

Fax Cover Sheet

Recipient:

To: BLM Ely District Office Attn: Tiera Arbogast

Fax Number: (775) 861-6745

Sender:

From: City of Mesquite Attn: Aaron Baker

Phone: (702) 346-5295

Total of Pages: 9 including Fax Cover Sheet

Date: October 8, 2019

Message:

Protest from the City of Mesquite, Nevada regarding

DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2019-0004-EA November 2019 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease

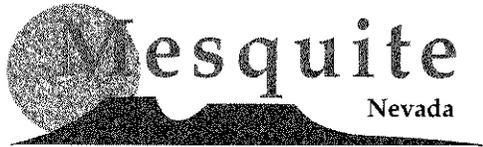
Sale.

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Allan S. Litman, *Mayor*
10 East Mesquite Boulevard
Mesquite, Nevada 89027
(702) 346-5295 Fax: (702) 346-2795

October 8, 2019

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Tiera Arbogast
702 North Industrial Way
Ely, NV 89301
FAX: 775-289-1910

Subject: Protest to BLM Decision for November 2019 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:
DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2019-0004-EA in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties

Dear Ms. Arbogast:

The City of Mesquite (City) hereby submits a formal protest regarding the November 2019 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale: DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2019-0004-EA. More specifically, the City objects to the sale of the parcels identified in the purple areas in Southeast Lincoln County identified on Map 3 titled: November 2019 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Nominated Parcels – Group C (Attachment A).

Our protest is simple: Because the City's sole culinary water source is groundwater from Basin 222, there is zero margin of error for our community. If oil and gas exploration proceeds and there is any contamination of the water, the almost 25,000 residents and the million plus annual visitors will be no more. They will leave and Mesquite will cease to exist, because of the lack of clean, safe drinking water.

Virgin Valley Water District (VVWD), the regional water purveyor, currently has eight operating wells and seven future wells all within Basin 222. Some of these are located in southern Lincoln County. Two of the future wells in Lincoln County are located within parcels listed for lease sale. The remaining well sites are down gradient for the proposed parcels. Currently, VVWD holds 98.5% of the permitted water rights in Basin 222.

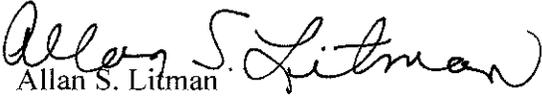
We have been told that the technology for accessing these resources is far more advanced than it has been in the past. However, no technology can assure one hundred percent success and any failure would be catastrophic to our residents and visitors. Once contamination occurs, the science demonstrates that is all but impossible to remediate the water to a level where the public would feel comfortable using it for culinary purposes.

Bureau of Land Management
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Further, we question the public policy wisdom of creating a potential economic benefit to a very small group of individuals at the risk of irreparably destroying the sole water source of an entire community.

The City Council and I consider this an existential risk to our residents. We join our protest with the protests of others and respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management not allow any lease sales in the subject parcels and not offer any parcels in Basin 222 in the future. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 702-346-5295 and/or mayor@mesquitenv.gov.

Sincerely,


Allan S. Litman
Mayor

Attachments

CC: Governor Steve Sisolak
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator Jacky Rosen
Representative Steven Horsford
State Senator Joseph Hardy
State Representative Chris Edwards

ATTACHMENT A

Protested Parcels

Tabular List and Map

Tabular List of Protested Parcels		
NV-19-11-367	NV-19-11-419	NV-19-11-437
NV-19-11-368	NV-19-11-420	NV-19-11-438
NV-19-11-404	NV-19-11-421	NV-19-11-439
NV-19-11-406	NV-19-11-424	NV-19-11-440
NV-19-11-407	NV-19-11-426	NV-19-11-441
NV-19-11-408	NV-19-11-427	NV-19-11-442
NV-19-11-409	NV-19-11-428	NV-19-11-443
NV-19-11-411	NV-19-11-429	NV-19-11-444
NV-19-11-412	NV-19-11-430	NV-19-11-445
NV-19-11-413	NV-19-11-431	NV-19-11-446
NV-19-11-414	NV-19-11-432	NV-19-11-447
NV-19-11-415	NV-19-11-433	NV-19-11-448
NV-19-11-416	NV-19-11-434	NV-19-11-449
NV-19-11-417	NV-19-11-435	NV-19-11-450
NV-19-11-418	NV-19-11-436	

ATTACHMENT B
City of Mesquite Resolution 996



RESOLUTION NUMBER 996

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE OPPOSING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES IN THE REGION.

WHEREAS, from time to time the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) makes available federal lands for oil and gas lease sale; and

WHEREAS, in order to propose parcels for lease and gas sales, the BLM must conduct a preliminary Environmental Analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Analysis process includes a public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has notified the public regarding a preliminary Environmental Analysis for a proposed oil and gas lease sale; and

WHEREAS, the proposed oil and gas lease sale contains parcels that in located directly above the region's water system's aquifer supply (Basin 222) and up gradient from the direction of groundwater flow to the region's water sources; and

WHEREAS, all of the City of Mesquite (City) and the region's culinary water comes from Basin 222; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Valley Water District (VVWD) is the City and region's water purveyor; and

WHEREAS, VVWD has formally submitted comments requesting that the BLM not allow any lease sales of parcels that could potentially impact their current and future water system; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of natural resources to Nevada, but believes it is important to minimize adverse impacts of oil and gas resource development to the public's health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemicals injected during the development of oil and gas resources have documented adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, there have been documented cases of water contamination near oil and gas sites, including people lighting their drinking water on fire; and

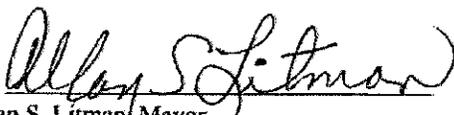
WHEREAS, there is no scientific research unequivocally proving that VVWD's current and future water system will not be adversely impacted by this oil and gas lease sale; and

WHEREAS, the pollution of water caused the development of oil and gas resources also threatens the long term economic well being of Mesquite residents, businesses and visitors, which are all dependent on clean drinking water.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Mesquite that the City does hereby oppose oil and gas lease sales in the region and the officers of the City are directed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution both now and for future lease sales.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Nevada on the 13th of August, 2019.

THE CITY OF MESQUITE:

By: 
Allan S. Litman Mayor

Attest:

By: 
Tracy Beck, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

By: 
Robert Sweetin, City Attorney