



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Acting Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Acting Administrator

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

Web posting 10/8/10

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Federal Clean Water Act. The Administrator has received an application for a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit #NV0023914 from the following applicant:

**Southern Nevada Water Authority
PO Box 99956
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-9956**

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is proposing to expand or construct additional erosion control structures, Historic Lateral Weir Expansion, Sunrise Mountain, Upper Narrows, and Duck Creek Confluence Weirs (Weirs) in the Lower Las Vegas Wash (Wash). The Weirs are located approximately 3.5-5.5 miles upstream of Lake Mead, in Clark County. The above-named weirs are four of 22 total weirs, designed to protect the Wash by preventing further channel bed and bank erosion and water quality degradation via reduction in flow velocities within the Wash. The permit is for water management that will be needed while constructing the Weirs. Wash-induced shallow groundwater will be diverted and/or pumped to sediment settling tanks prior to discharge to the Wash. The Weirs are located within or down-gradient of the two perchlorate plumes that enter the Wash. The pumped groundwater will be managed to not increase perchlorate concentrations in Lake Mead or the Lower Colorado River system appreciably. The maximum flow permitted will be 6,900 gallons per minute, but discharge rates will be adjusted or cease if necessary to stay within permitted discharge limitations. Dewatering discharge will be permitted year-round, and rates will be based on Lake Mead stratification and water quality data. The proposed NPDES permit is for a period of five years although the weir construction and discharge activities are expected to be completed in a shorter time period.

Based on a review of the NPDES permit application, the Division has made the tentative determination to issue the NPDES permit for a period of five (5) years.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control should submit their comments or request, in writing or by Fax, within thirty (30) days of the date of newspaper publication, by **5:00 P.M. on November 9, 2010**, either in person or by mail to:

**Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 4001
Carson City, NV 89701**

Comments and/or hearing requests received via facsimile or e-mail before **5:00 P.M. on November 9, 2010**

Page 2

Notice of Proposed Action

NV0023914 SNWA –Historic Lateral Weir

will also be accepted. All requests for hearings must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reason(s) why a hearing is warranted. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day comment period will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. The public notice of such hearings will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied, or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by calling Jeryl Gardner of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9423, or at jgardner@ndep.nv.gov, or FAX (775) 687-4684. Copies of the Fact Sheet and Public Notice may be viewed or printed from the NDEP website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.

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