



June 25, 2008

Department of Planning and Development
Development Service Center
731 North Fourth Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Attn: City of Las Vegas Planning

RE: DESERT NATURE PRESERVE

Dear Planning:

The City of Las Vegas proposes to construct a trail at Alta Drive and Hualapai Way. This trail is intended to preserve the existing arroyo in its natural condition and provide nearby residents a pathway to observe and enjoy our native desert flora and fauna, by running through the northern portion of an 80 acre tract and along the dissecting wash. Proposed trail improvements include a 10' wide concrete pathway with landscaping on each side, covered and uncovered rest areas, benches, trash receptacles and pet waste stations. Trail lighting is also proposed along the trail, providing views of the Red Rocks to the west and enhancing the native wash area. To minimize the impact on adjacent residential neighbors to the north of the site, the meandering trail maintains a minimum 50 foot distance from the north property line. Trail lights are shielded and face away from the residences. Sidewalk improvements along Hualapai Way are also included as part of this project.

This site has been shown to have a layer of very hard, strongly cemented caliche (Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical Evaluation # 302574001 performed April 10, 2008) that is very close to the surface and at times in excess of 10 feet thick. Because of this condition, planting and irrigation is extremely difficult and challenging. Trees will have to be planted in soil that has been brought in and mounded, starting with 15 gallon size desert type trees that will have time to grow and spread roots horizontally in order to survive. For this reason the trees are grouped along the trail on the created mounds. Seventy-three trees have been provided on the north side of the trail, between the trail and 1,458 foot residential boundary, and we respectfully request that this will satisfy the residential landscape screening requirement because of the special soil and planting circumstances.

Hill, Clark and Associates were the successful consultant selected by the City to perform the design planning for the trail. They are a landscape architectural firm specializing in trail and recreational development, and have been successful on similar types of projects in the valley. They bring many years of experience to the project.

The City of Las Vegas looks at this trail project as a winning solution that will assist with the growing demands for trails in the Las Vegas Valley. Please recommend the approval of this project. Thank you.

LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL

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JUN 23 2008

SDR-28732

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