



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office  
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)  
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006  
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>



### In Reply Refer to:

2800 (NV-910)  
N79734

23 May 2008

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project. The Ely District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft EIS in response to a right-of-way application submitted by the Lincoln County Water District for construction and operation of the LCLA Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project. Cooperating Agencies for this Draft EIS include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The purpose of this review is to assist BLM in its decision-making process. The BLM will use the Draft EIS when rendering a decision whether to grant the requested rights-of-way.

This Draft EIS considers the expected environmental effects associated with granting of the rights-of-way across public land and subsequent construction and operation of the LCLA Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project. Although water rights, pumping rates, volume of water proposed for transfer annually to the LCLA development area north of Mesquite, Nevada, and the point of use of water proposed for transport across public land is outside the jurisdiction of BLM, these issues have been included in this document. Water rights and pumping rates are under the purview of the Nevada State Engineer. Water distribution and use associated with development of the LCLA area resulting from importation of water have been addressed by local and regional planning agencies in accordance with Nevada statutes.

BLM is interested in your review and comment on the accuracy and completeness of this document. The LCLA Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project Draft EIS will be available for review for 60 calendar days from the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The BLM intends to hold four meetings in Nevada during the 60-day comment period, one each in Caliente, Mesquite, Carson City, and Las Vegas. BLM will announce all public meeting times and locations at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, or mailings. In addition, information will be posted online at the BLM website: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>. Comments should be sent to:

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Bureau of Land Management  
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A Final EIS will be prepared that will consider comments received during the 60-day comment period. For more information, please contact Penny Woods at 775.861.6466.