

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF AN AREA KNOWN AS
THE UPPER LAS VEGAS WASH
AS AN URBAN NATIONAL PARK UNIT MANAGED BY
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

WHEREAS, Americans have deep and enduring love for the National Park System, and places identified as national park units embody America's highest ideals and values; and

WHEREAS, America's National Park System enjoys consistent and global goodwill, embraces more than 272 million annual visitors, generates more than \$10 billion for local economies, and generates community pride; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Las Vegas Wash has been deemed worthy of inclusion in the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Las Vegas Wash has been confirmed by scientists to have significant paleontological fossils demonstrative of the Pleistocene Ice Age, and these fossil findings appear to contain the longest continuous section of Pleistocene strata, spanning important global climate cooling and warming episode in the desert Southwest; and

WHEREAS, a four-month intensive study of the area in 1962, chronicled by National Geographic, catalogued thousands of Ice Age mammal fossils including Columbian Mammoth, Ground Sloth, American Lion, Camelops, Bison and ancient species of Horse and found this area "greatly significant"; and

WHEREAS, the significance of the Upper Las Vegas Wash area, established in 1962, was re-confirmed in the past few years with the scientifically documented removal of thousands of fossils through recent paleontology studies and inventory contracted by the Bureau of Land Management, and through a 2009 study commissioned by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, findings of Ice Age palynomorphs (plants) and invertebrates (animals) within the Upper Las Vegas Wash provide study opportunities uncommon in most fossil localities, and are thus expected to attract international scientific interest and onsite research; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Las Vegas Wash is significant to native and indigenous people and offers interpretive opportunities to show a broad range of history, from Ice Age through Native American history to contemporary culture; and

1 WHEREAS, the vision for the Upper Las Vegas Wash as a new national park unit is
2 expected to include state-of-the-art visitor facilities and amenities; working field sites in which the
3 public can observe scientific research, paleontology curation facilities; and interpretive displays that
4 engage visitors in area history, flora and fauna; and

5 WHEREAS, the Upper Las Vegas Wash is expected to attract international and
6 domestic visitors to bolster tourism revenues; and

7 WHEREAS, the proximity of the new national park unit is expected to be used as an
8 educational resource for the area's schoolchildren, and integrated into plans for the northern campus
9 of the University of Nevada Las Vegas; and

10 WHEREAS, the protection and conservation of the natural, cultural and
11 paleontological resources within an urban national park unit will enhance Southern Nevada's
12 efforts for sustainable economic growth; and

13 WHEREAS, the American people have entrusted the National Park Service for nearly
14 a century with the care of our most special places and treasures, and have recognized that creating
15 national park units preserves special places in perpetuity, for our children, grandchildren and their
16 children; and

17 WHEREAS, it is a privilege to add a new park designation to the 392 units within the
18 National Park Service; and

19 WHEREAS, the City Council supports establishing an area of the Upper Las Vegas
20 Wash as a national park unit and recognizes the rare opportunity to create a new urban national park
21 unit, managed by the National Park Service; and

22 WHEREAS, the City Council intends to work with local, state, tribal and federal
23 jurisdictions and agencies to collaboratively participate in the planning of the new urban national park
24 unit.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
2 OF LAS VEGAS to urge the United States Congress, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the
3 National Park Service to make a land management designation that is appropriate for the protection
4 of the resources, done in a timely manner to avoid further degradation of the area, with appropriate
5 funding to fully develop the scientific, educational and recreational potential.

6 PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2009.

7 CITY OF LAS VEGAS

8
9 BY _____
OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

10 ATTEST:

11 _____
12 BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, CMC
City Clerk

13 APPROVED AS TO FORM

14 Val Hood 11-4-09
15 Date