ITEM
#10

GPA-36074

GPA-36074 - GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT - PUBLIC HEARING - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS - Request to adopt an updated Population Element, All Wards

Submitted after meeting
Date 11/19/09 Item 10

Population Element

City of Las Vegas
2020 Master Plan Element

Population Element

- Purpose of the Element
  - 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
  - The City is required by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 278.160 to include a Population Element in its Master Plan
  - The Element has not been updated since 2003
  - Assure that natural resources are available to safely and efficiently accommodate future population growth
    - **The City's population has increased by 33 percent since 1998.**
    - **The area of the City has increased by 23 percent during the same time**
    - **Development has absorbed an average of 1,300 acres per year since 1998.**
    - **Vacant land is currently the single largest land use in the City.**

Population Element

- Demographic Summary
  - Las Vegas went from being the 63rd largest city in the United States to being the 28th largest between 1990 and 2007.
  - Las Vegas is becoming more diverse as nearly half of the population is a race or ethnicity other than White
  - Education levels continue to rise as the number of residents with high school diplomas and college degrees increased by 23%. When adjusted for inflation buying power increased by 2.4%
  - The number of people who own their home increased by 16% since 2000
  - The number of people using public transportation to commute to work increased by 27% between 2000 and 2007

Population Element

- Issues
  - Wastewater Treatment – The City currently has the capacity to treat 102 million gallons of effluent water per day which would be sufficient for the projected build-out population of 851,000. Increased density or significant future annexations could require additional facilities or upgrades to existing facilities.
  - Water supply – The southwest United States is in a severe drought
  - Solid Waste – The Apex landfill started accepting refuse in 1993 and has a service life of 85 years. The expansion of development boundaries could increase projected population and shorten that life
  - Air Quality – As the Las Vegas Valley grows it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain federal air quality standards.

Population Element

- Recommendations
  - Recommendation 1: Estimate the City's population on an annual basis
  - Recommendation 2: Lead and participate in regional annual population projection programs
  - Recommendation 3: Lead and coordinate local census programs
  - Recommendation 4: Monitor population change on an annual basis as it applies to levels of service standards established in accordance with the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan