

RESOLUTION 09-2005
of the
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

WHEREAS, In 1998, Congress passed the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Public Law No. 105-263, which allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell certain federal lands in Clark County, Nevada, for possible development, while also allowing for the acquisition, conservation and protection of environmentally sensitive lands in Southern Nevada; and

WHEREAS, At the time of the passage of the Act, and to this day, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area was the fastest growing urban area in the United States, and the Act was passed in response to that growth in an effort to offset negative environmental impacts on national recreational and conservation areas surrounding the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of the Act, 5 percent of the profits from sales of the land is allocated to fund education in Nevada, 10 percent is allocated for water and airport infrastructure projects, and the remaining 85 percent is deposited into an account to acquire other environmentally sensitive land in Nevada, to develop a multi-species habitat plan, to develop parks and trails and to provide for other conservation initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The passage of the Southern Nevada Land Management Act was intended to replace lost state revenue resulting from 84 percent of the land in the State of Nevada being owned by the Federal Government at the time of the passage of the Act, uniquely depriving this State of receiving any tax proceeds from a substantial majority of the land located in this State; and

WHEREAS, the 1.7 million residents of Southern Nevada have relied upon and benefited from BLM land sale proceeds to build bikeways, trails, parks, open space, species habitat preservation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Since the first auction of land in 1999, this program has generated approximately \$1.6 billion, which has assisted Southern Nevada in funding education and numerous land and water conservation projects, and in acquiring environmentally sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS, The SNPLMA funds have allowed Southern Nevada to provide needed recreation and sensitive lands preservation facilities, that would not have been possible without the funding of SNPLMA; and

WHEREAS, There is paramount need for SNPLMA funds to complete existing open space & recreation projects to fund vitally important species habitat preservation; and

WHEREAS, The SNPLMA funding has created valuable infrastructure to lands surrounding BLM lands thus enhancing the value and use potential of the BLM lands.

WHEREAS, In the face of a soaring federal deficit, estimated at \$527 billion, President Bush has proposed to change federal law and reallocate 70 percent of the profits from the land sales that would do little to offset the deficit; and

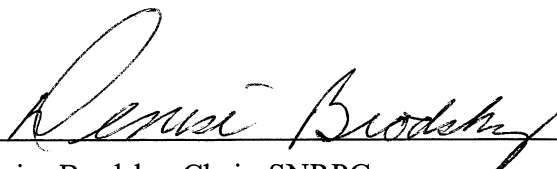
WHEREAS, The loss of such a substantial source of revenue for Southern Nevada would have a direct and devastating impact on its 1.7 million residents, negatively impacting dozens of ongoing and future projects.

NOW THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION BOARD, representing the City of Boulder City, City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, City of Henderson, Clark County and the Clark County School District, JOINTLY, That the members of the Coalition Board urge President Bush to reverse his position on this matter, abandoning his proposal to divert from Southern Nevada profits from the sales of BLM land rightfully belong in Southern Nevada to replace lost revenue resulting from the uniquely high percentage of federally owned property in this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress is similarly urged to reject this portion of President Bush's budget proposal and to allow the State of Nevada, its residents and visitors to be the sole beneficiaries of the proceeds from the sales of land in Nevada.

This Resolution is made and entered into *this 24th* day of March, 2005, by the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Board.

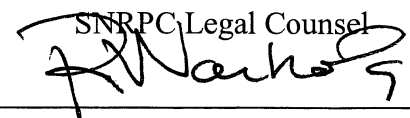
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) endorses this resolution.



Denise Brodsky, Chair, SNRPC

Date: 3/24/05

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

SNRPC Legal Counsel


Date: 3/24/05