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July 17, 2006

City of Las Vegas Planning & Development Department  
731 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Re: Water Feature Exemption Justification Letter

The City of Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency is actively pursuing the reactivation of a 62 square foot water feature/fountain located in the main courtyard of the Historic Fifth Street School located at 400 South Las Vegas Boulevard. The fountain restoration is part of the final phase of an adaptive reuse renovation project. The Redevelopment Agency is mitigating the additional water usage by converting 3,100 square feet of existing turf to water-smart landscaping (xeriscape) as defined by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The 3,100 square feet of turf meets the 50-to-1 ratio of existing turf removal to fountain surface area requirement. The City of Las Vegas account number with the Las Vegas Valley Water District is 1601442962.

The school was built in 1936 and consists of approximately 26,200 square feet of indoor space and 6,000 square feet of outdoor courtyard space. The site is located on the northwest corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Clark Street and is adjacent to the City of Las Vegas Centennial Plaza and Lewis Avenue Pedestrian Corridor. The school is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Redevelopment Agency has negotiated leases with Nevada School of the Arts, UNLV College of Fine Arts, American Institute of Architects and the City of Las Vegas Cultural Affairs Division. The tenants, City Departments and other local businesses and organizations will use the auditorium, gallery and courtyard space for lectures, recitals, gallery displays and shows, meetings and presentations. Central to the main courtyard on the east side of the gallery is the original historic fountain. The restoration of the fountain is critical to the success of this adaptive reuse project. Not only is the fountain the focal point of the main courtyard, it serves as a soothing reminder of mission architecture in one of only a few historic buildings remaining in the state of Nevada.

One of the eight City Priorities states that the City will "Revitalize and invigorate our mature areas and the urban core". Renovating the Fifth Street School without the fountain will fall short of capturing the potential of this Historic treasure.

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