		<p>Identification of the aquifer type (deep carbonate, deep alluvial, and/ or shallow alluvial) is critical in understanding the potential impacts to surrounding habitats and species which depend on them. The potential impacts themselves are primarily indirect and cumulative in nature. An informed understanding of the hydrology is fundamental to evaluating impacts and developing meaningful long term mitigation consequential to the projects. For example,</p> <p>1) Wells drilled into the Clover Mountains may have some effect to the limited existing springs in that area, depending on the sources of the water. The Department is currently working to improve water sources for wildlife in the Delmar and Meadow Valley mountains and Kane Springs Valley to reduce competition with livestock on existing water sources.</p> <p>2) What measures will be taken to monitor affects of wells and water withdrawals on vegetation and wildlife communities? Will sensitive species and habitats in nearby adjacent watersheds be monitored for affects from water withdrawals? Specific areas include: Pahrnagat Valley, Meadow Valley Wash, Halfway Wash, Toquop Wash, and the Upper Muddy River at Warm Springs.</p>
<b>NEPA PROCESS - DEIS FORMAT / PLAIN LANGUAGE</b>		
57.	5B	<p>The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project, Open House Scoping Meetings Notice, Project Description Map should be annotated to clearly show that the proposed project lies in T.11S., R.63&amp;64E., MDM, Lincoln County, Nevada. It took an hour of diligent searching and work for me just to determine that with any degree of accuracy. Your maps all need such marginal inscriptions to be added back onto the basemaps, whatever they are; their sources and dates of publication should be clearly stated.</p>
58.	16L	<p>Maps at the same or smaller scale as maps in the BLM scoping package should be available overlaid with the Congressionally designated utility corridors at additional scoping meetings and on a working website, to provide the public full access to this critical information.</p>
59.	19L	<p>In order to enable meaningful public comment, the BLM's DEIS for the Tule Desert project will need to be well organized, easy to read and understand, and include proper references and citations to all relevant scientific studies and data. While a DEIS may not be expected to reference or rely on every study or opinion, the state of scientific knowledge on a particular subject must be fairly represented in a balanced manner. The BLM's DEIS will need to consider a reasonable range of alternatives. Under NEPA, federal agencies must "study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources."</p>
60.	21B	<p>You need better maps.</p>
61.	30B	<p>Decision criteria should be clearly delineated in a bulleted format that details just the highlights and merits (lack thereof) of each Alternative. This exercise will give the reviewer a comfort level as to why the Preferred Alternative was chosen. This exercise trends towards the successful "Choosing by Advantages" (CBA) decision making process employed by the National Park Service. Without this exercise, it will be very difficult for the</p>

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		<p>reviewer to Support any alternative with confidence. All sections should include clear explanations and cross-referencing of what criteria were utilized to arrive at statements and actions. The alternatives should NOT be written in large block paragraph format. The description of each alternative should include bulleted statements that clearly and concisely detail the unique characteristics of the subject alternative as well as an accurate listing of the differences between it and the other alternatives. The use of language such as "same as Alternative B" should be avoided. Each alternative should include the complete discussion, even if it is the same as another. It is too confusing for the reader to flip back and forth between alternatives. The summary section of the two DEIS's should include a concise discussion on process. The reader must be assured of the merits of all the alternatives. For example, the "Choosing by Advantages" (CBA) process that the National Park Service employs to determine the preferred alternative is strongly supported by this agency as a valuable and defensible tool in sound decision making. The DEIS's must adequately explain and justify <i>why the preferred alternative is preferred</i>. To make the DEIS's more reader-friendly and allow for better informed reviewers and potentially less confusion and questions directed at BLM, all maps should be provided in a consistent format and size. All monitoring sections should include concise discussions on what parameters will be utilized to measure the results and success of any actions. The Preferred Alternative should be located first and prominently, at the very beginning of the summary discussion, and before the other alternatives. Each alternative should have a one line title that distinguishes it from the others.</p>
62.	34B	<p>We recommend the Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) include a clear description of the basic project purpose and need, project alternatives, potential impacts to the environment, and mitigation for these impacts. Particular attention should focus on an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options for the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). CEQ regulations state that the DEISs should include the "means to mitigate adverse environmental effects." (40 CFR 1502.16(h)). This provision applies to indirect effects as well as direct effects. Increased rates of growth for residential, commercial and industrial purposes, directly or indirectly caused by the projects, constitute effects and should be evaluated in the DEISs. Induced residential, commercial, and industrial growth can adversely affect water quality, wetlands, and other natural resources. These types of indirect effects and appropriate mitigation measures should be fully disclosed in the DEISs.</p>
<b>NEPA PROCESS - ALTERNATIVES</b>		
63.	9L	<p>I believe the whole pipeline project should be scrapped and a maximum effort made to initial a desal project as has been suggested by our congressman and other politicians. A trade off for a plant in California to get more water from the far west to get more water from the far west and other states would go a long way to solving the water problems and filling up Lake MEAD to proper levels.</p>
64.	10B	<p>These proposals are short term answers to long term affects. Nevada's growing water problems should be addressed properly from now by making agreements with California to build desalinization plants &amp; pipe water from the ocean. After all, that will be our only solution long before this century comes to a close. The present proposals need to be derailed to force Vegas &amp; other communities to plan &amp; invest for the long term. It is unknown whether the underground water tables are interconnect. The affects will make certain areas if Nevada more arid &amp; there is no easy method of replenishing the water tables once they're dry.</p>
65.	13L	<p>No pipelines should be permanent, or below ground. Permits should have time limits, with the possibility of renewal only if there are no effects. Once a pipeline is permanently installed below ground it will be next to impossible to force cessation of pumping because of the size of the investment in infrastructure.</p>

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66.	15L	The EIS should analyze alternatives, including the no-action alternative. The alternatives analysis should include, notably, whether there are actions that could be taken by the project proponents to obtain water resources from another source. It should also include a thorough exploration of the no-action alternative. Alternative alignments and facility locations, and alternative water diversion methods and locations should be evaluated to determine the extent to which adverse effects could be avoided or, at the very least, minimized. Additionally, analysis of the potential effects of an alternative for a decreased diversion quantity should be considered.
67.	16L	NEPA requires a full range of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. The No Action must be more than pro forma and simply dismissed by BLM. One alternative should include all of the current related water projects in the carbonate aquifer. Another should take a hard look at the other water supply options for the proposed Coyote Springs development. These should include: groundwater from other sources than Kane Springs Valley. The range of alternatives should include full build-out, 50% build-out and a development limited by actual water rights approved by the NV State Engineer.
68.	18B	Water conservation should be our first priority. For the last many years it has been a renewal resource due to the drought and no guarantee this won't continue. Somewhere & sometime common sense will have to prevail over guesswork.
69.	20B	Projects of this nature would be unheard of when we delve deeply into (Permaculture) Engineered Housing & Business structures. Permaculture Engineered Housing eliminates groundwater projects. I strongly suggest there be careful consideration of this revolutionary form of development funds these "water projects" would be better directed into Permaculture Retro Fits on existing housing. The overall energy efficiency of Permaculture Engineering is truly a quantum leap beyond what currently exists.
70.	20L	The Project should be compared to the cost and efficiency of desalinization as an alternative. These issues must be addressed in the EIS and mitigation measures planned.
71.	32B	The EIS must include a reasonable range of alternatives including alternatives that will avoid or minimize impacts to rare, sensitive and special status species. The EIS for each of the projects should include at least one alternative that will <u>improve</u> the status of each of the listed species that may be impacted by the projects in order to fulfill BLM's obligations under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") to promote conservation of listed species and work towards recovery of these species. <u>See</u> ESA § 7(a)(1). Similarly, the EIS for each of the projects should include at least one alternative that protects and recovers species identified as sensitive species and/or species of concern.
72.	34B	The selection of the No Action alternative is a critical step in the environmental analysis since it provides the baseline for comparison with other action alternatives. It is EPA's position that the "no action" alternative is not a "no impact" baseline. EPA believes that to interpret the "no action" alternative as having "no impacts" may be inconsistent with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. EPA advocates determination of available water supplies and bringing water demands and commitments into alignment with long-term sustainable supplies. To minimize impacts and potential water shortages, we urge BLM to work with the Lincoln County Water District to consider all available tools for providing water

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		<p>supplies and enhancing water management flexibility, supply reliability, and water quality. These management tools should be incorporated into the alternatives, considered in the DEISs. Management tools could include water transfers and exchanges, conservation, appropriate water pricing, water use efficiencies, different operational regimes, market based incentives to reduce water use, water acquisition, conjunctive use, and wastewater reclamation and recycling. We recommend BLM and LCWD consider conservation as a key component of the proposed groundwater development projects and as a condition of project approval. The DEISs should include a discussion of how conservation affects water markets and the need for these groundwater developments, a description of conservation measures, and ways to encourage and implement conservation measures. We advocate development and implementation of water conservation plans, use of conservation performance requirements in the project designs, and strong assurances that certain levels of conservation will be attained. EPA believes it is important that the DEISs for these groundwater development projects evaluate a range of water supply development strategies and alternatives. We recommend Bureau of Land Management and Lincoln County Water District develop alternatives which include strong incentives for water conservation, tiered pricing, conservation goals and performance, monitoring, aid mitigation measures. Other water supply alternatives to consider and evaluate are water transfers, conjunctive use, and water conservation and reuse. Again, we urge an approach which focuses on demand management and effective, efficient use of sustainable water supplies. The DEISs should include an in-depth discussion of pricing and how it will be utilized by the LCWD to balance water demands and water supply. All reasonable alternatives should be considered including those which may be beyond BLM's current statutory authorities, pursuant to NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14(c)). Furthermore, there should be a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which were not evaluated in detail.</p>
<b>NEPA PROCESS - CONNECTED ACTIONS / CUMULATIVE IMPACTS</b>		
73.	1B	<p>Because of these water issues, these projects will have effects on a very wide region, far exceeding the immediate neighborhood, or the specific visual impacts of the proposed developments, or the impacts on local animals and vegetation. There must be a meaningful mitigation process for these widened effects. Once those houses are built and occupied, it will be extremely difficult to cut off the water supply even if the aquifer is dwindling and springs in White Pine County are dried up. Infrastructure (highways, etc) can be planned for and built, but these water impacts must be addressed.</p>
74.	10L	<p>It is time to get real about water in the desert and instead of destroying our future by the greedy needs of developers. Let's look for less harmful ways to meet our needs. If Lincoln Co. is so hard-pressed economically, then perhaps they need to give up their charter and merge with Clark Co.</p>
75.	11L	<p>Given our precarious situation, I believe a comprehensive, cumulative look at water use throughout the southern &amp; eastern regions in Nevada should occur, and these questions should be answered before granting rights of way for any water projects in this area.</p>
76.	13B	<p>Projects are connected actions and should be one EIS. It is wrong to separate these projects from the SNWA pipeline EIS. They are connected actions and should be scoped and studied together.</p>
77.	13L	<p>With several pumping and pipeline projects already identified but not yet being studied or scheduled for study, along with the current EIS projects under way, how can BLM determine the larger picture of consequences of all kinds without simultaneously studying all the projects all over the carbonate aquifer areas? NEPA requires that the BLM consider actions that are similar or connected in one EIS. Yet not all of the SNWA pipeline</p>

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		<p>projects are included in the project description. Shouldn't BLM do a cumulative impact analysis of all of these related pipeline projects, in order to comply with this NEPA requirement?</p>
78.	15L	<p>Identify connected actions that would be triggered by implementation of the proposed project, or would not proceed unless actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or are interdependent parts of a larger action and dependent upon the larger action for their justification. Identify cumulative actions that, when viewed with this action, have cumulatively significant impacts. For example, there are various other water importation projects currently proposed or envisioned for southern and eastern Nevada that should be considered in a cumulative effects analysis.</p>
79.	16L	<p>The BLM must reconsider the project scope and determine whether a programmatic EIS must be prepared on all related water pipeline proposals or disclose the way the BLM will be able to do a cumulative impact analysis of all the related projects. What impacts will the proposed project have on the health of watersheds in the project area in Nevada and Utah?</p>
80.	17L	<p>With the current piecemeal approach, how can BLM, or anyone else, determine which project is causing which effect? All groundwater basins within the 3 larger regional flow systems should be included as a part of the project study area. In addition, since many basins in White Pine County and Lincoln County and Utah are in the adjacent Colorado River Regional Flow System and targeted for groundwater development by other water purveyors in the near future, we strongly urge that the project area be expanded to include all basins in the Colorado River Flow System in both states.</p>
81.	19L	<p>There are a number of individual projects that should be considered in one, single EIS. These projects include, but are not limited to: (1) the Tule Desert project (also known as the "Lincoln County Land Act project"); (2) the Three Lakes Tikaboo project; (3) the Virgin/Muddy River surface water development project; (4) the Lake Mead pipeline EIS; (5) the Coyote Springs development project; and (6) the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties groundwater development project. The DEIS must take a hard look at the cumulative impacts of the proposed action. To determine the appropriate geographic boundaries for a cumulative effects analysis, the BLM's DEIS should first: (1) determine the area and resources (i.e., the aquifers) that will be affected by their proposed action (the "project impact zone"); (2) make a list of resources within that area or zone that could be affected by the proposed action; and (3) determine the geographic areas occupied by those resources outside the immediate area or project impact zone.</p>
82.	20L	<p>The EIS should be looked at on its own merits and as it contributes to the cumulative effect of it and other environmental impacts (e.g., desertification, decreased ability of rural fire departments to fight wildfires, decreased carrying capacities of range land). Evaluate all potential changes in area recharge resulting from the proposed extraction and export from Lincoln County and evaluate how these potential impacts might contribute to cumulative impacts of this project when combined with water withdrawal and exportation of other projects (e.g., SNWA groundwater project). The EIS should describe the cumulative effects of groundwater drawdown of all wells that would be in operation over the life of the projects. This needs to be studied not just for Lincoln County projects but as they contribute to cumulative impacts when combined with other water withdrawal and exportation projects (e.g., SNWA groundwater proposal). There are at least nine pipeline proposals in eastern and southern Nevada, most initiated by SNWA. Impacts on the downsystem as well as upsystem areas of the carbonate aquifer could occur in Utah and California, as well</p>

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		<p>as other Colorado River states. When we have asked the BLM how it intends to do a cumulative impact analysis in 9 individual EISs of these related projects, most pumping and exporting groundwater from the carbonate aquifer, we have received. no information on how such an analysis is even possible. How will the BLM assess cumulative impacts from groundwater pumping and piping from these two projects along with other proposed groundwater projects such as SNWA groundwater proposal in Spring/Snake Valley since all of the projects will be pumping from the carbonate aquifer shared by both states? What will be the cumulative effects of impacts like those above when combined with similar impacts caused by the SNWA groundwater proposal and other related water withdrawal and exportation proposals? How will the above impacts to natural resources be increased due to cumulative impacts of the SNWA groundwater proposal and any other proposals that may affect the regional aquifers?</p>
83.	21L	<p>The potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that the proposed project may contribute to regionally are germane in this context as are those by similar or related industrial and municipal developments. Among these are the proposed Toquop Energy Project, development of LCLA lands, Kane Springs Valley Groundwater and Utility Development, Coyote Springs Investment and MX well development, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) pipelines, and various proposed minerals projects.</p>
84.	22B	<p>Why are there four different EIS's (SNWA, Lincoln Co, Kane Springs, Toquop) all analyzing groundwater pumping from the same or possibly connected aquifers? Is this improper segmenting of analysis when the CEQ regulation requires one comprehensive analysis of connected actions? What cumulative effects would be caused by this growth inducing pumping, such as habitat fragmentation, invasive weeds, air pollution, noise and loss of desert tortoise habitat?</p>
85.	26B	<p>BLM should take a worst cause scenario approach considering the maximum amount of water that may be transferred in the region including Clark Co. Basin (eg. Three Lakes &amp; Tikaboo Valleys). The Nye County Basin's such as Railroad Valley and the White Pine, northern Lincoln County basins such as Spring Valley and the Utah region that might be impacted by draw down of the aquifers in Nevada. The BLM should consider the impacts of these two projects in the context of all of the proposed water transfers and transportation projects in the region impacted by Southern Nevada Water Authority Cooperative Water Project. Other projects include SNWA pipelines including the western extension into Nye County, any pipeline Lincoln Co./ Vidler may propose to access Garden, Cave, Coal, Patterson, Hamblin Village etc., and what ever project may be developed to transfer water held under existing water rights by speculators such as developers Harvey Whittemore who is proposing to transfer the water from Lake Valley to Coyote Springs. If the longer distance transfers Lincoln Co. and Whittemore are considering are to be piggy-backed on the SNWA pipeline, then the full capacity of the pipeline has to be included.</p>
86.	27B	<p>The accumulated effect of these ground-water withdrawals together with the many other planned withdrawals together with the many systems, and adjoining flow systems must be considered. The Kane Springs Project will have great impacts to Highway 93 and State Route 168.</p>
87.	30B	<p>The proponents should carefully consider and discuss all impacts these projects will have on natural, cultural and recreational resources including impacts to the unique visual resources of Lincoln and Clark counties. The discussions should emphasize cumulative impacts and detail measures being taken to focus impacts on areas already affected by infrastructure (i.e. power lines and utilities).</p>

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88.	33B	<p>Due to the vast range of potential negative impacts of both the Lincoln County and Northeastern Nevada, the Nevada Department of Agriculture requests that the EIS's for Lincoln County Pipeline and the SNWA pipeline analyze the entire range of cumulative effects of these pipelines. Cumulative effects include, but are not limited to, effects of groundwater pumping on northern Nevada groundwater sources springs and agricultural wells; effects of pumping on groundwater sources necessary for livestock and wildlife; effects of power lines to sage grouse; effects of groundwater pumping to T&amp;E species such as the Devil's hole pupfish; effects of groundwater pumping on northern NV native vegetation, short and long term.</p>
89.	34B	<p>Full disclosure of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts is important in assuring decisions are based on understanding of impacts and tradeoffs (40 CFR 1508). The DEIS should document existing conditions; explain the changes which have occurred (e.g., pre-project and past impacts). Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems." (40 CFR 1508.9(b)). The DEISs should adequately document cumulative impacts, including past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. This analysis should include a description of the Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA); other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable LCLA actions; Toquop Energy Project; and other proposed master-planned developments and other land and water development projects. The DEISs should evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed groundwater development projects on the sustainability of the environmental resources of Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, and the Mesquite area. Consider long-term impacts on surface and groundwater quality, quantity and sustainability; regional infrastructure and water supplies; wetlands, seeps, and springs; and fish and wildlife habitat. Post cumulative effects may have greatly influenced the "existing conditions" and should be documented in the DEISs. These effects may represent adverse historical impacts which may be perpetuated under the action and no action alternatives. Furthermore, it may not be sufficient to establish compliance with certain environmental protection laws (such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act (CWA)), where the status quo may reflect unacceptable conditions and trends resulting from ongoing activities, including water diversions and groundwater pumping. Nor will "current conditions" provide adequate guidelines for gauging desired levels of environmental restoration and enhancement. Information in the DEISs should assist in establishing the possible issues with current conditions and defining possible restoration and enhancement goals.</p>
<b>AESTHETICS (Including Visual Resources and Noise)</b>		
90.	6L	What are the impacts on the dark skies that make Nevada special?
91.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on aesthetic values of these rural areas? Nevada rural areas?
92.	26B	Concerns regarding the effects of infrastructure including disturbance, but also visual impacts especially associated with powers transmission lines.
93.	26B	What are the impacts to the environment in the areas where the development will occur such as air pollution caused by long term large scale construction and light pollution extending into the still pristine night sky of the Great Basin?
94.	30B	New development should utilize dark sky lighting (see <a href="http://www.darkskev.org">www.darkskev.org</a> ). There should be no light and glare impacts to adjacent public and private lands.

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95.	30B	The proposed DEIS's should include a defensible discussion on cumulative and incremental impacts to high quality Class 1 and Class 2 VRM areas. What is BLM's policy on Visual Resources management? Much of the impacted area consists of VRM Class 1 and Class 2 areas and should be protected. Are existing VRM classes as proposed in the ELY RMP DEIS, and existing in the adopted RMP a snapshot in time that only portray existing conditions, subject to change at any time? Or do high quality VRM classes represent strong preservation policies that are intended to provide assurances to the public about protection of valuable visual resources? Visual resources should not be expendable upon application of a high priority project. This discussion should be included in the two DEIS's with rational justifications for any changes and logical mitigation measures to maintain the visual resources of the impacted areas. All new development should be camouflaged through careful siting and use of earth- tone/compatible colors.
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>		
96.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on Native American tribes in eastern and southern Nevada, and west Utah? Native Americans occupied eastern and southern Nevada and west Utah for thousands of years. How will the proposed project impact Native American cultural resources and sites? What impacts will the project have on petroglyphs and pictographs in the project area (e.g. increased vandalism of cultural sites)?
97.	16B	I am concerned about cultural resource preservation, particularly petroglyphs, pictographs, middens. These and the wildlife habitat should not be compromised just to provide water resources for private development.
98.	31B	We anticipate that the EIS documents that are prepared for the proposed projects will include appropriate disclosure of direct and indirect impacts to Native Americans and Native American resources, and documentation of consultation efforts with affected tribes, where necessary.
<b>LAND USE AND ACCESS</b>		
99.	3B	Concern I have is the pumping of that much water and its impact on area agricultural business.
100.	12B	Please do not allow blocking of access to Wildcat Wash or the road in the Arrow Canyon.
101.	13L	How will the transportation of nuclear waste along I-15 and US 95 be affected by the increased traffic on these highways, and how will new areas of development affect the nuclear waste transportation? These issues are not independent of each other. What will traffic impacts be on Hwy 93 and I-15 from construction activities and increased traffic from new residents and who will pay for road widening? How will existing roads handle increased traffic congestion, and who will pay to upgrade the roads to handle future needs for repair, resurfacing, expansion, etc., which will also require water to complete?
102.	13L	What will be the overall affect on agriculture - a necessary enterprise if we are to eat?
103.	14L	The NPS has concerns that groundwater pumping associated with this project could potentially contribute to cumulative up-gradient effects that could lead to springflow and stream flow depletion in Lake Mead NRA.

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104.	16L	<p>What impacts will the proposed project have on rural and urban tourism and recreational opportunities? Many Las Vegans currently hunt, fish, camp, and hike in Lincoln and White Pine Counties, but may lose these recreational opportunities if state and federal parks and wildlife areas are dried up or damaged by falling water tables from Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting. What impacts will the proposed project have on Great Basin and Death Valley National Parks, and on Lake Mead National Recreation Area? Nevada has established a number of State Wildlife Management Areas in the project area, including Key Pittman, Wayne C. Kirch, Railroad Valley and Overton WMAs. What impacts will the proposed project have on each WMA? Eastern and southern Nevada and west Utah are the sites for some unique and valuable National Wildlife Refuges, including Ash Meadows, Fish Springs, Desert, Pahrnagat and Moapa Valley NWRs. Most are water-based and contain a large number of endemic species. What impacts will the proposed project have on each refuge? What are current and projected levels of park visitors? What impacts will the proposed project have on national park areas, state parks, State Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, including loss of water, increasing erosion, and increased or decreased visitor use, need for and cost of park management and facilities, etc.? BLM has some outstanding natural areas, ACECs, and recreational areas on public lands in the project area: Desert Tortoise ACECs, the swamp cedars in Spring Valley, Red Rock National Conservation Area, mesquite natural area near Pahrump, and a number of wilderness areas and wilderness study areas. What impacts will the proposed project have on each special BLM areas?</p>
105.	16L	<p>What impacts will the proposed project construction and the new residents who would be supported by exported water have on rural counties, on traffic impacts on Highway 93 and Interstate 15?</p>
106.	16L	<p>What impacts will the proposed project have on public access to public and private lands during and after pipeline construction? How will the proposed project impact existing rights-of-way uses (other pipelines, telephone and power lines, etc)?</p>
107.	17B	<p>I am concerned with the effect of the lowering the water table around Pahrnagat National Wildlife Area and Key Pittman WMA. I recommend a no action alternative.</p>
108.	19L	<p>The BLM needs to analyze the impacts of the proposed action on the neighboring Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Desert National Wildlife Range, and the Arrow Canyon Wilderness.</p>
109.	20L	<p>What will be the impacts of the proposed projects on state and national wildlife areas and refuges? What will be the impacts of the proposed projects on local, state and county parks? What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on hunting and fishing, tourism? What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on recreation, access to public lands, increased ORV use and damage to public lands and resources?</p>
110.	20L	<p>Will traffic impacts on Hwy. 93 and I-15 be increased due to construction traffic and from increased traffic by new residents? Who will pay for road widening?</p>

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111.	20L	I am concerned that farmers in and all areas affected by this project, will suffer financial losses due to this project. An analysis of the economic impacts to agricultural producers must be developed and adjusted if any changes are made to the project's scope.
112.	21B	How will the projects affect land and water resources that have adapted to current conditions?
113.	23B	I am interested in the preservation of our natural resources for the health of agriculture and industry of central Nevada.
114.	26B	The original plan of Vidler and Lincoln Co. was to promote land exchanges which would free up agricultural land for more of the same sort of development that currently exists. The 2004 legislation designates 90,000 acres to be sold in Lincoln Co., which will probably be municipal rather than agricultural. Certainly local water development has the advantage over export that impact on the resource would be more gradual and easier to address. The competition for water resources demands that we make an intelligent choice to protect the future of rural Nevada. This can't be done until we know what land may be available for what use.
115.	27B	This would only be of concern to the Pony Express if it prevented us from making our historical ride each June.
116.	30B	The proponents should carefully consider and detail all land use implications and detail possible affects to multiple use stakeholders. The proponents should ensure that all local plans and policies are reviewed, recognized and considered in a public and transparent manner. The project should be reviewed by the Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council as well as the relevant local planning commissions and public land use advisory committees. Any action should consider ancillary impacts to surrounding areas including newly established wilderness areas. The correlation between the wilderness experience and what happens outside its boundaries should be clearly understood. No less important are user experiences on surrounding public lands.
117.	34B	The DEISs should provide detailed descriptions of these master-planned developments, fully evaluate cumulative impacts, and explain the rationale for not evaluating linked water supply projects and master-planned developments together in a single environmental document.
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>		
118.	16L	The proposed pipeline and related facilities, such as well-fields, pump stations, etc. have security needs in this post-9/11 era. Yet no such security measures were disclosed in the scoping process. Will large areas be fenced? Will the buried pipeline be fenced? Surveillance cameras? Armed security patrols of the pipeline corridor and other facilities? Closed areas? Closed roads? What impacts will security measures for the proposed project have on public use and enjoyment of public lands?
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES</b>		
119.	2L	City of Caliente has serious environmental concern regarding development above the city.

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120.	6B	I am opposed to this entire project, believing it to be detrimental to the environment wildlife, and the people of the Great Basin, I can only see that it benefits the Las Vegas Valley District and Mr. Whittemores Coyote Springs Project, along with increased tax revenues for Lincoln County.
121.	6L	Our government should not be making it easier to build sprawling development in the middle of nowhere. It would be better to build housing in already built areas that are affordable.
122.	7B	Cities are essentially not healthy places to live. Why must we encourage urbanization and penalize rural areas? We hear developers saying "we are being deprived of our right to develop our land." Is there in fact a right to stomp on others rights? Were they forced to purchase the land in the first place? Sure we can go buy a thousand acres of farmland and then say we want to make it into homes and make millions. But is it tight if we thereby cause water shortages and deprive other farmers, etc.? Even if it is just "desert land, what "right have we to alter it? Our <i>speculations</i> were just that, not rights.
123.	8B	Building 85,000 homes and 16 golf-courses on land that does not have the ground water resources to support it, is criminal. Using tax dollars to have the BLM prepare an EIS for the proposed development is equally insane. Unless development is entirely sustainable it shouldn't even be considered.
124.	13L	Who will bear the expense of building fire stations, police departments, garbage services, schools, etc.? How will rural infrastructure and economies be affected, considering the proposal to build isolated cities in the desert with no means of making a living, no services, etc? Will taxes be raised for everyone in the affected counties to pay for the services these developments will require? How will the few communities already in existence be affected? Will taxes be raised due to the new growth in previously undeveloped areas of rural Nevada? If so, will the impact be fairly distributed so growth pays for itself? Some type of bonding system should be established to insure that restitution of damages of all kinds will be completely funded.
125.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project and its new residents have on Nevada urban county and city governments, budgets, services needed and ability to deliver, revenues and costs, schools, courts, fire and public safety services, emergency services, health care, roads, parks, taxes, real estate values, crime, traffic problems, overall quality of life, etc. What impacts will the proposed project have on current and future growth in rural Nevada and Utah counties? What impacts will the proposed project have on current and future growth in urban Nevada and Utah? What impacts will the proposed project including at full build-out have on rural communities, businesses, families and lifestyles, values, populations, and economies, both current and future in Lincoln, White Pine, Nye, Clark Counties, Nevada, and Tooele, Juab, Millard, Iron, Beaver, and Washington Counties in Utah?
126.	16L	What is acceptable mitigation for economic losses by ranchers, farmers, small businesses, local and tribal governments? Do affected rural counties and areas have adequate financial resources to protect their interests in the EIS process? What is acceptable mitigation for loss of population, opportunities for growth in rural communities, and rural quality of life?
127.	16L	How much will the proposed Vidler/LCWD project cost? Costs should include any financing costs and the time period for repayment. Who will pay these costs?

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128.	17L	<p>How much water will be needed at full buildout? 50% buildout and at a development level supported by actual approved water rights? How much will the water cost? Who will bear the costs? Estimates of project costs should include all costs, not just construction costs. These would include financing costs, monitoring and mitigation costs. What water rates will be charged at the <b>LCLA area</b> developments to purchase and transport water? To operate and maintain water systems? Who will operate the M&amp;l water systems? What is the minimum amount of groundwater necessary to make the proposed project economically feasible?</p>
129.	17L	<p>A decrease in agricultural income from declining water levels in irrigation wells and springs and surface water and resulting increases in costs for deepening wells and/or pumping costs may have drastic effects on local county school district budgets and provision of community services and infrastructure. Please consider these impacts over the next 50 years if the proposed action is implemented.</p>
130.	17L	<p>With the uncertainty over the economic and environmental impacts of massive groundwater pumping and removal from Lincoln, White Pine and Utah counties as well as the costs of monitoring and mitigation over 50 years, the Sierra Club recommends that BLM require a bond in a substantial amount to cover these costs.</p>
131.	20L	<p>What will be the socio-economic impacts on rural county infrastructure and economy from building and supporting new communities of 50,000 to 100,000 people in remote areas with no services? Small counties such as White Pine County have been called on to defend their interests and rights without the financial means of hiring adequate hydrological and legal resources to do so. These three counties, and others if appropriate, should be granted funds by project proponents to hire adequate technical resources to adequately evaluate this proposal and defend their interests. Will Mesquite and Clark County have to provide new infrastructure and facilities for these new developments? What impact will that have on current taxpayers and utility rate payers? What will the impacts be from new development north of Mesquite in Lincoln County? What impacts will that have on Mesquite in Clark County? Will the projects impact quality of life for existing residents of Mesquite, Lincoln County, and Clark County? How many new roads, schools, sewage treatment facilities, hospitals, police, fire services, health departments, garbage services, etc. would be needed due to the new growth in previously undeveloped areas of rural Nevada? Who will pay for this needed infrastructure and facilities? The Project should be evaluated with a view to how growth is affected by water supplies. What will be the impact of the system if problems become known and the proposed method(s) of shutting down the system do not work? This includes any physical systems and organizational systems. Separate bonds should be required to insure that the system shuts down immediately at the sign of problems. These issues must be addressed in the EIS and mitigation measures planned.</p>
132.	26B	<p>Socio-economic impacts include the effects of quality of life in the developing areas in southern Lincoln Co., Mesquite, Moapa, and metropolitan Las Vegas where populations are projected to reach 5 million. Here the issues are public safety, health, education, traffic with associated costs. The cost of pipelines hundreds of miles to rural areas is a significant factor and represents a loss of opportunity to pursue better alternatives such as desalinization. Concerns regarding the effects of the rural quality of life in places like White Pine, Nye, and Lincoln Co., where the traditional agricultural life style with its emphasis on family values and community is threatened as speculators take over the land and water resources.</p>
133.	29B	<p>This is a short term solution that will result in long term problems- increase desertification, eventual population exceeding ability of land to support.</p>

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134.	30B	The projects should limit new development of infrastructure including power lines and roads to existing corridors. New development should be done in a focused manner in existing utility corridors. Use of existing right-of-ways should take precedence over the establishment of new corridors.
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**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

135.	17L	The project area includes many low-income families both in rural areas and in urban areas.
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136.	26B	The effects of the rural quality of life in places like White Pine, Nye and Lincoln Co., where the traditional agricultural life style with its emphasis on family values and community is threatened as speculators take over the land and water resources.
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137.	34B	The DEISs should describe the measures taken by BLM to fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed federal action on minority communities and present opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process.
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**AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE**

138.	13L	As ground water is removed with no chance for recharge the land and the air above it will become dustier. What will the climatic consequences be? How will the increasing knowledge of global climate change and global dimming be figured into this activity? How will drought be factored into pumping and piping water out of already dry areas?
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139.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on rural air quality? What impacts will the proposed project have on air quality in the project area? Will toxic dust storms similar to those on Owens Lake, California, be created in areas of vegetation dying from groundwater table decline? Will the proposed project, especially in the construction phase, mobilize radioactive dust in disturbed soils deposited by above-ground nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site and elsewhere in Nevada decades ago? Will cancer rates increase in downwind areas from the proposed project construction activities?
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140.	26B	What are the impacts to the environment in the areas where the development will occur such as air pollution caused by long term large scale construction and light pollution extending into the still pristine night sky of the Great Basin?
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141.	20L	What will the impacts be on air quality and water quality during project construction? What will the impacts be on air quality and water quality due to increased populations supported by the ground water withdrawal and exportation? What will the impacts be on air quality and water quality to the areas from which water will be withdrawn and exported? As ground water is removed with no chance for recharge (which would occur to some extent if the water were used in its area of origin), the land and the air above it will become dustier. What will the climatic consequences be? How will the increasing knowledge of global climate change and global dimming be figured into this activity? There are increasing predictions of a severe long-term drought resulting from climate change. How will this be factored into pumping and piping water out of already dry areas? Dust storms, caused by diminished ground could inhibit the habits and patterns of migratory birds that use the water resources of Lincoln County. This must be studied and analyzed in the EIS both for its own impacts and in combination with other impacts to analyze the cumulative impact.
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142.	32B	The EIS should also address recent scientific data which shows that climate change may already be causing adverse impacts to plant and animal
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		communities in this and other arid regions. These impacts must be evaluated in conjunction with the other direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to the environment due to the proposed projects.
143.	34B	The DEISs should provide a detailed discussion of air quality standards, ambient conditions, and potential air quality impacts for Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, the Mesquite area, and their associated air basins. Cumulative and indirect impacts should be fully evaluated.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED, CANDIDATE, AND OTHER SENSITIVE SPECIES</b>		
144.	1L	What would be the effects to sage grouse?
145.	15L	The EIS should address the effects of prolonged and extensive groundwater pumping on the ecological systems and species of concern. The EIS should evaluate the effects of the proposed action on the elements of biological diversity present within the project area, including threatened, endangered, sensitive, and endemic species; wildlife and wildlife habitat; terrestrial ecological systems that may be directly affected; and freshwater systems that may be directly or indirectly affected (e.g., wetlands, springs, spring outflows, seeps, and riparian areas). We are concerned with the effects (e.g., habitat fragmentation) that the proposed project may have on the desert tortoise population in this area, its designated critical habitat, and other terrestrial species that occur on the Beaver Dam Slope as well as in Toquop Wash.
146.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on Utah Sage Grouse and its habitat in Nevada? Utah?
147.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on each of the TES species in the project area in Nevada and Utah? Who is responsible for monitoring impacts on TES species? What are acceptable and non-acceptable impacts for TES species?
148.	16L	The long-term and cumulative impacts to the ecosystem as a whole, desert tortoise survival, and critical habitat due to the proposed extraction of groundwater must be examined. Impacts to other species listed under the ESA must also be thoroughly addressed in each EIS as well as impacts to sensitive species and species of concern.
149.	20L	What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on sensitive species such as desert tortoise, sage grouse, and the Moapa dace?
150.	22L	The analysis should take into consideration the change in the environmental baseline for desert tortoise and its habitat resulting from the extensive wildfires of 2005.
151.	22L	Reduction in surface water flows of Clover Creek and Meadow Valley Wash may affect the habitats for several riparian and aquatic listed and sensitive species. Clover Creek is within the historic range of the Big Spring spine dace, a species listed as threatened under the Act, and supports suitable habitat for the species. The Southwestern willow flycatcher, a species federally listed as endangered, is known to occur along Meadow

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		<p>Valley Wash. The yellow-billed cuckoo, a candidate for listing under the Act, has also been detected in the wash. Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker (Nevada state-listed sensitive species) and Meadow Valley Wash specked dace, are two undescribed native subspecies that only occur in Clover Creek and Meadow Valley Wash. The Arizona toad is a relatively rare amphibian that occurs in Clover Creek and Meadow Valley Wash. One federally-listed plant species, the Ute ladies'-tresses may occur along the Meadow Valley Wash in wet meadow habitats that occur near springs, seeps, and streams; as such, it could be affected by project that have the potential to lower water tables and decrease surface water flows in historic habitat.</p>
152.	22L	<p>The NPS recommends the BLM consider the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of depleted surface water flows on aquatic and riparian species in the Clover Creek and Meadow Valley Wash during the environmental documentation process, and consider alternatives that would avoid or minimize any adverse effects to water resources and the associated aquatic and riparian species of these areas.</p>
153.	22L	<p>Major drainages and arroyos that occur within the proposed project area flow to and terminate at the Virgin River. These drainages transport and deposit organic matter that provides much of the food base for the woundfin and Virgin River chub, two species listed as endangered under the Act. Alternatives to the proposed project should be considered that would minimize or avoid major alterations to primary drainages within the proposed project area.</p>
154.	22L	<p>The USFWS requests that the analyses for the EIS consider impacts to the primary constituent elements of the Mormon Mesa and Beaver Dam Critical Habitat Units, such as all environmental features that support nesting, foraging, sheltering, dispersal, and/or gene flow and are considered essential to conservation and recovery of the desert tortoise. The effects analysis should also take into consideration the change in the environmental baseline for desert tortoise and its habitat resulting from the extensive wildfires of 2005. It is imperative that alternatives to the proposed project are identified that will either avoid further effects to the tortoise and its designated critical habitat, or minimize effects to the maximum extent practicable.</p>
155.	22L	<p>The USFWS is concerned that the project may impact several plant species listed as sensitive under the Nevada Natural Heritage Program including the Las Vegas buckwheat, a rare species known to occur in the proposed project area, and threecorner milkvetch and sticky buckwheat, also known to occur either within or adjacent to the proposed project area, which are species listed as critically endangered by the State of Nevada (NRS 527.260-.300).</p>
156.	22L	<p>The Mojave desert tortoise occurs throughout the southern extent of the proposed project area in Lincoln County. The project could result in direct mortality and/or displacement of desert tortoises; habitat destruction, deterioration, and fragmentation; increased predation risk from common ravens; construction-related introduction and spread of invasive, non-native plants, specifically red brome and Sahara mustard, which alters the fire ecology of the Mojave desert ecosystem and provides poor forage for tortoises; and indirect effects associated with human population growth and incursion into desert tortoise habitat, including but not limited to increased risk and spread of disease, predation by feral or domestic dogs, illegal collection, and increased recreational use of desert tortoise habitat, especially as it relates to OHV.</p>

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157.	22L	The USFWS is concerned with the potential impacts of the project on the banded Gila monster, a species listed under the Nevada Natural Heritage Program as sensitive, and protected under Nevada State law.
158.	32B	The environmental baseline must take into account the current status of all of the of the rare, sensitive, threatened and endangered species in the project area that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed projects as well as the cumulative impacts to such species. Impacts to species listed under the ESA must also be thoroughly addressed in each EIS as well as impacts to sensitive species and species of concern. The EIS for each of the projects must identify and analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the desert tortoise and its critical habitat. This must include a detailed analysis of how changes in water resources and hydrology may destroy or adversely modify critical habitat and inhibit recovery of the species.
159.	34B	The EPA recommends evaluating Endangered Species Act and CWA compliance, requirements, and possible reallocation of water for environmental compliance as part of the water supply development projects.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - FIRE MANAGEMENT</b>		
160.	16L	What impacts will the project have on fire frequency and occurrence as groundwater pumping dries up vegetation over large areas of desert valleys in eastern and southern Nevada and in Utah?
161.	18L	NDOW requests a water source for tank trucks or helicopter to be utilized to protect / contain fires from public structures, utilities, or critical wildlife habitat. Also water sources for tank trucks or helicopter to be utilized during severe drought conditions to provide water to man-made water development projects established for wildlife in or near the mountain ranges bordering these lines.
162.	20L	What are the fire dangers if the water table drops and native plants such as greasewood and rabbit brush begin to die, invasive non-native grasses may take over and increase the risk of wild fires because grasses tend to (1) dry out faster in the summer than brush-type plants and (2) burn more easily?
163.	21L	NDOW is concerned that the subject project avoid compromising landscape stabilization and rehabilitation undertaken on 100's of thousands of acres consequential to extensive fires and flooding in 2005. The potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that the proposed project may contribute to regionally are germane in this context as are those by similar or related industrial and municipal developments. Among these are the proposed Toquop Energy Project, development of KLA lands, Kane Springs Valley Groundwater and Utility Development, Coyote Springs Investment and MX well development, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) pipelines, and various proposed minerals projects.... Should the project proceed, the Department would consider merits of the means and methods to complement and accelerate burn area / project impact rehabilitation programs and installation of strategically placed water access along the pipeline for future fire suppression needs.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - FISHERIES</b>		
164.	15L	In addition to the ecological systems and species present within the conservation areas mapped and described in the enclosures, we [The Nature Conservancy] are also concerned with possible effects of the project on other water-dependent ecological systems and species in southern and central

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		Nevada.
165.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on fish species, populations, and their habitats in the project area?NDOW is currently developing a comprehensive conservation strategy for wildlife in Nevada. How will the proposed project affect the conservation strategy, especially on the need to provide water-based habitats for Nevada fish and wildlife, in eastern and southern Nevada?
166.	32B	The short- and long-term impacts of groundwater pumping on fish and riparian vegetation communities must be identified and analyzed <u>before</u> either of these massive groundwater pumping projects goes forward.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - MIGRATORY BIRDS</b>		
167.	13L	How will migratory species be affected? How will mitigation for these species be provided?
168.	16L	Migratory bird species rely on watered areas in eastern and southern Nevada for resting and refueling. What are the migration corridors and oasis areas? What impacts will the proposed project have on migratory birds there? Resident bird species also depend on habitat in eastern and southern Nevada. What areas are important for birds? What impacts will the proposed project have on important bird areas?
169.	20L	I am concerned that if water tables drop, springs and ponds will be diminished sufficiently to inhibit the natural migratory habits and patterns of birds that use various Lincoln County water resources. The EIS should determine whether the time when construction of the pipeline would interfere with affected avian breeding season or any other critical animal cycles.
170.	22L	The USFWS is concerned about potential impacts the proposed project may have on migratory birds throughout the project area. Infrastructure development may result in direct take of birds and/or active nests, which is in violation of the MBTA. The USFWS recommends land clearing or surface disturbance be conducted outside the avian breeding season to avoid potential destruction of bird nests or young, or birds that breed in the proposed project area. If this is not feasible, it is recommended a qualified biologist survey the proposed project area prior to land clearing or surface disturbance. If nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting is observed, a protective buffer should be delineated and the entire area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active. The USFWS is concerned about potential impacts the proposed project may have on migratory birds in the Meadow Valley Wash. The Meadow Valley Wash has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Audubon Society. It is one of 37 IBAs that have been designated throughout the State of Nevada. The potential loss of surface water flow due to drawdown and alteration of hydrological regimes is identified by the IBA program as an extreme threat to this IBA, and should be fully analyzed during the environmental documentation process.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -NOXIOUS WEEDS/INVASIVE SPECIES</b>		
171.	13L	What changes will occur in the native vegetation? Will invasive species find a foothold and change the nature of the ecology of the areas affected? How is it possible to mitigate such an occurrence?

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172.	11L	What impacts will the proposed project have on the invasion and spread of noxious weeds, especially from soil-disturbing construction activities and long-term vehicle and road use in maintaining facilities, in the project area?
173.	20L	I am concerned that Halogeton and/or other undesirable or invader plants which adversely affect agriculture will be given opportunity to invade and gain footholds in the areas affected by this pumping. I am concerned what effect noxious plants would have on a full range of animals in Lincoln County as their normal feed diminishes, due to lowered water tables and erosion, and they start eating the intruding noxious plants. The EIS should study and disclose the potential for reducing native biological diversity, including the potential for increased risk of displacement of native habitats by invasive non-native plants and noxious weeds. If this project proceeds, the project proponents should be forced to participate (in a major way) to mitigate the effects of withdrawing water from Lincoln County by ridding the affected areas of Russian Olive, Tamarisk, and Willows. These all contribute to excessive evapo-transpiration. What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on noxious weeds?
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - RANGE RESOURCES</b>		
174.	1L	What would be the effects on range used by livestock grazing?
175.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on livestock grazing and ranching operations?
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -VEGETATION</b>		
176.	16L -	What would be the effects of the pipeline on (native) vegetation? What impacts will the proposed project have on soils, crusts and vegetation communities in the project area, including west Utah?
177.	20L	What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on natural ground covers? What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on desert plant communities?
178.	22L	The USFWS request that the EIS include a comprehensive description of the water and soil requirements of native versus non-native riparian vegetation, and the ability of the native vegetation to persist and successfully reproduce under the conditions ultimately created by on-going and reasonably foreseeable groundwater development in the project area. The USFWS requests that the EIS evaluate the potential for lowered water tables resulting in stunted growth and/or drying of phreatophytic vegetation. In riparian areas, this could affect the aquatic environment, including water temperature, primary productivity, and left litter/debris input.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -WILDLIFE / WILDLIFE HABITAT</b>		
179.	2B	I would like to see animals and birds getting access to any water developed. They have rights to have a drink too. Can you see that that happens?
180.	2L	Drying up the area inside the Clovers indicated for wells and pipelines will drive wildlife down to town as less dropped during the dry years.

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181.	4B	I am concerned about the loss of water resources for wildlife and wildlife habitat.
182.	6B	I am opposed to this entire project, believing it to be detrimental to the environment wildlife, and the people of the Great Basin, I can only see that it benefits the Las Vegas Valley District and Mr. Whittemores Coyote Springs Project, along with increased tax revenues for Lincoln County.
183.	13L	How will wild animals dependent on the spring, seeps, and sub-irrigated areas for water and food be affected? Who will monitor their condition? Who will be able to mitigate the loss of their habitat?
184.	16L	The biodiversity of eastern and southern Nevada is linked to springs, creeks, lakes, wetlands, and rivers, most of which scientists believe are supported by the carbonate aquifer in this arid desert region. What impacts will the proposed project have on the region's biodiversity? How will the proposed project affect the conservation strategy, especially on the need to provide water-based habitats for Nevada fish and wildlife in eastern and southern Nevada? What impacts will the proposed project have on resident wildlife species populations and habitats? What alternative would have the least negative impacts on fish and wildlife and their habitats in eastern and southern Nevada and western Utah? What impacts will the proposed project have on the ecological integrity of ecosystems in eastern and southern Nevada, and west Utah?
185.	17L	The USGS has announced a project, entitled <i>Recoverability And Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems</i> , which is designed to conduct basic scientific research on ecological processes within the Mojave Desert Ecosystem and to use this knowledge to provide land managers with scientific understanding and tools needed to conserve and restore threatened desert landscapes in the Mojave Desert. We request that the BLM incorporate this USGS project into the pipeline EIS process for the affected Mojave Desert groundwater basins. The BLM should use wildlife conservation plans developed in Nevada and Utah for specific species, including Nevada's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Nevada Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, and specific Sage Grouse Population Management Unit conservation plans in White Pine and Lincoln Counties, in the EIS process to assess the wildlife values, assess project wildlife impacts, and develop monitoring and mitigation in the project area. The BLM has proposed actions to reverse declining ecosystem health in the Great Basin. How will the proposed action affect BLM's program goals and objectives?
186.	20L	What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on wildlife/wildlife habitat? The EIS should evaluate the effect of vehicle mortality on wildlife (particularly deer) from projected construction project (besides the ongoing effect of diminished springs and seeps). I am worried that the pumping project will cause springs and seeps to go dry causing wild horses, deer, and antelope to die. What measures would be taken if these animals were to suffer harm and/or die?
187.	21L	Will water and power lines be above or below-ground; there being differential benefits to wildlife and habitat resources depending on site characteristics and values? Without additional information we anticipate that existing wildlife populations would be further affected by habitat conversion or loss, fragmentation, degradation and possibly movement barriers due to infrastructure such as pipelines, improvement of existing and new service roads, power lines, and increased overall frequency various publics to the affected areas. Different species and habitats are implicated in the project area. The EIS should address this.
188.	22L	Indirect impacts that need to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: 1) changes to vegetation communities, habitat fragmentation,

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		increased predation rates, and other factors that decrease the chances of survival of local wildlife population. The USFWS requests the EIS include an analysis of impacts to terrestrial mammals dependent on springs and spring-fed wetlands which include, but are not limited to, coyotes, badger, mountain lion, bobcat, and kit fox. Concerns for terrestrial wildlife from construction of the infrastructure associated with the proposed Project, which includes loss and/or degradation of habitat, habitat fragmentation, direct mortality, and other impacts that decrease or diminish survival and population persistence, at least at the local scale. Wildlife may alter their behavior, distribution, and density near linear corridors, and dispersal and/or migration patterns may be disrupted. Bighorn sheep and other species may be negatively influenced by the construction, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure facilities in key dispersal/migration corridors.
189.	26B	BLM must consider the affects on natural vegetation, noxious weed encroachment. Loss of habitat including riparian areas and springs and the effects on wildlife.
190.	29B	Both of these projects appear to be designed to extract amounts of water that will greatly negatively impact wildlife and wildlife habitat.
191.	34B	We recommend the DEISs evaluate direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife in Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, and the Mesquite area. The DEISs should evaluate the ability to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitat and wetlands, seeps, and springs, which may have been affected by water diversions, groundwater pumping, and by changes in flows, timing, and water quality as a result of these projects.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT</b>		
192.	1L	What would be the effects to wetland habitats? What would be the effects to spring biota?
193.	2L	Would current riparian growth be dried out and adversely affected?
194.	15L	We are concerned with the possible adverse effects associated with groundwater pumping in the Tule Desert on the functioning of Toquop and other washes, which are sources of fine sediments and other materials that replenish aquatic habitats in the Virgin River. We are concerned that reduced flow of the springs supporting Clover Creek may ultimately reduce flows to the Meadow Valley Wash and thus affect the freshwater and riparian habitats and associated species that occur there.
195.	16L	Riparian areas are critical to the survival of wildlife in the project area. What impacts will the proposed project have on riparian areas?
196.	20L	I am concerned that project proponents not be allowed to mitigate loss of wetland habitat by creating wetland somewhere else, more easily managed. Natural wetlands must be protected and the idea that creating replacement wetlands as a form of mitigation should be rejected.
197.	22L	Because large arroyos and other major drainages are known to occur in the area where ground disturbing activities are proposed, the USFWS recommends the BLM contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the possible need for a permit. Alteration of major drainages and arroyos

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		within the proposed project area may have adverse effects on Mojave Desert species that are dependent on these systems.
198.	22L	The USFWS request that potential impacts to aquatic resources (thermal springs, wetlands, and riparian areas) that could be affected by the proposed action, be analyzed in the EIS.
199.	32B	The EIS must identify and analyze the inevitable direct and indirect impact that the loss of water will cause to fish and the riparian vegetation communities that depend on these surface water resources as well as to other species that depend on these resources. The short- and long-term impacts of groundwater pumping on fish and riparian vegetation communities must be identified and analyzed <u>before</u> either of these massive groundwater pumping projects goes forward.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -WILD HORSES AND BURROS</b>		
200.	16L	How will the proposed project impact wild horses and their habitat areas, including scarce desert watering holes and springs on which horse survival depends?
<b>GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND MINERALS</b>		
201.	1L	What would be the effects on gullies and ravines?
202.	13L	What will the impacts to the caves and cave systems in the carbonate aquifer areas that will be pumped, and also to those downstream of the pumping?
203.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on soils, crusts and vegetation communities in the project area, including west Utah? We do not know how removing so much ground water will affect the basin, basin subsidence, minor earth quakes, and dangerous conditions with large hazardous cracks in Basins and how long it will take to replenish the ground water. Have the people in Vegas move to Ely or Eureka if they want water.
204.	16L	How does geology, including faults, impervious layers, and other factors, affect the groundwater flow through the carbonate and alluvial aquifers, recharge and discharge areas and rates in the project area?
205.	16L	What impacts will the project have on paleontological resources?
206.	16L	What impacts will the proposed project have on existing caves and cave formations in the project areas? On bat species utilizing caves?
207.	20L	Just because caves are underground and not easily seen doesn't mean they should be ignored. Additionally, I am concerned about other caves in the area, including Crystal Ball Cave near Gandy, Utah. The EIS must study and analyze possible impacts on caves and cave biota.
208.	20L	Overdrafting, or mining of water, can cause profound changes in the structure of the aquifer. How will pump ground water affect subsidence? Subsidence causes compaction of the aquifer and surrounding layers, how will this affect recharge?
209.	20L	What will be the short- and long-term affects of pumping from Lincoln County areas' underground aquifers on the soil stability at the Yucca Mountain Repository designed for high-level atomic wastes? Could subsidence result (as has already been experienced in the Las Vegas area)? If the

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		Yucca Mountain designers are depending on hydrostatic water pressure to contain any leakage of radioactive waste, will that type of water pressure be available after year-round pumping removes water from the regional aquifer(s)? This must be studied and analyzed as part of the EIS. How would any such impacts add to cumulative negative socio-economic, environmental, and health impacts?
<b>WATER SUPPLY AND USE (SPRINGS, SEEPS, WELLS, IRRIGATION AND M&amp;I WELLS)</b>		
210.	1L	What would be the effects of the proposed wells near Clover Valley and the Tule Desert to nearby springs, wells, and streams? What would be the effects on irrigation wells?
211.	1B	How will the BLM determine whether reduced spring flows or water table levels come from the Kane Springs Valley Project, the Tule Desert/Clover Valley Project, or the White Pine County Projects and who is responsible for mitigation?
212.	3L	Will wells threaten the City of Caliente Watershed and Municipal Supply? Will production pumping above city on Clover Mountains drop levels down gradient and threaten existing vested and permitted uses?
213.	7B	Once you take the water out of the ground, how can it be put back? Really?
214.	7L	If spring water reduction occurs, what will happen? Will the Permittees be required to pay for water measurements on springs in the Clovers both private and public to be assured that spring water reduction is not occurring from permittees pumping of wells?
215.	11L	If it is true that Nevada is the driest state in the nation and if it is true that drought patterns could continue to worsen due to global warming or the earth's natural cycles, shouldn't we be taking a careful look at water supplies regionally before making any final decisions on water projects? Shouldn't we also be considering how we are doing with sustaining and maintaining the water we currently use in Southern Nevada? Should Las Vegas be allowed new sources water when they haven't exhausted all of the conservation options available to free up existing water sources? Instead of raiding rural counties for their water, shouldn't we be saving water in rural counties for reserves in hard times? If drought continues to plague us, what steps are being taken to ensure that citizens throughout the state will have water for their basic living needs?
216.	13L	Impacts to springs, seeps, and sub-irrigated areas in the entire carbonate aquifer must be inventoried and studied to determine impacts. How will this be done, and who, will be responsible for monitoring? Who will determine and enforce mitigation should the water table be lowered?
217.	15L	We are concerned with the potential for Tule Desert pumping to affect surface flows in the Virgin River.
218.	16L	How will exported groundwater be introduced into Mesquites existing water delivery system? What are the current sources of water for urban M&I uses in LCLA Area? What other water supply options for the LCLA area are being currently pursued by Vidler/KCWD or subsequent developers? What are the anticipated water conservation programs in the LCLA area and how much water will be conserved?

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219.	16L	What are the current surface and groundwater uses for irrigation, domestic and municipal uses, and springs, seeps, creeks, rivers, and wetlands in the project area and how much water is used? What are the sources of water for these uses? What baseline information is available on spring flows in the project area and what additional information is needed before the Vidler/LCWD pipeline project is implemented?
220.	17L	What water resources in Utah could be impacted by groundwater pumping in Nevada? Please quantify the impacts, including amounts and timing.
221.	17L	What water resources on National Forest lands in Nevada and in Utah could be impacted by groundwater pumping in the project area, including springs, wetlands, riparian areas, creeks, and caves, especially those dependent on seeping groundwater to create or maintain cave formations?
222.	17L	Pumping and removing groundwater from groundwater basins in the project area will have enormous impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem functions in both the Great Basin and in the Mojave Deserts, since current levels of water use are resulting in declining spring flows and levels in domestic and irrigation wells in the project areas. How will the proposed project comply with or violate Nevada State Water Plan policies?
223.	19B	The University and Community Colleges and Nevada State College Board of Regents is now in the process of Assessing and Inventorying all of their properties in Nevada- it is important to know what is planned for Nevada Groundwater Development and Utility Right of Way Projects.
224.	20L	What will be the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on desert springs?
225.	21L	Wells drilled into the Clover Mountains may have some effect to the limited existing springs in that area, depending on the sources of the water. The Department is currently working to improve water sources for wildlife in the Delmar and Meadow Valley mountains and Kane Springs Valley to reduce competition with livestock on existing water sources.
226.	22B	Would this proposed pumping affect in stream flows in any surface waters, including Beaver Dam Wash and/or the Virgin River? How much groundwater can be removed before other beneficial uses such as natural springs are affected? Have water conservation and reclamation measures been maximized and enforced as conditions precedent to new pumping?
227.	22L	The USFWS request that the EIS evaluate the potential impacts to water resources in areas down- and up-gradient of sites to be developed including regional springs within the affected flow systems. Issues that need to be addressed include, but are not limited to 1) the ecological impact of decreased discharge, surface-water flow, groundwater levels, and evapotranspiration rates; 2) changes in groundwater and surface water temperatures; 3) decreased recharge rates; 4) changes in groundwater gradients and flow directions; 5) reduction in pressure gradients and changes to head pressures in springs; 6) potential changes in water quality; and 7) other effects to thermal springs.
228.	23B	My concerns are for the water resources and their management within each geologic basin of the state.

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229	24B	How is this going to affect the level of water in my well? It is a residential well and it is located in the Mt. Wilson Area within 1.5 miles of Squaw Knoll. Can these projects possibly contribute to turning Lincoln Co. for parts there of into another Owens Valley?
230	27B	Large quantities of water discharge out of the White River Valley, Pahrnagat Valley, and Muddy River Springs Area, as low temperature geothermal springs. The constant steady flow characteristics of these springs suggest a constrained reservoir phenomenon, the boundaries and geologic dimensions are unknown. Will the project interfere with any or all of these springs?
231	29B	If the project is intended to allow for increased development this is an extremely unsustainable strategy. The existing population depends upon the groundwater. This increase in pumping will exceed nature's ability to recharge the groundwater.
232	32B	The EIS for each of the projects must adequately assess the impacts to perennial, seasonal, and ephemeral surface water resources including, but not limited to, springs, seeps, creeks, and rivers.
233	34B	Identify sensitive aquatic sites such as wetlands, seeps, and springs. Outline past and potential beneficial uses of these areas, and disclose potential impacts from the proposed projects. The DEISs should address the need for measurement and management of the combined resources of surface and groundwater supplies to stabilize supplies over the long term in the project areas. The DEISs should document the historical and anticipated (e.g., in alternatives) relationship between surface supplies and groundwater. Of specific concern are potential impacts to third parties, surface and groundwater water quality and quantity, and groundwater pumping effects such as subsidence and groundwater overdraft. EPA believes water supply commitments should be tailored to reflect long-term sustainable supplies reasonably expected to be available under varying conditions (e-g., wet versus dry yeas). We advocate an approach which is focused on efficient use and management of these water supplies. The quantity of allocated water supply should be based on the availability of long-term sustainable supplies and not on desired needs, demands, or potential additional supplies. We recommend LCWD avoid water supply commitments that exceed reasonably foreseeable sustainable supplies.
<b>WATER RIGHTS</b>		
234	2L	My senior permitted rights will be adversely affected if production pumping lowers water table by my land?
235	5L	Does the LCWD plan to develop two perfect water rights to sell land developers solely in Lincoln County? The draft EIS should not be issued until all water rights questions are answered.
236	7B	We hear developers saying "we are being deprived of our right to develop our land." Is there in fact a right to stomp on others rights? Were they forced to purchase the land in the first place? Sure we can go buy a thousand acres of farmland and then say we want to make it into homes and make millions. But is it tight if we thereby cause water shortages and deprive other farmers, etc.? Even if it is just "desert land, what "right have we to alter it? Our speculations were just that, not rights.
237	7L	Are the Wells in the Clover Valley Permitted?

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238.	12L	I am concerned that drawing so much water out of the area proposed will not only affect wells but surface water. What recourse do I have if the project affects my wells?
239.	15B	We don't understand how you can consider application for a pipeline right of way from LCWD when they have already sold their water rights and have a disclaimer against transporting water to any of these sites. Why not let the person or organization that owns the water and intends on using it put it for the pipeline right of way. [Note: Copy of Sale Agreement Attached]
240.	16L	What are the private and tribal water rights in the project area? What are the federal and state water rights in the project area? What are the vested water rights in the project area?
241.	21B	Who has the water rights associated with the project?
<b>HYDROGEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
242.	1B	I am extremely concerned about the deep carbonate aquifer that will be tapped by both these projects. The project must be certain to be sustainable over a period of at least 150 years. There are several existing safeguards for this. However, in starting the EIS process at all, the first one has been ignored.
243.	16L	How much of the Tule Desert and Clover Valley ground water flows into the Colorado River? How much groundwater is stored in the carbonate and alluvial aquifers in the basins in the project area? What are the recharge and discharge areas and rates for alluvial and carbonate aquifers in the project area? What are the connections between the carbonate and alluvial aquifers in the project area? How does groundwater flow through the carbonate aquifer, where, and at what rates in the project area? How does geology, including faults, impervious layers, and other factors, affect the groundwater flow through the carbonate and alluvial aquifers, recharge and discharge areas and rates in the project area? How much groundwater flows from Nevada into Utah and at what rates and locations in the project area? How much groundwater flows from Utah into Nevada and at what rates and locations in the project area? What will the drawdowns of the groundwater table and existing wells and springs be from various levels of groundwater pumping and exportation by Vidler/LCWD in the project area and the entire carbonate aquifer area)? How long will it take for Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting impacts to occur to existing users and springs in the project area and the entire carbonate aquifer? At 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100 year intervals? What are the effects of proposed groundwater pumping on upsystem areas? How will pumping affect the head and storage of water upsystem? At what pumping rates will flows be reversed? Where? What are the effects of Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting of groundwater on the quantity and distribution of surface water? On existing users of surface water?
244.	17L	How much of this ground water would reach the Colorado River, if not pumped and exported to the LCLA area north of Mesquite? Will recharge rates for the carbonate alluvial aquifers be affected by changes in vegetation cover from groundwater pumping and exportation i.e., losses of vegetation due to declining water tables from groundwater pumping and exportation? What is the timing of the groundwater pumping? Different levels of pumping annually may have different environmental impacts, both in amount and timing. Pumping during a drought may exacerbate

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		impacts. What is the estimated perennial yield in each of the groundwater basins in the project area? What is the estimated sustainable or safe water use in each basin? Who would determine safe water use in each basin? Will the hydrological model used in the EIS assume that the regional flow systems and groundwater basins are currently "in-balance" where "input equals output?"
245.	20L	What effect will the exportation of water in Lincoln County have on recharge rates? Will changes in the ground cover affect the groundwater recharge rates?
246.	21B	How large is the aquifer? What is the aquifer's recharge rate? Now and projected after pumping
247.	22L	We are concerned that the proposed development of the carbonate-rock aquifers in southeastern Nevada will have far-reaching effects on deep groundwater reservoirs, overlying basin-fill aquifers, and spring and surface water flows that are fed by groundwater inflow from the hydrographic basins to be developed. In particular, we are concerned with the project's proposal to pump 14,480 acre-feet of groundwater per year from the Clover Valley hydrographic basin, and the potential effects this may have on the surface water flows of Clover Creek and Meadow Valley Wash.
248.	27B	While many wells have been drilled into the carbonate system (oil wells, future monitoring wells, exploratory wells) very few are being pumped or allowed to flow. If one considers that the total carbonate system is in balance, then any withdrawal will have an impact, but where is not predictable.
<b>WATER QUALITY</b>		
249.	2L	Water quality will be at risk with development up-gradient
250.	16L	Will pumped groundwater need to be treated by Vidler/LCWD or subsequent developers to meet water quality standards for M&I uses in the LCLA area? What are the effects of Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting of groundwater on surface water quality? What is the current water quality of groundwater in the project area? At what pumping rates will saltwater incursions occur? Where?
251.	17L	How will monitoring and mitigation be coordinated across 3 states potentially affected by the proposed groundwater pumping and exportation? What impacts on water quality will the proposed pumping cause?
252.	21B	What is the water quality in the project area?
253.	34B	The DEISs should discuss the proposed groundwater development projects' compliance with State and local water quality management plans and State-adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards. The proposed action should be fully coordinated with the appropriate State Water Quality Control Agency to ensure protection of water quality and maintenance of beneficial uses. Discuss specific monitoring programs that are in place or will be implemented to determine potential impacts on surface, groundwater, and drinking water quality and beneficial uses. Evaluate whether maintenance and protection of water quality can be guaranteed. The DEISs should describe the quality of the deep and shallow groundwater which would be extracted and surface waters which may be affected. Other water quality issues which should be addressed in the DEISs include potential

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		<p>impacts to in-stream beneficial uses, drinking water sources and systems, and sensitive resources such as endangered species. The DEISs should provide information on any efforts underway to address surface or groundwater quality problems. Other issues that should be evaluated are potential impacts on groundwater infiltration and surface flows from runoff, septic tank or wastewater treatment facilities, and landscape or agricultural irrigation seepage caused by the new developed water supply. Evaluate the potential of the proposed projects to cause adverse aquatic impacts such as increased siltation and turbidity in surface water sources; changes in water quality and quantity; changes in dissolved oxygen, and temperature; and habitat deterioration. Include a discussion on the potential effects on return flows and in-stream flows.</p>

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## **APPENDIX B**

**FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE OF INTENT**

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[NV-040-5101-ER-F851; NVN-79734; 6-08807]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate the Public Scoping Process for Lincoln County Water District Proposed Water Production Wells, Water Transmission Pipeline, Electric Lines, and Communication Lines in Southwestern Lincoln County; NV****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate Scoping.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office and Ely Field Office, will be initiating the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conducting public scoping meetings to analyze the proposed Kane Springs Valley (KSV) Groundwater Development Project, which will include production wells, a water transmission pipeline with lateral pipelines, electric lines, and communication lines. The purpose of the project is to develop and convey water from Kane Springs Valley to private land in the Coyote Springs Valley.

**DATES:** The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and will end on May 1, 2006. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS must be submitted in writing to the address below and will be accepted throughout the scoping period. There will also be public meetings during the 30-day scoping period. The dates, times, and locations of the public meetings will be announced through the local news media.

**ADDRESSES:** Please mail written comments to the BLM, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely Nevada 89301, (fax (775) 289-1910). Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Ely Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from

public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or business, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Penny Woods, BLM Nevada State Office, (775) 861-6466. You may also contact Ms. Woods to have your name added to the EIS mailing list.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The KSV Groundwater Development Project, which is being proposed by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD), would be located in southwestern Lincoln County. The proposed project would develop and convey groundwater in Kane Springs Valley to private land (formerly known as the Aerojet land) in the Coyote Springs Valley. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed facilities would be approximately 5,000 acre-feet per year.

The proposed facilities include 7 groundwater production wells (16" diameter), 4-mile long water transmission pipeline (24" diameter), and lateral pipelines (12" diameter) to connect the transmission pipeline to the production wells. The pipelines and wells would be located along or near the Kane Springs Road. The proposed width of the permanent right-of-way for the transmission pipeline and lateral pipelines is 20 feet. During construction of the pipelines, a temporary width of 60 feet would be needed. Electric and communication lines would be located within the permanent right-of-way for the pipelines. Access roads approximately 12 feet in width would be needed from the Kane Springs Road to each well site. Each well site would require a temporary construction area of 100 feet x 200 feet.

The facilities would be generally located within and/or across the following public lands about 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas:

**Mount Diablo Meridian**

T. 11 S., R. 63 E.,  
Sections 1, 11, 12, 14 and 15.  
T. 11 S., R. 64 E.,  
Section 6.

A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely NV 89301.

Dated: March 27, 2006.

**Amy Lueders,***Associate State Director, Nevada.*

[FR Doc. E6-4707 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[NV-040-5101-ER-F852; NVN-79742; 6-08807]

**Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate the Public Scoping Process for Lincoln County Water District Proposed Water Production Wells, Water Transmission Pipeline, Electric Lines, and Communication Lines in Southeastern Lincoln County; NV****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and initiate scoping.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office and Ely Field Office, will be initiating the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conducting public scoping meetings to analyze the proposed Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Groundwater Development Project, which will include production wells, a water transmission pipeline with lateral pipelines, electric lines, and communication lines. The purpose of the project is to develop and convey water from the Tule Desert area to land sold by the BLM under the LCLA, approximately 2 miles north of Mesquite, Nevada.

**DATES:** The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and will end on May 1, 2006. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS must be submitted in writing to the address below and will be accepted throughout the scoping period. There will also be public meetings during the 30-day scoping period. The dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings will be announced through the local news media.

**ADDRESSES:** Please mail written comments to the BLM, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely Nevada 89301, (fax (775) 289-1910). Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of

respondents will be available for public review at the Ely Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or business, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Penny Woods, BLM Nevada State Office, (775) 861-6466. You may also contact Ms Woods to have your name added to the EIS mailing list.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The LCLA Groundwater Development Project is being proposed by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD) and would be located in southeastern Lincoln County. The proposed project would develop and convey groundwater in the Tule Desert and Clover Valley hydrographic basins to land recently sold by the BLM that is approximately 2 miles north of Mesquite, Nevada. This private land comprises the LCLA development area and consists of approximately 13,000 acres. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed facilities would be approximately 23,824 acre-feet per year. The water would be used to support development in the LCLA development area.

The proposed facilities include approximately 8 groundwater production wells (16 inch diameter) located in the Tule Desert and Clover Valley hydrographic basins, a 23-mile long water transmission pipeline (24 inch diameter), and lateral pipelines (12 inch diameter) to connect the transmission pipeline to the productions wells. The proposed width of the right-of-way for the transmission pipeline would be 30 feet with a temporary width of 60 feet during construction. The proposed width of the right-of-way for the lateral pipelines would be 20 feet with a temporary width of 60 feet during construction. The productions well site rights-of-way would be 100 feet x 100 feet with a temporary construction area of 100 feet x 200 feet. Access roads approximately 12 feet in width would be needed from existing roads in the Tule Desert area to each well site.

The proposed production wells would be located in the well field area authorized for the Toquop Energy Project, which is a 1100 MW gas-fired power plant. The proposed transmission pipeline would follow the same alignment as the approved water pipeline for the power plant. From the power plant, the transmission pipeline would proceed to the LCLA development area.

Electric lines, communication lines, and a natural gas pipeline would be located within the proposed transmission pipeline right-of-way. A pipeline bringing reclaimed water from the LCLA development area to the already authorized Toquop Energy Project site would also be in the proposed right-of-way.

The facilities would be located within and/or across the following public lands north of Mesquite, Nevada:

**Mount Diablo Meridian**

Tps. 6 to 12 S., Rgs. 69 and 71 E., various sections.

A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely NV 89301.

Dated: March 21, 2006.

**Amy Lueders,**

*Associate State Director, Nevada.*

[FR Doc. 06-2932 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**Notice of Proposed National Natural Landmark Designation for the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve, CA**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed National Natural Landmark designation.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service has evaluated and determined that the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve, located forty-five miles south of downtown Los Angeles, in Orange County, California appears to meet the criteria for national significance and proposes to recommend the site for designation as a National Natural Landmark. The public is invited to comment on this recommendation. The proposal will be considered by the National Park System Advisory Board at a meeting to be held on June 8, 2006 at Zion National Park, in the Majestic View Lodge, 2400 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale, Utah.

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted until May 30, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Steve Gibbons, National Natural Landmarks Coordinator, North Cascades National Park, 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284, or to his Internet address: [Steve\\_Gibbons@nps.gov](mailto:Steve_Gibbons@nps.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Steve Gibbons at 360-856-5700, extension 306.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Irvine Ranch Land Reserve represents significant biological resources of Mediterranean shrublands, including extensive areas of chaparral and coastal sage scrub associations. These chaparral and coastal sage scrub areas present one of the largest extant areas of this association remaining in the South Pacific Border Province. It is the presence of these large and relative undisturbed ecosystems and their inherent biological diversity that provide the uniqueness of this area. In commensurate with its biological significance the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve geologically represents a remarkably unique, long time-range stratigraphic succession that shows the linkage between tectonic framework, provenances, sedimentology, paleoenvironments, paleontology, paleoclimate, landscape evolution and geologic history. In this regard it is not only outstanding, but represents one of the most critical time intervals and locations in the evolution of the South Pacific Border Province.

Information on the National Natural Landmarks Program can be found in 36 CFR Part 62 or on the Internet at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl>.

Dated: March 28, 2006.

**Fran Mainella,**

*Director, National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 06-3161 Filed 3-30-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4312-HJ-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Reclamation**

**Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Particularly Under Low Reservoir Conditions**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public availability of a Scoping Summary Report on the development of Lower Basin shortage guidelines and coordinated management strategies for the operation of Lake

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## **APPENDIX C**

### **BLM MEDIA RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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# *BLM News*

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-34  
FOR RELEASE: April 10, 2006  
CONTACT: JoLynn Worley, 775-861-6515

## EIS Process to Start on Lincoln County Water ROWs

Reno, Nev.--Responding to interest from White Pine County residents, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is scheduling an additional meeting in Baker, Nev., to solicit public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in individual environmental impact statements (EIS) for two proposed groundwater development projects in Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Water District is proposing the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project in Kane Springs Valley and the Lincoln County Land Act Utility Rights-of-Way Development Project in Clover Valley and Tule Valley. Meetings are already scheduled in Alamo, Caliente, Las Vegas, Mesquite and Reno.

Open-house meetings to provide information on both project EISs and to obtain public input on the scope of the issues to be addressed will be held in April. A Federal Register notice of intent to prepare an EIS and initiate a 30-day scoping period was published March 31. Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping period, which ends May 1, 2006.

Caliente: Mon., April 10, 7-9 p.m. Caliente City Hall, 100 Depot Rd.  
Alamo: Tue., April 11, 7-9 p.m. Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Rd.  
Mesquite: Wed., April 12, 7-9 p.m. Mesquite City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.  
Las Vegas: Thurs., April 13, 7-9 p.m. BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 Torrey Pines Dr.  
Reno: Mon., April 17, 7-9 p.m. Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way  
Baker: Tue., April 18, 4-8 p.m., Great Basin National Park, Visitor Center classroom.

The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS will assess the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation and other potentially affected resources.

Kane Springs Valley water production facilities would consist of up to seven production water wells located along the utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 (Public Act 108-424). A proposed test/production well site would be located in a "borrow-pit" site along the southeast side of Kane Springs Road approximately 10 miles north of the northernmost production well. Collectively, the wells would pump up to 5,000 acre feet of groundwater per year.

-MORE-

## EIS Process to Start on Lincoln County Water ROWs – 2222

Groundwater water transmission pipelines would be located in a 20-foot wide permanent easement along the southeastern edge of the Kane Springs Road with lateral pipelines to each well-head/pump house.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. Access roads would be needed from the Kane Springs Road for vehicle access to each well site.

The Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Utility Rights-of-Way Development Project EIS will evaluate the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, natural gas pipelines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation, and other potentially affected resources.

The LCLA Utility Right of Way Development Project would include up to eight production water wells in the previously permitted Toquop Energy Project proposed wellfield area in the Tule Desert hydrographic basin and up to 10 production water wells in the Clover Valley hydrographic basin. Collectively, these wells would pump nearly 24,000 acre feet of groundwater per year. A system of pipelines would collect pumped water for conveyance through a main transmission pipeline southeast to the LCLA development area.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution/transmission power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. A wastewater return pipeline would also be constructed to enable use of reclaimed water produced within the LCLA development area by the already permitted Toquop Energy power plant. In addition, a natural gas pipeline would parallel the water pipeline from the existing Kern River Natural Gas pipeline south to the LCLA area.

Rights-of-way for projects within utility corridors established by the Act would be granted in perpetuity. Right-of-way for all other features of these projects would be 30 years. The projects would operate year round.

Further information is available by calling Penny Woods at the BLM Nevada State Office at 775-861-6466, or on the Internet at [www.nv.blm.gov](http://www.nv.blm.gov).

### Reno/Sparks (99)

<b>E-Mail address</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Location</b>
<a href="mailto:editor@nevadaappeal.com">editor@nevadaappeal.com</a>	775-882-2111	Nevada Appeal	Newspaper	Carson City, NV
<a href="mailto:news@rgj.com">news@rgj.com</a>	775-788-6200	Reno Gazette-Journal	Newspaper	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:tanderson@rgj.com">tanderson@rgj.com</a>	775-885-5560	Reno Gazette-Journal	Newspaper	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:apreno@ap.org">apreno@ap.org</a>	775-322-3639	Associated Press	Newspaper	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:tribunenews@sparkstribune.net">tribunenews@sparkstribune.net</a>	775-359-3837	Sparks Daily Tribune	Newspaper	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:dennism@newsreview.com">dennism@newsreview.com</a>	775-324-4440	Reno News & Review	Newspaper	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:steve.halliwell@cox.com">steve.halliwell@cox.com</a>	775-856-2121	UPN/KAME FOX/KRXI	Television	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:patm@knpb.org">patm@knpb.org</a>	775-784-4555	PBS/KNPB	Television	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:news@kolotv.com">news@kolotv.com</a>	775-858-8880	ABC/KOLO	Television	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:asegura@kazrtv.com">asegura@kazrtv.com</a>	775-333-2727	Azteca/KARZ	Television	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:prmugs@krnv.com">prmugs@krnv.com</a>	775-322-4444	NBC/KRNV	Television	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:david.marz@citcomm.com">david.marz@citcomm.com</a>	775-789-6700	AM/KKOH FM/KBUL, KNEV, KWYL	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:music@973radio.com">music@973radio.com</a>	775-825-3183	AM/KJFK, KBZZ, KZTO FM/KRNO, KWNZ, KODS, KLCA	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:steved@lotusradio.com">steved@lotusradio.com</a>	775-329-9261	AM/KHIT FM/KHIT, KDOT, KOZZ, KUUB	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:psa@kglo.com">psa@kglo.com</a>	775-322-0847	AM/KQLO	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:tjoy@unr.edu">tjoy@unr.edu</a>	775-327-5867	FM/KUNR	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:radio@lavocristiana.com">radio@lavocristiana.com</a>	775-348-5850	AM/KXTO	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:prod@kptlradio.com">prod@kptlradio.com</a>	775-884-8000	AM/KPTL FM/KCMY	Radio	Reno, NV
<a href="mailto:mario@ahoranews.com">mario@ahoranews.com</a>	775-323-6811	Ahora Newspaper	Newspaper	Reno, NV

### Las Vegas (98)

<a href="mailto:EVogel@reviewjournal.com">EVogel@reviewjournal.com</a>	702-383-0211	Las Vegas Review-Journal	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:aplasvegas@ap.org">aplasvegas@ap.org</a>	702-382-7440	AP Las Vegas	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:metroeditors@lasvegassun.com">metroeditors@lasvegassun.com</a>	702-385-3111	Las Vegas Sun	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:editor@hbcpub.com">editor@hbcpub.com</a>	702-292-2302	Boulder City News	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:jean.norman@hbcpub.com">jean.norman@hbcpub.com</a>	702-435-7700	Green Valley News	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:pvmirror@air-internet.com">pvmirror@air-internet.com</a>	775-727-5583	Pahrump Valley Gazette	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:akiraly@lvpress.com">akiraly@lvpress.com</a>	702-871-6780	Las Vegas City Life	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:dmcmurdo@pvtimes.com">dmcmurdo@pvtimes.com</a>	775-727-5102	Pahrump Valley Times	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:bullseye@nellis.af.mil">bullseye@nellis.af.mil</a>	702-652-8027	Nellis AFB Bullseye	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:lvsvrelease@yahoo.com">lvsvrelease@yahoo.com</a>	702-380-8100	Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:nevadawoman@aol.com">nevadawoman@aol.com</a>	702-258-4322	Nevada Women	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:tonielasvegas@aol.com">tonielasvegas@aol.com</a>	702-796-5502	Las Vegas Asian American Times	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:stang@klastv.com">stang@klastv.com</a>	702-650-1953	Las Vegas Sun & KLAS Chan 8	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:news@kvwb21.com">news@kvwb21.com</a>	702-382-2121	WB & Gold	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:newsdesk@klastv.com">newsdesk@klastv.com</a>	702-792-8888	CBS	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:sfujiyama@klvx.org">sfujiyama@klvx.org</a>	702-799-1010	PBS	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:lamanivong@ktnv.com">lamanivong@ktnv.com</a>	702-876-1313	ABC	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:news3@kvbc.com">news3@kvbc.com</a>	702-642-3333	NBC	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:lish@kvvu.com">lish@kvvu.com</a>	702-435-5555	FOX	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:5newsdesk@kvvu.com">5newsdesk@kvvu.com</a>	702-435-5555	FOX	Television	Las Vegas, NV
<a href="mailto:power88@power88lv.com">power88@power88lv.com</a>	702-648-4218	FM/KCEP	Radio	Las Vegas, NV



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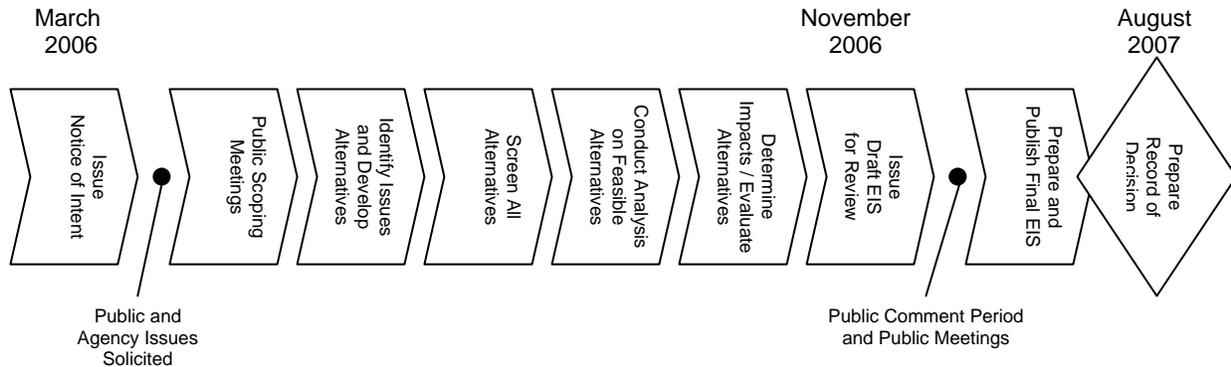
## **APPENDIX D**

**PUBLIC SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT MAILER**

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# LINCOLN COUNTY LAND ACT GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT AND UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECT

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) STEPS AND PROPOSED TIMELINE



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Lincoln County Land Act Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project proposed by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD). The LCWD is proposing to obtain rights-of-way across land managed by the BLM. If granted, the rights-of-way would authorize LCWD to begin development of groundwater resources located in Lincoln County to help meet anticipated future water needs in southern Lincoln County.

The BLM would like your participation in the project planning process to help identify potential environmental issues, concerns, and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. Participation in this process can be via letter, e-mail, fax, phone, or attendance at one of the Open House scoping meetings. Open House/Scoping meetings will be held in the following locations:

- April 10, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Caliente City Hall, 100 Depot Road, Caliente
- April 11, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Road, Alamo
- April 12, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Mesquite City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd. Mesquite
- April 13, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas
- April 17, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno

Comments may also be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or phone as follows:

**Mail:** Bureau of Land Management  
Nevada State Office  
1340 Financial Boulevard  
Reno, Nevada 89520  
Attention: Penny Woods

**Fax:** (775) 861-6712  
Attention: Penny Woods

**E-mail:** penny\_woods@nv.blm.gov

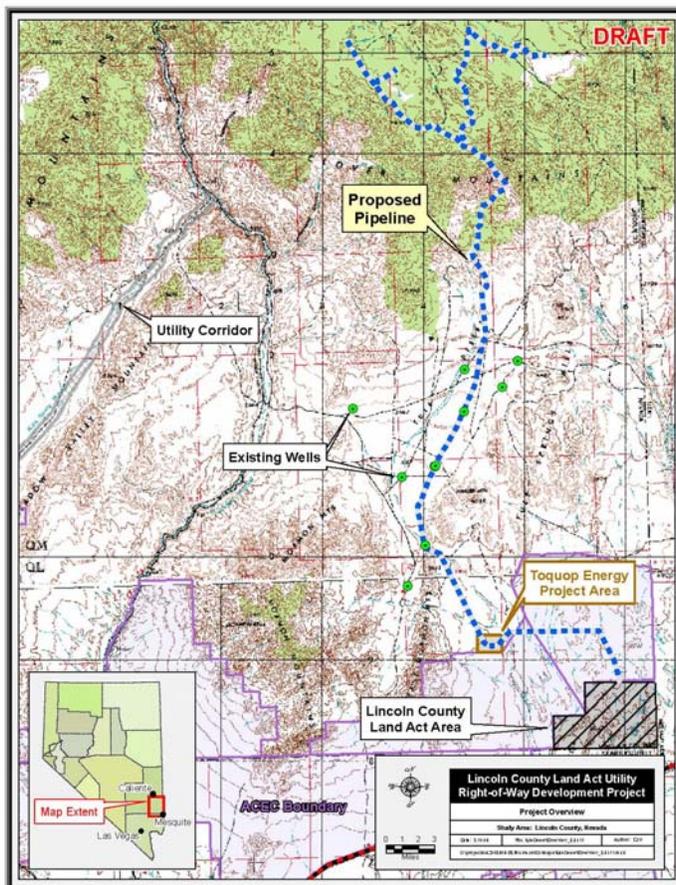
**Phone:** Penny Woods (775) 861-6466

Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping period, which ends May 1, 2006. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the title transfer throughout the EIS process. It is BLM's practice to publicly disclose respondents' comments, including names and addresses. Respondents may request that their identity and address be withheld from disclosure; this will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be publicly disclosed in their entirety.

# LINCOLN COUNTY LAND ACT GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT AND UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECT

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The LCLA Project would include approximately eight (8) production water wells to be located in the previously permitted Toquop Energy Project proposed well field area located in the Tule Desert hydrographic basin and up to ten (10) production water wells to be located in the Clover Valley hydrographic basin. Collectively, wells in the Tule Desert basin would pump up to 9,344 acre feet of groundwater per year. Wells in the Clover Valley would pump up to 14,480 acre feet of groundwater per year. A system of pipelines would collect pumped water for conveyance through a main transmission pipeline southeast to the Lincoln County Land Act development area, following in part, a utility corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-424).



Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution/transmission power lines and communication lines to be placed in said easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. In addition, a natural gas pipeline would parallel the water pipeline from the existing Kern River Natural Gas pipeline south to the LCLA area.

Pursuant to Section 301 of the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004, rights-of-way for the project which are located within utility corridors established by the Act for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system would be granted in perpetuity. The term of the right of way for all other features of the project would be thirty (30) years. The project would operate year round.

Issues for analysis in the EIS would be determined by the BLM based upon input

from BLM specialists, other agencies, and the public during scoping. BLM resource specialists have identified the following resources that may be impacted from the Proposed Action - (Water Resources, Wildlife/Wildlife Habitat, Special Status Species, Social and Economic Values, Cultural Resources, and Noxious Weeds). These resources would receive special emphasis in the EIS. Based on the information received during the initial scoping effort and other information, such as location of sensitive natural resources, projected construction activity, alternatives to the LCWD proposal will be identified to reduce possible impacts. Alternatives would include the Proposed Action and all other feasible and reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Other alternatives may include alternative alignments. In addition, reasonable measures to mitigate possible impacts would be considered for analysis in the EIS.



Please fold in thirds, tape, and affix postage

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BLM – Nevada State Office  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, Nevada 89520

Affix  
Postage

**BLM – Nevada State Office  
c/o Penny Woods, Project Manager  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, Nevada 89520**

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