

QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2017



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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 (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

- Provided oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE.
- Conducted twenty-five site visits to monitor use, disturbances, and related issues; to perform new signage installation, maintenance and upgrades; for restoration planning and monitoring; and in support of the Predation Study and the Desert Tortoise Occupancy Study.
- Met with law enforcement during five site visits to plan patrols to cover areas where unauthorized uses were detected.
- Completed construction of three new gabion kiosks with signage at three common entry points to the BCCE. This project helps inform the public about the conservation easement and its purpose, things to see and do and the rules to be followed.



Clockwise from top: Brittlebush; Desert palafox; Desert dandelion; and Pricklypear all found on the BCCE (Photos: C. Floyd)

BOULDER CITY CONSERVATION EASEMENT— CONTINUED

- Met with representatives from Sempra Energy and Boulder City to discuss proposed energy development projects.
- 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.
- Baseline surveys for birds and small mammals on the BCCE are in the planning phase. Surveys will be conducted in spring of 2018.
- Baseline surveys for bats on both the BCCE and the riparian reserve units are in the planning phase. Surveys will be conducted in summer of 2018.

A comprehensive list of BCCE management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed [here](#).

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 Virgin and Muddy 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

- A request for quotes (RFQ) was sent to potential bidders for maintenance of the Muddy River Reserve Units. Eagle View Contractors was selected to conduct maintenance on the properties which will begin in January 2018.
- The National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- 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 restoration implementation plan has been prepared to prioritize restoration areas within the property including recommendations for native plant species selection, planting methods, source stock, etc.

A comprehensive list of Riparian Reserve Units management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed [here](#).



Perkins Pond at the Muddy River Reserve Unit

Virgin River Reserve Unit

- Continued photo-monitoring documentation of restored areas within Subunit 1.
- Planning efforts for the SNPLMA Round 15 project to conduct 20 to 40 acres of habitat restoration on the Virgin River Reserve Unit continue; a restoration implementation plan has been prepared to prioritize restoration areas within the property, including recommendations for native plant species selection, planting methods, source stock, etc.
- An RFQ was sent to potential bidders for herbicide acquisition. Helena Chemical was selected.
- Great Basin Institute was selected to conduct restoration services on the Virgin River Reserve Units in 2018.
- Attended two workshops this quarter with other stakeholders to discuss preliminary planning of a Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- Attended the Virgin River Conservation Partnership Symposium in Mesquite.

Property Acquisition

- The Board of County Commissioners approved the DCP's request to purchase previously identified properties of interest along the Virgin River in Bunkerville and Riverside, Nevada. One offer letter was sent to a property owner.



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 Outside Las Vegas Foundation for the Mojave Max Education Program.
- The 2018 Mojave Max Assembly season started December 5th.
- Six individual Tortoise Talks were conducted during this reporting period, reaching 471 students.
- Seven outreach events were conducted during this reporting period.



Get Outdoors NV Day

Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

The following outreach events were conducted during this reporting period:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Get Outdoors Nevada Day | Cornerstone Park | October 7th |
| • Summerlin Festival of Arts | Downtown Summerlin | October 14th and 15th |
| • Green Fair at Circus Circus | Circus Circus Hotel | October 18th |
| • C.A.S.T. | Lake Mead NRA | October 21st |
| • Trunk or Treat | Whitney Recreation Center | October 26th |
| • Santa's Electric Parade | Boulder City | December 2nd |
| • South Point Holiday Party | South Point Casino | December 22nd |

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 newly-designated Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. Construction of this project is expected to begin in 2018. Completed a contract with HRA, Inc. to conduct cultural resource surveys of the project alignment in support of consultation with the State historic Preservation Office.

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

- Completed the 2018 Biennial Adaptive Management Report, available [online](#).
- Attended meetings for the Desert Tortoise Recovery and Implementation Team and the Manager's Oversight Group.
- Performed health assessments on October 17th on tortoises removed from construction sites to prepare them for release in spring 2018.
- Attended meeting regarding obtaining LiDAR imaging for Clark County with contractor and Southern Nevada Water Authority on October 18th.
- Performed field telemetry on October 24th and 25th in coordination with drone project (1785A) to ground test results for data analysis.
- Held quarterly meeting with Science Advisor on November 7th where ongoing and future projects were discussed



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

- Staff continues to meet with the USFWS to discuss issues related to the proposed amendment.
- Continued to administer a contract with Southwest Ecology, LLC to provide covered species analysis support. This contract will result in the development of up to 31 new species distribution models, review and assessment of 25 existing species distribution models, and development of species accounts for up to 56 species. Work under this contract will provide information necessary to support an analysis and revision of the covered species list and data necessary to conduct impact analyses to support an application for an amended MSHCP.
- Continued 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. A kick-off meeting for this project was held this quarter and WRA has begun synthesizing data provided by Southwest Ecology to develop a final list of species proposed for coverage. Development of MSHCP Amendment chapters also continued this quarter.
- Administered a contract with Adaptation Insight to facilitate a climate change workshop. This workshop was attended by staff and consultants working on the permit amendment project. The workshop focused on providing training on the latest policies and practices for incorporating climate change analyses into a Habitat Conservation Plan application package.
- Staff continues to coordinate with Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to discuss development of a master permit for the take of state-listed plant species. This permit would provide the MSHCP Permittees with disturbance authorization from the State Forester Firewarden, in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, for state-listed plant species in Clark County.

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

- Submitted comments to the USFWS on proposed revisions to mitigation policies under the Endangered Species Act.
- Participated on interview panels for the hiring of staff within the Department.
- Continue to participate as a cooperating agency to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Resource Management Plan revision process.
- Attended Climate Change Workshop, October 30th and 31st.
- Organized field trip with Nevada Conservation groups and provided map information on November 3rd.
- Provided GIS data to Nevada Conservation Lands Organization.
- Provided GIS data and maps to The Nature Conservancy.
- Provided GIS data and maps to the Friends of Nevada Wilderness.
- Provided maps to Save Red Rock Canyon organization.
- Provided GIS data and maps to USFWS.
- Provided GIS data to Nevada Department of Transportation.
- Provided maps to Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick.
- Provided maps and GIS data to Linda Bullen, Bullen Law, LLC.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly

NEW, ONGOING, AND CLOSED PROJECTS

New projects started this quarter

- Gabion Kiosks Construction on BCCE, 910W
- Riparian Reserve Units Property Maintenance, 1520M
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Services, 1521C
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Project, 1521Z
- BCCE Weed Survey, 1710B
- Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics, 1795A

Ongoing projects this quarter

- Hotline and Processing of Wild Desert Tortoises, 803E
- OHV Registration Program Marketing, 807F
- Covered Species Analysis Support, 901B
- Boundary Surveys and Parceling for Virgin River Properties, 917AC
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917BD
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917MB
- Desert Tortoise Occupancy Sampling, 1012D
- Legal Services for DCP, 1014J
- Science Advisor Panel for the DCP, 1410C
- BCCE DT Predation Study, 1421B
- Water Rights Consulting, 1445E
- Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Plan, 1445F
- HCP Consultant for the MSCHP, 1460A
- Joshua Tree Habitat Model, 1460D



Yellow-billed cuckoo

Ongoing projects this quarter Cont'd.

- Muddy River Weed Management, 1520B
- Desert Tortoise Monitoring Data Management, Year 2-5, 1541A
- Desert Tortoise Range-Wide Monitoring, 1541B
- Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Planning and Implementation, 1550A
- Muddy River Restoration Plan, 1570B
- 2015-2017 BPR Editing and Printing, 1700A
- BCCE Law Enforcement, 1710A
- BCCE Weed Survey, 1710B
- BCCE Maintenance, 1710C
- Mojave Max Education Program, 1715A
- BCCE DT Telemetry, 1740A
- DCP Branding Project, 1770A
- Drone Based Auto DT Detectability, 1785A

Projects closed this quarter

- Fencing Installation & Maintenance, 804A
- OHV Education Story Map , 807E
- BCCE Informative Video, 910M
- BCCE Weed Survey, 910R
- BCCE Restore & Repair, 910S
- Economic Analysis of a Regional HCP, 1460B
- I-15 Exit 118 Improvements, 1500F
- Mojave Max Contest Portal, 1515H
- Riparian Property Maintenance, 1520J
- Tule Springs Cultural Resource Survey, 1525B
- Federally Listed Bird Surveys, 1535A
- Point Count Surveys on Riparian Properties, 1535B

Requests for proposals and quotes (RFPs / RFQs)

- An RFQ was issued on November 15th for BCCE Maintenance
- An RFQ was issued on November 28th for Restoration Services for the Virgin River Riparian Reserves
- An RFQ was issued on December 14th for Herbicide Acquisition for the Virgin River Riparian Reserves

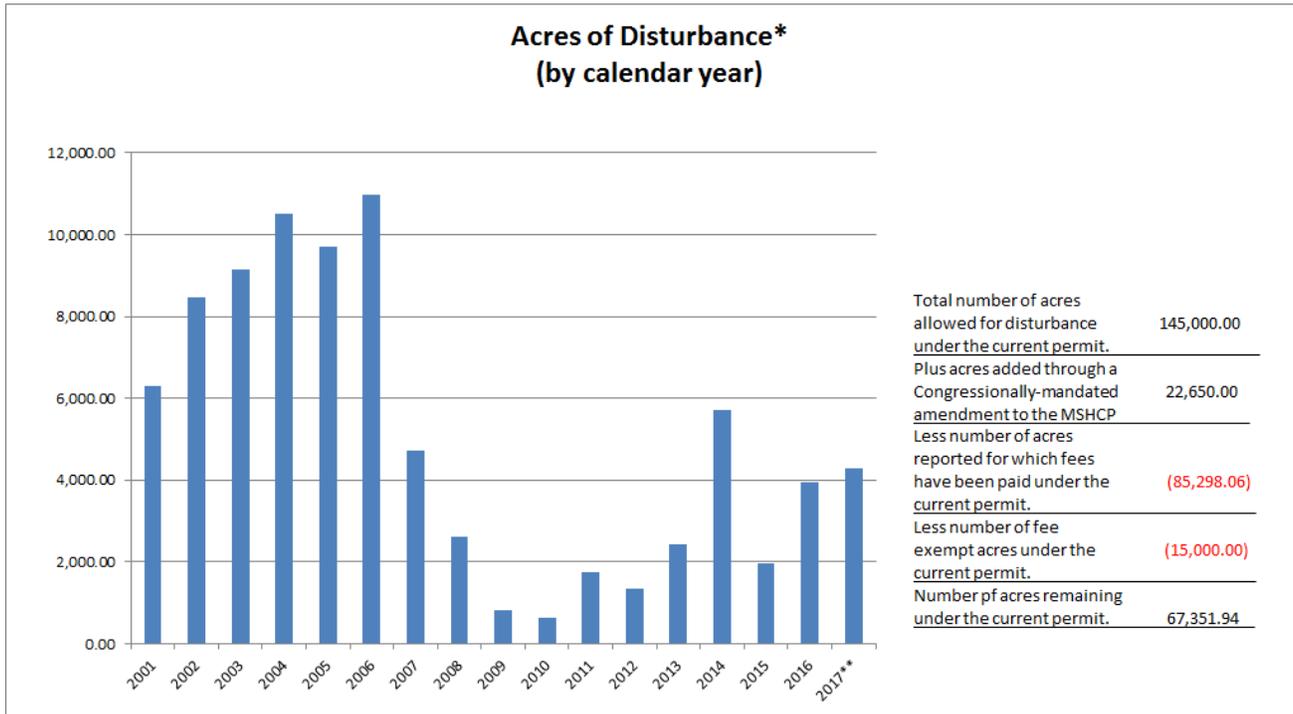
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments 69 invoices: 64 accepted (93%), 5 rejected (7%).
- Fiscal Year (FY) 18 budgets and expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur. Initiated process of developing FY18 estimates and FY19 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-payment services for County departments that do not currently offer e-payments.
- Desert tortoise specialty license plate application was approved. Plate design template sent to Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for approval. Awaiting next steps in the process for production of the plates.
- Oversight of the SNPLMA R8-R16 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: R15-1 draw downs (\$3,969.00), R16-1 draw downs (\$23,999.75).
- Completed the Biennial Progress Report, available [online](#).
- DCP leadership attended training on Management Best Practices and Accelerating Change in the Regulated Community.
- Attended the National Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition annual conference.

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 2001-2015.



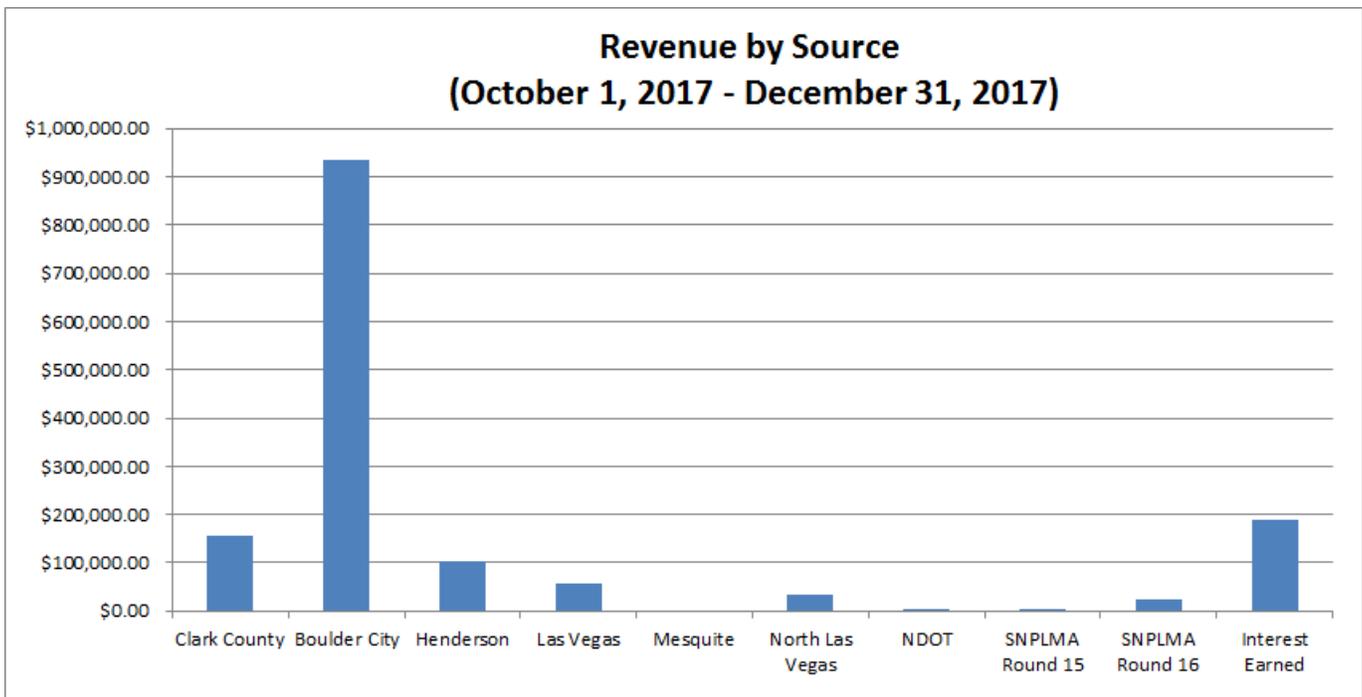
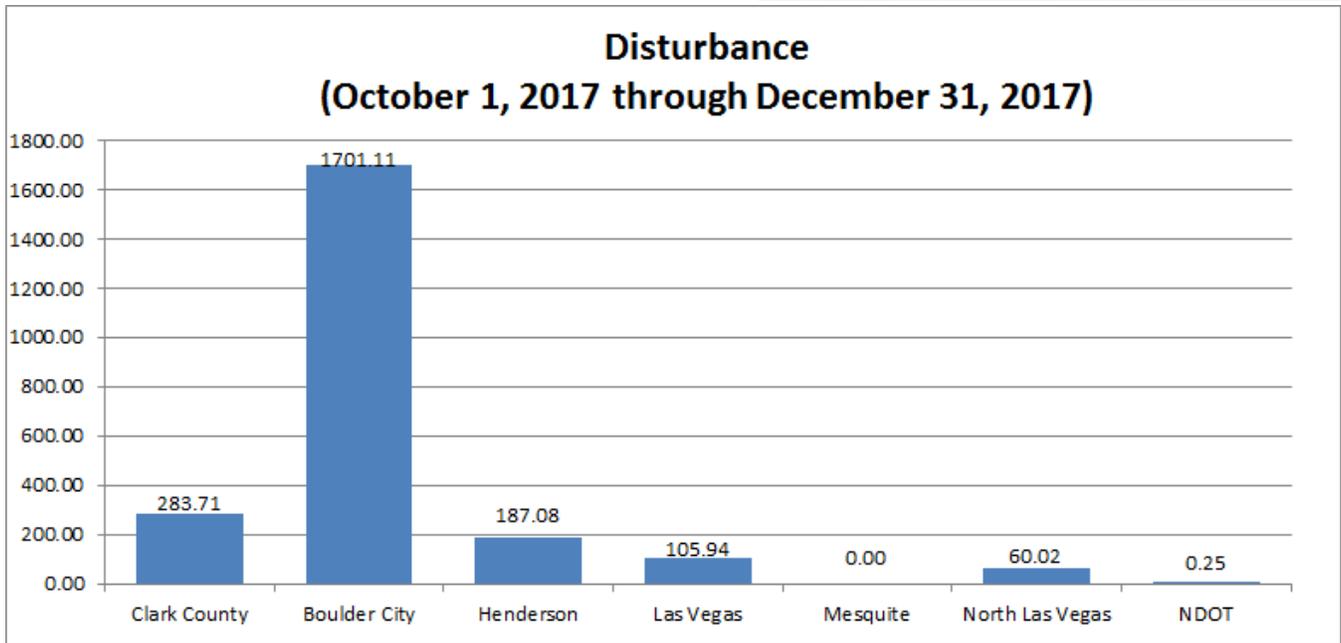
*Total acres reported in this chart do not include acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010. Total number of acres of municipal development that were exempted from mitigation fee payment is 15,000 acres.

**2017 totals are subject to change.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — CONTINUED



Western Burrowing Owl



OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Brittlebush

We currently have no RFPs advertised for the Desert Conservation Program.

Interested parties are encouraged to sign up through Nevada Government EMarketplace ([NGEM](#)) in order to receive future RFP notifications.

Check the Clark County opportunities page regularly at <http://bit.ly/2bBOrvz> for new opportunities.

Employment opportunities:

There are currently no employment opportunities advertised for the Desert Conservation Program.

Employment opportunities can be viewed on this 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


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