



Nevada Association of Counties
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703
(775) 883-7863
www.nvnaco.org

December 26, 2018

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
Care of: Kelly McGowan; and,
Kathleen Petter
201 Roop Street, Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Via Email: kmcgowan@sagebrusheco.nv.gov, kpetter@sagebrusheco.nv.gov

RE: Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Comments to the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program's Proposed Mitigation Regulations

Dear Chair Goicoechea and Council Members,

NACO appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to your proposed mitigation regulations as they have the potential to impact our associated counties. NACO has been closely following the development and amendment of the State's Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan as well as the BLM and Forest Service Land Use Planning Efforts. One of our common themes in providing comments to these three processes is ensuring that County governments retain the ability to carry out essential services to our residents. Some examples of critical services that counties provide include roads, water and wastewater systems, emergency response, utility infrastructure and county landfills.

To that end, NACO suggests that language should be included in the regulation clearly stating that County administrative functions and actions related to public health and safety be exempt from any mitigation requirements. Exemption language could be consistent with what we have proposed to the BLM and Forest Service regarding their allocation exception process. Suggested language may read as follows:

The following activities are not subject to these regulations:

- *Actions that address public health and safety, specifically as they relate to local, state, and national priorities; or,*
- *Routine administrative functions conducted by State or local governments, including existing public infrastructure, prior existing uses, authorized uses and valid existing rights.*



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NACO strongly believes that clear exemption language is needed in order to avoid unintended consequences and specific interference with services that are essential to county residents. NACO intends to continue to actively engaging in the process as the regulations are further developed and refined and may at a future time identify other issues and have additional comments. We look forward to this participation. We appreciate your consideration of this matter, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or needs for further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dagny Stapleton", followed by a period.

Dagny Stapleton
Executive Director

DS/jld