

[illegible]

8/28/24 City Council Mtg Public Comment

Tracy Wilson <twilson@americanwildhorse.org>

Tue 8/27/2024 8:10 AM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Please accept and enter the following public comment into the record for the August 28, 2024 City Council Meeting, Item C.1 and C.2.

Though we have had several conversations about the language in the PUD concerning Virginia Range horses, we are still requesting the below changes. Please note that reseeded of rangeland owned by the Virginia 40's was done for range rehabilitation, erosion control, range health, and wildlife - not for wild horses. That was made very clear at the time it was done. Any language to the contrary should be removed from this PUD.

These changes were originally requested on August 5, 2024. On August 6, 2024, Brooklyn Oswald replied:

Thanks for the review and comments. We do not have any issues with your proposed modifications to the Handbook and will accept these modification through the Planning Commission approval process.

Kind regards,

Brooklyn

However, these edits have not been made yet, and I am requesting this PUD be amended to incorporate the following changes:

Feral Horse Management

The Virginia Range hosts populations of feral horses managed by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), who estimated 3,567 horses across the range in 2022. Several bands of horses exist in the general area of The Canyons PUD. The project supports management efforts that include ~~reforestation~~, **fencing**, diversionary feeding, and ~~birth~~ **fertility** control related to the horses and coordinated by the NDA with non-profits. The Property owners, the NDA, and horse advocate organizations have developed a strategy for the development area to ensure community safety and welfare amidst free-roaming horses. This involves ~~refencing~~ **fencing out** horses **which moves them** to undeveloped areas **north, south, and east** of current and planned developments, ~~facilitated and subject property(s)~~. A user agreement is in place for NDA contracted non-profits to conduct diversionary ~~reseeding efforts east of the subject property(s)~~. **in approved areas**. Fencing will be installed according to Nevada Revised Statutes and Handbook requirements. ~~A study by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NDA in summer 2024 will assess population size, targeted health, and resource availability, forming the basis for future horse management.~~

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Located at the interface of urban development and wildland areas, The Canyons PUD faces increased wildfire risk and will adhere to rigorous standards. These mandate strict vegetation management, community awareness, and proactive outreach. Proactive planning includes creating defensible space, wildfire-resistant building practices, and community-wide emergency response plans. This aims to safeguard residents, properties, and the environment from wildfire impacts through robust strategies and ongoing collaboration.

Reseeding efforts to the east of the project area were made to improve range conditions through erosion control, improved vegetation health, and to benefit wildlife.

Thank you,

Tracy Wilson



Tracy Wilson

Nevada State Director
American Wild Horse Conservation

P : 775-292-0610

E: twilson@americanwildhorse.org

A: P.O. Box 62, Carson City, NV 89701

americanwildhorse.org



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