

Appendix M

VISUAL RESOURCES

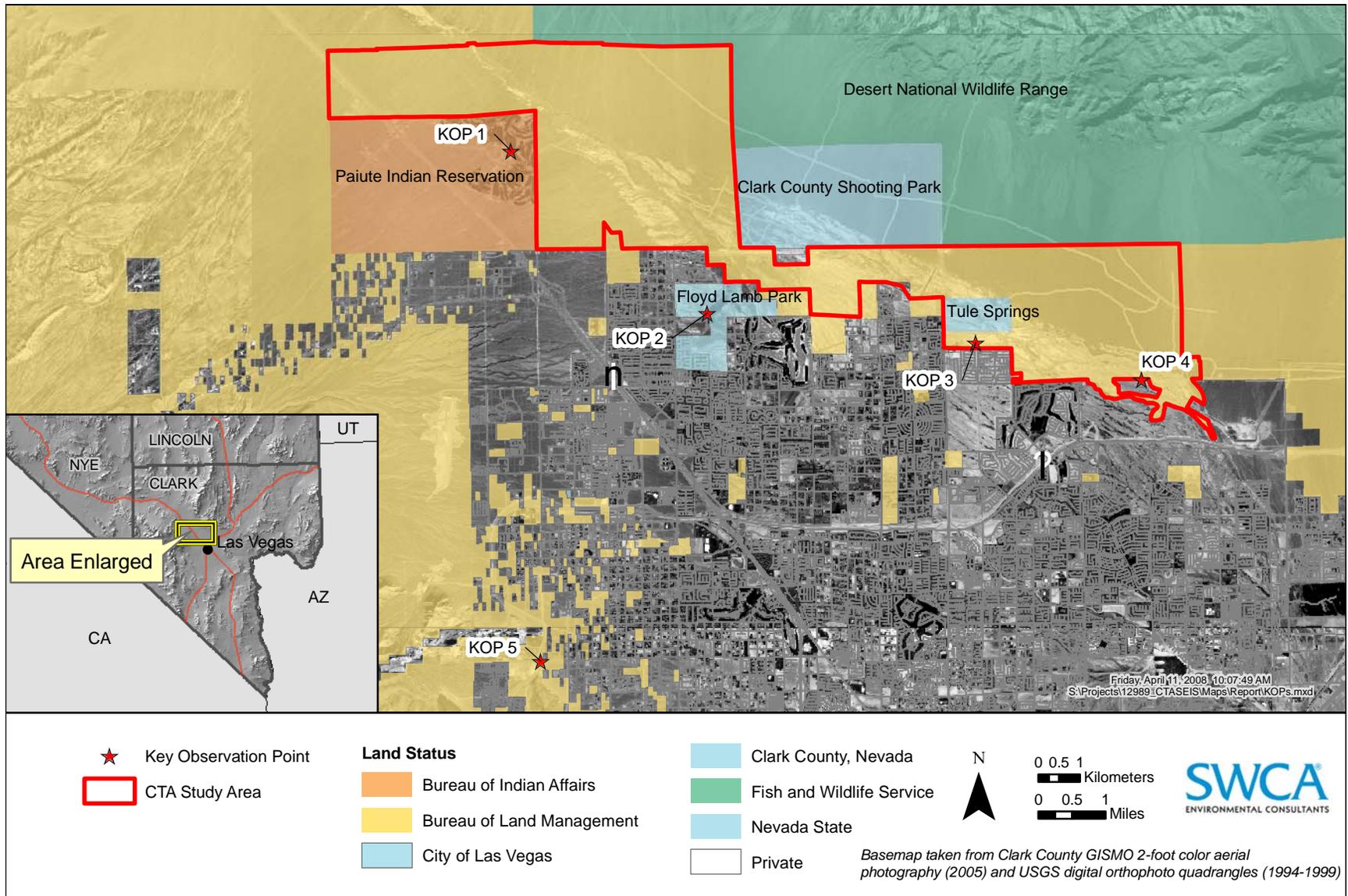


Figure M.1-1. Visual Resources—Key Observation Points (KOPs).

Form 8400-4 (September 1985) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET		Date (of fieldwork): February 27, 2008 District: Las Vegas Field Office Resource Area: Activity (program): Lands and Realty, 1430											
SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION													
1. Project Name Upper Las Vegas Wash CTA SEIS Urban development; Thunderbird electric trans. line	4. Location Township(s) <u>18 S</u> Range(s) <u>60 E</u> Section(s) <u>19-21; 28-30</u>	5. Location Sketch See the attached map for location of the KOP (Figure L.1-1). The attached photo is a simulation of the proposed development, as seen from the KOP.											
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Paiute Reservation Golf Club House – KOP 1													
3. VRM Class Class III													
SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION													
1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION											
FORM	Gently sloping bajada in MG. Rugged mountains in BG. Golf course in FG (not in CTA).	Bajada – continuous carpet of vegetation; few clumpy joshua trees. Vegetation cover on mountains not distinguishable. Golf course fairways – continuous carpet.											
LINE	Undulating horizontal line on horizon of mountain range. Horizontal layers in mountain range. Diagonal lines of side washes. Rolling fairways.	Joshua trees in FG – vertical. No characteristic lines in vegetation cover on the bajada.											
COLOR	Bajadas – tans and buff colors. Mountains – tan with black layers. LV Wash – tan. Lake – very blue.	Bajada – olive green shrubs, gray grasses. Golf course fairways – lawn green.											
TEXTURE	Bajada – smooth; mountains – rough. LV Wash – moderate. Golf course – smooth. Lake – smooth.	Bajada – moderately dense, continuous; almost smooth. Golf course fairways – smooth.											
3. STRUCTURES													
		Electric power poles in MG.											
		Power poles – vertical.											
		Power poles – black.											
		Power poles – smooth.											
SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION													
1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION											
FORM	Leveling, terracing of bajadas; stair-stepping of bajada.	Patchy urban landscaping between residential and commercial buildings.											
LINE	Multiple horizontal lines created by leveling of the land form.	Vertical lines of landscaping trees.											
COLOR	Black asphalt and gray concrete of roads. Natural buffs, tans, and gray of undisturbed land form. Urban landscaping.	Various greens of urban landscaping.											
TEXTURE	Smooth to medium.	Smooth lawns to medium shrubs and trees.											
		Blocky square and rectangular buildings. Vertical electrical power poles, street lights, etc.											
		Vertical and horizontal lines of buildings. Curvilinear and straight lines of roads. Vertical lines of electrical poles.											
		Various colors of buildings. Gray and dark colors for power poles. Black asphalt; gray concrete.											
		Mostly smooth.											
SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING <input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LONG TERM													
1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)
	LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)				3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)
	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Evaluators Name(s) Steve Knox– SWCA, Inc.
ELEMENTS	Form	X			X				X				Date March 19, 2008
	Line	X			X				X				
	Color	X			X				X				
	Texture		X		X						X		

SECTION D. (Continued)**Comments from Item 2.**

CTA – The roads crossing the CTA would introduce curvilinear lines into the landscape that would be visible. While visible to the average visitor, these roads across the Upper Las Vegas Wash would not dominate the landscape of the CTA. The wash zone landscape and lower slopes of the adjacent bajadas would generally still remain in an undeveloped condition and the natural landform and vegetation community would still predominate in the setting.

Outside the CTA – Lands on the bajadas above the wash zone would be made available for disposal and developed for urban uses, including residential neighborhoods, commercial businesses, light industrial uses, schools and other public buildings, and parks. This development would include roads, utilities, and landscaping. Further, the Thunderbird powerline would traverse the perimeter of the urban development. This degree of development on the slopes adjacent to the wash zone would transform the natural landscape to an urban landscape. This transformation would dominate the scene, and would not be consistent with BLM objectives for VRM Class III management objectives. However, when the lands are transferred out of public ownership, these public land objectives will no longer apply to those lands.

Additional Mitigation Measures (See Item 3)

No additional mitigating measures are proposed for the lands that would be developed for the growth of Las Vegas.

Form 8400-4 (September 1985) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET		Date (of fieldwork): February 27, 2008 District: Las Vegas Field Office Resource Area: Activity (program): Lands and Realty-1430													
SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION															
1. Project Name Upper Las Vegas Wash CTA SEIS Urban development; Thunderbird electric trans. line	4. Location Township(s) <u>18 S</u> Range(s) <u>60 E</u> Section(s) <u>19-21, 28-29</u>	5. Location Sketch See the attached map for location of the KOP (Figure L.1-1). The attached photo is a simulation of the proposed development, as seen from the KOP.													
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Floyd Lamb Park – KOP 2															
3. VRM Class Class III															
SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION															
1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION		3. STRUCTURES											
FORM	Gently sloping bajada in MG; rugged mountains in BG; small hills and mesas in FG. Road and parking area in FG.	Bajada – continuous carpet of vegetation in MG. Urban landscaping trees, shrubs, and grasses in FG. BG vegetation not distinguishable.		Vertical power poles; blocky houses; rectangular fence.											
LINE	Undulating horizontal line on horizon of mountain range. Horizontal layers in mountain range. Diagonal and horizontal lines in mesa of FG.	No distinct line in MG vegetation. FG vegetation vertical.		Vertical and horizontal lines of power poles and fence. Horizontal and vertical lines of houses, with some diagonal roof lines.											
COLOR	Bajada – tans and buff colors. Mountains – tans with black layers. FG hills and mesa – tans. Black road and parking area.	Bajada – olive green shrubs, gray grasses. FG – dark green trees, yellow grasses, yellow/green shrubs (winter time colors).		Gray power poles; white fence; white and tan houses.											
TEX-TURE	Bajada – smooth; mountains – rough; FG hills and mesa – smooth. FG road and parking area – smooth.	Bajada – moderately dense, continuous, almost smooth. FG park vegetation – rough.		Power poles and fence – smooth. Houses – medium.											
SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION															
1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION		3. STRUCTURES											
FORM	Leveling, terracing of bajadas; stair-stepping of bajada.	Patchy urban landscaping between residential and commercial buildings.		Blocky square and rectangular buildings. Vertical electrical power poles, street lights, etc.											
LINE	Multiple horizontal lines created by leveling of the land form.	Vertical lines of landscaping trees.		Vertical and horizontal lines of buildings. Curvilinear and straight lines of roads. Vertical lines of electrical poles.											
COLOR	Black asphalts, gray concretes of roads. Natural buffs, tans, and grays of undisturbed lands. Urban landscaping.	Various greens of urban landscaping.		Various colors of buildings. Gray and dark colors of power poles. Black asphalt; gray concrete.											
TEX-TURE	Smooth to medium.	Smooth lawns to medium shrubs and trees.		Mostly smooth.											
SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING <input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LONG TERM															
1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES				2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)									
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)		VEGETATION (2)		STRUCTURES (3)		3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)							
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Evaluators Name(s) Steve Knox– SWCA, Inc.	
			X			X						X		Date March 19, 2008	
ELEMENTS	Form		X			X						X			
	Line		X			X						X			
	Color		X			X						X			
	Texture			X			X						X		

SECTION D. (Continued)**Comments from Item 2.**

Outside the CTA – Development of the bajada across Las Vegas Wash as seen from this KOP would transform the landscape from an undeveloped and natural middle ground landscape to an urban setting composed of residential areas, businesses, and light industrial development. This transformation would dominate the view and would not be consistent with BLM's VRM Class III objectives. However, when the lands are transferred out of public ownership, these public land objectives will no longer apply to those lands. Further, from this KOP, the view of urban growth would be seen as an extension of identical development that currently exists in the foreground of the landscape, repeating the form, line, color, and texture of that development. The Thunderbird electric transmission line would repeat the line and texture of the existing power poles that rise above the urban development in the foreground. Urban (residential and park) landscaping would repeat the form, line, color, and texture of the exiting urban vegetation at Floyd Lamb Park.

Additional Mitigation Measures (See Item 3)

No additional mitigating measures are proposed for the lands that would be developed for the growth of Las Vegas.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1985-461-988/33094

Form 8400-4 (September 1985) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET		Date (of fieldwork): February 27, 2008 District: Las Vegas Field Office Resource Area: Activity (program): Lands and Realty-1430												
SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION														
1. Project Name Upper Las Vegas Wash CTA SEIS Urban development; Sheep Mountain Parkway	4. Location Township(s) <u>19 S</u> Range(s) <u>61 E</u> Section(s) <u>2-6, 9-11</u>	5. Location Sketch See the attached map for location of the KOP (Figure L.1-1). The attached photo is a simulation of the proposed development, as seen from the KOP.												
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) McCool Regional Park – KOP 3														
3. VRM Class Class III														
SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION														
1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES												
FORM	Gently sloping bajada in MG; rugged mountains in BG; flat airport runway in FG.	Bajada – continuous carpet of vegetation. Vegetation on mountains not distinguishable. Scattered, clumpy shrubs in FG.	Power poles.											
LINE	Undulating horizontal line on horizon of mountain range. Horizontal layers in mountains.	No characteristic line in the vegetation.	Vertical power poles.											
COLOR	Bajada – tans and buff colors. Mountains – tan with black layers. Light tan/white soils and black asphalt in FG.	Bajada – olive green shrubs, gray grasses. FG shrubs – gray and olive green.	Light gray power poles.											
TEXTURE	Bajada – smooth; mountains – rough; FG – smooth to medium.	Bajada – moderately dense, continuous, almost smooth. FG medium.	Smooth power poles.											
SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION														
1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES												
FORM	Leveling, terracing of bajadas; stair-stepping of bajada.	Patchy urban landscaping between residential and commercial buildings, and of public use area of Sheep Mtn. Parkway.	Blocky square and rectangular buildings. Vertical electrical power poles, street lights, etc.											
LINE	Multiple horizontal lines created by leveling of the land form.	Vertical lines of landscaping trees.	Vertical and horizontal lines of buildings. Curvilinear and straight lines of roads. Vertical lines of electrical poles. Horizontal line of cut slope of Sheep Mountain Parkway.											
COLOR	Black asphalts, gray concretes of roads. Natural buffs, tans, and grays of undisturbed lands. Urban landscaping.	Various greens of urban landscaping.	Various colors of buildings. Gray and dark colors of power poles. Black asphalt, gray concrete of roads.											
TEXTURE	Smooth to medium.	Smooth lawns to medium shrubs and trees.	Power poles – smooth. Buildings – medium.											
SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING <input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LONG TERM														
1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)	
	LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)				3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)	
ELEMENTS	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Evaluators Name(s) Steve Knox– SWCA, Inc.	
Form		X			X				X				Date March 19, 2008	
Line		X				X			X					
Color		X			X				X					
Texture			X			X						X		

SECTION D. (Continued)**Comments from Item 2.**

Outside the CTA – Lands on the bajadas beyond Las Vegas Wash would be made available for disposal and developed for urban uses, including residential neighborhoods, commercial businesses, light industrial uses, schools and other public buildings, and parks. This development would include roads, utilities, and landscaping. Further, the Thunderbird powerline would traverse the perimeter of the urban development. And, the Sheep Mountain Parkway would be constructed around most of the future urban development. The proposed degree of development would transform a natural, and mostly undeveloped, landscape to an urban landscape. While mitigation would help reduce some of the contrast to the landscape, this transformation would dominate the scene and would not be consistent with BLM objectives for VRM Class III management objectives. However, when the lands are transferred out of public ownership, these public land objectives will no longer apply to those lands.

Additional Mitigation Measures (See Item 3)

1. Reshape and re-contour the cut slope (up slope side) of the excavation for the Sheep Mountain Parkway and re-vegetate by planting to reduce the visual impact of the horizontal line on the landscape.
2. Paint power poles a color that blends with the background landform and vegetation colors to reduce the visual impact of the vertical poles on the landscape.

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SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION													
1. Project Name Upper Las Vegas Wash CTA SEIS Urban development; Sheep Mountain Parkway	4. Location Township(s) <u>19 S</u> Range(s) <u>61 E</u> Section(s) <u>2-6, 9-11</u>	5. Location Sketch See the attached map for location of the KOP (Figure L.1-1). The attached photo is a simulation of the proposed development, as seen from the KOP.											
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Grand Teton Drive at Eglington Preserve – KOP 4													
3. VRM Class Class III													
SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION													
1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION											
FORM	Gently sloping bajada in MG; rugged mountains in BG. Flat dirt road in FG.	3. STRUCTURES	Power poles. Rectangular, blocky wall.										
LINE	Undulating horizontal line on horizon of mountain range. Horizontal layers in mountains.		Vertical power poles. Horizontal line of brick wall.										
COLOR	Bajada – tans and buff colors. Mountains – tan with black layers. FG – light tans and white soils.		Light gray power poles. Tan brick wall.										
TEX-TURE	Bajada – smooth; mountains – rough. FG cobbly – medium.		Smooth										
SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION													
1. LAND/WATER		2. VEGETATION											
FORM	Leveling, terracing of bajadas; stair-stepping of bajada.	3. STRUCTURES	Blocky square and rectangular buildings. Vertical electrical power poles, street lights, etc.										
LINE	Multiple horizontal lines created by leveling of the landform.		Vertical and horizontal lines of buildings. Curvilinear and straight lines of roads. Vertical lines of electrical poles. Horizontal line of cut slope of the Sheep Mountain Parkway.										
COLOR	Black asphalts, gray concretes of roads. Natural buffs, tans, and grays of undisturbed or undeveloped lands.		Various colors of buildings. Gray and dark colors of power poles. Black asphalt, gray concrete of roads.										
TEX-TURE	Smooth to medium.		Power poles – smooth; buildings – medium.										
SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING <input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LONG TERM													
1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST	FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)
	LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)				3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)
ELEMENTS	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Evaluators Name(s) Steve Knox– SWCA, Inc.
Form		X			X				X				Date March 19, 2008
Line		X			X				X				
Color		X			X				X				
Texture			X		X					X			

SECTION D. (Continued)**Comments from Item 2.**

Outside the CTA – Lands on the bajadas beyond Las Vegas Wash would be made available for disposal and developed for urban uses, including residential neighborhoods, commercial businesses, light industrial uses, schools and other public buildings, and parks. This development would include roads, utilities, and landscaping. Further, the Thunderbird transmission line would traverse the perimeter of the urban development. And, the Sheep Mountain Parkway would be constructed around most of the future urban development. This proposed degree of development would transform a natural, and mostly undeveloped, landscape to an urban landscape. While mitigation would help reduce some of the contrast to the landscape, this transformation would dominate the scene and would not be consistent with BLM objectives for VRM Class III management objectives. However, when the lands are transferred out of public ownership, these public land objectives will no longer apply to those lands.

Additional Mitigation Measures (See Item 3)

1. Reshape and re-contour the cut slope (up slope side) of the excavation for the Sheep Mountain Parkway and re-vegetate by planting to reduce the visual impact of the horizontal line on the landscape.
2. Paint power poles a color that blends with the background landform and vegetation colors to reduce the visual contrast of the vertical poles on the landscape.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1985-461-988/33094

SECTION D. (Continued)**Comments from Item 2.**

CTA – Given the distance from the KOP to the CTA and adjacent lands and given the degree of urban development of lands outside but immediately adjacent to the CTA, it will be difficult to distinguish the lands within the CTA. Thus, it will be difficult to distinguish the developments that do occur in the CTA. The development of lands within the CTA will blend with adjacent urban development outside the CTA.

Outside the CTA – Distance will diminish the effect (view) of the anticipated urban development on the lands adjacent to the CTA, and it will be difficult to determine where the existing city development ends and the future development begins (following disposal of lands outside the CTA). Distance will soften the effect of development on the form, line, color, and texture of the land, vegetation, and structures. While it will be difficult to distinguish the effects of the new development and distance will reduce the effects of that development to moderate and weak ratings (see contrast rating above), the existing undeveloped landscape will still transform to dense urban development. That degree of development, even when viewed at a greater distance, is not consistent with BLM's VRM Class III objectives.

Additional Mitigation Measures (See Item 3)

No additional mitigating measures are proposed for the lands that would be developed for the growth of Las Vegas.



Existing Landscape



Simulated Landscape

Figure M.1-2. Visual Simulation KOP 1.



Existing Landscape



Simulated Landscape

Figure M.1-3. Visual Simulation KOP 2.



Existing Landscape



Simulated Landscape

Figure M.1-4. Visual Simulation KOP 3.



Existing Landscape



Simulated Landscape

Figure M.1-5. Visual Simulation KOP 4.



Existing Landscape



Simulated Landscape

Figure M.1-6a. Visual Simulation KOP 5.



Existing Landscape



Simulated Landscape

Figure M.1-6b. Visual Simulation KOP 5.

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