



THE CURRENT

Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan Overview

For more than a year, nine study teams comprising the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) have convened each month to address issues relating to the Las Vegas Wash.

Although each of the teams focused on its respective area of expertise, all teams shared the common goal of developing the first Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan (LVWCAMP). Among other things, this accomplishment involved honing in on specific areas of concern relating to technical, administrative and policy-oriented issues affecting the wash.



“After many months of hard work, the 28-member committee has succeeded in solidifying the document that we believe will serve as a guide to successfully managing and improving the Las Vegas Wash,” said LVWCC Project Manager Kim Zikmund. “Our next step is to present our findings at public workshops. These workshops will provide a vehicle for additional community feedback.”

The LVWCAMP focuses on the following topics as they pertain to the Las Vegas Wash:

- shallow groundwater
- erosion and stormwater
- Clark County Wetlands Park
- alternate discharge
- environmental resources
- land use
- jurisdictional and regulatory compliance
- public outreach
- funding

As a collaborative management process, the committee succeeded in bringing together a diverse group of technical experts and decision-makers and uniting them for the purpose of developing the management plan.

The plan was developed following an extensive information gathering process. After obtaining information from regional experts, using data surveys and identifying existing programs and responsibilities, each study team formulated a set of objectives, goals and recommendations needed to create the management plan for the wash. Timelines and resource requirements were also established to help expedite implementation of the plan. The final document will serve as a focal point for organizing, prioritizing and tracking the many initiatives related to the wash.



See Management Plan Overview on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan Overviews	1
Public Workshops Set For LVWCAMP	2
Local Web Site Provides Valuable Water Quality Information	3
Workshop Schedule	4
Wash Facts	4

Public Workshops Set For LVWCAMP

After months of concerted research and planning efforts, the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) has completed the draft of the Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan (LVWCAMP). The committee will host several public workshops to share findings and discuss options pertaining to the plan.

The LVWCC is a direct result of public participation, being formed in 1998 from the recommendations of the Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee, which suggested a stakeholder group be brought together to develop a management plan for the Las Vegas Wash.

The 28-member committee includes local, state and federal agencies as well as local residents, business leaders and environmental group leaders.

“We believe encouraging public participation is one of our primary responsibilities in developing a plan that reflects the best interests of the entire community,” said LVWCC Project Manager Kim Zikmund. “Now that the committee has completed the blueprint for managing wash issues, we intend to share its findings with the community through these public workshops.”

The many complex issues affecting the Las Vegas Wash that have guided the development of the LVWCAMP, including erosion, wetlands and land use, will be discussed in each of the five scheduled public workshops.



Las Vegas Wash

Coordination
Committee



The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee includes representatives from:

- City of Henderson
- City of Las Vegas
- City of North Las Vegas
- Clark County Sanitation District
- Clark County Health District
- Clark County Comprehensive Planning
- Clark County Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Clark Co. Regional Flood Control District
- Conservation District of Southern Nevada
- Southern Nevada Water Authority
- Basic Management Inc.
- Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee
- Lake Las Vegas
- Las Vegas Bay Marina
- Friends of the Desert Wetlands
- University of Nevada Las Vegas
- Nevada Division of Wildlife
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- Nevada State Health Division
- Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services
- Colorado River Commission
- National Park Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Corps of Engineers
- U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

See Public
Workshop
Schedule on
Page 4

Local Web site provides valuable water quality information

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) recently launched a new Web site designed to increase water quality awareness among southern Nevada residents. The new site, www.lvwaterquality.org, focuses primarily on the quality of water in Lake Mead, which provides more than 85 percent of the valley's drinking water.

"The Web site was created primarily to make the scientific facts about our water even more accessible to southern Nevada residents," said Kim Zikmund, LVWCC project manager.

Zikmund said the Web site will allow the public to access current data being gathered by various agencies that provide insights into the complex nature of Lake Mead.

"There are a number of factors that can affect Lake Mead's water quality and a number of agencies that monitor these factors," said Zikmund. "It certainly will help to be able to utilize the Internet to make the data more readily available."

The site consists of two sections. The first, www.lvwaterquality.org/agency, was designed as an input and research tool for water quality professionals. The second, www.lvwaterquality.org, was designed as an educational site for the general public. Access to the professional portion of the site requires a password, which can be obtained by contacting the site administrator at 892-3882.

The site features information regarding federal drinking water standards established through the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as an explanation of the Clean Water Act, which sets federal quality standards for lakes and other recreational surface water bodies. In addition to information regarding federal water quality regulations, www.lvwaterquality.org includes links to various sites that contain more detailed information.

"This is the type of information that all residents should know about the valley's primary water source," said Zikmund.

According to Zikmund, many residents don't realize that, since clean source water is the key to good drinking water, southern Nevada enjoys some of the highest quality municipal drinking water in the country. Approximately 97 percent of Lake Mead's water begins as snowmelt in the Rocky Mountains.

The LVWCC formed in September 1998 after a citizens' panel studying regional water quality issues recommended that the Southern Nevada Water Authority oversee the creation of a comprehensive management program for the Las Vegas Wash.

Since many of the region's water quality questions stem from the potential effects of Las Vegas Wash flows on Lake Mead, the LVWCC designed www.lvwaterquality.org to provide all necessary facts about any existing influences on Lake Mead.

Zikmund said public input is encouraged, and she hopes the Web site will serve as a valuable avenue for feedback from both water quality professionals and residents.

Visit the Water Quality
Web site at
www.lvwaterquality.org

Management Plan Overview from page 1

In developing the draft management plan, the coordination committee ensured the content was both flexible and dynamic, allowing for future revision as needed in accord with changing conditions at the wash. The flexible nature of the document allows for updates approximately every two years or whenever deemed necessary without adversely impacting the integrity of the plan.

Public Workshops Schedule:

Tuesday, November 9

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

North Las Vegas Library

Wednesday, November 10

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Cashman Center - Room 204

Tuesday, November 16

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boulder City – Boulder Dam Hotel Conf. Room

Wednesday, November 17

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Clark County Heritage Museum

Thursday, November 18

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Henderson Convention Center

WASH FACTS

Flows from the Las Vegas Wash account for only 1.5 percent of Lake Mead's water.

The Las Vegas Wash is the only major drainage channel for the entire 1,600-square-mile Las Vegas Valley.

The wetlands surrounding the wash, which serve as a habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, have declined nearly 90 percent since the 1970s.

An average of 153 million gallons of water per day flow through the Las Vegas Wash into Lake Mead. Reclamation facility outflows are filtered and treated to federal Clean Water Act standards before being released into the Las Vegas Wash.

Las Vegas Wash

Coordination
Committee

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For more information, visit our website at www.lvwash.org or call the project office at 892-3800.

LWVCC meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m.