

To the Editor:

How disappointing it was to read about the lynching last night in Anthem. The residents of Anthem and surrounding communities excel in hyperbole but operate with total disregard for the facts or an understanding of public process. To those that are interested, here are the facts:

- Relevant Federal regulations allow the BLM to manage the disposal of mineral materials (sand and gravel) subject to approved planning and NEPA analysis.
- This is a Federal action being advanced by BLM in accordance with approved Land Use plans at the federal, state, and local level, which included extensive public participation and a very open process.
- Relevant Land Use and Management Plans identifying the Sloan area as suitable for future mineral material (sand & gravel) development include:
 1. BLM Las Vegas Valley Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 1998.
 2. Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary EIS
 3. South Clark County Land Use Plan
 4. City of Henderson Land Use Plan
- The specific Sloan site was chosen for the following reasons:
 1. Previously identified for development in accordance with the approved Land Use Plans at the federal, county, and local level.
 2. It was further identified for mineral material development in the Clark County Conservation of Public land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (federal legislation), and further excluded from other land development (i.e., residential, commercial, etc.) to avoid potential conflicts.
 3. The site contains excellent material (dolomite) used for aggregate and concrete production.
 4. The site is in close proximity to where material is needed – S. LV Valley & Ivanpaugh.
- In spite of the NIBY mentality, unlike other operations in the valley such as those at Lone Mountain, the actual distances from nearby Henderson neighborhoods to the Sloan site are:
 1. Sloan (2.5 miles northwest)
 2. Anthem (3.5 miles northeast)
 3. Severn Hills (5 miles northeast)
 4. Silverado Ranch (5.5 miles north)

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared by BLM that will serve as the decision making tool to ensure all laws, policies, and goals are incorporated into the final decision made by the BLM and federal government.
- A final decision will be made by BLM regarding appropriate minimization and mitigation necessary in accordance with the final EIS.
- Public comment and review has been ongoing since 2007 and will continue through issuance of final Record of Decision expected in 2009.

Mike Ford