

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LC-11-14

**South Hollywood Desert Cleanup
Clark County, NV**

Based on a thorough review of the analysis of the environmental impacts presented in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA), the Bureau of Reclamation concludes that implementation of the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment within or adjacent to the project area, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This Finding of No Significant Impact has, therefore, been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

Prepared: Faye Stroen Date: January 14, 2011
Natural Resource Specialist

Recommended: [Signature] Date: 1/14/11
Manager, Environmental Compliance Group

Approved: [Signature] Date: 1-14-11
Director, Resources Management Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada

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BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have developed an agreement for a joint clean up of lands administered by each agency in the Las Vegas Valley. The Reclamation administered land is located in Township 21 South, Range 62 East, Section 24, North West ¼, Mount Diablo Meridian, Clark County at 4448 South Hollywood Boulevard, Las Vegas (north of the Las Vegas Wash). Illegal dumping of refuse has occurred on the lands for many years, resulting in complaints from the public, Clark County Code Enforcement, and the Southern Nevada Health District. Reclamation's purpose and need for the action is to comply with applicable Reclamation Manual Policy, Directives, and Standards as well as all applicable federal, state, and local requirements related to hazardous materials.

The BLM administers the majority of the lands, so prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2010-0192-EA) for the action. The EA and the BLM's Finding of No Significant Impact is included as Appendix A to this document.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

A No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action were considered in detail. Under the No Action Alternative, the refuse would not be cleaned up so would continue to accumulate. The Proposed Action is described below under the "Recommended Alternative". No other alternatives were considered.

THE RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Proposed Action, refuse would be removed by both hand removal and mechanized methods. Refuse would be removed by hand from washes and other sensitive areas and brought to existing roads and right of ways for removal with mechanized equipment. Refuse would be deposited in an approved landfill. Crews would be educated on avoidance of biologically and culturally sensitive areas. Any soil not containing refuse would be deposited in human-created excavations outside of areas with resource conflicts. Human deposited rocks or concrete slabs would be used to block roads to deter unauthorized vehicle use. If needed, a Clark County dust permit would be obtained.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND FINDINGS

Implementation of the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to any of the resources evaluated in the EA. The reasons for this determination are summarized by resource below.

1. Indian Trust Assets- There are no projected impacts to Indian Trust Assets as none have been identified in the project area.
2. Indian Sacred Sites- There are no projected impacts to Indian Sacred Sites as none have been identified in the project area.

3. Environmental Justice- There would be no disproportionate high or adverse effects to minority or low income populations as a result of the action.
4. Cultural Resources- Only modern refuse will be removed from the project area, and heavy equipment will be restricted to established roads; therefore there would be no impacts to these resources.
5. Socioeconomic- There would be no potential impacts to social or economic values.
6. Wetlands and Floodplains- There would be no potential impacts to wetlands or floodplains as none are present at the project area.
7. Geology and Soils- The project area is previously disturbed by dumping activities. The Proposed Action will not cause additional disturbance as refuse would be removed by hand or from previously disturbed areas.
8. Vegetation- No surface disturbance beyond that needed to remove refuse is anticipated. The proposed action is expected to have an overall beneficial impact to vegetation as removing refuse and blocking unauthorized access will allow native plant communities to reestablish or recover.
9. Wildlife- There could be direct mortality to wildlife from vehicles. The proposed action is expected to have an overall beneficial impact to wildlife as removing refuse and blocking unauthorized access will reduce disturbance to wildlife.
10. Special Status Species- The BLM is the lead agency for compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for this project. The ESA Section 7 consultation for the project is covered under the Las Vegas Valley Biological Opinion (1-5-96-F-23R.3). The project area is adjacent to undisturbed, contiguous habitat where potential corridors exist for the entry of the federally threatened desert tortoise. The terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion shall be complied with to avoid or minimize impacts to desert tortoise.
11. Water Resources- No impacts to water resources are expected.
12. Air Quality- There may be short term impacts from dust resulting from vehicle travel. No significant impacts to air quality are expected.
13. Visual Resources- The cleanup activities will be short term and are not expected to have a long term visual impact. Overall the activity will benefit visual resources as unsightly refuse will be removed.
14. Greenhouse gases- Some emissions are expected from vehicles. Although there are no established emission limits to use as a comparison, the emissions from this activity are expected to be short term and minor.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The Proposed Action incorporates the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts to specific resources.

Biological Resources

1. All terms and conditions of the Las Vegas Valley Biological Opinion (1-5-96-F-23R.3) will be complied with along with the special stipulations that follow. The terms and conditions are included as Appendix B.

2. A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing access roads.
3. Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord.
4. Workers shall be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles.