

CONSERVATION

Air Quality

Policies

- 1 Development approval should be conditioned upon compliance with local, state, and national air quality standards.
- 2 Improve air quality to levels necessary to protect public health and improve visual clarity.
- 3 Enhance public educational efforts concerning air quality issues, sources and solutions.
- 4 Clark County will work to reduce the amount of urban haze in the Las Vegas Valley to reduce impacts to private and federal lands.
- 5 Encourage the use of incentives that will result in the removal of allergen producing plants.
- 6 Place high polluting facilities away from sensitive receptors (defined as segments of the population susceptible to poor air quality and certain at-risk sensitive land uses such as schools, hospitals, parks, residential communities, community centers or senior centers).
- 7 Pollution control measures should be required, including: stabilizing vacant land, landscaping, vegetation, and other materials that trap particulate matter and produce shade, reduce energy consumption or control pollution, near sensitive land uses to reduce evaporative emissions and the heat sink effect.
- 8 Sensitive receptors should be separated and protected to the greatest extent possible from dry cleaners, stationary diesel engines, auto body shops, metal plating facilities, gasoline stations, wood refinishing facilities, warehouses, rail yards, freeways, heavily traveled roadways and other area, stationary, and indirect sources that emit odors and/or toxic air contaminants.
- 9 Protect sensitive receptors by encouraging the planting of low biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emitting drought tolerant shade trees in urban areas beyond minimum code requirements.
- 10 Increase energy efficiency and conservation to reduce air pollution.

Energy

Policies

- 1 Clark County supports sustainable developments that promote energy efficiency and conservation.
- 2 Clark County supports the development of clean, safe, and reliable alternative fuels.
- 3 Clark County supports energy conservation through land use planning principles that encourage compact urban development, public transportation, and improved air quality.
- 4 Clark County supports the reduction of energy consumption and promotes energy conservation planning for institutional buildings and government facilities.
- 5 Clark County supports the development of local alternative energy resources, providing opportunities for regional economic expansion.
- 6 Clark County supports regenerative and recycling programs that will contribute to source reduction, reuse, recycling and waste combustion.
- 7 Clark County supports partnerships and cooperation with local, regional and federal agencies to further promote energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy projects and sustainable development.

- 8 Clark County encourages regional efforts to promote an integrated sustainable energy plan.
- 9 Clark County supports the development of regional and state wide infrastructure that will efficiently deliver energy to citizens of Clark County.

Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL)

Policies

- 1 An enhanced notification process should be used to inform property owners about proposed ESL overlays or zoning changes affecting private property.
- 2 The recommendations and implementation measures should be considered in the context of the communities, urban and outlying, where the ESLs are located.
- 3 ESL areas should be incorporated into land use plans as they are updated. ESL maps and information should be refined based upon new or more detailed information revealed during the update process.
- 4 Consideration of whether to include edge conditions and transitional land uses for ESL areas should be specifically included in all land use plan updates.
- 5 The County should generally oppose the transfer of current ESLs out of public ownership unless equal or greater protection of those areas can be provided, or the effects mitigated.
- 6 Clark County should explore an expanded local government role in protecting and managing ESL areas where appropriate.
- 7 The regional models used for open space districts in other communities should be investigated for use in Clark County as an important potential implementation mechanism for ESL protection.

Land Conservation

Policies

- 1 Promote agricultural/farmland practices that reduce soil runoff and wind erosion.
- 2 Encourage transitional development to buffer environmentally sensitive areas from more intense uses.
- 3 Encourage preservation and protection of washes and waterways.
- 4 Establish an enforcement mechanism to ensure proper installation of landscaping and irrigation systems in new construction.
- 5 Encourage use of onsite water retention and vegetative buffering to reduce surface water runoff and erosion.

Solid Waste Management

Policies

- 1 Promote compatibility of land use in areas surrounding landfills, transfer stations and convenience centers.
- 2 Encourage programs that reduce the amount of landfill and hazardous waste generated.
- 3 Encourage reclamation and recreational use of closed landfill facilities.
- 4 Encourage businesses that recycle materials to locate in Clark County.

Species Protection

Policies

- 1 Encroachment upon endangered species habitats and unique biological resource areas should be avoided or mitigated.
- 2 Encourage the use of plant life and landscaping principles appropriate to the local climate.
- 3 Clark County and Federal agencies should coordinate land uses and disposals near Federally designated management areas to reduce environmental and habitat impacts within protected areas.
- 4 Protect existing threatened or endangered species and those species that may be listed under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- 5 Throughout the 30-year term of the permit, Clark County will administer and maintain the, *Permit TE 034927-0 for the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), under Section 10(a)1(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

Water Quality

Policies

- 1 Wastewater treatment capacity should be maintained to accommodate development.
- 2 Promote the reuse of treated effluent for area green space including, but not limited to, parks and golf courses.
- 3 Identify and discourage use of septic tanks within the Las Vegas Valley.
- 4 Do not approve residential conversions that utilize existing septic systems in sewer serviced areas.
- 5 Encourage the use of off channel wetlands in the Las Vegas Wash to improve the quality of the water that enters Lake Mead consistent with Clark County's Wetlands Park Master Plan. *Also, see: Recreation/Parks and Recreation*
- 6 Clark County will continue to coordinate urban and rural water quality issues with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.
- 7 Clark County will encourage research and monitoring activities through the Lake Mead Water Quality Forum to address point or non-point water quality issues, wetlands development in the Las Vegas Wash, development of the Clark County Wetlands Park, the impact of wetlands on water quality, and other related water quality issues.
- 8 Actively pursue efforts to ensure the quality of waters entering the Colorado River from Clark County.
- 9 Improve the water quality of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers to remove them from the State of Nevada's List of Impaired Rivers.
- 10 Where possible, require all new development, including single family residences, to connect to existing sewer lines.
- 11 Prohibit the use of septic tanks or sewage lagoons where soils are subject to seepage, poor filters or in flood prone areas. This will minimize health hazards associated with slow absorption, surfacing of effluent, hillside seepage or groundwater contamination.
- 12 Encourage the use of Best Management Practices including landscape and design techniques for buffering, erosion, runoff control, and stormwater quality improvement.
- 13 Encourage new development to occur in conjunction with sewer line expansion.

- 14 Promote existing development served by septic systems to connect to the County sewer system if within 400 feet of the sewer line.
- 15 Where appropriate, require abandonment of septic systems and connection to the County sewer system during property zone change process.

Water Resources

Policies

- 1 Measures to bring groundwater pumping into balance with natural recharge should be encouraged.
- 2 Measures to manage groundwater aquifers to minimize damage from land subsidence and high water tables should be encouraged.
- 3 Prepare controls and standards in regions with rising shallow groundwater.
- 4 Promote the proper abandonment of water wells where properties are served by a municipal water source.
- 5 Clark County supports local, state and federal efforts to protect drinking water supplies.
- 6 Clark County will recognize and support state-endorsed wellhead protection plans through land use and facilities plans, zoning and other appropriate methods.
- 7 Clark County will support communication and coordination efforts to protect and preserve groundwater resources and facilities.

Wellhead Protection

Policies

- 1 Measures to bring groundwater pumping into balance with natural recharge should be encouraged.
- 2 Measures to manage groundwater aquifers to minimize damage from land subsidence and high water tables should be encouraged.
- 3 Prepare controls and standards in regions with rising shallow groundwater.
- 4 Promote the proper abandonment of water wells where properties are served by a municipal water source.
- 5 Clark County supports local, state and federal efforts to protect drinking water supplies.
- 6 Clark County will recognize and support state-endorsed wellhead protection plans through land use and facilities plans, zoning and other appropriate methods.
- 7 Clark County will support communication and coordination efforts to protect and preserve groundwater resources and facilities.