

## Appendix D

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING CRITERIA

The Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998, Section 4(b)(3)(ii) allows money from the Special Account to be expended for:

*“ . . . capital improvements at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge [Complex], the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and other areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark and Lincoln Counties, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.”*

The Act limits the amount available for capital improvements to not more than 25% of the amounts available in the Special Account in any fiscal year, determined without taking into account amounts deposited under the Santini-Burton provisions.

The area covered by the capital improvement provision is 6.1 million acres managed by four different Federal agencies: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA Forest Service. Each agency has a different congressional mandate yet all have come together locally to share a common vision for the overall Clark County area within individual legislative constraints. Existing infrastructure in all four jurisdictions is old and woefully inadequate to meet present-day demands and standards. The existing infrastructure needs to be re-capitalized and new facilities must be built to meet increased visitation and the changing needs of a diversified public.

Capital Improvement projects may include repair or rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, new construction, or improvements needed to protect resource values. All projects that are submitted for funding consideration must conform with approved management plans for the Federal unit involved. Each project should materially contribute to effective resource protection, the visitor experience and/or improved unit operations. Since the capital improvement needs of the four Federal agencies are great and funding is limited, the funding priorities need to incorporate a strong cost management system and ethic. It is with this philosophical concept in mind that the following strategic goals, minimum criteria, and rating criteria were developed.

#### **Eligibility**

Capital Improvement projects may be nominated by any of the four Federal land management agencies (BLM, NPS, FWS and FS).

#### **Strategic Goal for Capital Improvements**

Refurbish existing facilities and construct new facilities to:

- Improves safety and environmental health at sites and/or facilities used by the public and governmental employees;
- Responds to visitor demand and/or changes in visitation patterns;

- Addresses deferred maintenance;
- Minimizes operations and maintenance costs; and
- Protects the integrity of significant resource values or improves the quality of the environment.

**Minimum Criteria**

- The project is located within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, or other areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area; and
- The administering agency has addressed the need for operations and maintenance of the facility in order to operate and maintain the facility for the foreseeable future.

**Ranking Criteria**

Five criteria will be used by the subgroup to evaluate, score, and rank nominations in this category. The total points available for each criteria is shown to the right of the criteria. The factors used to score the criteria are listed below it with the points available for each factor. Except for criteria number 4, the factor scores are cumulative to make up the total available for each criteria. Criteria number 4 has a maximum points available of ten, but is not cumulative; three of the four factors are mutually exclusive. If a project has the factor, the project will receive the full points available for that factor.

1. <u>Safety</u> . Improves safety and environmental health at sites and/or facilities used by the public and governmental employees	Points = 15
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Factors:

A. Addresses, remedies or improves an immediate safety public access and/or environmental health concern.	7	
B. The number of visitors and employees affected.	5	
C. Provides educational value for an environmental or health concern.	2	
D. Addresses ADA compliance.	1	

2. Protects the integrity of significant resource values or improves the quality of the environment.	Points = 10
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Factors:

A. Minimizes environmental or resource impacts.	4	
B. Nature of the concern to resource values and urgency for action.	3	
C. Number and significance of resource values involved including cultural, historical, natural and scientific values.	2	

D. Provides educational value.	1	
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3. Responds to visitor demand and/or changes in visitation patterns	Points = 10
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Factors:

A. Corrects a deficiency in visitor services.	5	
B. Public demand and public use vs. investment required.	5	

4. Project describes maintenance and/or operation impacts.	Points = 10
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Factors:

A. Project has Green Building and/or sustainable design.	1	
B. Project has no effect on operations and/or maintenance over existing situation, or	7	
C. Project will have impact on operations and/or maintenance, but project is required to address deficiencies, or	4	
D. Project improves operations and/or maintenance over existing situation.	9	

5. Eligible agency number one (1) priority	Points = 15
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Factors:

A. Number One Priority (only one per agency)	15	
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TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 60
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