

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND DECISION RECORD
FOR
Prison Hill Water Tank #2 Project
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-C0200-2010-14-EA**

INTRODUCTION

Carson City, Nevada, is proposing to construct a new 3-million gallon steel water storage tank, install approximately 500 feet of PVC pipeline, and demolish the existing concrete water storage tank in the Prison Hill area within the City. The existing water tank shows signs of serious structural deterioration. The work would eliminate the risk of structural failure and associated damages to down-gradient structures, as well as maintain the current municipal water storage volume for the residents and businesses in Carson City. Carson City has applied to amend BLM right-of-way (ROW) NVN 013400 to include approximately 3 acres of additional public lands.

This environmental analysis, DOI-BLM-NV-C0200-2010-14 -EA, evaluates the impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from issuing a ROW for the proposed water facilities.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with the Carson City District Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) and is found to be consistent with current BLM policies, plans and programs.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DETERMINATION

Based on the analysis of the Prison Hill Water Tank #2 Project environmental assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-C0200-2010-14 -EA, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

Context:

The proposed action is to amend the existing ROW to Carson City to allow use of additional public lands for new water facilities. Short and long term effects to the environment and individuals in the Carson City locale were analyzed.

Intensity:

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation includes the following ten considerations for evaluating intensity:

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed any known threshold of significance, either beneficial or adverse.

2) The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety:

Due to the small scale of this project (less than 5 acres of public land) and the use of best management practices, the proposed action would not negatively impact public health or safety. The proposed action to replace the existing deteriorating municipal water facilities would eliminate the

risk of structural failure and associated damages to down-gradient structures, as well as maintain the current municipal water storage volume for the residents and businesses in Carson City.

3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

There are no known historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in or near the project area for the proposed action.

4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The effects of the Proposed Action on the human or natural environment were determined to be negligible. Project design and mitigation include measures to minimize visual effects of the water facilities to residents and visitors to the area.

5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The Proposed Action is not unique or unusual on public lands within the city boundaries. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered highly uncertain or that involve unique or unknown risks.

6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or presents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The Proposed action is for facilities routinely approved on public and private lands in urban and rural residential areas. The Proposed Action would not create a precedent for future actions.

7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

All resource values were evaluated for cumulative impacts and it was determined that cumulative impacts would be negligible.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

Following thorough analysis, it was determined there would be no loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historic resources.

9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under ESA of 1973.

As described in the EA, no known threatened/endangered species (plant or animal) or critical habitat has been identified in the project area.

10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

As described in the EA, the Proposed Action does not violate any known Federal State or local law or requirement for protection of the environment.

DECISION

It is my decision to authorize Carson City's use of public land for water storage and related facilities as described in the proposed action (Preferred Alternative, Chapter 2) of DOI-BLM-NV-C0200-2010-14-EA. The ROW amendment would include an area of 3.03 acres, approximately 400 feet by 420 feet, as shown on the attached Exhibit A (Plate 4 in DOI-BLM-NV-2010-14-EA) on the following described public land:

Mount Diablo Meridian
T 15 N., R 20 E.,
sec. 28, NW¼SE¼.

This decision is contingent on meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements listed below. The ROW grant amendment should be issued subject to existing terms, conditions and stipulations and the following special stipulations and should reference Exhibit A (attached):

The holder shall construct and operate the authorized facilities as described under Section 2.2 (Preferred Alternative) of DOI-BLM-NV-2010-14-EA.

The holder and its contractors shall consider the possibility of wildfire danger and take into account the need for prevention and suppression of fire on the right-of-way or adjacent public lands. Construction crews should be cautioned as to the potential fire danger of welding activities, open flames, and tobacco use. Basic firefighting equipment such as shovels, fire extinguishers, axes, or other tools should be readily available to crews to assist in putting out fires, if necessary. All fires should be reported to the Minden Interagency Dispatch Center at (775) 883-5995.

All above-ground structures, including fencing, not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the Holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be a flat, non-reflective color which simulates "Standard Environmental Color" Sudan Brown. (Color Chart is attached.)

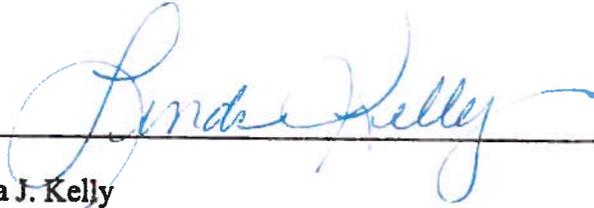
The holder shall seed all disturbed areas, using an agreed upon method suitable and seed mixture for the location (Attachment 1). Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained as determined by the authorizing officer upon evaluation after the growing season.

The holder shall contact the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and provide the opportunity for a tribal monitor to be onsite to monitor surface disturbing activities authorized by this grant.

Activities authorized by BLM will be monitored periodically during and/or following construction to ensure compliance with grant terms and conditions.

Rationale

The Proposed Action, as mitigated, meets the criteria described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of public land. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Carson City District Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan*. The public would benefit from the use of these public lands, for public utilities purposes. Carson City has justified a need for the water facilities and has incorporated design features to minimize impacts to the environment.



Linda J. Kelly
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office



Date