

QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018



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DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Desert Conservation Program (DCP) manages Endangered Species Act compliance on behalf of Clark County and the cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Mesquite and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) (collectively, the Permittees) through implementation of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and associated Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit. The MSHCP and permit allow private landowners to develop land in Clark County without the need for individual project-by-project consultations and negotiation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to comply with the Endangered Species Act, providing a streamlined process for compliance. In exchange for this permit, the DCP implements actions to mitigate impacts from development. These actions include research, acquisition of sensitive habitats, habitat restoration, public information and education, the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line, and installation and maintenance of fencing along roadways to reduce tortoise mortality.



Clockwise from top: Windmills; Browneyes; Silver cholla; and Yellow cups all found on the BCCE (Photos: C. Floyd)

BOULDER CITY CONSERVATION EASEMENT (BCCE)

The incidental take permit requires the establishment of a conservation easement in the Eldorado Valley to be managed and protected for the benefit of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) as partial mitigation for the take of desert tortoise and its habitat. The BCCE was established between Clark County and Boulder City in July of 1995 to fulfill this requirement.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Continued processing a request from the City of Boulder City for a modification to the BCCE and easement agreement. The Long Range Planning Committee has approved the request; the Board of County Commissioners will consider the boundary adjustment at an upcoming meeting.
- Provided oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE.
- Conducted eighteen site visits to monitor use, disturbances, and related issues; to perform new signage installation, maintenance and upgrades; and for restoration planning and monitoring.
- Met with law enforcement during five site visits to plan patrols to cover areas where unauthorized uses were detected.
- Handled infrastructure repair issues when they were detected on site visits. One sign that was stolen was replaced.
- Continued coordination with utility companies based in the Energy Zone in order to meet desert conservation and restoration goals.
- Mapping and assessment of unauthorized roads and other disturbances is ongoing and will guide prioritization of restoration activities on the BCCE.

A comprehensive list of BCCE management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2Mv14K1>

RIPARIAN RESERVE UNITS

The incidental take permit stipulates that take of covered avian species is conditioned upon the acquisition of private lands in desert riparian habitats along the Muddy and Virgin rivers and the Meadow Valley wash. To comply with this permit condition, the DCP has acquired properties with riparian habitat along the Muddy and Virgin rivers in Clark County. These properties serve to mitigate impacts to covered species and conserve habitats and important connectivity corridors.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Muddy River Reserve Unit

- Eagle View Contractors continues ongoing maintenance of the Muddy River Reserve Units.
- Planning efforts for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 project to conduct habitat restoration on the Muddy River Reserve Unit continue – a Request For Proposals (RFP) is currently being prepared to complete the restoration design.
- The National Park Service’s (NPS) Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Restoration implementation is ongoing for the SNPLMA Round 14 project to conduct habitat restoration. NPS’ Exotic Plant Management Team has collected native species and is currently propagating at their nursery. The site will be prepared early 2019 and subsequently planted with the propagated plants.
- Monthly data collection on groundwater monitoring wells continues.



Muddy River Reserve Unit Overview

A comprehensive list of Riparian Reserve Units management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2CJCH75>

Virgin River Reserve Unit

- Continued photo-monitoring documentation of restored areas within Subunit 1.
- Planning efforts continue for the SNPLMA Round 15 project to conduct 20 to 40 acres of habitat restoration on the Virgin River Reserve Unit. An Interlocal Agreement was approved November 6th for Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to masticate tamarisk on the Mormon Mesa and Riverside subunits. NDF has masticated 4 acres to date.
- Attended a workshop this quarter with other stakeholders to discuss preliminary planning of a Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- Attended the TARA beetle workshop hosted by Rivers Edge West in St George, Utah.
- Participated in the Virgin River Collation Steering Committee meeting.
- NPS’ Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Conducted pre-restoration vegetation monitoring at the Mormon Mesa so that the effectiveness of future restoration actions can be evaluated.

Property Acquisition

- Continued coordination with Public Works Map Team to subdivide parcels identified for future acquisition.



Photos of property at the Virgin River Reserve Unit



PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

One of the requirements of the MSHCP is to provide public information and education and to complete outreach projects that support messages of the DCP.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Mojave Max Education Program

- Continued to provide oversight and project management for the contract with Get Outdoors Nevada (formerly Outside Las Vegas Foundation) for the Mojave Max Education Program.
- Sixteen Tortoise Talks were conducted during this reporting period.
- Eleven outreach events were conducted during this reporting period.

Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

The following outreach events were conducted during this reporting period:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • National Night Out | Lewis Family Park | October 2nd |
| • National Night Out | Pearson Comm. Ctr. | October 2nd |
| • 9th Bridge Kidz Street Festival | Fremont Street | October 6th |
| • Las Vegas Wash Green-Up | Wetlands Park | October 13th |
| • Summerlin Festival of Arts | Downtown Summerlin | October 13th and 14th |
| • CAST | Lake Mead Marina | October 20th |
| • Trunk or Treat | Whitney Recreation Center | October 25th |
| • Harvest Event | Palabra Viva Church | October 31st |
| • Pray For Snow | Skye Center | November 3rd |
| • Excalibur Green Fair | Excalibur Hotel | November 15th |
| • Lung Force Walk | Cornerstone Park | December 1st |



Nat'l Night Out—Pearson

FOLLOW MOJAVE MAX

Get information about Mojave Max, who he is and why he's an important mascot for the Desert Conservation Program. Also check out his website at MojaveMax.com. Follow him on social media too!



Mojave Max



Mojave_Max



@MojaveMax





ATTENTION CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL

If you see a wild desert tortoise on a construction site, please call the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance line at 702-593-9027. The tortoise will be picked up free of charge.

CONSTRUCTION SITE TRAINING

Please contact the DCP if you would like to schedule a desert tortoise training session for your construction staff. The DCP will explain what to do if you find a wild desert tortoise on your construction site and the training will be provided free of charge. Please contact the DCP at 702-455-3536 if you're interested.

WILD DESERT TORTOISE ASSISTANCE

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line

The 1995 Desert Conservation Plan and the 2001 MSHCP require that the DCP provide a hotline and pick up service to deal with wild desert tortoises which are displaced by development or appear to be in harm's way due to construction activity. The DCP operates the wild desert tortoise assistance line to meet this requirement.

- No calls were received from the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line during this reporting period.

Desert Tortoise Fencing

- Continued planning activities for the construction of post-and-cable and desert tortoise fencing along the boundary of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. This project will go out for bid once the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed their cadastral survey of the monument.

OTHER WORK

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

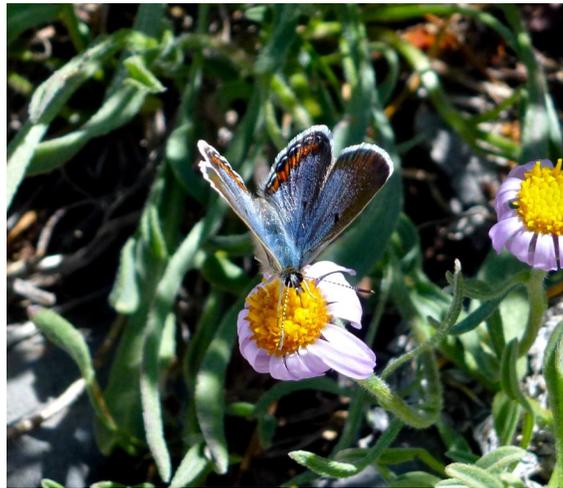
- Through an Interlocal Agreement with the Nevada Division of Minerals, 18 bat compatible closures were installed on abandoned mine land hazards in the Gold Butte area. These closures will ensure public safety while retaining the value of the associated wildlife habitat. Additional bat compatible closures will be installed at suitable locations in the coming quarters.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As a requirement of the incidental take permit, the DCP is required to have an Adaptive Management Program (AMP) in order to gauge the effectiveness of existing conservation measures, propose alternative conservation measures as the need arises and to deal with changed or unforeseen circumstances.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Held the Quarterly Science advisor meetings to discuss current and future projects on November 6th.
- Attended the USFWS northeast Mojave Recovery Implementation Team meeting on November 7th.
- Met with USFWS in Nevada and California to discuss a large project to look at tortoise crossings of linear rights-of-way on December 18th.
- Started a project for Desert Tortoise Telemetry and Health Assessments on the BCCE with the Great Basin Institute.



Mount Charleston Blue Butterfly

Permit Amendment

The DCP continues to pursue a major amendment to the MSHCP and incidental take permit. This amendment would allow for additional take authorization in Clark County while providing long-term assurances to the Clark County community for continued economic growth.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Continued to coordinate with the USFWS to discuss issues related to the proposed amendment.
- Continue to work with Permittees on federal legislation that will support efforts to obtain an amended MSHCP; continue to coordinate with elected officials and other stakeholders on the development of the County lands bill; continued to meet monthly with the OHV Advisory Committee to discuss including protections for OHV recreation areas in the lands bill.
- Continue to administer a contract with Ebbin, Moser + Skaggs, LLP to provide legal counsel services in support of the permit amendment effort.
- Continued to administer a contract with WRA Environmental Consultants to assist with the preparation of documents and analyses that will support development of the MSHCP amendment. This quarter, the consultants continued developing methods for a habitat functionality analysis that will be used in conducting impact analyses to support the County's application for an amended incidental take permit.
- Reached an agreement with the NDF to secure a County-wide permit for potential impacts to state-listed plants. Currently securing all necessary signatures to fully execute the permit.

External Agency Coordination and Assistance

In order to keep well informed on the current and future land use impacts to Clark County, the DCP will review and potentially provide comments on issues relevant to Clark County. As a public agency, the DCP also provides data as requested to interested parties.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Provided NDF with GIS data and maps of state-listed plants.
- Provided maps to environmental consultant Newfields, Inc.
- Provided GIS data and maps to the City of Mesquite, NV.
- Provided GIS data to Hunter's magazine.
- Provided GIS data and maps for the Clark County's OHV Advisory Committee meetings.
- Staff participated in meetings with Clark County Regional Flood Control District for development of an In Lieu Fee Program.
- Provide assistance to the Department of Comprehensive Planning to update the Federal Lands Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Met with renewable energy developers to review proposed project siting and discuss potential land use conflicts.
- Prepared letters documenting Endangered Species Compliance for projects requiring the submittal of flood zone map revision requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly

NEW, ONGOING, AND CLOSED PROJECTS

New projects started this quarter

- DT Aware & Invasive Species Ed for OHV Comm, 807H
- BCCE DT Telemetry & Health Assessments, 1412D
- Muddy River Vegetation Clearing, 1520P
- Virgin River Riparian Restoration, 1521E
- Virgin River Drone Imagery, 1750A

Ongoing projects this quarter

- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917BD
- Parceling for Virgin River Properties, 917DE
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917MB
- Legal Services for DCP, 1014J
- Water Rights Consulting, 1445E
- Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Plan, 1445F
- Muddy River Habitat Restoration, 1446D
- HCP Consultant for the MSCHP, 1460A
- Muddy River Weed Management, 1520B
- Riparian Rsv Units Prop Maint, 1520M
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Project, 1521Z
- Desert Tortoise Monitoring Data Management, Year 2-5, 1541A
- Desert Tortoise Range-Wide Monitoring, 1541B



Yellow-billed cuckoo

Ongoing projects this quarter Cont'd.

- Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Planning and Implementation, 1550A
- Desert Tortoise Connectivity, 1580A
- BCCE Law Enforcement, 1710A
- BCCE Weed Survey, 1710B
- BCCE Maintenance, 1710C
- Mojave Max Education Program, 1715A
- Virgin River Weed Management, 1720A
- Science Advisor Panel for the DCP, 1730A
- DCP Branding Project, 1770A
- OHV Marketing, 1775A
- LV Bearpoppy Fencing, Ramada & Trail, 1790A
- Gold Butte AML Closures, 1792C
- Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics, 1795A

Projects closed this quarter

- Hotline and Processing of Wild Desert Tortoises, 803E
- Boundary Surveys & Parceling for VR Props, 917AC
- DT Occupancy Sampling Crews II, 1012D
- BCCE DT Predation Study, 1421B
- Desert Upland Baseline Bird Surveys, 1730C
- Desert Upland Baseline Mammal Surveys, 1730D
- Avian Surveys on Riparian Properties, 1730E

Requests for proposals and quotes (RFPs / RFQs)

- An RFQ was prepared and sent to potential bidders to conduct vegetation treatment on the Muddy River. Eagle View Contractors was selected. The project will begin in Q1 2019.
- An RFQ was prepared to collect aerial imagery prior to restoration treatment on the Mormon Mesa and Riverside subunits. SWCA was selected. Imagery was collected in November 2018 and analysis will be completed early 2019.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

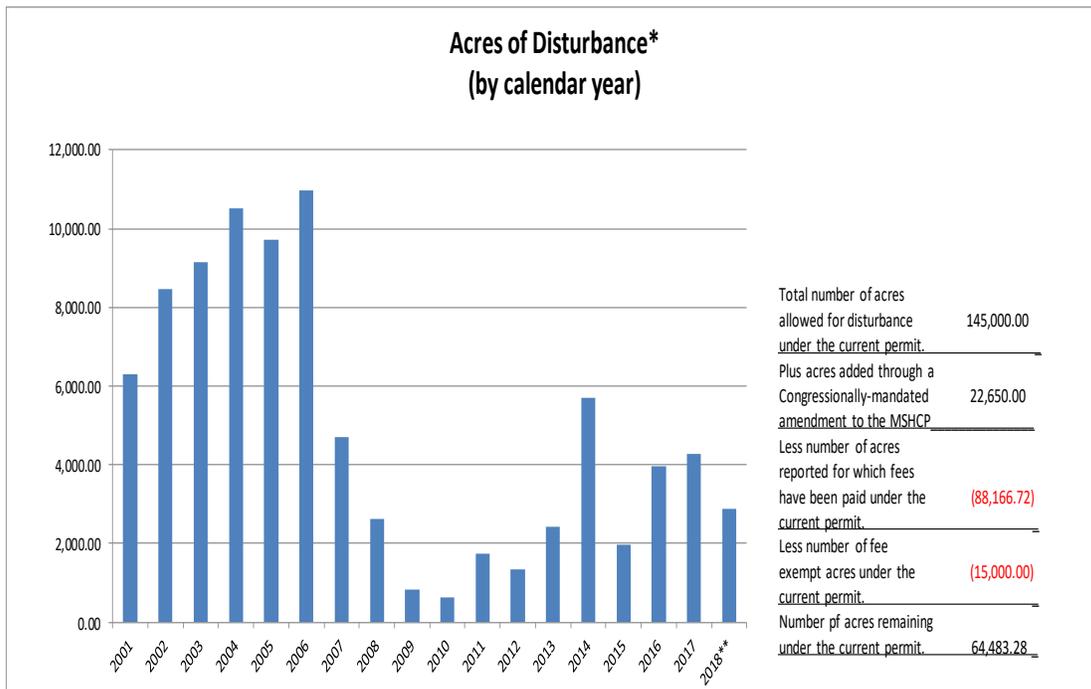
ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments - 58 invoices: 57 accepted (98%), 1 rejected (2%).
- Fiscal Year (FY) 19 Budgets and expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur. Initiated process of developing FY19 estimates and FY20 budget.
- Phase 1 of converting all the existing credit card terminals to the new processor, Wells Fargo, has been completed. Phase 2 of converting the existing web and IVR systems has been completed. Phase 3 is in process to establish e-payments services for County departments that did not currently offer e-payments.
- Desert tortoise specialty license plate production is ongoing and plates are being distributed at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMVs).
- Oversight of the SNPLMA Round 8 – Round 16 projects totaling \$7,733,015 continues in the County's financial system. The projects continue to be monitored for progress and reimbursement.
- Received reimbursement for SNPLMA projects: Round 15 - 1 draw down (\$2,334.00), Round 16 - 1 draw down (\$13,000.00).
- Completed the 2019 - 2021 Implementation Plan and Budget. The Board of County Commissioners approved the plan at their December 18th meeting. A copy of the report may be viewed [here](#).



Red Rock Canyon, NCA

DCP staff is responsible for ensuring that land disturbed pursuant to the MSHCP is accounted for and monies are collected and deposited in the Section 10 special reserve fund established under the MSHCP. Below are charts which outline the total amount of fees collected and acres disturbed for the period 2001-2018.



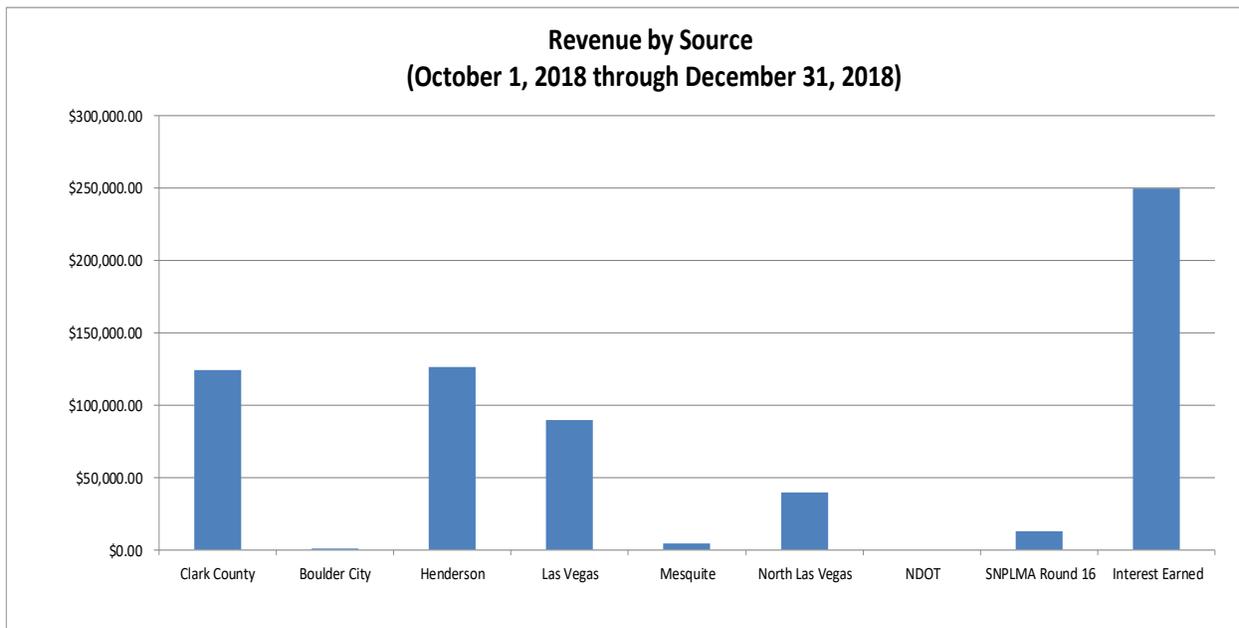
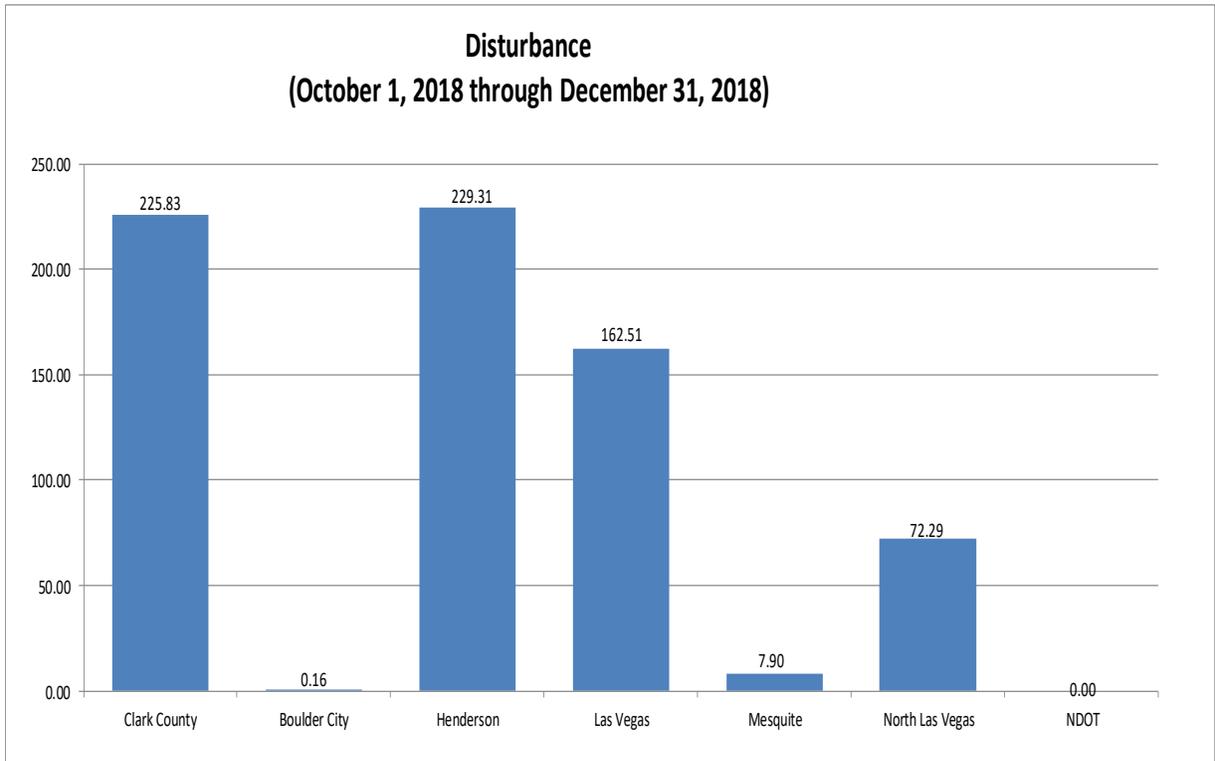
*Total acres reported in this chart do not include 15,000 acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010.

**2018 totals are subject to change.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — CONTINUED



Western Burrowing Owl



OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Desert Tortoise License Plate

We are excited to announce the launch of the DCP's Desert Tortoise License Plate. The license plate is available at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicle offices across the state. Click here for more information about the [plate](#).

Those interested in viewing any RFPs that are advertised for the DCP, are encouraged to sign up through Nevada Government EMarketplace ([NGEM](#)) to receive RFP notifications. Please check the Clark County opportunities page regularly at <http://bit.ly/2bBORvz> for RFP opportunities.

Employment opportunities:

Please check for employment opportunities within the DCP, as well as other County departments, by visiting Clark County's Human Resources webpage: [HR](#)

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AIR QUALITY
DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
4701 WEST RUSSELL ROAD, SUITE 200
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118**

WWW.CLARKCOUNTYNV.GOV/DCP

 MOJAVEMAX.COM

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