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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT MEETING

Public Comments

Monday, October 17, 2005

6:30 p.m.

Henderson Convention Center

200 South Water Street

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REPORTED BY: CINDY CALDWELL, CCR NO. 650

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Response I1 Walt Johnson

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PUBLIC STATEMENTS

MR. WALT JOHNSON: Walt Johnson. I have five minutes?

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: You do.

MR. WALT JOHNSON: I'd like to have more, but that's okay.

Okay. Yeah. I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and I have some comments.

First some background. I am appointed as a committee member, Citizen's Advisory Committee member of the Clean Water Coalition about a year ago, but we have only had two meetings that I have been able to go to, so I'm kind of relatively still the new kid on the block.

My thoughts about what's happening. I wish I could have joined earlier so that I could have made my thoughts known at that time. But I am going to now.

In looking at the draft, the DIES -- the DEIS, I'm a little bit disappointed in that treatment is not addressed as I would like to see it. I know that it was looked at before, before I got there. But I would like

I1-1 to see a type of treatment that -- where we could reuse the tertiary effluent, put the tertiary effluent through a membrane treatment process, and put that product water

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I1-1

See General Response 1.

See General Response 2.

3

I1-1

back into our system.

I know that's a radical idea. But it is being done in other parts of the country. Especially in southwest USA where arid conditions prevail, and population is outstripping -- outstripping supply of water.

Here's some of my points to push this. If we could divert tertiary effluent instead of going to Lake Mead and go to a membrane treatment process, we could remove about 90 percent of all contaminants right there. I mean, if you're not putting it in the lake, you're removing it. So the 90 percent is from calculation of 400 MGD design and about 40 MGD going into Las Vegas Wash. So that about 90 percent would be diverted.

The quality of the water both in Las Vegas Valley and downstream users would, of course, be significantly improved with the diversion. And then based on studies by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, which anybody can go to on their Internet, based on those studies, there's about 770,000 tons per year -- Anthony, you're probably familiar with some of this -- of salt, of TDS that's removed through the eight projects, mainly dealing with farmlands where they are bypassing around soil that has salts in it.

If we could implement the water reuse

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alternative that I'm thinking about, we could remove 720,000 tons per year in the design year of 400 MGD. So that 720,000 tons per year compares to the present 770,000 tons per year that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program is trying to do. So it's a significant amount.

Also, if you do a salt balance and a water mass balance around Lake Mead and around Las Vegas Valley, which I have done, I can show that there would be a difference between the two alternatives, the alternative to put water -- put tertiary effluent into the lake or to divert it and put it into a membrane treatment system and reuse it throughout the Valley for all uses. There would be a difference of 25 to 30 milligrams per meter of TDS. That's pretty significant. That would be a difference in the Colorado River.

And through a study that Department of Interior did, I found that the cost is something like $95 million per year of salinity damage to the California coastal counties of San Diego, Orange, and it must be Los Angeles counties.

Those three counties would experience about $95 million per year damages per every 100 milligrams per meter additional TDS over 500 in Colorado River. So that's pretty significant. That's about a 1 million --

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1 or one dollar per million milligrams per meter increase.
2 So that would figure out to be about 25 to $30 million
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4 The other thing, what about cost? I have done
5 a preliminary cost on my part to come up with total
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10 I don't have time enough to go into details
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16 If you do present worth on staged construction with
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18 400 MGD design system. With a membrane treatment
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20 And now you've saved money on the interest that you
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22 factor on the present worth. And I can show you that
23 this is a big factor.
24 Also there is much less pumping and treating
25 from Lake Mead if you're diverting water that you could

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I1-2

See response to comment O2-4.

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reuse into the Valley. So that's a big factor. Of course there's a savings of a salinity damage cost that I just mentioned in Las Vegas Valley and downstream to Arizona, California, and Mexico.

There's also something that people think membranes are very expensive. However, there's been a lot of improvements in membrane technology over the last few years. There's better membrane life. They go from three to four years now to almost seven and eight. There's higher flex rates. There's lower pressures that you can operate at. And there's energy recovery at about -- I have seen 12 percent quoted in the literature. So these are all factors that help the membrane treatment alternative.

Um, I mentioned that membrane use is gaining popularity. It's in the southwest U.S. And as an example, Orange County, California, has -- anybody can go to the Internet and look at that. And Orange County has a ground water replenishment system that will operate at about 70 MGD.

They will take -- just like here they could take tertiary effluent, put it through microfiltration and reverse osmosis, put it in the ground and take it out later and use it in their potable water system.

They are also using it for sea water intrusion

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1 area. But the point here is they would also have a
2 potable water system.
3 Scottsdale, Arizona is doing the same.
4 El Paso, Texas, the West Basin, Metropolitan Water
5 District in Los Angeles, where they have designed
6 custom -- different types of waters that are treated
7 differently, but different qualities. And one of them
8 is injection and potable water reuse. Also in locations
9 in Florida where they are taking brackish water.
10 So now on the request of return flow credits.
11 Yeah. The first question I would hear is that oh, but
12 you're diverting water away, and it would not come
13 down -- it would not come back to Las Vegas Bay and to
14 Lake Mead. That's true.
15 However, for every gallon that you would divert
16 to membrane is a gallon that you wouldn't have to bring
17 from the lake. So the net impact on the Colorado River
18 quantitatively is zero. But the net impact
19 qualitatively is a big plus.
20 One other point is destratification.
21 Destratification in Lake Mead. From what I understand,
22 the lake does not destratify 40 percent of the time. So
23 that means that whatever flows we put into Lake Mead,
24 like the tertiary effluent, is going to be in that
25 hypolimnion, in that lower level, and stay there.

I1-3

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I1-3

See General Response 7.

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And what happens to it then? Does it accumulate and accumulate? Is it possible that we could possibly contaminate our -- into our water intake structures?

Well, how am I doing on time?

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: We have given a couple extra minutes, but you're okay. Can you wrap it up for us.

MR. WALT JOHNSON: Just one last thought.

If we insist on putting 3.6 million, that's 3,600,000 people, population out here in the desert -- and I arrived at that 3.6 million from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that has 3.13 permanent population, then I have added the transient population, which I based on data from the Las Vegas Valley -- the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, at about .47. You add that to 3.13. It comes up to 3.6 million people by 2035.

If we insist on putting 3.6 million by the year 2035 with a man-made lake as our source of water, and our dumping ground, I think we ought to be thinking about reuse.

Okay. That's total water use.

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

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Mr. Carlton.

MR. MARK CARLTON: I'll just make mine shorter. I can read what the man said quite a bit. But I have called every agency that's been mentioned here tonight.

I have asked somebody that I got hold of within that department, would you drink a glass of water right out of that pipe, if you're telling me it's so clean it's going into Lake Mead? Every one of them said, hell, no. If that's the case, then why dump it into Lake Mead?

Now, there's one other thing, I don't know if you thought about it. But I'm a bass fisherman, and I fished this lake since 1954. And this lake turns over. The bottom had come to the top, and the top will go down because it's warmer. So what happens then?

And I just -- I just think it's a lousy thing personally.

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: Thank you.

Dr. Deacon. I'll put this down.

MR. JIM DEACON: I don't know whether -- let's see. If I come over to the side, I'll bet you it will work.

Am I close enough that's picking me up? I'll also try to be briefer than I would like to be. But

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I'll probably run over the five minutes.

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: That's okay.

MR. JIM DEACON: In reading over the EIS, the interesting thing that I was really struck with is it's kind of an example of how the long-term planning process sometimes, in this age of science and technology, gets overtaken by the science and technology. And that's the impression that I have from this -- from this study, that we kind of decided on the basis of 1999 science and technology what might be limitations that turn out no longer to be those limitations.

One really striking example: This spring Doug Drury gave a talk to the water resources, I don't remember the place. But the title of which was How Long Can You Go With Phosphorous?

Okay. Your 2002 data gathered from the sewage treatment plant effluent correctly estimates that the sewage effluent contains about .22 milligrams per liter of phosphorous.

On the other hand, if you were to take samples today or for that matter, if you take them in July, those numbers would have been about .04 milligrams per liter. Or for the last six months probably a reasonable average of .08.

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The implication of that means that in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, you really -- well, first you have to assume that if Doug has achieved this at Clark County, it's achievable at Las Vegas and Henderson in fairly, fairly short time frame.

That means in the final environmental impact statement, your number needs to change from .22 of phosphorous to .08. And when that happens, what happens is that, in effect, you don't need the preferred alternative, because by the year 2050, with a flow of about 400 million gallons per day, your total loading to Las Vegas Bay is 266 pounds per day of phosphorous.

The intent of -- in the EIS is to attempt to be able to conform with present total loading standards of 334 pounds per day of phosphorous. So, in effect, Doug has already achieved what will be the presumed limitation in the year 2050.

Anyway, in doing the final impact statement, I think it's really important that you make sure that you reflect today's reality, not the reality of 2002.

One of the other major issues that I think is really critical in the final impact statement is that again, the data taken for the mixing model for Lake Mead Boulder Basin in 2002 is a good set of data. And it works well with the model.

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But what it does and hasn't happened is the recognition in the Environmental Impact Statement that that's reflective of about 60 percent of the years. The implication there is that 40 percent of the time in the winter the lake will not destratify.

And if you're putting diffuser pipe effluent into the hypolimnion of a lake, which in the wintertime does not destratify, and then you run two or three of those years together as inevitably must happen, what you've got is -- well, in short, you're asking the community to pay $600 million to increase the probability of contamination of the water intake structures. Because unless you get that turn over, your model doesn't reflect reality.

Then one of the other issues that I am concerned about in the EIS, the draft EIS, is that it doesn't -- it doesn't indicate that in the no action alternative, in the year 2050, you've exceeded the existing capacity of the underflow conduit structures under Lake Las Vegas.

Now, if the preferred alternative is designed to alleviate that problem, it needs to be stated in the Environmental Impact Statement. If that's not a problem, it needs to be recognized in the no action alternative or -- regardless of which way it goes, your

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1 Environmental Impact Statement at present doesn't point
2 to the fact that you cannot contain flows under Lake at
3 Las Vegas that are projected for the year 2050, unless
4 you do one of the alternatives or the preferred
5 alternative. I think that issue needs to be addressed
6 in the -- I believe it needs to be addressed in the
7 Final Environmental Impact Statement.
8 And furthermore, if addressed, it raises almost
9 the demand for evaluating the alternatives that
10 zoologists propose. That is that it's entirely possible
11 to meet that 400 or less million gallon per day
12 limitation of the underflow through -- under Lake Las
13 Vegas by recycling water through a membrane treatment
14 system and controlling the amount of return flow that
15 you get to whatever -- in effect, whatever it is you
16 want up to the design capacity of the conduit.
17 But what it means is that you have -- if you
18 bring up consideration of this membrane treatment
19 alternative as a valid cost effective way of improving
20 our water quality, you also can control the amount of
21 return flow credit you get by selecting either tertiary
22 effluent going down the wash or diversion to membrane
23 treatment.
24 And so that in effect what you get is a really,
25 apparently on the face of it, desirable alternative of

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1 improving water quality, both in Las Vegas water supply
2 and in the Colorado River, at a reduced cost from the
3 preferred alternative. And in using a more flexible
4 system that allows you to gain advantage from selecting
5 which way you want to use the water.
6 Okay. Now, another real concern that I have
7 was mentioned by the -- the previous speaker to some
8 extent. That is, at the present time, with the improved
9 water treatment that's been realized this summer, what
10 we're getting is inflow into Las Vegas Wash of water
11 that contains nutrients, which enhances the sport
12 fishery.
13 They also -- it also brings in sediment, which
14 the turbidity and the nutrient concentration that's
15 going in there now, provide nutrient for submerged
16 aquatic plants, turbidity that is used as cover by young
17 fish to avoid predation. And so the preferred
18 alternative will most likely reduce the ability of
19 Las Vegas Wash as a sport fishery and as the -- one of
20 the only remaining places where a major species, the
21 razorback sucker, now reproduces.
22 So, in fact, your conclusion in the draft
23 statement that there will be no affect on the fishery, I
24 believe to be erroneous. That is it's likely to reduce
25 the quality of the sport fishery in Las Vegas Bay. And

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1 increase the threats to the continued survival of the
2 only endangered species in Las Vegas Bay, the razorback
3 sucker. So again, I think those considerations need to
4 be reevaluated for the final impact statement.
5 And then, one other concern that I think is
6 inadequately addressed here is the affect on Las Vegas
7 Wash. That is this community has put a considerable
8 amount of time, effort, thought, and money into the sort
9 of rehabilitation of Las Vegas Wash as a functioning
10 wetland.
11 And that functioning wetland is increasingly
12 being demonstrated. For example, recently the
13 demonstration that Las Vegas Wash is removing,
14 approximately, 66 percent of the phosphorous that's
15 released to it. And by the time you get through in to
16 Las Vegas Bay, it's an approximate removal of about
17 99 percent of the phosphorous.
18 So that we're, in effect, getting that free
19 ecological service from our reconstructed wetland that
20 would be in part lost or at least be reevaluated much
21 more clearly than it has been by the preferred
22 alternative.
23 So from many standpoints, I get the impression
24 that the preferred alternative, while it may have been
25 valid as about the only thing we can do in 1999, now

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1 represents a lot of negatives not identified in the
2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which must be
3 addressed in the Final Impact Statement, if we're to get
4 a valid evaluation of the probable consequences of the
5 proposed action.
6 It seems to be that it's dangerous enough to
7 think about, for example, global warming and only
8 decrease the frequency of complete mixing or
9 destratification in Boulder Basin. As the average air
10 temperature warms up, that 40 percent, it could only
11 climb in the immediate future, because it will offer
12 conditions that are less likely to cause
13 destratification.
14 So it seems to me that there's a lot of serious
15 reconsideration that needs to be done with this draft.
16 Thanks.
17 MR. ERIC HAWKINS: Is there anyone else
18 in the audience that would like to speak?
19 We appreciate you coming. We appreciate your
20 comments.
21 (Whereupon public statements concluded and
22 private statements began.)
23 MR. JIM DEACON: When I was talking about
24 the razorback sucker in Las Vegas Wash, it doesn't
25 occur in Las Vegas Wash. It's Las Vegas Bay.

17

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEVADA)
) SS
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, CINDY CALDWELL, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I TOOK DOWN IN STENOTYPE ALL OF THE PROCEEDINGS HAD IN THE BEFORE-ENTITLED MATTER AT THE TIME AND PLACE INDICATED, AND THAT THEREAFTER SAID STENOTYPE NOTES WERE TRANSCRIBED INTO TYPEWRITING AT AND UNDER MY SUPERVISION.

THAT THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT CONSTITUTES A FULL, TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS HAD.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBE MY NAME AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

Cindy Caldwell
CINDY CALDWELL, CCR NO. 650

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I have asked somebody that I got hold of within that department, would you drink a glass of water right out of that pipe, if you're telling me it's so clean it's going into Lake Mead? Every one of them said, hell, no. If that's the case, then why dump it into Lake Mead? I2-1

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Response I2 Mark Carlton

I2-1

Treated wastewater from the Valley has been treated and discharged to Lake Mead via the Las Vegas Wash since 1956. Treated wastewater flows will continue to be discharged to Lake Mead, even under the No Action Alternative.

The following sentence has been added to Section 1.1: "Treated wastewater has been discharged to the Las Vegas Wash since 1956."

The wastewater treatment facilities in the Valley are some of the best in the nation--the quality of treatment is in the top 7 percent of wastewater treatment facilities in the nation.

I2-2

See General Response 7.

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Response I3 James Deacon

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19 MR. ERIC HAWKINS: Thank you.
20 Dr. Deacon. I'll put this down.
21 MR. JIM DEACON: I don't know
22 whether -- let's see. If I come over to the side, I'll
23 bet you it will work.
24 Am I close enough that's picking me up? I'll
25 also try to be briefer than I would like to be. But

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10

I'll probably run over the five minutes.

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: That's okay.

MR. JIM DEACON: In reading over the EIS, the interesting thing that I was really struck with is it's kind of an example of how the long-term planning process sometimes, in this age of science and technology, gets overtaken by the science and technology. And that's the impression that I have from this -- from this study, that we kind of decided on the basis of 1999 science and technology what might be limitations that turn out no longer to be those limitations.

One really striking example: This spring Doug Drury gave a talk to the water resources, I don't remember the place. But the title of which was How Long Can You Go With Phosphorous?

Okay. Your 2002 data gathered from the sewage treatment plant effluent correctly estimates that the sewage effluent contains about .22 milligrams per liter of phosphorous.

On the other hand, if you were to take samples today or for that matter, if you take them in July, those numbers would have been about .04 milligrams per liter. Or for the last six months probably a reasonable average of .08.

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11

The implication of that means that in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, you really -- well, first you have to assume that if Doug has achieved this at Clark County, it's achievable at Las Vegas and Henderson in fairly, fairly short time frame.

That means in the final environmental impact statement, your number needs to change from .22 of phosphorous to .08. And when that happens, what happens

I3-1 is that, in effect, you don't need the preferred alternative, because by the year 2050, with a flow of about 400 million gallons per day, your total loading to Las Vegas Bay is 266 pounds per day of phosphorous.

The intent of -- in the EIS is to attempt to be able to conform with present total loading standards of 334 pounds per day of phosphorous. So, in effect, Doug has already achieved what will be the presumed limitation in the year 2050.

Anyway, in doing the final impact statement, I

I3-2 think it's really important that you make sure that you reflect today's reality, not the reality of 2002.

One of the other major issues that I think is really critical in the final impact statement is that again, the data taken for the mixing model for Lake Mead Boulder Basin in 2002 is a good set of data. And it works well with the model.

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I3-1

See response to comment F1-2.

See General Response 8.

The assumption in the comment that a total loading of 266 lbs/day of phosphorus to the Las Vegas Bay in 2050 would be acceptable is incorrect. The southwest U.S. is experiencing a drought. It is predicted that the water in Lake Mead will decline to 1,000 ft. As explained in Section 4.1 of the Final EIS, the TP loading to the Las Vegas Bay would need to be approximately 100 lbs/day to meet water quality standards in the Las Vegas Bay when Lake Mead is at a 1,000-ft level.

As described in the Purpose and Need, Section 1.5, management flexibility is one of the most important reasons for the proposed project. The alternatives that continue to discharge the treated effluent to only the Las Vegas Wash do not provide flexibility in the management of the flows.

I3-2

Information regarding each plant's current capabilities has been added to Section 2.1 of the Final EIS.

See General Response 8.

In addition, it's important to recognize that preparation of an EIS for a complex project such as the SCOP takes a significant amount of time. Although federal agencies strive to provide the most up-to-date available information, situations and technology changes rapidly and incorporation of these changes into NEPA documents may not always be possible. Continual updating as new information becomes available would prevent any project from ever getting through the NEPA process. Thus, EISs typically present a "snapshot in time" to use as a baseline to analyze potential impacts.

12

I3-3 But what it does and hasn't happened is the recognition in the Environmental Impact Statement that that's reflective of about 60 percent of the years. The implication there is that 40 percent of the time in the winter the lake will not destratify.

And if you're putting diffuser pipe effluent into the hypolimnion of a lake, which in the wintertime does not destratify, and then you run two or three of those years together as inevitably must happen, what you've got is -- well, in short, you're asking the community to pay $600 million to increase the probability of contamination of the water intake structures. Because unless you get that turn over, your model doesn't reflect reality.

I3-4 Then one of the other issues that I am concerned about in the EIS, the draft EIS, is that it doesn't -- it doesn't indicate that in the no action alternative, in the year 2050, you've exceeded the existing capacity of the underflow conduit structures under Lake Las Vegas.

I3-5 Now, if the preferred alternative is designed to alleviate that problem, it needs to be stated in the Environmental Impact Statement. If that's not a problem, it needs to be recognized in the no action alternative or -- regardless of which way it goes, your

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I3-3

See General Response 7.

I3-4

There are two, 84-inch diameter conduits under Lake Las Vegas. These conduits have a capacity of 1,138 mgd (1,760 cubic feet per second [cfs]). As shown on Table 2.1-1 of the Draft and Final EIS, projected effluent flows are expected to be 537 mgd (861 cfs) in 2050. Therefore, the conduits under Lake Las Vegas have the capacity to handle the increased flows.

I3-5

See response to comment I3-4.

The capacity of the Lake Las Vegas conduits would not be exceeded with year 2050 flows. Therefore, that is not part of the purpose and need for the SCOP.

13

13-5

1 Environmental Impact Statement at present doesn't point
2 to the fact that you cannot contain flows under Lake at
3 Las Vegas that are projected for the year 2050, unless
4 you do one of the alternatives or the preferred
5 alternative. I think that issue needs to be addressed
6 in the -- I believe it needs to be addressed in the
7 Final Environmental Impact Statement.
8 And furthermore, if addressed, it raises almost
9 the demand for evaluating the alternatives that
10 zoologists propose. That is that it's entirely possible
11 to meet that 400 or less million gallon per day
12 limitation of the underflow through -- under Lake Las
13 Vegas by recycling water through a membrane treatment
14 system and controlling the amount of return flow that
15 you get to whatever -- in effect, whatever it is you
16 want up to the design capacity of the conduit.
17 But what it means is that you have -- if you
18 bring up consideration of this membrane treatment
19 alternative as a valid cost effective way of improving
20 our water quality, you also can control the amount of
21 return flow credit you get by selecting either tertiary
22 effluent going down the wash or diversion to membrane
23 treatment.
24 And so that in effect what you get is a really,
25 apparently on the face of it, desirable alternative of

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14

1 improving water quality, both in Las Vegas water supply
2 and in the Colorado River, at a reduced cost from the
3 preferred alternative. And in using a more flexible
4 system that allows you to gain advantage from selecting
5 which way you want to use the water.
6 Okay. Now, another real concern that I have
7 was mentioned by the -- the previous speaker to some
8 extent. That is, at the present time, with the improved
9 water treatment that's been realized this summer, what
10 we're getting is inflow into Las Vegas Wash of water
11 that contains nutrients, which enhances the sport
12 fishery.
13 They also -- it also brings in sediment, which
I3-6 14 the turbidity and the nutrient concentration that's
15 going in there now, provide nutrient for submerged
16 aquatic plants, turbidity that is used as cover by young
17 fish to avoid predation. And so the preferred
18 alternative will most likely reduce the ability of
19 Las Vegas Wash as a sport fishery and as the -- one of
20 the only remaining places where a major species, the
21 razorback sucker, now reproduces.
22 So, in fact, your conclusion in the draft
23 statement that there will be no affect on the fishery, I
I3-7 24 believe to be erroneous. That is it's likely to reduce
25 the quality of the sport fishery in Las Vegas Bay. And

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I3-6

See General Response 9.

I3-7

See General Response 9.

15

I3-7 1 increase the threats to the continued survival of the
2 only endangered species in Las Vegas Bay, the razorback
3 sucker. So again, I think those considerations need to
4 be reevaluated for the final impact statement.

I3-8 5 And then, one other concern that I think is
6 inadequately addressed here is the affect on Las Vegas
7 Wash. That is this community has put a considerable
8 amount of time, effort, thought, and money into the sort
9 of rehabilitation of Las Vegas Wash as a functioning
10 wetland.
11 And that functioning wetland is increasingly
12 being demonstrated. For example, recently the
13 demonstration that Las Vegas Wash is removing,
14 approximately, 66 percent of the phosphorous that's
15 released to it. And by the time you get through in to
16 Las Vegas Bay, it's an approximate removal of about
17 99 percent of the phosphorous.
18 So that we're, in effect, getting that free
19 ecological service from our reconstructed wetland that
20 would be in part lost or at least be reevaluated much
21 more clearly than it has been by the preferred
22 alternative.

I3-9 23 So from many standpoints, I get the impression
24 that the preferred alternative, while it may have been
25 valid as about the only thing we can do in 1999, now

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I3-8

See General Response 11.

See response to comment F1-26.

I3-9

See responses to comments I3-1 through I3-8.

16

I3-9 represents a lot of negatives not identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which must be addressed in the Final Impact Statement, if we're to get a valid evaluation of the probable consequences of the proposed action.

It seems to be that it's dangerous enough to think about, for example, global warming and only decrease the frequency of complete mixing or destratification in Boulder Basin. As the average air temperature warms up, that 40 percent, it could only climb in the immediate future, because it will offer conditions that are less likely to cause destratification.

So it seems to me that there's a lot of serious reconsideration that needs to be done with this draft.

Thanks.

MR. ERIC HAWKINS: Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to speak?

We appreciate you coming. We appreciate your comments.

(Whereupon public statements concluded and private statements began.)

MR. JIM DEACON: When I was talking about the razorback sucker in Las Vegas Wash, it doesn't occur in Las Vegas Wash. It's Las Vegas Bay.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEVADA)
) SS
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, CINDY CALDWELL, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I TOOK DOWN IN STENOTYPE ALL OF THE PROCEEDINGS HAD IN THE BEFORE-ENTITLED MATTER AT THE TIME AND PLACE INDICATED, AND THAT THEREAFTER SAID STENOTYPE NOTES WERE TRANSCRIBED INTO TYPEWRITING AT AND UNDER MY SUPERVISION.

THAT THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT CONSTITUTES A FULL, TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS HAD.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBE MY NAME AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

Cindy Caldwell
CINDY CALDWELL, CCR NO. 650

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1-03-2006 11:33 FROM: TO:702 293 8614 P.3/8

Lorraine J. Tucker (Mrs. Morton)
3693 N. Milky Way Road
Golden Valley, AZ 86413
Jan. 24, 2006

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

845981

The Honorable Gale Morton
Secretary of the Interior Dept.
1840 "C" Street
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Secretary Morton:

We live in Golden Valley, AZ, and have our boat docked at Las Vegas Marina on Lake Mead. My friend brought up these articles on the internet about Las Vegas' Valley plan to pump valley's treated wastewater to the bottom of Lake Mead. We came from the Midwest (moved to AZ in 1998) where Lake Michigan was being polluted from treated wastewater being pumped into the lake killing fish and wildlife for years before they cracked down on the polluters. They argued at that time that treated wastewater wouldn't affect the lake at all. Finally Lake Michigan is looking cleaner than it had been in years and has been a sportman's paradise. Now you can actually see the bottom of the lake from the breakwater. Now Las Vegas plans to do the same thing to Lake Mead. Las Vegas Marina used to be right by Las Vegas Wash and water always looked dirty. At that time
I4-1 they were concerned about chemicals in the water making it undrinkable. Because of the water drop from the drought, Las Vegas Marina was moved to Horseshoe Cove where the water is deeper. The water looks a lot cleaner there and it's a lovely spot on the lake. Because this is Federal Territory, you should be as concerned as we are about polluted water with the drought still continuing and no rain in sight this year. We broke a record of 100+ days without rain lately. How long before the Colorado River, which
I4-2 Laughlin, NV is contemplating dumping wastewater into it, will become polluted? Our
I4-3 Golden Valley has an aquafer beneath it - how long will it take to pollute it? We depend on it, as well as other communities around us for our water supply now. If these wells are contaminated it will cost us dearly to treat the water before it comes to our house. Right now it doesn't need any treatment. How far will these polluters go before someone cracks down on them to clean up their operation and find a better plan? This wastewater was supposed to be used for their elite golf courses, so what happened to
I4-4 that plan? Your help and comments would be very much appreciated by this very concerned person in AZ and NV.

Lorraine J. Tucker (Mrs. Morton)

Enclosures

Response I4 Lorraine J. Tucker

I4-1

One of the very reasons that the effluent discharge is being moved is because of the drought, and especially the water quality effects at the Las Vegas Wash and Las Vegas Bay. Increasing wastewater effluent flows have continued to erode the Las Vegas Wash, and bring more sediment into the Las Vegas Bay, making the water look dirty. As Lake Mead water levels drop lower, the ability of the Las Vegas Bay to accommodate more effluent is limited. Current projections indicate that if the drought continues, Lake Mead may drop another 100 to 140 ft over the next 5 to 10 years. The impacts analyses in the EIS address the potential water quality impacts when the level of Lake Mead drops to 1,000 ft.

I4-2

Laughlin, Nevada is not "contemplating" dumping wastewater into the Colorado River. Laughlin has been discharging highly treated effluent to the Colorado River since 1997, in accordance with standards set by NDEP.

I4-3

Golden Valley is situated approximately 25 miles from the Colorado River, and as far as we know is not hydrologically connected to the Colorado River. If you have knowledge that you will be drawing Colorado River water, you will need to contact Reclamation and begin the process to obtain water rights for that water.

I4-4

See General Response 2.

10/19/05

Gentlemen

I know this letter is not going to change anything but I am concerned about the article I read in the Mohave Valley News the other day. I always brag about our Colorado River as being the prettiest and cleanest river in the country and I think I am right!

I5-1 The city of Las Vegas is planning to dump 170 million gallon of waste water a day into our river and I think this is disgusting! This moves our drinking water as other towns along the way and this should not be allowed.

Thank you for reading my letter and concern about our water

Response I5 Adrian LaPiene

I5-1

See response to comment L1-5.

2

but I think that more people should get involved in this situation! We also fish the Lake Mohave and the river and I don't think I want to eat any fish from either if this proposal goes thru!

Thank You

Very Truly yours

Adrian LaPeine

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Response I6 James Deacon

SCOP EIS Project Manager
PBS&J
2270 Corporate Circle, Suite 100
Henderson, NV 89074-6382

October 20, 2005

Below are my comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the probable environmental impact of the Clean Water Coalition Systems Conveyance and Operations Program.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement describing the Clean Water Coalition Systems Conveyance and Operations Program represents a major effort to understand the probable impacts of each of four alternatives for discharge of highly treated effluent to alternate locations in Lake Mead. The analysis relies on a large amount of information gathered over a long period of time, and appears based on assumptions valid in the 20th century, but not modified by practical, lower-cost opportunities that have become available in the 21st century. This is especially true in the analysis of the "No Action Alternative" and in the failure to examine new membrane treatment alternatives that are increasingly being used elsewhere because they are increasingly cost-effective and practical. In addition, some of the assumptions made in the application of the Lake Mead Model contain serious inadequacies that, if left unchallenged and unmodified, will be very expensive to correct, and could lead to serious contamination problems for the Las Vegas drinking water supply. Finally, the Preferred Alternative will almost certainly adversely impact the sport fishery and the endangered Razorback Sucker.

THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The draft EIS states that effluent from the Henderson, Las Vegas, and Clark County water treatment plants contains phosphorus concentrations of about 0.2 mg/L. That concentration is used to represent baseline conditions for 2002. At that concentration, the three sewage treatment plants in Las Vegas Valley are said to produce an average of 292 pounds per day of total phosphorus at average effluent flows of 150 MGD (actually a phosphorus load of 292 pounds per day with effluent flows of 150 MGD would be produced at an average phosphorus concentration of about 0.234 mg/L).

For at least the past six months, the Clark County Water Reclamation District has been producing sewage effluent with average monthly phosphorus concentrations of about 0.08 mg/L (Dr. Doug Drury, CCWRD, conference presentation, September 28-29, 2005). In fact, in July, 2005 their monthly average phosphorus concentration was 0.04 mg/L. It is reasonable to presume that all three sewage treatment plants could be capable of achieving those standards of treatment in the near future. Therefore, in the Final Environmental

Comment I-06

PROBLEMS WITH THE LAKE MEAD MODEL:

The major problem that MUST be corrected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement is the fact that winter conditions of thermal stratification in 2002 in Lake Mead are representative of conditions that apply in only about 60% of the years (LaBounty and Burns, *Lake and Reservoir Management*, volume 21, 2005, p 284, fig, 6). In winter 2002 Lake Mead did completely destratify. Those conditions permit effluent discharged into the hypolimnion through a diffuser pipe to be mixed throughout the entire volume of water in Boulder Basin during winter. Conclusions derived from examination of the model depend on this complete mixing every winter. However, approximately 40% of the time winter destratification does not occur. Under those conditions, effluent discharged into the hypolimnion through a diffuser pipe would continue to accumulate in the hypolimnion. Such accumulation would greatly increase the probability that effluent would reach the proposed new water intake structure in Boulder Basin in both winter and summer. It would also increase the probability that effluent would reach the existing water intake structures at Saddle Island during summer.

Several consecutive years in which winter destratification does not occur would virtually guarantee contamination of the Las Vegas water supply. With expected long-term increases in average temperature as a result of global warming, there is increasing probability that complete destratification in the winter will become even less frequent in the future. This very expensive Preferred Alternative therefore has the potential of seriously threatening the Las Vegas water supply, and that potential is likely to increase with time.

While the Draft EIS correctly points out the requirement of meeting a "no degradation" standard in Boulder Basin, it does not convincingly demonstrate that the "Preferred Alternative" will be capable of meeting that requirement. Release of treated effluent into the hypolimnion of Lake Mead will add both turbidity and nutrients which, during approximately 60% of the years will be mixed throughout the water column. The increased algal production as well as the increased turbidity will reduce water clarity (reduce Secchi depth). The degree to which this will adversely affect the recreational experience by visitors to Lake Mead National Recreation Area must be evaluated in the Final EIS.

The Lake Mead model uses total phosphorus as an important determinant of concentration of chlorophyll *a* in Boulder Basin, Lake Mojave, and Lake Havasu. LaBounty and Burns (*Lake and Reservoir Management*, pages 277-307, volume 21, 2005) demonstrate a weak relationship between total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* in Boulder Basin, but a strong relationship between ortho phosphorus and chlorophyll *a*. Therefore, ortho phosphate should be substituted for total phosphorus in the modeling done for the Final EIS.

Comment I-06

The DEIS indicates that some of increased phosphorus in Boulder Basin may extend downstream into Mohave and Havasu. Evaluation of this expected increased phosphorus load on Lakes Mojave and Havasu, and on the consequent water quality problems encountered by the Metropolitan Water District must be presented in the Final EIS.

In addition to these major problems with the Lake Mead model, there may be a number of other details that call into question or render invalid many of the conclusions presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Unfortunately, I have not had sufficient time to examine these in detail. Nevertheless, I think it is important to re-examine many of the assumptions used as input to the model. For example, are the correct depths used to represent depth of release of water from Hoover Dam? Does the temporal pattern of water released from Hoover Dam used in the model reflect reality? Incorrect input to the model of these and other parameters would greatly affect mixing patterns.

THE LAS VEGAS BAY FISHERY AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement demonstrates that under the Preferred Alternative, Secchi depth in Las Vegas Bay will increase and nutrient input will decrease. Chapter 4 states that there are no expected impacts to the fish populations in Las Vegas Bay. How can this be true when you clearly state that nutrient input to Las Vegas Bay will be reduced. In fact, nutrient reduction to Las Vegas Bay is one of the stated reasons for choosing the "Preferred Alternative". Numerous investigations by numerous State and Federal agencies over the past 40 years have demonstrated that Las Vegas Bay is the most productive fishery habitat in Lake Mead. That productivity is a consequence of nutrient input into Las Vegas Bay over the past 40 years. Reduced nutrient input will clearly reduce productivity as demonstrated by your chlorophyll *a* modeling. The Final EIS must evaluate the effects of this reduced productivity on the sport fishery.

Las Vegas Bay harbors one of the only known reproducing populations of an endangered species, the Razorback Sucker. Impacts to this species by implementation of the Preferred Alternative have not been objectively evaluated. The DEIS documents the fact that water clarity will increase and nutrient input will decrease under the preferred alternative. Decreased nutrient input will reduce productivity and probably reduce density of submerged vegetation. The effect of these two processes will be to substantially reduce cover and food available to Razorback Sucker. Many reports by Bio-West, Inc. demonstrate that reduced cover in Las Vegas Bay will substantially increase the Razorback's susceptibility to predation and therefore reduce its chances for survival. Predation has been documented to be one of the most serious threats to the survival of Razorback Sucker throughout the lower Colorado River. Las Vegas Bay provides one of the few remaining habitats in which reproduction by Razorback Sucker is moderately successful. Implementation of the Preferred

Comment I-06

Alternative therefore would almost certainly reduce chances of survival for this endangered species. This issue must be addressed in the Final EIS, with specific reference to the many Bio-West reports and the extensive literature about requirements of Razorback sucker in the lower Colorado River.

CONSEQUENCES FOR LAS VEGAS WASH

The draft EIS fails to adequately evaluate the probable impacts of the "Preferred Alternative" to the Las Vegas Wash system. This inadequacy must be addressed in the "Final EIS". There has been a very considerable community investment put into construction of erosion control structures, expansion of marsh habitat, revegetation of a diverse marsh community, and re-creation of an increasingly functional marsh ecosystem that is increasingly providing valuable ecological services (Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee annual reports). Success of those ongoing efforts has been shown in a number of ways, including the fact that the Wash is presently removing approximately 66% of the reactive phosphorous discharged to it. In combination with processes functioning in the inner Las Vegas Bay, 99% of the reactive phosphorous is presently being removed before it has an opportunity to move into middle Las Vegas Bay and then on through the outer bay into Boulder Basin. The "Preferred Alternative" will destroy most of the benefits presently accruing to the Las Vegas community as a consequence of this increasingly functional marsh. The statement on page ES -9 that, "A group of agencies are monitoring the concentrations of substances associated with groundwater and urban runoff in the Las Vegas Wash, and will address the issue as needed." is inadequate to describe impacts. The Final EIS must completely re-evaluate the impacts of the preferred alternative on Las Vegas Wash, using existing or projected quantities of nutrient discharge based on an average tertiary effluent concentration of 0.08 mg/L of phosphorus and recent information about the functioning of the Wash ecosystem.

The "Preferred Alternative" will reduce effluent flows in Las Vegas Wash, thereby effectively increasing concentration of TDS, selenium, perchlorate, and other constituents. It will also reduce water exchange with the ponds created by the erosion control structures, thereby degrading the quality of the pond/marsh environment. The extent of the environmental impact of these increased concentrations of pollutants to the Las Vegas Wash system must be described in the Final EIS.

SUMMARY:
The following items must be evaluated or reevaluated in the final EIS:

I6-1 1. Throughout the final EIS change baseline conditions for phosphorus concentrations produced by all three tertiary sewage treatment plants from 0.2 mg/L to 0.08 mg/L.

Comment I-06

Response I6 James Deacon

I6-1

See response to comment F1-2.

I6-2 2. Evaluate the implications of flow capacity under Lake Las Vegas. Include reference to membrane treatment as a method of avoiding exceeding flow capacity.

I6-3 3. Present results of model runs analyzing potential threats to the Las Vegas water supply of accumulation of tertiary effluent in the hypolimnion over the course of 2, 3, or more winters in which destratification does not occur. Use standard credible projections of the effects of global warming over the next 100 years to evaluate probable increase in frequency of winters in which destratification does not occur.

I6-4 4. Evaluate the effects of increased algal production and decreased water clarity on the recreational experience of visitors to Boulder Basin.

I6-5 5. Substitute Ortho phosphorus for total phosphorus in the model as a means of estimating concentration of chlorophyll *a*.

I6-6 6. Recheck model runs to make sure that depth of release of water from Hoover Dam and temporal variability of water release is accurately reflected in the model.

I6-7 7. Evaluate the effects of reduced nutrient input on the quality of the sport fishery in Las Vegas Bay.

I6-8 8. Evaluate the effects of reduced cover on susceptibility to predation of Razorback Sucker in Las Vegas Bay.

I6-9 9. Evaluate the effects of the preferred alternative compared to the no action alternative on wetland area and wetland function in Las Vegas Wash. Use an average tertiary effluent phosphorus concentration of 0.08 mg/L.

I6-10 10. Evaluate the effects of increased concentration of TDS, Selenium, Perchlorate, and other probable pollutants on Las Vegas Wash and Las Vegas Bay under both the preferred alternative and the no action alternative.

James E. Deacon
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UNLV
968 Camelia Drive
Henderson, NV 89015

702-568-6720
deaconj@unlv.nevada.edu

Comment I-06

I6-2

There are two, 84-inch diameter conduits under Lake Las Vegas. These conduits have a capacity of 1,138 mgd (1,760 cfs). As shown on Table 2.1-1 of the Draft and Final EIS, projected effluent flows are expected to be 537 mgd (861 cfs) in 2050. Therefore, the conduits under Lake Las Vegas have the capacity to handle the increased flows.

I6-3

See General Response 7.

The water quality modeling and impacts analyses conducted throughout the SCOP EIS process considered the impacts of ongoing drought conditions and addressed impacts that may occur when Lake Mead reaches 1,000 ft in elevation. Analyzing the potential impacts of global warming and climatic changes is beyond the scope of this EIS.

I6-4

Water quality modeling indicates that the alternative that would potentially result in increased algal production is the No Action Alternative. The potential impact to recreation from increased algal production is presented in Section 4.4 of the Final EIS.

I6-5

The model uses ortho-phosphorus to estimate algae growth. The model uses sophisticated equations to predict the algae growth based upon ortho-phosphorus, nitrate, temperature, and light. In addition, the model considers exchange between solid and soluble phosphorus in the lake, as well as internal phosphorus within the algae.

I6-6

See response to comment I5-6.

The temporal variability of the Hoover Dam releases was correctly modeled by using hourly flow rate data obtained from Reclamation.

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I6-7

A description of sport fishing at Lake Mead has been added to Section 3.2.3.3 of the Final EIS. The impacts to the sport fishery are presented in Section 4.2.

I6-8

See General Response 9.

I6-9

See response to comment F1-2.See General Response 8.

The potential impacts to wetlands is addressed in Section 4.2 of the Final EIS.

See response to comment I3-1.

I6-10

The Las Vegas Wash model was used to determine the changes in concentrations when effluent flows decrease and increase in the Las Vegas Wash. The concentrations and potential impacts are described in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Final EIS.

From: Jeanjcb2@aol.com [mailto:Jeanjcb2@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2005 6:01 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: PLEASE DON'T DUMP THE WASTE WATER

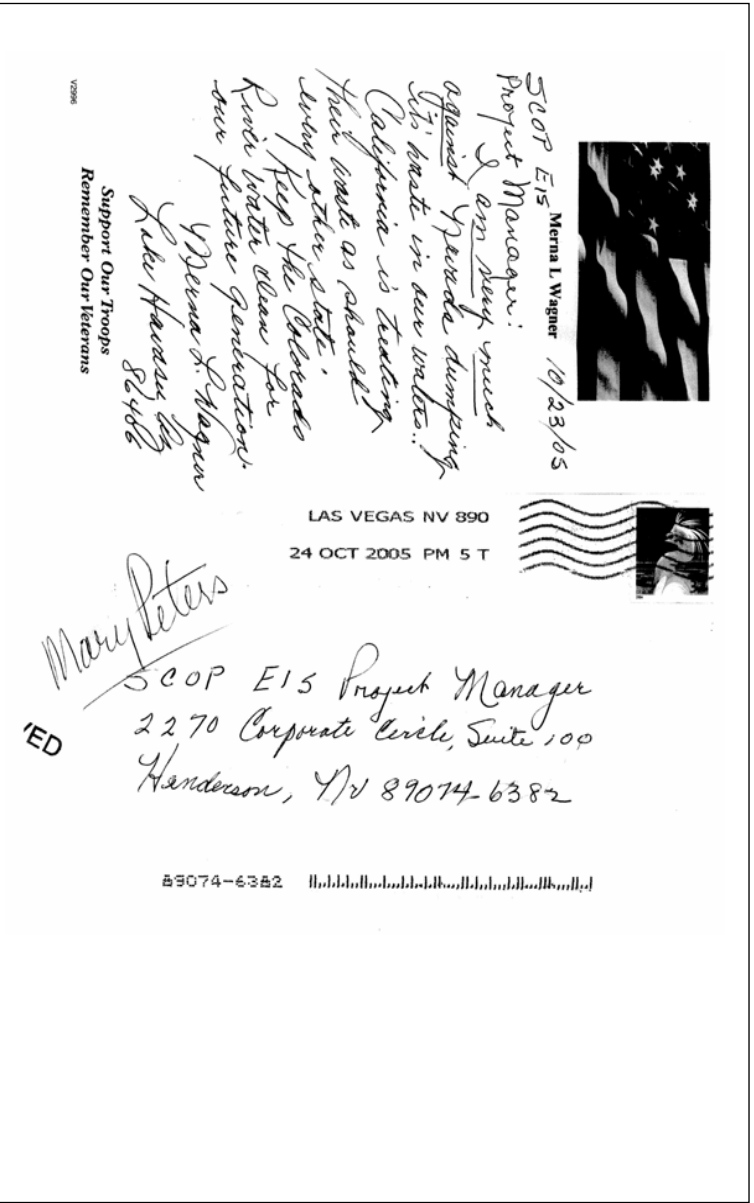
I7-1 THINK ABOUT OUR CHILDREN

THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE EVEN WHEN WE ARE GONE

Response I7 Jeanjcb2

I7-1

Comment noted.



Response I8 Merna L. Wagner

I8-1

The wastewater treatment facilities in the Valley are some of the best in the nation--the quality of treatment is in the top 7 percent of wastewater treatment facilities in the nation.

From: Bill McLeod [mailto:bmar@swiftwireless.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2005 2:40 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: treated water into Colorado River

I9-1 I am totally against the dumping of efluent into the Colorado River. We live in Lake Havasu City down river from Las Vegas and no one seems to know what effect this will have in the future. If it is so safe and acceptable why don't they just pipe it right into the Las Vegas water supply especially into all the new casinos.

Response I9 Bill McLeod

I9-1

Comment noted.

From: Robert Glenn San Socie [mailto:sansocie@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 11:56 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead

I10-1 If it's not drinkable it should not go into the lake.....

We have had a law on the books since the late 1800's that state that.....

Anyone want to enforce it?

Comment I-10

Response I10 Robert Glenn

I10-1

Treated wastewater from the Valley has been treated and discharged to Lake Mead via the Las Vegas Wash since 1956. Treated wastewater flows will continue to be discharged to Lake Mead, even under the No Action Alternative.

The following sentence has been added to Section 1.1: "Treated wastewater has been discharged to the Las Vegas Wash since 1956."

The CWA allows for discharges of municipal wastewater to surface waters, so long as they comply with stringent requirements. The CWA imposes minimum treatment requirements on all municipal treatment plants. It imposes additional requirements to make sure discharges into receiving waters do not exceed the natural assimilative capacity of those waters. For Lake Mead, the NDEP has imposed additional requirements for phosphorus and ammonia to protect Lake Mead. The plants operated by the COH, City of Las Vegas (CLV), and CCWRD meet these requirements and go beyond them to provide a very high level of treatment. In addition, lakes naturally assimilate discharges and provide natural purification and removal of many substances. These processes are similar in some ways to the natural treatment processes that take place when wastewater is spread on land and allowed to percolate through the soil, and be assimilated by beneficial microbes, before it passes into groundwater used as a source of drinking water. The entities simulate this process in part by filtering their wastewater through beds of sand and other materials, and by subjecting the wastewater to intense microbial treatment. The Lake provides additional natural assimilation.

From: Michael R. Davis [mailto:michael414162@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 12:04 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead

I11-1 I thought there was a law that they can not dump treated waste water directly into the drinking water supply that it had to go through the percolating ponds or fields so it could get its final filtering as it perks through the ground into the aquifers contact the sierra club to help and Greenpeace

Response I11 Michael R. Davis

I11-1

The Rivers & Harbors Act passed in 1899 authorized the USACE to issue permits regulating discharges of materials that might interfere with navigation. Since 1972 discharges of municipal wastewater have been regulated by the CWA, which authorizes EPA and State agencies to issue NPDES permits. The NDEP has been delegated authority to issue NPDES permits, and has issued permits to the COH, CLV, and CCWRD. These entities, which have been discharging treated wastewater to Las Vegas Wash since the 1950s, provide a very high level of wastewater treatment.

From: Steven.Taylor@SCE.com [mailto:Steven.Taylor@SCE.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 1:12 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: contamination

NO ABSOLUTELY NO WASTE WATER SHOULD BE DUMPED INTO ANY NATURAL WATER SHED .

I12-1 LAS VEGAS and others are dumping to much badly treated waste in to the water shed . You still have not cleaned up Las Vegas wash from years of polluting it and now you want to hide it by dumping it deeper and further out in to the lake . VERY BAD IDEA AND UNETHICAL . We know that it is a cheap way to get more water by returning badly treated waste to the lake .
You should have more common courtesy for your neighbors down stream .

Response I12 Steven Taylor

I12-1

The wastewater treatment facilities in the Valley are some of the best in the nation--the quality of treatment is in the top 7 percent of wastewater treatment facilities in the nation.

Treated wastewater from the Valley has been treated and discharged to Lake Mead via the Las Vegas Wash since 1956. Treated wastewater flows will continue to be discharged to Lake Mead, even under the No Action Alternative.

The following sentence has been added to Section 1.1: “Treated wastewater has been discharged to the Las Vegas Wash since 1956.”

From: Carol Mayer [mailto:mayerca@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 6:52 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Waste Water

I13-1 I am resident of Laguna Niguel, California and have a home in Lake Havasu, Arizona as well. I do not want waste water dumped in the Colorado River.

Mrs. Carol Mayer
27935 Loretha Lane
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
Phone 949 831-3295

Response I13 Carol Mayer

I13-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Carol Mayer [mailto:mayerca@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 8:08 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Waste Water

Supervisor Buster Johnson

I14-1 Please keep up your work against waste water being dumped in Lake Mead (Colorado River). We are downstream from Lake Mead and are totally against this for any reason. There are some areas that have growth limitations - limits on building until they have enough water. We also need limitations on building until we can figure out how to get rid of waste water safely.

Mrs. Mayer
375 London Bridge Rd. #24
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Phone 949 831-3295

Response I14 Carol Mayer (2)

I14-1

Comment noted.

From: mayerjg [mailto:mayerjg@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 7:32 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Effluent into Lake Mead

I15-1 I agree with Supervisor Johnston's reason on why effluent SHOULD NOT be dumped into Lake Mead.
There are thousands of square miles of desert for this effluent to percolate into that could be used at some future date to allow the Las Vegas are to expand.

DOWN RIVER RESIDENT

Response I15 MayerJG

I15-1

See response to comment I2-1.

From: jacquelyn [mailto:riverbrat@citlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 9:54 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: wastewater wishes

I16-1 I am a junior at River Valley high school, taking a Ecology class and I think that the treated wastewater should be used on parks, golf courses and residences. I know that there is still alot of wastewater left over but if we re-use the water we will still be getting rid of most of it. I don't know alot about what can or can't be done but maybe we could re-use half and than maybe dumping half. Thank you

Response I16 Jacquelyn

I16-1

See General Response 2.

From: Sam Gay [mailto:sgkc@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2005 11:18 PM
To: jripplinger@cleanwatercoalition.com
Cc: sgkc@frontier.net
Subject: my opinion on lake meid

I17-1 I think that dumping waste water into lake mede is a dangerous thing to do to the environment and the animals in it. I hope they decide not to dump anymore wastewater in to the lake because people, animals, and plants could get sick. There are other ways of disposing of wastewater so it doesnt effect the envoronment and that should be taken to full advantage. I hope my opinion has brought some sort of insight on the issue. thank you for your time and letting me e-mail my opinion.

Response I17 Sam Gay

I17-1

See response to comment L1-5.

To meet the purpose and need for this project, many alternatives were considered. However, as described in Section 2.6, most of these alternatives were eliminated from further consideration because they do not meet the purpose and need for the project or because they result in significant environmental impacts.

Official Response to draft SCOP EIS for the Clean Water Coalition re Lake Mead and Presentation to Bullhead City City Council 11/1/05

We, here on the Colorado River, will become the recipients of more disease, poisons and pollutant in the most pollution endangered river in the United States.

This is because Las Vegas, Henderson and others involved in the deceptively named Clean Water Coalition are planning on dumping partially treated sewer water from Las Vegas' three sewer plants by building pipelines directly into Lake Mead. They want to do this in exchange for credits from the Federal Government to obtain more clear water from the lake. I18-1

A lot goes into toilets besides human waste products. We, who are down river from Lake Mead, will be the recipients of the disease, poisons and toxins along with other Arizonians and Californians who are served by Colorado River water, especially Los Angeles, whose citizens have already gotten involved and said "No" to their local toilet to tap scheme which was then dropped very quickly.

Additionally, the experience from the Los Angeles basin and, especially, the Hyperion Sewage Plant prove that problems will arise and that raw, untreated sewage spills will occur. At Hyperion it goes into the ocean and has the whole ocean to dissipate into. However, any spills from Lake Mead have only the lake and down river to dissipate in. And that is where we are. I18-2

It is astounding that the Federal Government, which has spent billions of taxpayer dollars creating the great Colorado River water delivery system, would consider ruining it by allowing Las Vegas with all its casino visitors to dump their human liquid waste into a national treasure like Lake Mead. It's even more astounding that as many guests as they have and the astounding amount of money they take in, that those casinos are not being made to pay for the collection and elimination of their waste production in an environmentally safe method without putting it into the drinking water of those down river and are willing to foul a national treasure to profit. If the casinos and Las Vegas feel that pisswater is so safe, why don't they use it for their fountains and canals and leave our drinking water alone? I18-3

I am surprised that the Federal Government will allow the further pollution of Lake Mead and the Colorado River water delivery system. Ten or twenty years from now the Federal Government will find that there is significant pollution in the Colorado River water system and, of course as usual no one will be able to figure out where it comes from and why someone didn't try to stop it at the time. I18-4

Response I18 Martin Koppel

I18-1

See response to comment I12-1.

I18-2

See response to comment E1-6.

I18-3

The wastewater treatment facilities in the Valley are some of the best in the nation--the quality of treatment is in the top 7 percent of wastewater treatment facilities in the nation.

See General Response 2.

I18-4

See response to comment L1-5.

Both my wife and I have been elected members of the Board of Directors of a significant Los Angeles County water district. This plan will be presented as well-thought-out scientifically and environmentally safe. But past experience proves that what comes of these attempts to cheaply solve the sewage elimination by dumping it in clean water will lead to environmental nightmares, like the virus that could not be identified in the Huntington Beach ocean area or the Santa Monica Bay pollution that went on for many years. I18-5

The clock is already ticking on this plan. They have already held public input meetings, one in Kingman. We of the Mohave County area of the Colorado River need to respond quickly. There is no way that a plan which will affect the water quality going to so many people can adequately expect that a 60 day response period is adequate. Most people affected don't even know there is a December 7th deadline, let alone are ready to respond to it.

There are four alternatives, three for dumping directly into Lake Mead and one for no action. Las Vegas and Henderson sewage water is now dumped in the area of the Las Vegas Wash and does eventually reach Lake Mead by way of Las Vegas Bay. Now three of the plans would dump directly into Lake Mead with one alternative of no action which would continue dumping into Las Vegas Wash.

I would suggest supporting the no action alternative which means that the wastewater will continue to be put into the Las Vegas Wash rather than directly into Lake Mead. Response to the SCOP EIS needs to be made by December 7th. I support the No Action Alternative

Martin Koppel

Martin Koppel
P.O. Box 20181
Bullhead City, AZ 86439

928-704-4467

11/01/05

I18-5

Comment noted.

It is important to note that none of the alternatives for managing the increasing Valley treated wastewater is “cheap” for the residents of southern Nevada.

From: Bill Harton [mailto:mountaineerman@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2005 12:51 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Bad idea

I19-1 This is stupidity...Dumping into lake mead is a bad idea...fix the problem with 21st century ideas instead of always taking the easy way out.....which in most cases relates to " Follow the Money ". I hate to try to screw up ideas that benefit city growth and jobs and stuff like that but this in not going to fly.

Bill Harton
Lake Havasu City

Comment I-19

Response I19 Bill Harton

I19-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Stan Davis [mailto:standavis@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2005 12:03 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead Dumping

I20-1 It seems that once again money is the bottom line for such an action to take place. Since when our the problems of Las Vegas and Henderson becoming the problems for Arizona? They will profit from this action with more development and water flow credits at the expense of the citizens of Arizona. Developments will create a larger problem at which neither Las Vegas or Henderson have the answers.

Thank You.

Comment I-20

Response I20 Stan Davis

I20-1

Comment noted.

From: Jeanne Kentch [mailto:aquazerve@npgcable.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2005 9:36 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Las Vegas Effluent line

To whom it may concern,

I21-1 I am writing regarding Las Vegas's plan to dump treated effluent into the Colorado River. Although I understand clearly the theory of "dilution is the solution to pollution", I do not agree that 300,000 million gallons a day can be diluted enough, at their present form of treatment to not cause trouble down river. I live with my family on the edge of the Colorado River in Crystal Beach, Arizona, just north of Lake Havasu. I personally saw the river turn brown when Bullhead City(up river) had a huge sewer spill, about 6 years ago. Although I understand the need for centralized sewers, I do not agree with the treatment they provide. Ultimately sewers will fault,
I21-2 they will back up, they will spill. Just one of those upsets will seriously impact the communities and wildlife downstream from Las Vegas's effluent pipe.

Understanding Las Vegas's need to receive water credits, I implore you to require Las Vegas to do better treatment to their existing waste and provide extra protection when it comes to the quality of effluent they are sending down stream. There are treatments available that could guarantee a quality effluent "consistently" avoiding any mishaps or untreated spills. One such treatment is called Coroh. This treatment is from Brazil and has shown great promise with their effluent quality.
I21-3 There are other available treatments out there that can produce a guarantee of zero pollutants. The technology available now is simply amazing. The problem this country has is that the large cities are still working with outdated technology when it comes to treating waste.

Please consider the ramifications of this proposal. Please keep in mind the damage just one treatment upset will create. Although Las Vegas plans on treating their waste before disposing it down stream, there is always concerns, there is always failed equipment, there is
always the risk. If the risk is eliminated before it reaches the
river, many down stream can be assured of a clean river. Forcing Las Vegas to re-asses it's treatment can be the only environmentally safe position the city can take.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns, I sincerely hope you will do what is right for Vegas and those down stream.

Sincerely

Jeanne Kentch
Water conservation advocate for Mohave County, Arizona

Response I21 Jean Kentch

I21-1

Three-hundred mgd of highly treated effluent diluted in the Colorado River flow results in a 30:1 dilution (based upon 1999-2003 average Hoover Dam outflow rate of 9,100 mgd).

The wastewater treatment facilities in the Valley are some of the best in the nation--the quality of treatment is in the top 7 percent of wastewater treatment facilities in the nation.

The water quality modeling conducted for the SCOP Boulder Islands alternatives indicates that dilution is sufficient for meeting water quality standards in Lake Mead and the Lower Colorado River.

I21-2

See response to comment E1-6.

I21-3

See General Response 1.

The statement in the comment that “there are other available treatments out there that can produce a guarantee of zero pollutants” is incorrect. Many treatment processes produce byproducts that then need to be managed and disposed of properly. In some cases, the toxicology of these byproducts is unknown. Additionally, emerging compounds of concern have been identified, but because their toxicological properties are not yet known, it is incorrect to assume that there is a treatment process that will eliminate these compounds.

The engineers and wastewater treatment process specialists involved with SCOP are not familiar with the treatment technology noted in the comment. In addition, they are not aware of any installations using the technology in the U.S.

From: Bill Losasso [mailto:billlosasso77@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2005 3:16 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: enough is to much

I22-1 The dumping in Lake Mead is bad enough let alone sending more of your crap down stream for us to bath and have to drink. You can't gaurentee that we won't get sick from all of this. In my life time I have been lied to many times and I know on when I see one. Vegas has seen this coming for the last 15 to 20 years, now your in the panic mode so your trying the quick fix. The city and the Casion industrey needs to clean this up not mention all the Dell Webb types sraying constrction all over the area and makeing billions of dollars in the process. If you are getting to big then you need to look at the big picture. Be a good neighbor and do the wright thing. Clean up your own backyard, just don't throw your mess over the back fence. Bill , Ft. Mohave AZ.

Response I22 Bill Losasso

I22-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: STEVEN AHRENS [mailto:SFAhrens@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005 5:56 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: YOUR SEWAGE

A residents of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, along the Colorado River, we are adamantly opposed to your plan to dump your waste into Lake Mead. Being down river from your planned waste site, we am certain you can understand our concerns.

I23-1 Clean your own messes in your own communities and don't dump them on those of us down river.

Steve & Danielle Ahrens
Lake Havasu City, AZ

Comment I-23

Response I23 Steven Ahrens

I23-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Tom and Nan Nicoll [mailto:nicoll@citlink.net]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 7:05 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: "Wastwater Treatment"

I24-1 I am supporting the "no action" alternative regarding dumping effluent into the Las Vegas Wash. By no means damage our river water by changing the method whereby this effluent is being processed. This will ensure that our river water will be protected against from pollution.

Nan Nicoll
4096 South Cassidy Court
Fort Mohave AZ 86426

Response I24 Tom and Nan Nicoll

I24-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Richard & Peggy Ashmead [mailto:ashmead@rraz.net]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 12:31 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead dumping

I25-1 Clean Water Coalition, phooey. My husband and I are vehemently opposed to dumping anything "UNCLEAN" into our lakes or rivers. That goes for Las Vegas, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City, or any city. We are for the "no action" alternative. Please stop contaminating and polluting our drinking water, and find another way to get rid of your waste!!!

Richard and Peggy Ashmead
Bullhead City, AZ

Comment I-25

Response I25 Richard and Peggy Ashmead

I25-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Bill & Judy [mailto:bnjkendrick@mohaveaz.com]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 1:44 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Protecting our river

I26-1 With regard to the "no action" alternative - I totally support that. By no means should Las Vegas be able to discharge their effluent into the river that flows through our town. They have the money, let them figure out the problem...why don't developers or the City be responsible to figure that out, before all the building took place.

Judy and Bill Kendrick

Response I26 Bill and Judy Kendrick

I26-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Steve [mailto:smwebster@mohaveaz.com]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 4:23 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: RE: Lake Mead Plan

I27-1 We are Mohave Co. residents and we support the "no action" alternative. You should have to continue to provide the ground seperation and effluent prior to entering the Lake. S&L Webster

Comment I-27

Response I27 Steve Webster

I27-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Bob & Joal [mailto:jwmugsy@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2005 5:57 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead

I28-1 To whom it may concern, Recent articles in the Mojave Valley Daily News have prompted this response. As a resident of Bullhead City,Az.I feel it imperative that water flowing through my community be pure. I realize that in this present modern day and age we have treat our water to some degree but to deliberately contaminate it seems counter productive. I am especially upset that localities downstream of Lake Mead must endure water that is effected by the input of contaminates upstream. Environmental quality will surely be compromised by the deliberate input of the contaminants generated by the city of Las Vegas. W.R.Morrison jwmorris2004 @frontiernet.net

Response I28 Bob and Joal Morrison

I28-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Rusty [mailto:Russty@ctaz.com]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2005 6:09 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: waste water from las vegas

I29-1 I guess that I may be the only one to write to you about the plan for the las vegas area to dump treated waste water into the colorado river just above hover dam. Look, Lake mead is getting their waste water dumped into it but, they want to dump it close to the dam and I bet they want to do this to make sure that it is mixed with much more water so that the treatment costs will be reduced. Lake Mohave is one of the last place's that I will swim and fish, because it is still one of the cleanest waterways we have left in the country. They already dump the waste water that is treated into the river just below the davis dam from laughlins water treatment plant and you should smell the river when the water drop's. I mean it stinks, and toilet paper on the shore and a smell that will not stop until the river level comes up. Do you really want Lake Mohave to smell like a sewer? I don't and want you to support the no action alternative. I think Nevada should pay to clean up their mess without dumping it into the river on us in Arizona, one of the last clean areas with thousands of visitors every year to a clean lake. In the past few years I have seen the effects of just the waste water they have dumped and the mess it makes right now of the ecosystems in the lake, silt, brown foam on the shore and a really strange green film growing in the lake and on the shoreline. What should be done is to build large water holding ponds, and let the solids sink and let the hot desert evaperate the water and then cook the solids I29-2 until they are free from pathogens, and sell it for fertizler or some other use. Maybe it can be used as fuel for power, but this is their problem and they should deal with it and not dump it on us!!! I do not care how deep they dump it, it will still end up down here, along with the stuff they can't treat, or will not be able to keep out of our water supply. I live in Bullhead City AZ and my water is from a well that is near the river. The water is bad enough that they have to blend it just to keep it better than the EPA say's is ok to drink and I still have to buy water to drink. No thank you to more waste in the river and lake.

Rusty Coad
2426 Merrill Ave
Bullhead City, AZ.
86442

Comment I-29

Response I29 Rusty Coad

I29-1

See response to comment L1-5.

I29-2

See response to comment I2-1.

From: kris kidder [mailto:kidder_az@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2005 9:00 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: no action

I30-1 PLEASE don't let Las Vegas dump their effluent into Lake Mead. Those of us who live downriver in Lake Havasu love our community and don't want our health, or the health of future generations affected. NO ACTION

Response I30 Kris Kidder

I30-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Mac Young [mailto:Maczimb@citlink.net]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2005 11:40 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Las Vegas

I31-1 Las Vegas is reaping the rewards of a booming housing development. THEY MUST take care of the wastewater in a responsible manner. Polluting the Colorado River and the Lakes is NOT an option. Why not use it for public parks and golf courses. Patricia Young.

Comment I-31

Response I31 Patricia Young

I31-1

See response to comment L1-5.

See General Response 2.

From: Laura [mailto:panther57@npgcable.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2005 4:57 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Don't let Vegas pullute our water

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition of Las Vegas being allowed to dump their effluent into Lake Mead at Boulder Island.

I32-1 I therefore, support the "no action" alternative.

Submitted by,
Laura L. Smith
Lake Havasu City, AZ
928-855-9360

Response I32 Laura Smith

I32-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: wildflowerlhc1@webtv.net [mailto:wildflowerlhc1@webtv.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2005 9:03 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject:

I33-1 I am strongly opposed to having this partially treated effluent discharged into our river. I note that Las Vegas is careful to see that their drinking water is taken from above this. I will happily provide my name and address upon request and will do all I can to see that the effluent is properly cleansed before it enters Lake Mead.

Comment I-33

Response I33 Wildflowerlhc1

I33-1

Comment noted.

From: wcwpmw [mailto:wcwpmw@rraz.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2005 10:12 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Waste Water.

I34-1 | What a very bad idea dumping Las Vegas waste water in Lake Mead.

Bill and Pat Wallace
Lake Havasu AZ

Response I34 Bill and Pat Wallace

I34-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Sue [mailto:bvandme@uneedspeed.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2005 10:48 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: NO DUMPING IN LAKE MEAD

I35-1 I oppose vehemently the dumping of any effluent water from Las Vegas into Lake Mead. What more can I say!!!!!!!!

Bob Vessells
1770 Laramie Dr.
Lake Havasu City, AZ. 86404 928-854-2357

Response I35 Bob Vessels

I35-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Michael R. Davis [mailto:michael414162@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 2:03 AM
To: tom.sockwell@co.mohave.az.us
Cc: pete.byers@co.mohave.az.us; barbara.bracken@co.mohave.az.us; buster.johnson@co.mohave.az.us; eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead and the waste water

I36-1 If the waste water is dumped into the lake it will be picked up by the Dams turbines and passed down stream because this water is drawn from the deep depths not the shallow area so the waste water ill not get mixed up with the lake water it will stay together and get passed to us down stream the other States do not dump straight into the drinking water they dump it onto or into a spreading ground so it can
I36-2 percolate down into the aquifer this is the way nature filters the water they do not even pump it into wells unless the wells are not drinking water wells what they
I36-3 should do is us this water for irrigation or send it to the coal mine so they can use it for there slurry mixing or for cooling water at the power plants.

Comment I-35

Response I36 Michael R. Davis

I36-1

See response to comment E2-1.

I36-2

As described in Section 1.4.1, return flow credits are extremely important to southern Nevada. Therefore, any alternative that reduces or eliminates Nevada's ability to earn return flow credits, such as evaporation of wastewater, does not meet the purpose and need for the project and is not considered a reasonable alternative.

I36-3

See General Response 2.

From: bruce [mailto:brucylucy@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 8:48 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Las Vegas effluent in the Colorado

Dear Clean Water Coallition:

I37-1 Please do not allow Las Vegas to dump effluent into Lake Mead. As Buster Johnson quoted " let what happens in Vegas stay in Vegas"

H. Bruce Wallace
3810 Tahitian Dr.
Lake Havasu City, AZ
86406

Comment I-37

Response I37 H. Bruce Wallace

I37-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: John [mailto:jwscully@conectus.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 10:17 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Waste Water

I38-1 I don't want waste water dumped into Lake Mead, this is our family playground. I oppose this project!

John Scully

Response I38 John Scully

I38-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Edsigamay@aol.com [mailto:Edsigamay@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 10:40 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Stop this project!!! Las Vegas and Lake mead

I39-1 Las Vegas as some of you know is proposing a plan that will allow them to consruct a 7 mile pipeline that will end up in the middle of the lake for the purpose of dumping effluent waste water from the local sewer treatment plants. I strongly oppose this project and do not want waste water dumped into our water supply.

Comment I-39

Response I39 Edsigamay

I39-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Dan H. [mailto:danyz125@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2005 11:53 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead

I40-1 I am writing to ask to you to not install the pipeline that will dump treated waste water in Lake Mead. I have been going there for 30 years because of the beauty and quality of water. I am a third generation "Lake Meader". I have 5 younger siblings and we all plan to bring our children to Mead like our parents and grandparents have. However, if the quality of the water is compromised, we will not return. I currently spend 12-15 weekends a year at Lake Mead and spend a substantial amount of money in your county. Please consider what impact myself and others not coming will do to your economy, but more importantly, what impact this will have on our delicate environment. Thank you.

Dan Hernandez

Comment I-40

Response I40 Dan Hernandez

I40-1

See response to comment L1-5.

From: Gary Hoskins [mailto:hoskins@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2005 11:56 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Lake Mead Plan

I41-1 I would like to add my thoughts I have a home on the river just 2 miles down from where Laughlin returns their waste water after the effluent has been removed. I can say that over the years the water has had a effect on the fishing. The water is not as clear or clean as it was before that process started. When I tell people out on the river what type of water they are swimming in they sometimes gag. Just that thought. I agree Las Vegas is a money empire and they should solve their problems without
I41-2 effecting the folks down river from them. Bullhead City and Mohave County and our local Indian tribes should be all over this process and use their power to get this action stopped. Thanks Gary Hoskins (hoskins@earthlink.net)

Response I41 Gary Hoskins

I41-1

Comment noted.

I41-2

Comment noted.

From: C & D Tweedy [mailto:cndtweedy@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 25, 2005 12:05 PM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: Dumping sewer water

I42-1 We have a house in Parker and our kids ourselves, friends and family swim in this water everyday, this is outrageous and extremely dangerous.

Cecilia & Dean Tweedy

Response I42 Cecelia and Dean Tweedy

I42-1

Comment noted.

From: Peggy Sheppard [mailto:ptpegcruiser@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2005 10:22 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject: water polluting by las vegas

I43-1 I support the "no action" alternative, which means it will continue to provide the ground separation and cleansing of the effluent prior to entering Lake Mead.
Joseph Sheppard, Lake Havasu City

Response I43 Peggy Sheppard

I43-1

See response to comment L1-5.

RESPONSE TO SCOP EIS BY CLEAN WATER COALITION

I am the former president of a Board of Directors of a water district located in Los Angeles County. As such, I dealt with water quality issues many times.

Out of the 835 pages of the EIS, there is one sentence that represents the core purpose for the need for this project. The need stated is - "Addressing public perception issues regarding water intake in relation to wastewater discharge location."

A map of Lake Mead area indicates that the effluent from the Las Vegas Wash enters Lake Mead at Las Vegas Bay. Shortly down flow is where Las Vegas picks up its drinking water near Saddle Island. This process allows the effluent to affect drinking water and that in turn affects public perception.

So the Coalition's Citizen's Advisory Committee recommends the alternative option of building the pipeline to Boulder Island which is just before the dam and as far away from their drinking water intake as they can get. And it will go most immediately through the dam and down river to Bullhead City and all points downriver like Needles, Lake Havasu and Parker and finally to LA as part of their drinking water.

I44-1 Once they move the effluent pipeline away from their drinking water intake to the dam and into the river, they will have even less incentive to successfully clean the effluent than they do now. In essence, they are just moving their pollution problem down flow so it will become the problem of cities along the river and those who use Colorado River water for drinking and recreation.

I44-2 Then the economic responsibility as well as the public perception issue will belong to those of us who live down river. More importantly, Las Vegas has the money, rather than the communities down river, to solve this problem before it becomes a problem beyond our resources to fix.

I44-3 It is very clear that the only acceptable alternative is "no action". The current method of dumping into Las Vegas Wash provides a certain amount of ground separation and cleansing by percolation. This fact is apparent when you consider that the Coalition hopes to gain more drinking water credits with the pipeline alternative. Obviously, a lot of the effluent going into Las Vegas Wash percolates through the ground and is not going directly into the Lake

Response I44 Eleanor Koppel

I44-1

Treated wastewater from the Valley has been treated and discharged to Lake Mead via the Las Vegas Wash since 1956. The wastewater treatment facilities in the Valley are some of the best in the nation--the quality of treatment is in the top 7 percent of wastewater treatment facilities in the nation.

Treated effluent discharged into Lake Mead must meet water quality standards and the requirements of the NPDES discharge permits that are issued by NDEP.

I44-2

The CWC and lead federal agencies have invested a lot of time and money to determine the best possible action that meets the purpose and need for the project. Water quality modeling indicates that discharge in the vicinity of the Boulder Islands would not increase nutrient loadings through Hoover Dam. The modeling results are described further in Section 4.1 of the Final EIS.

I44-3

Treated wastewater from the Valley has been treated and discharged to Lake Mead via the Las Vegas Wash since 1956. Treated wastewater flows will continue to be discharged to Lake Mead, even under the No Action Alternative.

The following sentence has been added to Section 1.1: “Treated wastewater has been discharged to the Las Vegas Wash since 1956.”

The return flow credits earned by discharging treated effluent into the Colorado River system would be the same whether the effluent is discharged to the Las Vegas Wash or transported in a pipeline to an alternate location in Lake Mead.

The commenter’s statement that “a lot of the effluent going into Las Vegas Wash percolates through the ground and is not going directly into the Lake” is incorrect. Water in the Las Vegas Wash does not percolate into the ground.

The pipeline direct into the Lake may be the cheaper solution for now. But in the future, the pollution in Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and the Colorado River will cost an unimaginable fortune in reparation and lost tourist recreation dollars. It is vitally necessary for Las Vegas, using their vast resources, to clean up their effluent problem at the Las Vegas Wash before it detrimentally affects the Lake and the river. I44-4

The only way to be sure they will actually keep the effluent within prescribed parameters is by making them continue to use it for their drinking water. If they had done the right thing with the Las Vegas Wash, they would not be seeking an alternative now. This is what they need to fix.

If Las Vegas population is to continue to grow, then they need to seriously undertake the planning and expense to realistically, reasonably deal with their sewer elimination process and with their drinking water supply. As members of a water district board we had to be sure we had an adequate supply before we would issue a will-serve letter to a new development. All of Clark County needs to deal with this issue.

Since this EIS received little attention in our newspapers or radio news prior to recent City Council and Board of Supervisor meetings, I don't expect 60 days will be sufficient for many citizens to understand the situation and put in a response. Therefore, I would ask for an extension of time to respond. I44-5

As for me, I strongly support the "no action" alternative.

Eleanor Koppel
P.O. Box 20181
Bullhead City, AZ 86439

928-704-4467

I44-4

Comment noted.

I44-5

Comment noted.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SEWAGE IN LasVegas. DON'T SEND IT DOWN THE RIVER TO POLLUTE OUR DRINKING WATER.

WE DON'T WANT TO DRINK OR BATHE IN WATER FROM YOUR TOILETS.

Thank you,

Gordon Atteberry
LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ

Response I45 Gordon Atteberry

I45-1

Comment noted.

From: maryhelen4@aol.com [mailto:maryhelen4@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2005 10:48 AM
To: eis@cleanwatercoalition.com
Subject:

I46-1 As a resident of Lake Havasu City, I support any action that will prevent Las Vegas from compromising the water quality of Lake Havasu. We depend on clean water for our very existence. Any pollution of our lake will turn our little gem of a city into a wasteland.

Please do all you can to prevent this pollution.
Mary Helen Hollensbe

Response I46 Mary Helen Hollensbe

I46-1

Comment noted.