



# CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA



## ABOVEGROUND UTILITY PLAN

# ABOVEGROUND UTILITY POLICIES

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## INTRODUCTION

The Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) prepared a general policy document for use by each member entity regarding Aboveground Utility Projects. It is intended to assist in complying with NRS requirements, the SNRPC Regional Policy Plan, and the SNRPC Policies for Projects of Regional Significance.

The need for this Plan is driven by:

- Requirements of AB239, adopted by the Nevada State Legislature in 2013.
- A substantial decrease in demand for Renewable Energy due to fulfillment of the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards ("RPS").
- Renewable energy generation resources located in Nevada becoming more attractive to neighboring electric markets such as California, which has significant RPS requirements to fulfill in the next ten to fifteen years.

Historically, Nevada's transmission grid has not been constructed with a focus on exporting electric generation out of state. Recently, however, the focus has evolved to investigate routing, permitting and constructing interstate transmission lines for the primary purpose of moving renewable power in and out of Nevada to neighboring electric markets.

## BACKGROUND

In accordance with NRS 278.165, every governing body that is required to prepare and adopt a master plan must include both a process for designating corridors for aboveground utility projects (aboveground electric transmission lines designed to operate at 200 kilovolts or more) as well as designate those corridors to be consistent with the Nevada State Office of Energy, adjacent jurisdictions, and the Bureau of Land Management.

## OBJECTIVES

Develop policies, maps and procedures to meet the requirements of NRS 278.165 et al. This includes:

1. Preparation of a proposed update to the SNRPC's Regional Policy Plan;
2. A common set of recommended policies and Regional Aboveground Utility Corridor Map for use by member entities.
3. Non-governmental new requests to designate, amend, or delete corridors identified on the accepted Utility Corridors Map would be processed as Comprehensive Plan Amendments per Title 30.
4. Permits granted within or outside of designated corridors would be processed per Title 30 requirements.

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Update the Clark County Comprehensive Plan Public Facilities and Services Element as follows:

### **POLICIES**

1. Ensure that proposed Aboveground Utility Projects follow the SNRPC's process for Projects of Regional Significance.
2. Use the Aboveground Utility Corridor Map for review of proposed Aboveground Utility Projects.
3. Support increasing capacity of existing utility corridors over establishing new ones.
4. If established corridors cannot meet utility demand, support the development of new multi-use utility corridors that ensure safe siting of transmission lines to minimize impacts on existing development.
5. Encourage the development of transmission capability and interconnectivity for distributed energy, cogeneration and alternative energy sources, including regional interconnectivity and transmission capability.
6. Explore opportunities with utility providers to locate trails within existing and future utility corridors wherever possible.