



AGENDA MEMO

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION: GPA-36074 - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS

**** CONDITIONS ****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL

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**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The request is to adopt the Population Element, thereby incorporating it into the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan.

The Population Element is intended to accomplish the following:

- Identify future availability of resources vital to supporting population.
- Identify demographic characteristics that impact population growth.
- Identify population thresholds based on future land use.
- Prepare a table of potential population scenarios.

The preparation and adoption of the Population Element is an important step in achieving the city's priority to create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of our community, as called for in the Strategic Plan.

The Population Element is compliant with NRS 278.160, which requires cities with a population of 400,000 or greater to adopt a population element that accomplishes the following:

An estimate of the total population which the natural resources of the city, county or region will support on a continuing basis without unreasonable impairment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Draft copies of the Population Element were distributed internally to the Departments of Public Works, the Office of Business Development, Neighborhood Services, and Fire & Rescue for review. Externally, draft copies were distributed to the Regional Transportation Commission, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Comments and recommendations were returned and incorporated into the draft document.

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc.</i>	
04/01/92	City Council adopted the city of Las Vegas General Plan through Ordinance 3636
09/06/00	City Council adopted the city of Las Vegas Master Plan 2020 through Ordinance 5250

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<i>Neighborhood Meeting</i>	
11/2/09	A public meeting was held at Rafael Rivera Community Center, 2900 Stewart Avenue. No members of the public attended the meeting.
11/3/09	A public meeting was held at Centennial Hills Active Adult Center, 6601 N. Buffalo Drive. No members of the public attended the meeting.
11/4/09	A public meeting was held at Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Hargrove Avenue. No members of the public attended the meeting.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Population Element is twofold. First, this document is intended to fulfill the requirements of state law, as set forth in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 278.150 through 278.160, and second, to recommend strategies and actions to facilitate the implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies contained in the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan related to future population growth.

As a component of the 2020 Master Plan, the Population Element is intended to not only satisfy the NRS requirement, but also to provide a comprehensive document that will assist with the planning for future population growth and resource allocation.

Relationship to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)

The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) are the current codified laws of the State of Nevada. The Statutes of Nevada are a compilation of all legislation passed by the Nevada Legislature during a particular Legislative Session. The proposed Population Element conforms to the following Nevada Revised Statute:

NRS 278.160, Subject matter of master plan, requires that the city of Las Vegas prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city. This document, known as the city of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, must also include a Population Element, which includes: An estimate of the total population which the natural resources of the city, county or region will support on a continuing basis without unreasonable impairment.

Relationship to Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan

The city of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan consists of a series of goals, objectives and policies within its elements. The 2020 Master Plan was approved in September of 2000, and it provides a broad policy structure intended to direct the actions of the city regarding land use and development for the period from 2000 to 2020. The individual elements are intended to provide a more specific direction, through detailed analysis and recommended actions, as to how the city should respond to certain land use issues. The intent of the Population Element is to identify demographic trends, project future population levels, determine resource availability and establish goals, objectives and policies for addressing future growth and resource availability within the city of Las Vegas.

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The proposed element is supported by the city of Las Vegas Strategic Planning Guide with the following priorities:

- Create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of our community.

FINDINGS

The proposed master plan element meets the intent of NRS 278.160 by:

Showing an estimate of the total population which the natural resources of the city, county or region will support on a continuing basis without unreasonable impairment.

In order to be able to effectuate the requirements of NRS 278.160 the Population Element has four broad-based recommendations. They are:

Recommendation 1:**Estimate the Citys population on an annual basis**

- An estimate of the Citys population as of July 1st of each year is required by Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 360.364 and due to the Nevada State Demographer by October 1st of that year.
- The Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) endorses the estimation process adhered to by all of the entities within Clark County. The final countywide estimate is presented to the SNRPC Board in November of each year for confirmation that it has followed the mandated processes and for validation of the results.
- The annual population estimate determines the number of dwelling units, households, and people within the City limits and assists in determining adequate service provision levels.
- The City of Las Vegas annual estimate is a component in the formula used by the Nevada State Demographer in determining that offices annual Population Estimate as of July 1st of each year, which must be certified by the Governor of Nevada no later than March 1st of the following year.
- The State Demographers annual estimate is a component in determining the Citys share of the Basic City County Relief Tax (BCCRT) and the Supplemental City County Relief Tax (SCCRT) which apportions millions of dollars in revenue to entities within Nevada.

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Recommendation 2:

Lead and participate in regional annual population projection programs

- Participate in the development of the Regional Economic Modeling Inc. population projection model. The REMI model is funded and approved by the SNRPC and is used to determine countywide population projections through 2050. The model output is used as a baseline for population projections at lower levels of geography such as Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ), ZIP Codes, and individual cities.
- Continue to lead and participate in the development of the Land Use Work Group (LUWG) model. The LUWG uses currently vacant land to determine future population in Clark County and the cities within by applying a land use to parcels that will determine the future population level and offers the ability to determine population at sub-county levels. The LUWG model also determines non-residential uses which allows for the estimation of traffic volume levels and future public and private service provision.
- Aside from uses in planning by various entities, including the city of Las Vegas, the projections are used to determine availability of resources by entities such as the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). The projections also play a major role in demonstrating the Las Vegas Valleys ability to comply with air quality standards in the coming years which determines future funding from the federal government.

Recommendation 3:

Lead and coordinate local Census programs

- The decennial Census determines the level of funding Nevada and its municipalities receive from the Federal government for ten years.
- The Census determines a states numbers in the House of Representatives and the number of electoral votes for presidential elections.
- Census information is invaluable to planners and helps to establish the identity of a community.
- Inter-censal estimates - annual updates of population conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau - determine the level of funding for local social and community oriented programs such as CDBG and other grant reliant programs. Entities have the ability to appeal these estimates if they are felt to be inaccurate.

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Recommendation 4:

Monitor population change on an annual basis as it applies to levels of service standards established by various departments in accordance with the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan.

- Develop databases with historical and current population figures and historical and current infrastructure levels. Supplying affected departments with accurate data will allow for a more comprehensive analysis of needs:
 - Per the Public Safety Element, build a new police substation to equal one (1) per 125,000 population.
 - Per the Transportation Trails Element, develop between 3.75 and 5.68 miles of trails per 100,000 population.
 - Per the Parks & Recreation Element:
 - develop 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 population.
 - build one (1) Neighborhood Center per 10,000 population.
 - build one (1) Community Center per 25,000 population.
 - build one (1) Regional Center per 75,000 population.

By effectively carrying out these recommendations, the city of Las Vegas will be compliant with the requirements of NRS 278.160.

NOTICES MAILED

NEWSPAPER ONLY

APPROVALS

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PROTESTS

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