



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West
Regional Office
Oakland

1111 Jackson Street
Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607
510-817-1300 phone
510-419-0197 fax

PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE Memorandum

L7617 (PWRO-P)

SEP 26 2007

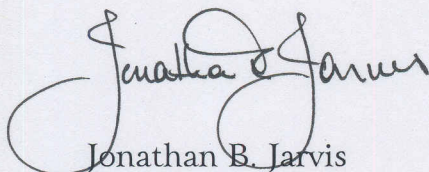
Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

From: Regional Director, Pacific West Region

Subject: Environmental Compliance for Constructing a Boat Repair Facility in
the Boulder Beach Area

The finalized *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FONSI) for constructing a facility dedicated to operations necessary for boat repairs and maintenance of navigational aids is approved.



Jonathan B. Jarvis

Attachment

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A GOVERNMENT BOATING REPAIR FACILITY AND AIDS TO NAVIGATION COMPLEX

September 2007

Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Nevada/Arizona

INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that evaluates the environmental impact of constructing a government boating repair facility and aids to navigation complex, within the Boulder Beach developed area of Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA). The EA analyzed the no action alternative and two action alternatives.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The primary purpose of this project is to enhance the safety of visitors and park personnel by providing a safe work environment for park staff to accomplish daily maintenance on navigational aids to ensure safe navigation for all boaters on lakes Mead and Mohave. At maximum build-out, the facility would include an extensive storage facility for vessels and aids to navigation equipment, dive shop, area for conducting routine boat maintenance and minor repairs, covered boat storage area, boat wash-down area, storage space for the Motor Boat Operators Training Course materials and equipment, and limited office space. Consideration of these areas would ultimately make for a more efficient operation. The facility would also provide a centralized location, in close proximity to Lake Mead, where search and rescue efforts could be planned and implemented.

The existing facility at the Boulder Beach maintenance yard is shared by both the Maintenance Division and the Aids to Navigation (ATON) team. The facility is a small open-bay shop with a small office/storage area attached. There is no controlled environment for working on the multitude of projects related to boat repair and navigational aids maintenance. Job activities performed by the ATON team, including welding, fiberglass repair, anchor system fabrication, boat repair work, and general boat maintenance must all be accomplished outdoors in sometimes adverse weather conditions, such as extreme summer heat. The existing facility does not provide adequate space to perform minor boat repairs or maintenance of navigational aids. Navigational devices, buoys, light systems, and reef markers are currently stored in old trailer house structures scattered around the compound.

SELECTED ACTION

The selected action is Alternative C, which was identified and analyzed as the preferred alternative in the EA. This course of action is the same as presented in the EA. The EA analyzed impacts associated with the desired overall build-out of a 7,200 sq. ft. boating repair facility and aids to navigation complex with 7,200 sq. ft. of awning on both sides of the building. Under the selected action, the project will be completed in phases and the overall build-out will be dependent on funding. The complex will be constructed at the site of the obsolete water treatment plant within the existing maintenance area at Boulder Beach.

Boating Repair Complex and Aids to Navigation Facility

Phase One

Phase One of the project will include site preparation, installation of utilities, and construction of a 3,400 sq. ft. building with 1,600 sq. ft. awning at the water treatment plant site near the Boulder Beach maintenance area. The NPS will design and construct the facility to meet the Silver Level of the LEED Green Building Rating System. The metal structure will be 85 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 20-25 feet tall. A 20 by 40 foot awning will be installed on both sides of the building to provide covered but unsecured work space. The awning would also help to provide climate control protection by reducing the amount of direct sunlight penetrating the sides of the building. The facility will include one drive-thru service bay (with another bay prepped for future overhead doors), accessed by two 14 by 14 foot motorized overhead doors, and one work/loading bay. A mezzanine level could be constructed to include office space and visual observation of the lake's condition. The building will provide work space primarily for the ATON team and potentially the NPS Dive Team. Adequate space for boat repair and protected storage for new and rehabilitated buoys will be provided.

Phase Two- Maximum Build-out

The maximum build-out of the facility would add an additional 4,000 sq. ft. to the building and 5,200 sq. ft. awning, resulting in a 7,200 sq. ft. building with 7,200 sq. ft. awning. The metal structure would be 180 feet long, 40 feet wide, with 3,200 sq. ft. awning on both sides. The building would have a total of five pull through work bays and a double traversing 3-ton crane that could travel over three work bays. A mezzanine level could be constructed to include office space and visual observation of the lake's condition. In addition to providing adequate space for aids to navigation and NPS dive operations, the additional space would be sufficient to incorporate the needs of park staff and other agencies.

The complex would be comprised of the following elements: an ATON shop, NPS Dive Team shop, covered boat storage area, boat wash-down area, storage facility for the Motor Boat Operators Training Course training materials and equipment; area for boat maintenance and minor repairs, extensive storage facility for vessels and equipment, and limited office space.

Grounds Layout and Utilities

The existing water treatment plant that currently occupies this location is scheduled for demolition and removal in 2007. The water treatment plant was constructed in the mid-1960s and was shut down in the mid-1990s due to plant failure. As a result, Lake Mead NRA connected to the Boulder City waterline. This location has sufficient utilities available on-site, including electrical, water, and phone. A short segment will be trenched to access the sewage line at the adjacent Boulder Beach Fire House. Low level lighting facing inward to the compound, may be installed to aid in securing the compound.

Energy Use, Green Architecture, and Sustainability

The NPS will design and construct the facility to meet the Silver Level of the LEED Green Building Rating System. Photovoltaic solar power will be installed. Natural lighting will be included in the building design. The awning will help provide climate control protection by reducing the amount of direct sunlight penetrating the sides of the building. In addition, vegetation planted along the perimeter of the compound will reduce the amount of sun penetrating the compound, thus reducing cooling needs.

Parking and Road Access to Project Area

The project area is approximately two acres, including the one-acre site of the abandoned water treatment plant, and is accessed from the Boulder Beach maintenance yard. A short gravel road parallels the tiered area of the maintenance yard and leads to the project site. Site preparation will include grading and paving the access road and project site. The site will encompass the abandoned water treatment facility area and the third tier of the maintenance yard. This area will provide the

needed space for vehicle flow and storage. Fire hydrants may be installed at the access point and would provide water for fire and medical needs. Depending upon the design of the building, the following components may be needed: a retaining wall to provide stability and to reduce erosion factors; and, a catch basin to capture debris and sediment and to remove oil and grease from run-off. In addition, a flammable storage locker, covered boat storage, and a boat wash-down area may be sited within the enclosed area of the compound.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The EA evaluated three alternatives in detail for addressing the purpose and need for action: Alternative A (no action), Alternative B (Construct Government Boating Repair Facility and Aids to Navigation Complex at the Old Boulder Beach Horse Corral Site), and Alternative C (the preferred alternative and selected action described above).

Alternative A- No Action Alternative: Under Alternative A, a separate building for boating repairs and aids to navigation operations would not be established. All aids to navigation activities, boating repairs, and storage would remain at the existing Boulder Beach maintenance facility and yard. The Boulder Beach maintenance yard is 4.1 acres, consists of four levels, and is enclosed by a chain-link fence. The dual-purpose maintenance/aids to navigation building is located on the first level of the compound. This level is paved and provides some parking and a limited amount of storage space. The existing building is 7,500 sq. feet and consists of a small open-bay shop with a small office/storage area attached where activities performed by maintenance and ATON personnel take place. There is no controlled environment available for personnel performing these tasks. The second level of the Boulder Beach maintenance yard is currently being used for storage of maintenance equipment and materials; the third level is used for storage of navigational aid equipment and materials; and, the fourth level is used for storage of miscellaneous materials and equipment belonging to the Ranger Division, Volunteers in Parks, Maintenance Division, and the ATON team. An obsolete water treatment plant is adjacent to the Boulder Beach maintenance yard and is scheduled for demolition in 2007.

Alternative B- Construct Government Boating Repair Facility and Aids to Navigation Complex at the Old Boulder Beach Horse Corral Site: The project components of Alternative B are identical to the project components described in the selected action. The only difference in the alternatives is the location where the action would occur. Under Alternative B, the complex would be constructed at the old Boulder Beach horse corral site, and the only dissimilarity with the selected action results in the description of Grounds Layout and Utilities and Parking and Road Access to the Complex. Refer to the Selected Action (Alternative C) for a description of phase one and two of constructing the boating repair complex and aids to navigation facility.

Grounds Layout and Utilities

The old Boulder Beach horse corral site is an unpaved area, approximately 2.8 acres, and is enclosed by a chain-link wire fence. A horse corral was built at the site in the 1970s and sheltered horses used for ranger patrols. Today this area functions as a storage area for maintenance and navigational aids equipment, and also as a repository for deteriorated and outdated maintenance equipment.

The 2.8 acres within the fenced enclosure would be graded and paved to provide a level surface. One side of the fence could be extended up to 30 feet beyond the current location onto a previously disturbed area to ensure no project component is sited beneath the overhead utility line. Depending upon the design of the building, the following components may be needed: a retaining wall to provide stability and to reduce erosion factors; a catch basin to capture debris and sediment and to remove oil and grease

from run-off. In addition, a flammable storage locker, covered boat storage, and a boat wash-down area may be sited within the enclosed area of the compound.

Utilities are not available on-site. Water would be made available following the water/wastewater treatment project that is currently underway in the park. Access to power, sewer, and phone are in the vicinity but could require a great deal of trenching along disturbed corridors. Upgrades to the utilities may be needed. Low level lighting facing inward to the compound, could be installed to aid in securing the compound.

Parking and Road Access to Complex

There are currently two unpaved access roads leading to the Boulder Beach horse corral site. These access roads would be graded and paved, resulting in an additional 1.4 acres of permanently altered soils. Fire hydrants would be located at each access point and would provide water for fire and medical needs. A small paved parking area would be located outside of the secured compound for park employees and other agency personnel.

Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

Management policy recommends evaluating options occurring outside of parklands to reduce development of park property. An alternative to construct a facility outside the park on adjacent land was considered but dismissed. There is limited property available adjacent to the recreation area, and the high cost of the available property makes this option economically unfeasible. One of the goals of the boating repair facility and aids to navigation complex is to provide a centralized location where park and other agency personnel can repair and maintain vessels in close proximity to Government Dock, which harbors these boats. This alternative does not coincide with the goals of this project and was therefore dismissed.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The environmentally preferred alternative is the alternative that will promote NEPA, as expressed in Section 101 of NEPA. This alternative will satisfy the following requirements:

- Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- Assure for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable or unintended consequences;
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and,
- Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The Council on Environmental Quality states that the environmentally preferable alternative is “the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (46 FR 18026 – 46 FR 18038).” According to NPS NEPA Handbook (DO-12), through identification of the environmentally preferred alternative, the NPS decision-makers and the public are clearly faced with the relative merits of choices and must clearly state through the decision-making process the values and policies used in reaching final decisions.

Alternative C is the environmentally preferable alternative because overall it would best meet the requirements in Section 101 of NEPA. Alternative C more fully realizes NEPA criteria two, three, and five. The purpose and design of the facility described in alternatives B and C is the same; the only difference is its location. Both alternatives B and C include construction of a facility that would provide adequate space for the proper storage of navigational aids, and space for boating repairs that would assure for all generations a safe and healthful environment. Both action alternatives would achieve a balance between population and resource use, and permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life’s amenities. Alternative C would best attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable or unintended consequences because it would utilize a previously disturbed area with utilities existing on-site that are needed for operating the facility. Alternative B would entail more extensive trenching to access utilities, and would therefore create more disturbance and be more costly.

Under the No Action Alternative, a facility dedicated to maintaining navigational aids on lakes Mead and Mohave would not be established to ensure the timely maintenance of navigational aids and prompt repairs to vessels performing these operations. This alternative does not fully realize NEPA criteria two, three, and five because it does not assure for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings; it does not attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment; and, it does not achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life’s amenities.

MEASURES TO MINIMIZE OR AVOID ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

Throughout the planning process, mitigation measures were identified and have been incorporated into the selected action (Alternative C- Preferred Alternative) to reduce impacts below a significant level. All mitigation measures which are incorporated in the selected alternative are summarized in the matrix below.

MITIGATION TOPIC	MITIGATION MEASURES	RESPONSIBILITY
Natural Resources- Soils and Vegetation	To the extent practicable, disturbed sites will be revegetated with native plant materials (e.g. native seeds, transplanted native vegetation) salvaged from the areas impacted by construction. Native vegetation may be planted around the perimeter of the compound.	Contractor; NPS Vegetation Branch
	To guide restoration efforts, the NPS will follow procedures outlined in the vegetation management plan including procedures for collecting and propagating native species, salvaging topsoil, site grading, and soil preparation, erosion control, vegetation re-establishment, and post-construction monitoring.	NPS Vegetation Branch; Contractor

	All equipment and materials entering the park will be cleaned and/or sterilized before entering into the park to reduce the potential for the spread of non-native species.	Contractor
Natural Resources- Threatened and Endangered Species- <i>Desert Tortoise</i>	All personnel working on the project will be informed about tortoise issues and will receive desert tortoise training from a qualified biologist.	NPS Resource Manager
	A litter program will be strictly enforced to avoid attracting ravens and other opportunistic predators to the project area.	Contractor
	On the project site, vehicles will not exceed speeds of 15 miles per hour.	Contractor
	A qualified biologist will survey the area for tortoises and tortoise sign prior to the commencement of work. If any tortoises are found during the survey, or during the construction process, the NPS will immediately cease operations and initiate formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).	NPS Resource Manager
Natural Resources- Air Quality	Dust control measures will be implemented to minimize the impacts to air quality associated with ground disturbance and construction activities.	Contractor
	All necessary and reasonable measures will be taken to reduce air pollution, including wetting down dry materials during earth-disturbing activities, utilizing or removing excavated materials as soon as possible, and keeping the project neat, orderly, and in a safe condition at all times.	
	Low-sulfur fuel will be used when available.	
Natural Resources- Water Resources	Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution and minimize soil loss and sedimentation. Erosion control measures will be implemented to minimize impacts to water quality.	Contractor
Cultural Resources	If cultural resources are discovered, work activities will stop and the NPS Archeologist will be notified immediately. The NPS will consult with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as required by 36 CFR 800.	Contractor; NPS Archeologist
Visual Resources	The facility will be constructed in accordance with NPS standards to blend into the surrounding environment.	NPS; Contractor
	Native vegetation may be planted around the perimeter of the compound to provide a protective buffer and visual screen from those traveling on Lakeshore Road.	NPS Vegetation Branch; Contractor
Safety	All appropriate OSHA codes will be met to promote worker safety and operational efficiency.	Contractor

Why the Selected Action Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Human Environment

The NPS used the NEPA criteria to evaluate whether the selected action would have a significant impact on the environment.

NEPA Criteria	Selected Action
Impacts that may have both beneficial and adverse aspects and which on balance may be beneficial, but that may still have significant adverse impacts which require analysis in an EIS.	<p>None of the impacts associated with this project reach a level of significance and do not require analysis in an EIS. Major, long-term, beneficial effects to park operations would result from providing a centralized location near the lake to repair boats, maintain and store navigational devices, and store dive equipment; resulting in quick and efficient response by park staff concerning navigational and watercraft needs.</p> <p>Major, long-term, beneficial effects to safety, visitor use and experience would result. All users of the waterway system would benefit from the timely maintenance and prompt incident response resulting from safe and reliable equipment, vessels, and aids to navigation.</p> <p>The project site is a small, previously disturbed area within the existing maintenance/aids to navigation compound. Construction activities would have minor, adverse, long-term impacts to soils and vegetation.</p> <p>Construction could permanently displace or potentially injure or kill the few animals that cannot move away from construction activities. Minor, adverse, long-term impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat would occur from a loss of a small portion of low quality habitat within the development zone.</p> <p>Approximately two acres, all of which have been previously disturbed, would be paved. The area is low quality habitat, and no tortoises exist within the fenced enclosure where the facility would be constructed. The action <i>is not likely to adversely affect</i> the desert tortoise.</p> <p>Construction activities would create minor, adverse, temporary impacts on localized air quality.</p> <p>The action could result in potentially minor, adverse, long-term impacts on water resources from construction and establishment of the facility.</p> <p>Minor, localized, and temporary increases in noise would occur during the construction period.</p> <p>The project would have a minor, adverse, long-term impact on cultural resources. For purposes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), there would be no adverse effect.</p> <p>Paving and construction of a new facility in the place of an existing, defunct water treatment plant would result in a minor, adverse, long-term impact on the visual resource. Long-term, minor, beneficial effects would result from reorganizing both the Boulder Beach maintenance</p>

	yard, and eliminating outdated and deteriorated equipment and materials at the defunct water treatment plant site.
The degree to which public health and safety are affected.	Major, long-term, beneficial effects to safety, visitor use and experience, and park operations would result from establishment of a government boating repair facility and aids to navigation complex. Providing a facility where timely repairs and maintenance to boating equipment would benefit the public because safe and reliable watercraft would be available to park staff, ensuring quick medical and incident response. Timely placement of navigational aids would have major, beneficial effects on the safety of all users of the waterway system. The proposed facility would provide a centralized location near Lake Mead where the NPS Search and Rescue Dive Team could meet and quickly deploy to assist in lake incidents.
Any unique characteristics of the area.	The following resources do not occur in the project area: designated ecologically significant or critical areas, wilderness, floodplains, wild or scenic rivers, designated coastal zones; Indian Trust Resources, prime and unique agricultural lands; grazing; sites on the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Registry of Natural Landmarks; principal drinking water aquifers; land use plans; energy requirements and conservation potential; or minority or low-income populations.
The degree to which the impacts are likely to be highly controversial.	There were no highly controversial effects identified during preparation of the environmental assessment, agency consultation, or the public review period. Two comments were received during the public review period. Comments were received from the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada SHPO. Both agencies support the selected action as written in the EA.
The degree to which the potential impacts are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.	<p>There were no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks identified during the preparation of the environmental assessment, agency consultation, or the public review period. Generally, the potential impacts are well defined and analyzed in the EA.</p> <p>Ground disturbing activities present the possibility of unearthing cultural resources. If cultural resources are discovered, the NPS Archeologist will be notified promptly and the NPS will consult with the Nevada SHPO as required by 36 CFR 800.</p>
Whether the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.	No significant adverse impacts were identified during preparation of the environmental assessment. Implementation of the selected action neither establishes a NPS precedent for future actions with significant effects, nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Whether the action is related to other actions that may have individual insignificant impacts but cumulatively significant effects.	<p>A cumulative analysis was completed for each impact topic discussed in the EA. Resources in the Boulder Basin area have been previously impacted from park activities, as well as activities by concessioners, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), and Nevada Department of Wildlife. Roads, utility corridors, parking lots, fence corridors, recreational facilities, and buildings are numerous in the Boulder Basin. In addition, development on adjacent lands has increased, and has subsequently encroached upon the Lake Mead NRA park boundary.</p> <p>Current and foreseeable projects in the vicinity of the project area include construction of the 35-mile River Mountains Loop Trail (16 miles within Lake Mead NRA), SNWA's construction of a third water intake structure, implementation of the Systems Conveyance Operations Program which will provide an alternative pipeline for discharge of effluent into Lake Mead, and park-wide replacement of water distribution systems and sewer collection systems. In addition, the NPS is currently preparing a wireless telecommunications facilities plan to identify potentially acceptable locations for cell tower construction. One tower currently exists in the Boulder Basin, and a site near the Boulder Beach maintenance yard has been proposed for cell tower construction. Implementation of the selected action would not result in significant, cumulative effects.</p>
The degree to which the action may adversely affect historic properties in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or other significant scientific, archeological, or cultural resources.	The NPS consulted with the Nevada SHPO seeking concurrence that the project will have no adverse effect on Mission 66 resources or the SCIRR grade, which was recommended eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C as part of a non-contiguous historic district. The Nevada SHPO concurs that the project will have no adverse effect on cultural resources.
The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat.	The project site does not provide suitable desert tortoise habitat, and no tortoises occur within the fenced enclosure in which the facility is to be built. Tortoises are rarely encountered in the surrounding developed area, although they do occur in suitable habitat outside the area of development. The NPS initiated informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) seeking concurrence that the project is <i>not likely to adversely affect</i> the desert tortoise. The USFWS concurred, and mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that there are no impacts to the desert tortoise.
Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.	The selected action violates no federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Scoping

A news release was distributed in January 2004 introducing the proposed project to the public and initiating scoping. The scoping press release was sent to television stations, newspapers, magazines, and radio stations in Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, Pahrump, Overton, Logandale, Laughlin, Nevada; Meadview, Kingman, Phoenix, and Bullhead City, Arizona; and Needles, and Los Angeles, CA. In addition, the scoping press release was posted on the Lake Mead NRA website. No comments were received during or following the 30-day scoping period ending on February 23, 2004.

Consultation and Permitting Requirements

The NPS initiated informal consultation with the USFWS seeking concurrence that the project is *not likely to adversely affect* the desert tortoise. Concurrence from USFWS was received on June 22, 2004. During preparation of the EA, the preferred location changed, but remained within the immediate vicinity of the original location. Although the project location changed, the NPS did not feel it necessary to reinstitute informal consultation on the desert tortoise because the site characteristics and conditions are essentially the same, i.e. located in a previously disturbed area with low quality habitat and enclosed by a fence. Mitigation measures recommended by the USFWS and NPS biologists will be adhered to during project implementation to ensure no impacts to the desert tortoise occur.

On June 25, 2004, a letter was sent to the Nevada SHPO seeking concurrence that the project will have no adverse effect on the SCIRR grade, which was recommended eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C as part of a non-contiguous historic district. During preparation of the EA, the preferred location changed and consultation with the Nevada SHPO was reinstituted. A letter was sent to the Nevada SHPO containing the new project information and requesting concurrence that the project will have no adverse effect on Mission 66 resources or the SCIRR grade. The Nevada SHPO sent a later dated September 4, 2007, concurring that the project will have no adverse effect on cultural resources.

Public Review and Comments

The environmental assessment was made available for public and agency review and comment during a 30-day review period beginning July 24, 2007 and ending August 24, 2007. The environmental assessment was distributed to 47 individuals, agencies, and organizations on the park's mailing list that are likely to have an interest in this project. Lake Mead NRA's mailing list is comprised of 167 federal and state agencies, individuals, businesses, and organizations. Entities on the park's mailing list that did not receive a copy of the environmental assessment were sent a letter notifying them of its availability and methods of accessing the document. Individuals and organizations could request the environmental assessment in writing, by phone, or by e-mail.

A press release announcing the availability of the EA was posted at the Alan Bible Visitor Center. In addition, the announcement and document were published on the park's website and on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website. Copies of the environmental assessment were made available at area libraries, including: Boulder City Library, Clark County Community College (North Las Vegas), Clark County Library, Las Vegas Public Library, Mohave County Library (Kingman, AZ), Sunrise Public Library (Las Vegas), University of Arizona Library (Tucson, AZ), University of Nevada- Las Vegas James R. Dickinson Library, Meadview Community Library, Moapa Valley Library (Overton, NV), Mesquite Library, Mohave County Library (Lake Havasu City, AZ), Laughlin Library, Searchlight Library, and Washington County Library (St. George, UT).

Two comments were received during the 30-day public review period. Comments were received from the Nevada SHPO and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Both agencies support the preferred alternative as written.

IMPAIRMENT OF PARK RESOURCES OR VALUES

In addition to reviewing the list of significance criteria, Lake Mead National Recreation Area determined that implementation of the selected action (Alternative C-Preferred Alternative) will not constitute an impairment of park resources or values or alter opportunities for the enjoyment of the park. Furthermore, the selected action will not result in any unacceptable impacts to park resources. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the impacts described in the environmental assessment, agency and public comments received, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker in accordance with the *NPS Management Policies 2006*. As described in the environmental assessment, implementation of the selected action (preferred alternative) will not result in major adverse impacts to a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation of Lake Mead National Recreation Area; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's *General Management Plan* or other relevant National Park Service planning documents.

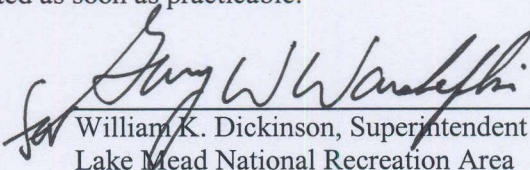
CONCLUSION AND BASIS FOR DETERMINATION

Based on the analysis completed in the environmental assessment, the capability of the mitigation measures to reduce, avoid, or eliminate impacts, and with due consideration of public response, the National Park Service determined that the selected action does not constitute an action that normally requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Negative environmental impacts that could occur were determined to be minor in effect. There are no unmitigated adverse impacts on public health, public safety, threatened or endangered species, sites or districts listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, known ethnographic resources, or other unique characteristics of the region. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. The implementation of the selected actions will not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law. There are no significant impacts to the affected environment.

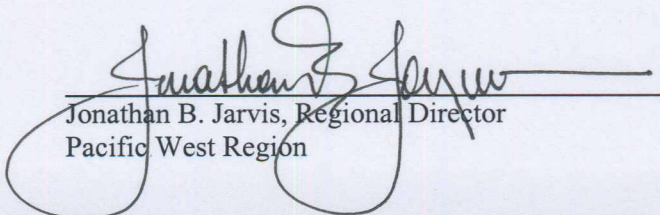
There are no highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence identified. Implementation of the action would not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for this project, and the selected action may be implemented as soon as practicable.

Recommended:


William K. Dickinson, Superintendent
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

9/20/07
Date

Approved:


Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director
Pacific West Region

9/26/07
Date