



Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval

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Contact:
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SANDOVAL MEETS WITH SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, DELIVERS UPDATE ON GREATER SAGE-GROUSE NEGOTIATIONS

CARSON CITY, NV – Governor Brian Sandoval today met with United States Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at the Western Governors Association’s Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Prior to the meeting, Governor Sandoval sent a letter to the Secretary outlining a few immediate and specific concerns within the Approved Resource Management Plan and the Record of Decision and requested this meeting in an effort to find mutually acceptable resolutions. A full copy of that letter is attached.

Following the meeting Governor Sandoval released the statements below as an update on the continued dialogue between the State of Nevada and the Department of the Interior on the Greater Sage-grouse.

Baker Water Tank:

“Secretary Jewell committed to resolve the issues impacting the water tank in Baker by early next year in a manner that maintains public health and safety. I am confident that following our direct conversation, the Secretary fully understands the importance of the water tank to the community of Baker. I stressed the significance of a prompt decision for the sake of the health and safety of the community and the Department of the Interior committed that a timeline and a path forward will be determined by next week.”

Maps:

“Secretary Jewell committed to use Nevada’s new maps immediately for project-level decisions. This assures that projects like Washoe County’s Veterans Cemetery and prospective sites for new schools are now out of the Greater Sage-grouse habitat. This will allow these projects to proceed under the normal development process. The Department is committed to formally adopt the maps in the most expeditious manner possible.”

Conservation Credit System:

“The Secretary recognizes the need for Nevada stakeholders to accrue mitigation credits on public lands through the state Conservation Credit System (CCS). During our conversation today, I secured a commitment from the Secretary to immediately proceed with a pilot project to demonstrate this process in Nevada while we work towards full integration of this ability in the CCS.”

Sagebrush Focal Areas:

“Secretary Jewell committed to robust collaboration on the mineral withdrawal process. The Secretary understands the national security and economic development importance of the mineral potential in Nevada. The Department of the Interior has committed that they will use the best available science, working with the State of Nevada at the table to utilize state resources and expertise, including the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team.”

Governor Sandoval will be available at 5:00 p.m. for a press call to discuss his meeting with Secretary Jewell and the ongoing discussions between the State of Nevada and the United States Department of the Interior. Please contact Mari St. Martin via email at mstmartin@gov.nv.gov to receive call-in details.

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