

**LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AGENDA ITEM**

October 6, 2015

Subject: Agreement	Director's Backup
Petitioner: Julie A. Wilcox, Deputy General Manager, Administration	
Recommendations: That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form, a Safe Harbor Agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior, acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the District, on behalf of the Springs Preserve, for the establishment and maintenance of Pahrump poolfish populations and associated habitat at the Springs Preserve, and authorize the General Manager to submit the accompanying Enhancement of Survival Permit application.	

Fiscal Impact:

None by approval of the above recommendation.

Background:


In 2007, the Springs Preserve and City of Las Vegas obtained a \$12 million Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) grant to improve the Springs Preserve cultural, outdoor and educational conservation offerings. Approximately \$1.4 million in SNPLMA funds were used to create eight ponds and a water delivery system for the ponds in the historic North and South Forks of the Las Vegas Creek.

The Pahrump poolfish (poolfish) is an endangered species, endemic to Nevada, that survives in three existing refugia located in the Las Vegas Valley and Spring Valley, Nevada. The attached Safe Harbor Agreement, and its accompanying Enhancement of Survival Permit application, would allow the District to place the endangered poolfish in the ponds at the Springs Preserve and provide regulatory certainty that property-use restrictions will not be imposed. By utilizing these ponds, the District can increase poolfish populations, while using the poolfish to control mosquito larvae in the ponds and provide educational opportunities for Springs Preserve visitors.

If approved, the Safe Harbor Agreement would allow the District to submit an Enhancement of Survival Permit application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Notice of the application and the Safe Harbor Agreement will be published in the Federal Register and public comments will be accepted by the USFWS. Approval of this item also allows the General Manager to sign the Safe Harbor Agreement, as revised with any standard and customary conditions associated with public comments.

This agreement is being entered into pursuant to NRS 277.180 and Section 1(13) of the Las Vegas Valley Water District Act, Chapter 167, Statutes of Nevada 1947. The office of the General Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement.

Respectfully submitted:



John J. Entsminger, General Manager
JJE:JAW:AMB:ZLM:DRW:td
Attachments

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