

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project FES 08-01



**Cooperating Agencies:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Moapa Valley Water District**

February 2008



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>



In Reply Refer to:

2800 (NV-910)
N79742

February 2008

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the *Kane Springs Groundwater Development Project Final Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) that evaluates separate rights-of-way applications to construct and operate a water development and pipeline conveyance system, a telephone utility line, and a power line across public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Cooperating agencies for this Final EIS include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Nevada Department of Wildlife, and Moapa Valley Water District.

The BLM compiled a Draft EIS that analyzed the three separate plans of development submitted to BLM by Lincoln County Water District, Lincoln County Telephone and Lincoln County Power District. The Draft EIS was released to the public on June 22, 2007, with publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. The NOA initiated a 60-day public comment period ending on August 20, 2007. Public meetings were held July 30, 2007 through August 2, 2007. The BLM received comments on the Draft EIS through 19 letters and emails. The BLM reviewed the comments and provided written responses in this Final EIS. Some comments resulted in modifications to text in the EIS. This Final EIS is a "full text" document that contains the entire EIS and supersedes the Draft EIS.

Although water rights, pumping rates, volume of water proposed for transfer annually to northern Coyote Spring Valley and point of use of water proposed for transport across public land are under the purview of the Nevada State Engineer and outside the jurisdiction of the BLM, these issues have been included in this document. Water distribution and use associated with development of the Coyote Spring Valley has been addressed by local and regional planning agencies in accordance with Nevada statutes; these issues are included in this document.

The Kane Springs Groundwater Development Project Final EIS will be available for 30 days. A description of new or missed information within this Final EIS may be submitted within the thirty days to:

Penny Woods, Groundwater Projects Manager
Bureau of Land Management (NV-910)
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520
FAX: 775.861.6689
Email: nvgwprojects@blm.gov

The BLM will issue one or more records of decision (ROD) based on this Final EIS. The ROD(s) will not be issued until other agency permits and approvals have been finalized and their conditions of approval will be incorporated into the ROD(s). For more information, Please contact Penny Woods at 775.861.6466.

**Environmental Impact Statement
for the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project**

() Draft

(X) Final

Lead Agency: United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Cooperating Agency: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Moapa Valley Water District

Counties Directly Affected: Lincoln County, Nevada

Environmental Impact Statement Contact:

Penny Woods, Nevada Groundwater Project Manager
U.S. Bureau of Management, Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

Date Final EIS filed with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: February 8, 2008

Abstract

The Ely District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in response to a right-of-way (ROW) application submitted by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD or Applicant) to construct and operate the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project (Proposed Action). The BLM's approval of ROWs to the LCWD, Lincoln County Power District No. 1 (LCPD), and the Lincoln County Telephone Company (LCT) would allow construction of infrastructure required to pump and convey groundwater resources in the Kane Springs Valley Hydrographic Basin to help meet future municipal water needs in the Coyote Spring Valley area. Components of the Proposed Action would include:

Water Facilities

- Groundwater production/monitoring wells (well fields)
- Water collection pipelines
- Transmission pipeline
- Terminal storage tank
- Forebay storage tank

Electric Utility Facilities

- Electrical distribution and transmission lines
- Electrical substations

Communication Facilities

- Telemetry system/fiber optic lines

The project facilities would be located in southern Lincoln County, Nevada, within or immediately adjacent to the 2,640-foot wide utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act under Public Law 108-424 (LCCRDA). Enacted on November 30, 2004, Title III of the LCCRDA directed Congress to designate utility corridors to be used for ROWs for the roads, wells, pipelines, and other infrastructure needed for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system in Lincoln County, subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Project construction would occur in three phases with 1 to 3 years between phases. Construction would begin at the southwest end of the project area (near the intersection of U.S. Highway 93 and Kane Springs Road) and continue to the northeast (generally following Kane Springs Road). Construction of Phase 1 would begin upon acquisition of necessary permits, approval, and grants and would occur over a 90- to 180-day period. Phase 2 and Phase 3 construction would be completed in 30 to 60 days at 1- to 3-year intervals after completion of Phase 1, and would correspond to the demand for water and the issuance of future water rights.

Multiple ROW grants may be issued based on the analysis in this EIS. The LCWD would be responsible for construction and operation of the proposed groundwater facilities subject to the terms and conditions of BLM Serial Number N79742. The LCPD and the LCT activities would be authorized under separate ROW grants. The ROWs for the water production/delivery system, electrical distribution system, and the fiber optic lines within the congressionally designated LCCRDA corridor would be issued in perpetuity pursuant to Title III of the LCCRDA.

This EIS considers the expected environmental effects associated with granting of ROWs across public land and subsequent construction and operation of the Proposed Action. The BLM will use the EIS when rendering a decision whether to grant the requested ROWs. The BLM's action is to either grant or deny the request for ROWs through public land administered by the BLM.

This Final EIS satisfies the requirements of the NEPA, which mandates that federal agencies analyze the environmental consequences of major federal actions.

Official responsible for the environmental impact statement:



John Ruhs
Ely District Manager, Nevada

1/3/08

Date