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PUBLIC MEETING
FOR PROPOSED SLOAN HILLS
COMPETITIVE MINERAL MATERIAL SALES
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
Liberty High School
Henderson, Nevada
Thursday, November 3, 2011

Reported by:
Ellen L. Ford
CCR No. 846
Job No. 175569

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MEET1103.txt
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

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MR. RIETTER: My first name is Klaus,
K-l-a-u-s, last name Reitter, R-i-e-t-t-e-r.

My concern is about traffic flow from the
site to the area. It's one that there would be
truck traffic 24/7. The wear from the trucks
coming and going will be constantly.

Also, there will be dynamite blasting and,
of course, pollutions. That's pollution
constantly, also, and I think that would very
badly impact the whole community and the
lifestyle we have right this minute.

It would impact the schools, especially
this school is right in the path of the dust
and everything else. So I think this is a very
bad idea.

In this economy, we don't really need
aggregate since we're not building anything in
this neighborhood right now. The houses, we
have 20 years of houses we can have, the
supply, and so we don't need any extra
aggregate in this particular time. I think the

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next ten years we won't need any large amount
of aggregate, so I think this is a very bad
idea because of that.

I also think since the companies that are

5 bidding for it are also out-of-state companies
6 and they get Nevada products selling to us back
7 and they get the profit is also a bad idea.
8 That's it. Thank you.

9 MR. KEATING: Jeremiah, J-e-r-e-m-i-a-h,
10 Keating, K-e-a-t-i-n-g.

11 I just want to state that I am opposed to
12 the proposed Sloan Hills Competitive Minimal
13 Materials site, or the sale of that. I would
14 like to see Alternative 5 picked to leave the
15 land preserved and the integrity of the land in
16 its original format. I think it's -- it has
17 adverse effects inasmuch as dust mitigation and
18 blasting mitigation for the residents that live
19 at Madiera Canyon, as well as the original
20 habitat and life form that exist within Sloan
21 Canyon. I hope you take my opinion in
22 consideration. Thank you.

23 MS. BRAGANZA: Patricia Braganza,
24 B-r-a-g-a-n-z-a. My comment is I just would
25 like to have some consideration or someone look

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1 into how close the guzzlers that are in the
2 McCullough range for the bighorn sheep and
3 other wildlife, how close are those to the
4 proposed mine site. Because I don't think any
5 consideration has been given to that.

6 Because I know those guzzlers are very
7 important to the bighorn sheep population that

8 is in the McCullough range, and the McCullough
9 currently supports a very healthy population.
10 I just think that's something that none of the
11 people I've talked to tonight has said has been
12 really looked at or addressed.

13 MR. ROSS: I'm Bob Ross. I'm the Field
14 Manager for the BLM Las Vegas Field Office.
15 And the BLM is pleased to be hosting this
16 public meeting at Liberty High School. We're
17 here for comments on the Draft EIS for the
18 proposed Sloan Hills Proposed Mineral Material
19 Sales.

20 Thank you very much for coming. Your
21 comments are extremely important to us. We're
22 here to listen and to write down your comments.

23 One of the things I do want to emphasize,
24 and I've done this the last two nights, as
25 well, is that the BLM has made no decision on

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1 this proposal at this point.

2 Another thing, too, that is a bit
3 noteworthy about the EIS is that it does not
4 have a preferred alternative, and this was done
5 deliberately by the BLM. Federal regulations
6 require that if an agency has a preferred
7 alternative it must be identified, and we did
8 not. So really what that means is that your
9 comments are extremely important to us. We've
10 made no decision. And we really do sincerely

11 appreciate and will learn and make a good
12 decision based on your comments.

13 Getting to kind of the format of the
14 meeting. We'll start with some introductions,
15 then Shonna Dooman has a presentation, Melinda
16 Jones will go over some ground rules and
17 logistics, and we'll get into the public
18 hearing itself.

19 Starting with the introductions, I'm going
20 to kind of talk about -- well, I'm going to
21 introduce the officials and elected officials.
22 Commissioner Sisolak, Clark County is here. We
23 have Sara Moffat representing Senator Reid's
24 office. Matt Morris is representing Senator
25 Heller. And we also have Brian Wilson from the

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1 office of Representative Heck.

2 And with the BLM, if you didn't catch my
3 name first, it's Bob Ross, Field Manager.
4 Giving our presentation is Shonna Dooman.
5 Shonna is the Assistant Field Manager for
6 Non-Renewable Resources as well as the Project
7 Manager for this project. Melinda Jones is our
8 facilitator. And representing our Southern
9 Nevada District Office and Las Vegas as a unit
10 of that District Office is Carla Norris. Carla
11 is one of our Assistant District Managers.

12 I think with that I'm done. Shonna, it's
13 your turn.

14 MS. DOOMAN: Welcome everyone. And I would
15 like to thank you for attending the public
16 meeting for this Sloan Hills Competitive
17 Mineral Material Sales Draft EIS.

18 I know the main purpose of this meeting is
19 to get to the public hearing portion, so I'd
20 like to get through this presentation with as
21 little interruptions as possible. So if you
22 have a cellphone on you and you haven't yet
23 been able to turn it off or put it on vibrate,
24 I'd appreciate you doing that now.

25 My presentation today will briefly describe

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1 what the proposed project is, why this project
2 is being analyzed, and what some of the impacts
3 were that we analyzed in the EIS.

4 The proposed project that we are discussing
5 today is the Sloan Hills Competitive Mineral
6 Material Sales. If approved, this project
7 would authorize the BLM to sell by competitive
8 bid mineral material contracts in the Sloan
9 Hills area of Southern Nevada.

10 If the sales are approved, the site would
11 be mined for limestone and dolomite to produce
12 construction materials. These materials would
13 be used for such things as road base, building
14 pads, and concrete.

15 The EIS that we're here for tonight
16 analyzed the potential sale of up to 640 acres

17 for mineral material contracts.

18 The proposed mine project is located in the
19 Sloan Hills immediately south of Las Vegas
20 valley. The proposed mine sites would be
21 approximately 2.9 miles southeast from the
22 community of Southern Highlands, approximately
23 3.5 miles southwest from the community of
24 Anthem, and approximately 1.2 miles southwest
25 from the planned extent of the community of

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1 Inspirada.

2 The BLM is responsible for making public
3 lands available for the development of mineral
4 resources, but must also take into
5 consideration the environmental impacts of the
6 development of those minerals.

7 Several laws provide the BLM with the
8 authority to sell mineral material contracts.
9 The first is the act of July 31st, 1947, which
10 is commonly referred to as the Materials Act.
11 This authorizes BLM to sell common varieties of
12 minerals, including sand and gravel.

13 The Mining and Minerals Policy Act directs
14 the BLM to foster and encourage private
15 enterprise while mitigating adverse
16 environmental impacts.

17 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act
18 reiterates that the Mining and Minerals Policy
19 Act will be implemented and directs that the

20 public lands be managed in a manner that
21 recognizes the nation's needs for a domestic
22 source of resources, including minerals.

23 This act also establishes the land use
24 policies and planning requirements for the BLM
25 to manage Federal lands, including the

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1 implementation of resource management actions.

2 BLM is considering the Sloan Hills
3 competitive mineral material sales in this EIS
4 because we received applications from two
5 mining companies. Under the Materials Act and
6 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, BLM
7 is required to consider the applications that
8 were submitted and to make mineral materials
9 available unless it is detrimental to the
10 public's interest to do so.

11 Additionally, the BLM entered into
12 Settlement Agreements with the mining
13 applicants where we agreed to consider the
14 applications for the sale of mineral materials
15 in the Sloan Hills area.

16 This EIS is our mechanism to make the
17 determination on whether or not the sales are
18 detrimental to the public's interest and
19 whether or not they should be approved.

20 At the end of the EIS process, the BLM will
21 decide whether or not to issue the competitive
22 mineral material sales contracts which would

23 authorize mining operations in the Sloan Hills
24 area. If the sale is authorized, the BLM will
25 also determine what terms and conditions should

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1 be placed on the contracts to appropriately
2 protect the environment and to provide for the
3 reclamation of the site after mining is
4 complete.

5 The Settlement Agreement stated that the
6 BLM would look favorably upon approving these
7 sales. However, these agreements also
8 stipulate that nothing shall be construed as
9 restricting BLM's discretion in either
10 approving or denying the sales.

11 As Bob said earlier, the BLM has not yet
12 made a decision on this.

13 If the mineral material sales contracts are
14 issued, the Sloan Hills site will be mined is
15 limestone and dolomite to produce construction
16 materials. Mining would occur using typical
17 methods such as drilling, blasting, loading,
18 processing, and hauling of both production and
19 waste mineral products.

20 The mineral materials would be processed
21 on-site using a rock crushing and screening
22 plant. Once the materials have been processed,
23 they would be loaded onto highway haul trucks
24 and transported off-site to market.

25 It is estimated that over the proposed

1 30-year life of the north site, that
2 126 million tons of mineral materials would be
3 mined. And over the proposed 20-year life of
4 the south site, that 74 million tons of
5 materials would be mined.

6 Five alternatives were analyzed in this
7 EIS. BLM has not yet selected a preferred
8 alternative.

9 Alternative 1 consists of the two proposed
10 competitive mineral materials sales referred to
11 as the north site and the south site. These
12 would result in two open pit mines and
13 associated facilities.

14 Over time, the two open pits would merge
15 into a single open pit. Each contract site
16 would be 320 acres in size, however, not all of
17 the 320 acres would be disturbed in either the
18 north or south sites.

19 Each mining company would maintain a
20 separate facility for staging, and each would
21 be responsible for acquiring the necessary
22 water rights and other utility rights of ways.

23 Access to and from the mine sites would be
24 via a new access road from the west that would
25 connect to Las Vegas Boulevard. This

1 alternative is based on the original proposals
2 for mining activities that were submitted by
3 the mining applicants.

4 The second alternative analyzed in the EIS
5 is the sale of a mineral material contract in
6 the north site only. Under this alternative,
7 the mineral materials in the south site would
8 not be sold and would therefore not be mined.
9 All other aspects of mining would be similar to
10 those described in Alternative 1.

11 The third alternative analyzed in the EIS
12 is the sale of mineral material contracts for
13 the south site only. Under this alternative,
14 mineral materials in the north site would not
15 be sold and would therefore not be mined. All
16 other aspects of mining operations would be
17 similar to those described in Alternative 1.

18 Under Alternative 4, the BLM would sell the
19 mineral materials in the north site and the
20 south site to a single applicant. The combined
21 mine site would be modified from the plans
22 described under Alternative 1 to include a
23 single ancillary facility site, a single
24 unusable rock storage area, and a single access
25 and utility corridor.

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1 The fifth alternative analyzed in the EIS
2 is the no action alternative. Under the no
3 action alternative, the BLM sale of mineral

4 materials would not occur in the Sloan Hills
5 area. No surface disturbance would occur, and
6 no impacts to the existing physical or
7 biological environment would take place.
8 However, no potential economic benefit would be
9 realized.

10 If the no action alternative is selected,
11 the mining companies would not be precluded
12 from submitting applications to mine at
13 alternate locations on BLM lands.

14 The BLM is not considering other locations
15 because the applications that were submitted
16 are for the mineral materials in the Sloan
17 Hills area. We are required to consider the
18 applications that were submitted.

19 Additionally, the BLM entered into
20 Settlement Agreements with the applicants. In
21 the Settlement Agreements, BLM agreed to
22 process the mineral material applications for
23 the Sloan Hills area in accordance with all
24 applicable laws.

25 The purpose of this EIS is not to determine

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1 where the best location for mining is, but
2 rather it is to determine whether the Sloan
3 Hills site is appropriate for mining.

4 Public scoping for the Sloan Hills
5 competitive mineral material sales was held
6 from June to December 2007. During the scoping

7 process, the people that provided comments
8 raised various concerns which fall into these
9 general categories: Air quality, noise, water
10 use, visual and lighting impacts, increased
11 local traffic, vibrations from blasting, and
12 impacts of property values.

13 Analysis of these areas of concern can be
14 found in Chapter 4 of the EIS on the pages
15 listed. Posters on these topics are also
16 available for review at this meeting and
17 they're available on our website.

18 In addition to the issues identified by the
19 public during the scoping process, BLM
20 conducted internal scoping and contacted other
21 agencies for additional input. These
22 additional issues included impacts to the
23 soils, impacts on vegetation and wildlife
24 habitat, impacts on the Desert Tortoise,
25 impacts on special management areas such as the

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1 Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and the
2 North McCullough Wilderness, impacts on
3 recreation, the cumulative impacts of the other
4 actions in the area, and the potential economic
5 benefits of the mining project.

6 The public comment period and these
7 meetings are your opportunity to tell the BLM
8 if you believe we did not fully analyze a
9 specific impact, if you have additional

10 information that would affect the analysis of
11 an impact, or if you believe we missed an
12 impact all together.

13 Your comments, questions, and concerns are
14 critical to the environmental review of this
15 project and we look forward to hearing from all
16 of you tonight. We will take all of your
17 comments and questions and incorporate them
18 into the final EIS. This is scheduled to be
19 released in January of 2013. Your input will
20 help us make the best decision on whether or
21 not to approve the project.

22 Please remember the public comment period
23 ends on December 5th.

24 This concludes my presentation today. I
25 would once again like to thank everyone for

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1 attending today's meeting, and I would like to
2 thank Liberty High School for the use of their
3 facility.

4 The formal public hearing will begin
5 shortly. Thank you.

6 MS. JONES: The public hearing will begin
7 at 7:30. It's approximately 7:15 right now so
8 we're going to take a 15-minute recess. I
9 encourage those that would like to provide a
10 verbal comment during the public hearing
11 portion to register as a speaker now. We have
12 a registration table out front. Please fill

13 out a speaker card and return that to the
14 representative collecting those.

15 we also have court reporters that are
16 available. we have a court reporter in the
17 front lobby that will be available during the
18 entire meeting this hearing if you wish to give
19 a verbal comment but not wish to provide that
20 publicly.

21 we also are collecting written comments.
22 we have written comment forms in the lobby.
23 You're more than welcome to leave those here
24 with us before you leave this evening or take
25 those home with you.

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17

1 At the beginning of the meeting we provided
2 a handout with instructions on how to fill that
3 out and how to get that back to us, so please
4 be sure to pick up a copy of that if you
5 haven't already done so.

6 Thank you. See you in about 15 minutes.

7 (Recess taken.)

8 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

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10 MS. JONES: Before we get started, I'd just
11 like to remind you that copies of the
12 presentation and the posters at today's meeting
13 are available on the BLM website.

14 Additionally, we have some copies of the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement both on hard

16 copies and on CD ROMs that are available at the
17 table in the lobby. So be sure to pick one up
18 before you leave if you'd like to get one.

19 we will begin the public comment session in
20 just a few minutes. Those of you that already
21 registered to make a comment at today's meeting
22 will be called shortly, but first I'd like to
23 review how the public comment period will work.

24 we will be asking current elected officials
25 or their representatives to make comments

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1 first. Comments from the general public will
2 follow.

3 Speakers will be called in the order that
4 their speaker request cards were received.

5 Once the elected officials have provided
6 their comments, I will call the first two
7 speakers. If the first person whose name I
8 call will please come to the podium, which is
9 located over here to your right of the stage,
10 and if the second person that I call will
11 please go to the waiting area which is also
12 located on the right-hand side of the stage, we
13 have some chairs that are set. To the left.
14 I'm sorry. I really tried this time. I still
15 got it wrong. Sorry. But I think you're smart
16 enough to figure that out.

17 we ask that you please move to the front of
18 the room when your name is called. By calling

19 the individuals twice at a time like that we'll
20 always have at least one person in the waiting
21 area.

22 Each speaker is asked to please limit their
23 comment to three minutes. A timer will be
24 provided on the presentation screen.

25 Additionally, a meeting facilitator will flash

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1 a green card for the first two minutes, a
2 yellow card for the remaining minute, and a red
3 card will be flashed when the three minutes is
4 over.

5 Please note at the end of your three
6 minutes, your microphone may be turned off.

7 In order to give as many people as possible
8 an opportunity to make a public comment, you
9 cannot give your unused comment time to another
10 user. If you run out of time, you are
11 encouraged to sign up to speak again. If you
12 sign up to make a second comment, you will be
13 called after all the other speakers have had
14 their turn.

15 Again, just to mention, we do have a second
16 court reporter that is available throughout the
17 meeting. She's located -- or he is located in
18 the front lobby. If you do not wish to provide
19 your comment publicly, you may go see the court
20 reporter at any time.

21 Please note that we will not be responding
Page 17

22 to comments and questions during the public
23 comment period of this meeting in order to
24 allow as many people as possible the
25 opportunity to provide their comments.

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1 Written comments may be submitted in the
2 comment boxes provided at the meeting. These
3 are located in the front lobby. You may also
4 provide written comments through e-mail, fax,
5 or mail. Once again we provided a handout with
6 the necessary information for making written
7 comments, including the mailing address, fax
8 number, and e-mail address at the sign-in
9 table. If you did not receive one when you
10 came in, please remember to pick one up at the
11 end of the meeting along with the comment form.

12 At the close of the Draft Environmental
13 Impact Statement public comment period, the BLM
14 will gather all oral and written comments.
15 These comments will be addressed and considered
16 during the final EIS process.

17 Your comment must be postmarked by
18 December 5th, 2011 in order to ensure that it
19 will be considered in the final EIS.

20 I will now call the representatives in
21 order for their comments. I'd like to begin
22 with Commissioner Sisolak.

23 Oh, I forgot to mention, please clearly
24 state and spell your first and last name for

25 us.

21

1 COMMISSIONER SISOLAK: Steve Sisolak.
2 S-t-e-v-e, S-i-s-o-l-a-k.

3 Thank you for affording me the opportunity
4 to be here today. I am currently the
5 Representative of Clark County Commission
6 District A which is covers the proposed gravel
7 pit. And we're in my district.

8 And I want to first off ask you to join me
9 in thanking the BLM. They've been very
10 cooperative. I sincerely appreciate everything
11 you guys have done to accommodate, not just
12 tonight, but the other nights.

13 And thank Liberty High School. I've put in
14 calls to both Coronado and Liberty, and the
15 Principals could not have been more
16 accommodating to make these facilities
17 available us to.

18 And mostly, I want to thank each and every
19 one of you. I know a lot of you were at the
20 meeting at Coronado yesterday and couldn't get
21 in. It was packed. We had 6, 700 people there
22 yesterday, standing room only. I know I talked
23 to some folks in the parking lot that couldn't
24 get in. So some people did make it back, but
25 for those of you who did take the extra time, I

1 sincerely appreciate it.

2 This is extremely important to me. I've
3 been fighting this issue for three years since
4 I got elected to the Clark County Commission,
5 as most of you have been fighting this issue
6 for three years.

7 This isn't just a mining pit operation
8 issue, this is a quality of life issue as far
9 as I'm concerned. I deal with this area
10 particularly, it's particularly important to
11 me.

12 I suffer -- and I'm going to use the same
13 demonstration -- this is my inhaler. I suffer
14 from asthma. I have respiratory problems. I
15 know what it's like to have to gasp for breath
16 and to struggle when you can't breathe.

17 I don't believe a lot of these particulates
18 can be measured, it's just something that you
19 feel when you have trouble breathing.

20 I know that I've spoken to dozens of
21 residents in the general vicinity. The
22 children that are at the schools in the general
23 vicinity that'll be impacted by this. I
24 implore you to consider the health of the
25 individuals.

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1 when this mining application was originally

2 proffered, there were not homes immediately in
3 the vicinity to where the pit will be and
4 things have changed.

5 On behalf of the Clark County Commission I
6 asked my colleagues, we unanimously submitted a
7 proclamation in opposition to the gravel pit
8 last year which was entered into the record.

9 I asked the County to respond to the
10 Environmental Impact Statement in written form.
11 I'm going to read two paragraphs from the
12 response that we have. "The Department of Air
13 Quality and Departmental Management found ten
14 weaknesses that we'll call discrepancies and
15 omission in the study. And their comment
16 was -- I'm just going to read two paragraphs --
17 "In consideration of these discrepancies and
18 omissions, it is not possible for the
19 Department of Air Quality and Environmental
20 Management to make a complete assessment of air
21 quality impact of the proposed project. The
22 final DEIS includes corrections and requested
23 amendments. Department of Air Quality and
24 Environmental Management would be in a better
25 position to comment on the proposed impacts on

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1 the ambient air." They were not able to form a
2 conclusion because the study they viewed was
3 incomplete or insufficient.

4 The other department that weighed in on

5 this is our Department of Clark County
6 Department of Comprehensive Planning and
7 Development. Their comment is summarized with
8 one paragraph. "The intense uses associated
9 with this type of operation and its ancillary
10 users at the subject location will
11 detrimentally impact sensitive lands in the
12 Sloan Canyon Conservation Area, and the visual
13 impact of this use will negatively impact the
14 view shed and esthetic appeal of the gateway to
15 the Las Vegas Valley.

16 As a result, the Clark County Comprehensive
17 Planning Commission expresses opposition to the
18 proposed use."

19 This basically sums up the County's
20 position as it relates to the gravel pit. I
21 know for you and Shonna and Bob particularly, I
22 appreciate you've heard this three times from
23 me because I was here both times on Tuesday,
24 Wednesday and Thursday to make these same
25 comments.

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1 It's so important to me that I flew last
2 year to Washington, D.C. and testified before a
3 Senate Subcommittee regarding this project at
4 the then advice of and invitation of Senator
5 Reid and then Senator Ensign. Our entire
6 congressional delegation joins me in opposing
7 this gravel pit. And if you have ten more

8 meetings, I'll come ten more times to express
9 our opposition to this.

10 I thank you for the opportunity to be here
11 and I thank each and every one of you for
12 coming, and this does show that one person, one
13 neighborhood can make a difference. So thank
14 you very much.

15 MS. JONES: Sara Moffat, representative
16 from Senator Reid.

17 MS. MOFFAT: Thank you, Melinda. Again, my
18 name is Sara Moffat, Senator Reid's office.
19 That's spelled S-a-r-a, M-o-f-f-a-t, and I am
20 the Energy and Public Lands Regional
21 Representative.

22 The Senator couldn't be here tonight, but
23 he wanted me to read this letter that he sent
24 to Bob Ross on Tuesday.

25 "Dear Mr. Ross. I write today to encourage

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1 you to choose the no action alternative in the
2 Sloan Hills Draft Environmental Impact
3 Statement and deny the permit for the proposed
4 Sloan Hills gravel pit.

5 As you know, the Settlement Agreement that
6 prompted this Environmental Impact Statement
7 requires the BLM to consider the proposed sale.
8 However, nothing in that agreement restricts
9 the BLM's discretion to deny the permit for the
10 proposed gravel pit and protect the health and

11 safety of local residents.

12 For nearly a decade the controversial Sloan
13 Hills project has generated overwhelming
14 opposition. I have heard from thousands of
15 Nevadans up in arms over the proposed gravel
16 mine. In response to the public outcry and my
17 commitment to protecting public health and
18 safety, I have introduced the Sloan Hills
19 withdrawal Act in the 111th Congress and the
20 112th Congress to permanently prevent
21 development of the proposed gravel pit.

22 I continue to work with the Nevada
23 Congressional Delegation and my colleagues on
24 the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to
25 find a path towards passing this bill.

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1 The BLM should heed the unified public
2 opposition and administratively put an end to
3 this risky project. The proposed mine
4 operations outlined in the Draft EIS would have
5 a significantly and unacceptable impact on the
6 quality of life and general health of 13,000
7 residents in the nearby Henderson community.

8 If the permit is approved, the mining
9 operations would blast rock, crush gravel, kick
10 up dust and consume precious water resources to
11 24 hours a day every day for 30 years.

12 Mined aggregate materials would also have
13 to be hauled off-site. The BLM estimates that

14 at full production, the Sloan Hills gravel pit
15 may require up to 312,500 truck trips per year.
16 That is the equivalent of more than 35 trucks
17 per hour leaving the site and entering I-15.

18 Southern Nevadans are justifiably worried
19 that this project will further reduce their
20 home values, harm their health, and impact
21 their overall quality of life.

22 Most troublesome to nearby residents are
23 large clouds of fine particulate matter that
24 would be generated by mining and trucking
25 activities at the gravel pit. The dust

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1 pollution kicked up by the proposed gravel
2 operation could exacerbate air quality
3 challenges in the Las Vegas Valley and is
4 potentially harmful for the nearby
5 age-restrictive communities, home to many
6 seniors already suffering from respiratory
7 problems.

8 Putting an end to the Sloan Hills gravel
9 pit is important to me and all Southern
10 Nevadans, but it is especially important to the
11 thousands of people living in the communities
12 near the proposed mine site.

13 I understand that the BLM must complete its
14 environmental analysis process and make a final
15 decision taking into account the environmental
16 health and safety impacts the project would

17 have in nearby communities.

18 I encourage you to take these unacceptable
19 and easily avoided impacts into consideration
20 and deny the permit for Sloan Hills gravel pit.

21 If you have any questions, please contact
22 me or my staff. I appreciate your attention
23 and consideration of these comments.

24 Sincerely, U.S. Senator Harry Reid."

25 MS. JONES: Matt Morris is representing

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1 Senator Heller's office.

2 MR. MORRIS: Thank you. My name is Matt
3 Morris, and that's M-a-t-t, M-o-r-r-i-s, and
4 I'm the Regional Representative for Senator
5 Dean Heller.

6 Before I offer this statement on behalf of
7 the Senator into the record, I've been
8 instructed to thank the BLM for holding this
9 hearing. Also to thank Liberty High School for
10 facilitating this public comment hearing. And
11 also to thank the many citizens who have shown
12 up the last three days to express their
13 feelings and their sentiments on this issue
14 pertinent to this community.

15 If I may just read this letter on behalf of
16 the Senator for the record. "Dear Mr. Ross. I
17 am writing to express my continued opposition
18 to the proposed Sloan Hills gravel pit.
19 Unfortunately, the Senate schedule prevents me

20 from expressing the concerns I have regarding
21 this project in person.

22 My number one goal in the Senate is to
23 improve Nevada's economy. With unemployment at
24 13.4 percent and our State plagued with
25 foreclosures and financial difficulties, it is

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30

1 more important than ever that any actions taken
2 by our government make our communities and our
3 economy stronger.

4 The proposed Sloan Hills gravel pit is not
5 conducive to this goal. I am concerned that
6 mining in the Sloan Hills area would not only
7 be a detriment to the impacted neighborhoods,
8 but could also place burdens on local
9 communities that we can ill afford.

10 I have both authored and co-sponsored
11 legislation to prohibit the proposed mining
12 project at Sloan Hills and am committed to
13 moving these bills through the Senate.

14 As a strong supporter of Nevada's mining
15 industry and the jobs it creates, I am acutely
16 aware of what it takes to have a responsible
17 mining operation. The proposed location in
18 Clark County is not appropriate for the
19 creation of a new aggregate mine.

20 In addition to the potential impacts on the
21 surrounding community, an operating mine could
22 result in further difficulties for Clark

23 County's compliance with established air
24 quality standards.

25 As I continue to support policies that will

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1 improve our economy and create jobs, be assured
2 that I will follow this process closely and
3 stand up for impacted communities. I
4 appreciate the Bureau of Land Management's
5 willingness to respond to my request to change
6 the public meeting schedule to better
7 accommodate the needs of area residents.

8 My office is more than willing to provide
9 whatever assistance necessary to gather the
10 information essential for BLM to fully grasp
11 the opinions of the concerned citizens I
12 represent. Sincerely, Dean Heller, United
13 States Senator."

14 MS. JONES: Our first two speakers are
15 Annie Hoskin and Len Viggiani. Annie if you
16 would please come to the podium, and Len, if
17 you can please take a seat over on your
18 right-hand side. Left-hand side.

19 MS. HOSKINS: My name is Annie Hoskin,
20 A-n-n-i-e, H-o-s-k-i-n, and I represent Friends
21 of Sloan Canyon. I'm one of the Board of
22 Directors.

23 And I am here not to talk about
24 particularly the air quality, I'm in the here
25 to talk about water use, I'm here to talk about

1 those that cannot speak for themselves. I'm
2 here to talk about -- to represent those who
3 cannot speak for themselves.

4 And those that cannot speak for themselves
5 are our plants, our beautiful bighorn sheep,
6 our lovely gambel quail, our gila monsters.
7 what will become of them? what will become of
8 their nests? what will become of their young?
9 what will become of all of the fine animals and
10 plants that we now have in our wilderness area
11 in Sloan Canyon?

12 How will these plants survive with all of
13 these dust particles landing upon them? They
14 cannot shake them off as we do. They have to
15 wait for a wind. They have to wait for the
16 rain to come and cleanse them. If there is no
17 rain, if there is no wind, then they will be
18 choked to death.

19 I think we need to consider not only the
20 human factors here, but I think we need to
21 seriously consider our wildlife. There are,
22 according to this study, there are plants there
23 that this is the only area left, the only area
24 left in which this plant grows. We really need
25 to make serious decisions not only because of

1 the human factors, but for those who cannot
2 speak, our animals and our plants. Thank you.

3 MS. JONES: I think we're going to revise
4 the format just a little bit because we do have
5 the center aisle and it's pretty easy. I'll
6 just call each individual speaker and you can
7 come to the podium directly. Len Viggiani.

8 MR. VIGGIANI: My name is Len Viggiani,
9 L-e-n, V-i-g-g-i-a-n-i.

10 I know the BLM has a process that they have
11 to go through. But with all the negatives that
12 you've seen up on the screens and the people
13 that have talked, the dust, the noise, the
14 smell that we will be getting here.

15 But the biggest thing is, we've already
16 taken a hit in devaluation of our homes already
17 up here because of the economy and everything
18 else. With something like this coming in it's
19 going to make it that much tougher on our
20 economy and on our homes.

21 Please listen to the people of the
22 community. You've spent a lot of money with
23 all of this going on. The people up here do
24 not want this in their community. Listen to
25 the people. I think we have the right to speak

□

1 about that. Thank you.

2 MS. DUNN: Joan Dunn, J-o-a-n, D-u-n-n.

3 CEMEX wants to put their plant adjacent to

4 Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and our
5 neighborhoods. We can see how unsightly the
6 mining operations on the other side of the
7 freeway are.

8 The Federal Government owns 85 percent of
9 Nevada. Maybe it would be a better idea to
10 locate an open pit mining operation far away
11 from communities and population centers.

12 Heavy equipment would impact communities
13 and destroy roads. Huge use of water that we
14 can ill afford.

15 We have many shift workers here in
16 Henderson that would be trying to sleep during
17 hours of operations, not the employment of
18 approximately 30 people.

19 There is no benefit to our community, only
20 benefit to the mining company. I'm sure that
21 there are limestone and dolomite deposits used
22 for road bases and concrete away from our
23 population centers that might cause the company
24 more in transportation costs, but not be an
25 adverse impact on our community.

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1 The National Environmental Policy Act that
2 sets your agenda says it is to protect,
3 restore, or enhance the environment. This
4 certainly is not the case here. This is a
5 detriment to the public interest and our
6 community. Please select Alternative 5, the no

7 action alternative.

8 MR. DUNN: My name is Leslie Dunn,
9 L-e-s-l-i-e, D-u-n-n.

10 I'm a retired Director of the Environmental
11 Protection Agency U.S. Public Health Service.
12 I'm also a developer in Henderson, and have
13 done a lot of city and community planning.

14 The first thing, my wife called me up and
15 said, "You need to come down here." I had no
16 idea what was going on. It took me five
17 minutes to take a look at the boards that you
18 have set up over here.

19 The number one thing that I found was that
20 the Environmental Impact Statement that was
21 done on this project, and I spoke to the
22 professor at UNLV, is very flawed. It does not
23 take into consideration the development of the
24 City of Henderson and Clark County. You're
25 putting this pit directly in the route where

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1 the City is going to expand. That detriment,
2 with Sloan Canyon coming down, narrows the
3 direction that can be expanded.

4 Right now, there's about three and a half
5 billion dollars worth of development within one
6 and a quarter miles of this pit.

7 we're in a great recession right now, and
8 so things have stopped developing. But in four
9 or five years when we start developing,

10 1.2 miles will be developed in two years.
11 They'll be sitting right at the foot and won't
12 be able to go around that corridor.

13 Tens of thousands of jobs will be
14 sacrificed by putting that there and slowing
15 down the direction of the City's development.

16 Billions of dollars worth of tax revenue
17 and millions of dollars worth of taxes will not
18 be collected because this site is sitting right
19 where it is.

20 When you start weighing \$30 million that
21 you might get over a period of 30 years and 30
22 jobs versus tens of thousands of jobs in
23 building and construction, and millions of
24 dollars in taxes, it doesn't take much to see
25 that this is the wrong place to put that mine.

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1 I think that you should consider Option 5
2 and deny this and let them look for another
3 site in the Valley. Thank you.

4 MR. ROTZINGER: Hello. My name is Nikolaus
5 Rotzinger, N-i-k-o-l-a-u-s, R-o-t-z-i-n-g-e-r.

6 Me and my wife purchased a home in
7 Inspirada approximately three years ago before
8 the first hearing. Our goal when we purchased
9 our house in Inspirada was to make it our home
10 for the next 20 to 30 years. With the proposed
11 Sloan Canyon mine, Inspirada will come within
12 1.2 miles of the development if we were to go

13 full blown. With that there, there's no way
14 that this could not impact home sales and the
15 development of the community of Inspirada.

16 I also notice that there's no key
17 observation point from the view of Inspirada
18 which would only be 1.2 miles. If you would
19 look at the one that is 0.7 miles from I-15, I
20 would consider that the viewpoint that those
21 residents would see from Inspirada.

22 I'm also an avid triathlete. I use the
23 Las Vegas Boulevard two to four times a week to
24 bike down. I go from Inspirada towards Jean
25 and then back.

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1 Looking at the information provided, there
2 would be 1,204 vehicle trips introduced on that
3 roadway that I currently use. The reason why I
4 currently use this route is that there's hardly
5 any traffic and there's no stop lights or
6 places that I really have to stop at. I also
7 am aware that other clubs such as
8 BikingLasVegas.com and the Las Vegas Triathlon
9 Club also use this route to go from the M down
10 to Good Springs and back.

11 I also have an 18-month-old daughter who I
12 plan to raise at Inspirada, as well, and I'm
13 concerned, as others, of air quality.

14 I ask that you choose Alternative 5. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. ROBERTSON: T-e-r-r-i,
17 R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n.

18 I'd just like to ask if there's anybody in
19 the audience that was at the dedication
20 ceremony for the Sloan Canyon National
21 Conservation Area. Three people.

22 Then I'm going describe to you that day.
23 It was a beautiful Nevada day with our blue
24 sky, and the desert is always just so wonderful
25 to be in, and they had big tents set up, and

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1 food, and people were happy and enjoying
2 themselves.

3 And I was sitting up on the stage area with
4 Senator Reid, and all of a sudden, less than a
5 football field away, a temporary rock crusher
6 started to bang.

7 And as the Native Americans from the
8 Las Vegas Paiute Tribe were giving their
9 blessing and bringing the flag in, and as
10 people were speaking, we heard the crush of
11 that gravel pit working (pounding on podium
12 repeatedly.) and it shook the ground.

13 And it was -- we were just -- we couldn't
14 believe it was happening there on that day, and
15 it was awful.

16 Sloan Canyon is why I'm here, because it is
17 part of my life. I have been going there since
18 I was a small child. And I tell you that a

19 gravel pit within 500 feet of the Sloan
20 National Conservation Area is not going to be
21 good for anybody. Any living thing in that
22 area. And I appreciate the opportunity to
23 speak.

24 MR. LONG: Good evening. Jeffery Long,
25 J-e-f-f-e-r-y, L-o-n-g.

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1 I'm a sixth generation Nevadan. As a
2 member of the Francis Sloan Non-profit
3 Organization, I see that the gravel pits, they
4 are a threat to the conservation area. Even
5 though the mining is far enough away from
6 housing communities as posted on the boards
7 that we have back there, they're right in the
8 homes of many plants and animals.

9 At my grandmother's side I sat in this dirt
10 and talked about the wonders of Sloan Canyon
11 and the Northern McCullough as a child.

12 I have walked along side my grandma from
13 one side of the mountain range to the other
14 with no interruptions.

15 As a kid she used to help me climb up and
16 down dry waterfalls that were over the rocks
17 that were too high. And now when we walk, I am
18 the one who assists her over those same places.

19 Sloan Canyon is very special to our family,
20 as well as many of the other wilderness and
21 areas that are part of Nevada.

22 Many people know that I was born and raised
23 here so they consider me a city boy because I'm
24 from Las Vegas. But I always tell them I'm a
25 mountain man. Anytime it's a cool afternoon,

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1 74 degrees or below, you won't find me on the
2 strip, you won't find me in a hotel, you'll
3 find me camping.

4 I love Sloan Canyon National Conservation
5 Area. It is just one of the many rooms in my
6 earthly home. After sitting through many
7 meetings as a kid with my grandma, I'm now able
8 to speak on Sloan's behalf, and I say no gravel
9 pits, not now, not ever. Thank you.

10 MS. PHEGLEY: Good evening. Lorna Phegley,
11 L-o-r-n-a, P, as if Paul, h, as in Henry,
12 e-g-l-e-y. Thank you for giving us this
13 opportunity.

14 I want to start my comments by saying I'm a
15 Las Vegas native. I grew up in this part of
16 the valley over 40 years ago. I'm on that, as
17 well. I have seen the detrimental impacts
18 of -- no offense to the Henderson residents,
19 you took away our climbing and rock areas and
20 our beautiful mountains that we had on the
21 south part of this valley. I don't blame you,
22 but it does impact the views that I grew up
23 with and the views that are the potential. The
24 potential that this project has for the views

25 for my child and potential future

□

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1 grandchildren, nieces, nephews, et cetera, are
2 going to be greatly impacted potentially by
3 this project.

4 Things that I find that are missed by this
5 impact report are requiring an ingress and
6 egress lane prior to the extraction occurring,
7 meaning a designated left turn lane and an
8 acceleration lane on the right-hand side of the
9 road added to Las Vegas Boulevard south for any
10 incoming traffic.

11 I also find that there are missed impacts
12 regarding the water rights for proposed using
13 existing water rights. There is no language or
14 verification shown toward existing ability for
15 beneficial use or if the proposed water rights
16 basin transfers, have they even been applied
17 for through the State, as well as the impacts
18 of transferring those water rights not only
19 impacts the Las Vegas Valley or the project
20 area, it is an environmental impact to the
21 State of Nevada.

22 As for the Las Vegas Boulevard corridor,
23 under emergency management matters, I think
24 that was missed, as well. Along the Las Vegas
25 Boulevard and I-15 corridor, they are a major

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1 emergency access point, not only for Las Vegas
2 Valley, or our emergency managers and our
3 elected officials, for our own safety in case
4 of an unfortunate catastrophic event, but we
5 are also part the emergency plan for Southern
6 California.

7 The concern regarding the emergency
8 management part is that if the reclamation
9 isn't identified ahead of time, say we're in
10 five years before this project is developed or
11 started for extraction, my concern there is
12 that they will not have identified the needs
13 for road maintenance and upgrade through the
14 life of the project.

15 So if it's five years from now, we're
16 talking about 2015, '16 before something starts
17 to be extracted, say an emergency happens from
18 there, we're talking 2025, the road is being
19 detrimentally issued, there's a catastrophic
20 event, that is going to limit the emergency
21 ability of ingress and egress, not only for our
22 emergency responders, but as well as our
23 country's citizens.

24 The reclamation plant should be required as
25 part of the EIS rather than waiting until after

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1 this period has been proposed. I think that

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was missed, as well.

The applicants do not have a positive track record for keeping their obligations and the standards should impact only future agreements if there has been poor past performance. So, saying, if you have poor past performance, you should be hit harder with a higher service level for your reclamation requirements.

I see my time is up. I have three more points if I may continue.

The first one is regarding the land use. I see that some of the proposed, such as the Clark County Conference and Master Plan under Section 3.7.3 for land use planning, you did identify the potential heliport site, which is a major benefit to the McCarran Airport air traffic, as well as the proposed Ivan POP Project (phonetic) that is on and off again. I personally don't know exactly where it stands at this point, but the impact of that corridor of Las Vegas Boulevard and I-15 as an environmental impact of the Ivan POP Project could have major impacts if this project is approved for the truck traffic.

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Environmental impact from the air. That is something that can be considered, as well, but I think previous speakers have spoken to that.

And the economic potential could be

5 exacerbated due to the visitors by being
6 negatively impacted by the current standards
7 for gravel truck coverage under not only local
8 but State and Federal work requirements for the
9 extraction since the gravel will be processed
10 on-site.

11 I am greatly concerned about the image that
12 it could have for our potential visitors.
13 Those volumes hopefully will come up over the
14 next 20, 30, 40 years of the life of this
15 project. However, that impact for the image of
16 Las Vegas, which has been so scarred and
17 tattered over these last few years. It is not
18 only an environmental impact for the air and
19 the dust, but also perception of Las Vegas.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. WATERHOUSE: Michael Waterhouse,
22 M-i-c-h-a-e-l, W-a-t-e-r-h-o-u-s-e.

23 Thank you very much for allowing me to
24 speak again. It's the second night in a row.

25 I'm a member of the Sun City Anthem Sloan

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1 Hills Task Force that has presented its
2 positions to you over the last two days
3 regarding its research on behalf of Sun City
4 Anthem and the surrounding communities.

5 I first want to recognize the Sun City
6 residents and other area residents who were
7 unfortunately forced to be turned away due to

8 the fire laws last night from the Commission
9 meeting. Up to 2 or 300 people perhaps were
10 forced to miss that meeting and some of which
11 have come back tonight and we very much
12 appreciate that, and all people who have shown
13 up to any of the three meetings.

14 Thank you for your dedication to this cause
15 and the perseverance of coming out again one
16 more time tonight.

17 Members of the Task Force have testified at
18 both previous public meetings, so I want to
19 just summarize some our arguments against this
20 open pit mining proposal at this location.

21 These compelling reasons to reject the mine
22 include the following, and especially if the
23 site is our key concern, not mine in general.

24 1. The environment. The effects of high
25 winds are not adequately mitigated in the

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1 report scenarios. Dust and other pollutions
2 will be a major health risk.

3 2. Water resources. Nearly
4 2 billion gallons of potable water will be used
5 on this project. The projected 85 percent rate
6 of recycling seems unrealistic, at best, and
7 the recycled water will no longer be potable,
8 and that's not, of course, a good use of our
9 precious water resources in an otherwise
10 restricted environment for water.

11 3. Infrastructure. 1,200 truck trips per
12 day on our roads will damage them and we cannot
13 afford the time and inconvenience, in addition
14 to the cost and economic consequences to have
15 these roads repaired.

16 4. Socioeconomic factors. This project
17 will not help our economy, it will only bring
18 20 to 50 new permanent jobs to the area.

19 Finally, there is bipartisan Congressional
20 support to withdraw this land from any future
21 mining activities. In a time of deep divisions
22 between our major political parties, all
23 members of the Nevada Delegation are opposed to
24 leasing of the Sloan Hills area for open pit
25 mining. That states to the strength and the

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1 arguments against open pit mining in Sloan
2 Hills.

3 The overall conclusion from the Task Force
4 analysis of the draft report is that allowing
5 the proposed mining in the Sloan Hills area
6 will bring industrial activity very near a
7 growing population, including the elderly, and
8 more importantly, children for our future while
9 adding little, if any, economic gain and bring
10 a negative environmental impact to the area.

11 Alternative 5 is the only way, and it's the
12 clear choice in coming to a conclusion on your
13 serious deliberations that the BLM has to

14 undertake in the next year.

15 Thank you so much for your time and your
16 courteous treatment of all of us.

17 MS. JONES: That concludes all of our
18 registered speakers. I'd like to ask if
19 there's anyone else that would like to make a
20 public comment.

21 We have just under an hour remaining in the
22 meeting, so we are going to open the poster
23 session back up. And once again, our technical
24 specialists will be available. If you have any
25 questions, they will be available to address

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1 those. Thank you.

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3 (Proceedings concluded at 9:00 p.m.)

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1 I, the undersigned, a Certified Court
2 Reporter of the State of Nevada, do hereby certify:
3 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
4 before me at the time and place herein set forth; that
5 any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings, prior to
6 testifying, were duly sworn; that a record of the
7 proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand which
8 was thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the
9 foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony
10 given.

11 Further, that before completion of the
12 proceedings, review of the transcript [] was [X] was
13 not requested.

14 I further certify I am neither financially
15 interested in the action nor a relative or employee of
16 any attorney or party to this action.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date
18 subscribed my name.

19

MEET1103.txt

20 Dated: 11-15-11

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ELLEN L. FORD CSR No. 846

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