



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 23, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Microsoft Teams

Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107

Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Black, Chair – Mayor Pro Tem, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Frank Nemec, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
Joseph Hardy, Secretary – Mayor, City of Boulder City (*via Teams*)
April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*in-person*)
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Pattie Gallo – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mesquite (*via Teams*)
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)

ABSENT:

Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson

ALSO PRESENT:

(In Audience)

Faith Alfapada, David Anderson, Elva Anderson, Linda Anderson, Rick Aco, Billie Bastian, Cyril Bastian, Riley Baker, Hardy Brunell, Enrique Carreon, Monica Cartagena, Ann Casey, James Cavin, Renee Charles, Chaunsey Chau-Duong, Georgi Collins, David Croteau, Lorraine DeBusk, Robert Dreyfus, Chris Fisher, Cade Grogan, Judy Heath, Diane Henry, Gabe Hinterton, Ted Kaehler, Ralf Landeros, Stephanie Landeros, Andrea Liebl, Sam McCool, Laura McSwain, Laurie Malm, Danielle Maxim, Mark Medina, Myra Medina, Cheryl Pastore, Cameron Pfand, John Pope, Twyla Lightowler, Carol Reynolds, Christian Salmon, Greg Sanders, Larry Seely, Sharon Seely, Cindy Simmons, Steve Smallwood, Brigitte Solvie, Guy Tannenbaum, Lois Thompson, Robert Thornley, Roy Trafton, Denise Trope-Kelly, Sandra Wade, Karen Walker, Yvette Williams,

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

LEGAL COUNSEL: Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel

STAFF:

Kevin Abbott, Emily Anelli, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Haley Blake, Amanda Brown, Lori Bryan, Daniel Burns, Nikki Burns-Savage, Victoria Burris, Joe Cabanban, Nancy Cadena, Belen Campos-Garcia, Robin Carter, Arcmiguel Cordial, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Rebecca Cruz-Nanez, Aaron DelCotto, Lauren DiPrete, Kimberly Franich, Joe Ginty, Xavier Gonzales, Jacques Graham, Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Richard Hazeltine, Valerie Herzog, Raychel Holbert, Carmen Hua, Dan Isler, Dustin Johnson, Stacy Johnson, Sabine Kamm, Theresa Ladd, Heidi Laird, Dann Limuel Lat, Annie Lin, Josie Llorico, Erick Lopez, Randy Luckett, Carol Luna, Cassondra Major, Anil Mangla, Jonas Maratita, Blanca Martinez, Roni Mauro, Kimberly Monahan,

Semilla Neal, Todd Nicolson, Brian Northam, Veralynn Orewyler, Laura Palmer, Shannon Pickering, Luann Province, Emma Rodriguez, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Aivelhyn Santos, Chris Saxton, Dave Sheehan, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Cameron Smelcer, Rosanne Sugay, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Will Thompson, Greg Tordjman, Renee Trujillo, Jorge Viote, Donnie Whitaker, Tiana Wright, Lourdes Yapjoco, Merylyn Yegon, Lei Zhang

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair acknowledged attendees present in relation to the proposed septic system regulations, expressing appreciation for their engagement. The Chair apologized for the posting error in the online agenda, which incorrectly indicated that septic system regulations would be discussed during the meeting. It was clarified that while this topic was not on the current agenda, the Health District recognized the importance of community input. In response to feedback received last month, public workshops would be scheduled in the new year to facilitate robust discussions; details on the workshop will be shared through various communications, including postcard mailers, to ensure broad awareness and participation. The goal was to balance public health priorities with homeowner concerns. Attendees were invited to share comments during the Second Public Comment period.

III. RECOGNITIONS

1. Dr. Erick Lopez, Dr. Anil Mangla, Rebecca Topol, and Lei Zhang

- Co-authored the published article “*Examining Disparities in COVID-19 Hospitalization Outcomes in Southern Nevada by Vaccination Status*” in the Nevada Journal of Public Health

The Chair recognized Dr. Erick Lopez, Dr. Anil Mangla, Rebecca Topol, and Lei Zhang for co-authoring the published article “*Examining Disparities in COVID-19 Hospitalization Outcomes in Southern Nevada by Vaccination Status*” in the Nevada Journal of Public Health. The study examined predictors of COVID-19 outcomes by race and ethnicity, vaccination status, age, sex, marital status, and insurance payer status among COVID-19 patients who were admitted to a hospital. The study concluded that work is needed to identify and address barriers to vaccine uptake in communities with high social vulnerability. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and the Board of Health, the Chair congratulated staff on this publication.

Member Bond joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

IV. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: A period devoted to comments by the general public about those items appearing on the agenda. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please clearly state your name and address and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the

Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the First Public Comment period.

V. ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2025 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the October 23, 2025 Amended Agenda, as presented.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA: Items for action to be considered by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health which may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be discussed separately per Board Member request before action. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

1. APPROVE MINUTES/BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING: September 25, 2025 *(for possible action)*

2. PETITION #12-26: Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement among Clark County, Clark County Water Reclamation District, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Health District, Henderson District Public Libraries, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Moapa Valley Fire Protection District and Eighth Judicial District Court establishing the rates for the Self-Funded Group Medical and Dental Benefits Plans, effective January 1, 2026. (Also sitting as Clark County Water Reclamation District Board of Trustees, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada Board of Hospital Trustees, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners and Moapa Valley Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners); direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the October 23, 2025 Consent Agenda, as presented.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING / ACTION: Members of the public are allowed to speak on Public Hearing / Action items after the Board's discussion and prior to their vote. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes to address the Board on the pending topic. No person may yield his or her time to another person. In those situations where large groups of people desire to address the Board on the same matter, the Chair may request that those groups select only one or two speakers from the group to address the Board on behalf of the group. Once the public hearing is closed, no additional public comment will be accepted.

1. MEMORANDUM #03-26: Request for Approval of Renewal of Authorization of St. Rose Siena Hospital as a Level III Trauma Center; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Stacy Johnson, Regional Trauma Coordinator, presented the Renewal of Authorization of St. Rose Siena Hospital as a Level III Trauma Center. Ms. Johnson confirmed that St. Rose Siena complied with regulations, was in good standing with the Health District, and continued to provide all the requirements based on its designation. Ms. Johnson further advised that staff recommended that the Board of Health approve the renewal application.

The Chair opened for Public Comment. Seeing no one, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Nemec, and carried unanimously to approve the Renewal of Authorization of St. Rose Siena Hospital as a Level III Trauma Center, as presented.

2. MEMORANDUM #04-26: Request for Approval of Renewal of Authorization of Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center as a Level II Trauma Center; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Ms. Johnson presented the Renewal of Authorization of Sunrise as a Level II Trauma Center. Ms. Johnson confirmed that Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center complied with regulations, was in good standing with the Health District, and continued to provide all the requirements based on its designation. Ms. Johnson further advised that staff recommended that the Board of Health approve the renewal application.

The Chair opened for Public Comment. Seeing no one, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the Renewal of Authorization of Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center as a Level II Trauma Center, as presented.

Member Summers-Armstrong joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Approval of the 2026 Board of Health Meeting Schedule; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

The Board was advised that the proposed 2026 meeting schedule followed the timeline approved by the Board in previous years, noting that the meeting in November is a week early and was adjusted to 11:00 a.m., a few years ago, to accommodate those members with conflicting public agency meetings.

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to approve the 2026 Board of Health Meeting Schedule, as presented.

IX. BOARD REPORTS: The Southern Nevada District Board of Health members may identify and comment on Health District related issues. Comments made by individual Board members during

this portion of the agenda will not be acted upon by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health unless that subject is on the agenda and scheduled for action. **(Information Only)**

Member Kirkpatrick referenced a recent discussion held by the Board of Clark County Commissioners (BCC) concerning mosquito abatement initiatives. She emphasized the importance of the Health District being involved in these conversations. Member Kirkpatrick suggested redistributing the "Fight the Bite" flyer to the Board to support public awareness efforts. Further, she noted that the County was actively exploring the feasibility and associated costs of implementing a mosquito abatement program. A key consideration identified was the necessity of accessing private properties, as these areas are commonly where mosquito populations thrive. Dr. Lockett advised that staff observed the BCC meeting and confirmed that the Health District was committed to working Clark County and other agencies on this initiative.

X. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS (Information Only)

- **DHO Comments**

In addition to the written report, Dr. Lockett advised

Dr. Lockett provided an update on a confirmed measles case involving an out-of-state visitor who passed through Terminal 3, E Gates at Harry Reid International Airport on the morning of October 13. The individual did not visit other locations in Clark County, and no additional details were available while the investigation continued. Dr. Lockett reiterated that measles has a 7-to-21-day incubation period, with symptoms including fever, cough, runny nose, red or watery eyes, followed by a rash that would begin on the face and spread to the body. Dr. Lockett also described the rash progression from flat red macules to eventually becoming scabs as the rash resolves. The virus was highly contagious, remained airborne for up to two hours. Dr. Lockett advised that individuals present at the affected terminal should verify their immunization status and contact healthcare providers if symptoms developed.

Dr. Lockett further advised that nationally, as of October 21, there have been 1,618 confirmed measles cases across 42 states, with 43 outbreaks reported in 2025 and 87% of all cases are outbreak-associated. Dr. Lockett also noted that in 2024 only 16 outbreaks were reported and 69% of all cases were outbreak associated. Dr. Lockett confirmed that Clark County had not had a resident case since 2018. Dr. Lockett emphasized the importance of vaccination, noting that two doses of the MMR vaccine were 97% effective. Member Kirkpatrick requested a fact sheet on measles to share with staff at Harry Reid International Airport.

- **Vaccine Update**

Dr. Rosanne Sugay, Medical Epidemiologist, provided an overview of the annual approval and distribution for seasonal viral respiratory immunizations. Further, Dr. Sugay outlined this year's approval and distribution for the COVID-19 vaccine and explained the impact of the delayed recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Shannon Pickering, Community Health Nurse Manager, presented data for the last five years, for September and October, on COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccinations at the Health District clinics. Ms. Pickering advised there was a delay in receiving the state-funded vaccines under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and the Section 317 Program.

Member Bond inquired whether there had been a change in public funding for vaccines. Ms. Pickering advised that while there was a brief delay, state-funded vaccines were made available quickly, and all eligible clients were contacted and vaccinated as soon as possible.

Dr. Robin Carter, Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director for the FQHC, detailed the implementation of a Standing Order for COVID-19 vaccination at the Health District, designed to reduce barriers and allow Health District nurses to administer vaccines without a clinician's prescription, and clarified the alignment with professional academy recommendations.

Further to an inquiry from Member Nemec, Dr. Carter advised that the Standing Order was based on the academies and not the CDC specifically, as the CDC specifically referenced individual decision-making requirements. The Standing Order does not make individual decision-making a requirement for the sell vaccines, however, was required for the federally funded vaccines which include Vaccine for Children (VFC) and 317 for adults who are uninsured or underinsured.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report
2. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report
4. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report
5. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report
6. Public Health & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report

Member Kirkpatrick noted an increased number of closures in restaurants in certain areas and suggested that staff determine whether educational workshops would be beneficial to assist restaurants to maintain compliance.

XII. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT: A period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments, about matters relevant to the Board's jurisdiction will be held. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Carol Reynolds expressed concerns about how residents have been affected by the water authority's malicious water pricing and excessive use fees. Ms. Reynolds highlighted stories from residents struggling with punitive water pricing, including restricted showering, flushing toilets, and using a dishwasher. Ms. Reynolds noted the excessive funds spent on maintaining the landscaping of their properties, which was now deteriorating. She noted the replacement of natural grass athletic fields with artificial turf, citing health risks, especially for children. Ms. Reynolds noted that the NFL has encouraged the use of natural grass fields for player safety. Reynolds argued that the health department should hold water authorities accountable for endangering the health of residents. Ms. Reynolds stated that the septic issue was a diversion tactic by the water authority to finance unlimited growth.

Laura McSwain spoke on behalf of the Water Fairness Coalition, which advocates against punitive water policies affecting long-term residents. She raised concerns about proposed septic

system regulation changes, emphasizing their financial and environmental impacts. Ms. McSwain criticized the lack of transparency in the rulemaking process, indicating the exclusion of direct resident notification. She questioned the fairness of converting lifetime septic permits into five-year reviews, citing examples of residents facing significant costs and delays due to septic-related permit issues. Ms. McSwain also noted inconsistencies in the stated purpose of the regulations and called for improved public access to meeting materials and schedules. She urged the board to prioritize existing residents' quality of life and reconsider the proposed regulations.

Diane Henry thanked the board for pausing the proposed septic regulations and expressed concern that the changes were driven by water reclamation goals rather than public health and safety. She referenced AB220, promoted by SNWA in 2023, noting that many mandates now appearing in the proposed regulations—such as five-year permit reviews and mandatory sewer connections—were rejected by the legislature. Ms. Henry emphasized that converting lifetime septic permits into revocable ones was an unfair burden on septic owners. She stated that vague statements about rising nitrate levels did not constitute a public health crisis. Ms. Hendry urged the Board not to impose new regulations for moral, ethical, and legal reasons.

Edwin Kaehler expressed full agreement with the preceding speaker's position. He stated that the existing 2009 septic system regulations were adequate and did not require revision. He advocated for the continued recognition of lifetime septic permits, emphasizing that such permits should remain valid without mandatory renewal. Mr. Kahler drew a comparison between septic permit renewals and vehicle smog checks, noting that while the vehicle inspection process was standardized and objective, the criteria for septic system evaluations were vague and inconsistent. He highlighted the lack of clear guidelines regarding acceptable levels of tank debris, structural imperfections, and minor leaks, arguing that the ambiguity leads to subjective and potentially unfair assessments. He further asserted that property owners were inherently motivated to address septic system failures due to the immediate and unpleasant consequences, such as odors or sewage surfacing. Mr. Kahler noted that the porous soil naturally contained bacteria that took care of itself.

Yvette Williams, a resident of Spring Valley, expressed concern regarding the financial and logistical challenges of converting properties with existing septic systems to sewer connections. She noted that her property contained two septic tanks, with one requiring an estimated \$50,000–\$100,000 for connection, and the other, serving a guest house, requiring nearly \$250,000 due to elevation and distance issues. She emphasized that many residents in older communities face similar burdens due to cul-de-sac layouts and long distances from sewer lines. Ms. Williams advocated for grandfathering existing systems and applying new regulations only to future developments. She highlighted the personal impact, stating that such mandates could force her to sell her home of nearly 30 years and potentially leave Nevada due to rising costs and lack of consideration for multi-generational households. Ms. Williams also referenced legislative intent, asserting that prior laws were enacted to protect residents from such hardships, and that current proposals appear misaligned with that intent. She criticized past planning decisions that approved septic systems to facilitate rapid growth in Clark County without adequate infrastructure, and expressed frustration that residents are now bearing the consequences. Finally, she raised environmental concerns, pointing to recent approvals for large-scale underground tunneling projects by private companies, which she claimed pose risks to groundwater and have incurred numerous violations with minimal penalties. She questioned the fairness of imposing strict regulations on residents while businesses receive lenient treatment.

My name is Christian Salmon, S-A-L-M-O-N, Clark County homeowner. Under NRS 241.035 I respectfully request that my comments today be entered verbatim into the public record. I own two septic systems and I believe the concerns I'm sharing today reflect many septic owners across Clark County and feel who also feel they would want to be expressed if they were here. This meeting is during the day and it's hard for many to come. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm here to address the proposed 2025 regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems and liquid waste management. If adopted, these rules would permanently change how families like mine live, maintain their property, and even sell their homes. These regulations redefine simple maintenance as full construction. If a pump or lid fails, a homeowner could suddenly be required to obtain a full engineering permit, pay for multiple inspections and even reconstruct their entire system. That's a major change for the from the practical proven methods that have been working safely for decades. The proposal also adds five-year operation per operation operating permits that expire automatically when properties transfer. That means no valid permit, no sale, turning home ownership into a revolving cycle of fees, paperwork and inspections that never ends although the spec specific impacts may differ. For those on the Colorado River water, private wells and rural versus city parcels every group is being drawn into the same web of new regulation. Each each of us faces different challenges under this proposal. Yet we are all united in one belief that these rules go too far, too fast, and must be rejected in their entirety, just as this regulation was introduced as one comprehensive package, it should be rejected as a whole so that all property owners, regardless of location, water source and circumstance, can equally be protected. We all share one goal to maintain our property rights, preserve our independence, and ensure that every homeowner in Clark County is treated fairly and consistently in liberty. Before rewriting long standing policy, we need to ask the most basic question - Is there a health emergency? No such emergency has ever been declared by SNHD, NDEP, or any other state or federal agency. If there is if there is a public health emergency, where is the study supporting it? The District's own flyer admits that there are no documented specific failure rates or public health studies that justify these sweeping mandates and the emergency truly if the emergency truly existed Nevada law requires the public to be notified. Yet there was no notice, no press release and no outreach. It is understandable then that the citizenry is skeptical of this process. There's 18,245 of us that were notified only at the bare minimum required by law. Only after word spread among septic owners did a postcard arrive, one that contained no substantive information, collected no contact details and promised no future communications, you know, i.e. e-mail. Why? That does not inspire trust. It deepens the divide between government and the people it serves. So some of us remember the early days of AB220, which contained language that criminalized ordinary homeowners for being on a septic system. Those punitive provisions were later removed, thank goodness. Yet the 2025 proposal seems to resurrect that same idea back under a new form of enforcement. Can you imagine law abiding families being treated like criminals simply for having their homes built and permitted decades ago? We don't deserve to be criminalized for having a septic system, do we? This proposal creates a regulatory trap that tightens over time. One permit, one inspection, and one new fee at a time until independence gives way to permanent oversight. You'd be the PUCN effectively, and I'd be the regulated utility. That's not environmental progress, that's overreach. The true goal is protecting water. If the true goal is protecting water, then that then let's pursue the opportunities that will actually make a difference. Nevada currently receives about .85% of the total Colorado River pact allotment, the smallest of any basin state. Instead of targeting homeowners or a or agencies that should be renegotiating their higher allotment and requiring other basin states to recycle their wastewater to the same standard we already achieve. Coastal states like California have the ocean at their doorstep and the ability to desalinate water. They should have been doing this before Nevadans are told to dig up their yards. One last thing is abandon your regulations, not my septic. Thank you.

Ann Casey, a lifelong Las Vegas resident, shared her experience attempting to connect her property to the city sewer system following the introduction of AB220. She expressed willingness to convert from septic but encountered significant challenges, including lack of clear guidance from local agencies, poor communication, and difficulty obtaining contractor bids. Despite extensive efforts, she was only able to secure one incomplete bid, estimated at \$40,000, with actual costs likely closer to \$50,000 when accounting for connection fees, landscaping, and inflation. She emphasized that her neighborhood contains numerous septic systems and that even properties close to sewer lines face prohibitive costs. Ms. Casey argued that the financial burden placed on homeowners, potentially totaling over \$1 billion across affected properties, is unjustified, especially in the absence of demonstrated public benefit or due process. She noted that the Water Reclamation District targets only problematic systems for conversion funding, excluding her property. Ms. Casey concluded by urging decision-makers to consider the lack of contractor availability, the absence of clear problem identification, and the disproportionate impact on homeowners. She questioned the fairness of imposing costly mandates on residents.

The Chair asked Ms. Casey to leave her address with staff.

Robert Thornley, a resident of the rural preservation area, expressed strong opposition to the proposed changes regarding septic system usage. Drawing on his experience as a general contractor and former chairman of the Nevada State Public Works Board, he voiced concerns about increasing utility-related costs and regulatory burdens. He described multiple financial investments made to maintain independence from municipal utilities, including purchasing water rights and installing solar panels. He criticized recent policy shifts that threaten to revoke unused water rights and reduce solar energy credits, viewing these actions as part of a broader effort to diminish homeowner autonomy. Mr. Thornley argued that the Health District's proposed septic regulations would unnecessarily expand government oversight and impose costly inspections without clear justification. He emphasized that septic system issues are typically self-evident and regularly addressed by homeowners. He further questioned the environmental rationale behind the regulations, noting that septic systems represent a small fraction of water usage in Clark County. He cited the significant costs of sewer conversion, ranging from \$40,000 to several hundred thousand dollars, and warned of property devaluation and financial hardship for retirees like himself. Mr. Thornley concluded by urging officials to focus on managing Las Vegas's rapid growth rather than imposing burdensome regulations on long-standing residents.

Rick Aco, a realtor serving Clark, Lincoln, and Nye counties, expressed opposition to proposed changes requiring new five-year septic permits, inspections, and water tests. He noted that homeowners already paid for permits and inspections when their homes were built, and that residential purchase agreements allow buyers to request septic and well inspections, with costs negotiated between parties. He emphasized that this existing process is effective without additional government oversight. As a homeowner in Sandy Valley, Mr. Aco highlighted the impracticality of sewer conversion in rural areas due to lack of infrastructure, funding, and accessibility. He stated that mandatory inspections would increase costs and delays, particularly in remote communities. He also noted that the proposed changes are already negatively impacting real estate transactions by adding complexity and discouraging buyers. Mr. Aco concluded by urging the Board not to duplicate existing processes, not to impose urban regulations on rural communities, and to prioritize fairness over bureaucracy.

Denise Tropea-Kelly, a resident of Centennial for 25 years, expressed strong opposition to the proposed 2025 septic regulations. She stated that her community has responsibly maintained its

wells and septic systems and that the new rules would impose unreasonable and unaffordable burdens on rural homeowners. Specifically, she noted that minor repairs could trigger full system redesigns, driving up costs and threatening long-standing, safe living conditions. She referenced existing Nevada statutes (NRS 444.650 and NRS 534) as sufficient for public protection and argued that there is no data indicating widespread septic system failure or environmental harm. Ms. Tropea-Kelly emphasized that rural residents are conscientious about system maintenance and that the proposed regulations disproportionately affect lower-income households and those who have invested significant personal labor into their homes. She concluded by urging the Board to protect homeowner rights, reject unnecessary regulations, and allow responsible rural residents to continue managing their land and water independently. She advocated for grandfathering existing systems.

Karen Walker, a resident of the rural preservation area since 2007, expressed opposition to the proposed 2025 septic regulations. She stated that her custom-built home complies with all existing laws and that her private septic and well systems represent a significant portion of her mortgage, which she is still paying. She emphasized that requiring abandonment of these systems would impose unfair financial burdens on homeowners still servicing loans for infrastructure they would no longer be allowed to use. Ms. Walker noted that her septic system is located approximately 10 feet underground, which she had to drill to a depth of 700 feet, making contamination unlikely. She argued that there is no documented evidence of groundwater danger in her area and that the proposed regulations lack justification for targeting functioning systems. She urged the Board to revise the regulations to focus on areas without future access to public sewer infrastructure, such as Mount Charleston and Lee Canyon, and to avoid placing the cost of implementing AB220 on homeowners with healthy systems.

Roy Trafton expressed support for the concerns raised by fellow residents regarding the proposed septic regulations. He noted that he did not receive proper notice about the meeting and emphasized that many others in the community are similarly unaware of the potential impacts. He stated that existing septic systems are functioning safely and questioned the necessity of five-year inspection requirements, particularly for single-occupant households like his. Mr. Tropton criticized the disproportionate burden placed on homeowners, especially retirees, who may face significant financial hardship due to mandated conversions and inspections. He highlighted broader concerns about unchecked development, water consumption by data centers, and the lack of corresponding infrastructure expansion. He urged the Board to consider grandfathering in existing systems. Mr. Tropton concluded by calling for greater clarity.

The Chair suggested that any members of the public leave their address with staff to confirm that they are on the mailing list.

David Croteau expressed strong opposition to the proposed septic regulations, citing the significant financial investment in his property, including \$900,000 tied to his home and \$100,000 in landscaping. He stated that mandated changes would result in the destruction of his front yard and impose unfair costs on homeowners. He questioned the legislative process behind the proposal, asking who initiated it and which lawmakers supported it. Mr. Croteau emphasized that the community does not support these changes and that the burden should not fall on residents. He urged the Board to reconsider the regulations and protect homeowners from unnecessary financial hardship.

Judy Heath, a resident of the Children's Memorial Park area in unincorporated Clark County, expressed concern over the lack of public awareness regarding the proposed septic regulations.

She noted that many of her neighbors, particularly elderly residents, were unaware of the issue due to limited access to digital communication. She and her husband distributed flyers to inform the community. Ms. Heath described the emotional and financial stress the proposed changes are causing, particularly for vulnerable residents. She shared an example of a neighbor who fears becoming homeless due to the potential costs. She also highlighted the impact on animals in the area and the disruption that septic system alterations could cause. She raised concerns about the high cost of septic conversion, citing a neighbor's quote of \$100,000 for a single property. Ms. Heath questioned the need to notify the Health District when selling a home and emphasized that residents with septic systems are often more cautious about waste disposal than those on sewer systems. Ms. Heath concluded by urging the Board to abandon the proposed regulations, emphasizing that they disproportionately affect elderly and low-income residents in rural areas.

Robert Dreyfus, a rural homeowner in Moapa, expressed strong opposition to the proposed 2025 Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) regulations. He raised concerns regarding their constitutionality, lack of supporting evidence, financial impact, and due process. He cited the Nevada Supreme Court's ruling requiring a two-thirds legislative majority for recurring fees, such as the proposed \$226 charge, and argued that implementing such fees through rulemaking may violate Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution and the 5th Amendment. He noted the absence of data on septic system failure rates, groundwater contamination, or cost-benefit analysis, asserting that the regulations appear arbitrary and may infringe upon the 14th Amendment due process protections. Mr. Dreyfus also highlighted the financial burden on rural and fixed-income homeowners, referencing potential costs of up to \$100,000 for system upgrades and the risk of property devaluation. He criticized the notification process as inadequate, referencing the short three-week window between learning of the proposal and the scheduled hearing, which limited community input. Mr. Dreyfus recommended postponing implementation, conducting independent studies, considering grandfathering provisions and waivers, providing financial aid for low-income residents, and improving public outreach. He concluded by urging the Board to reject the regulations in their current form to ensure legal compliance and protect homeowner rights.

Lisa Scaro (?sp), a resident of Section 11 at 6245 Edna Ave, attended the meeting after being informed by neighbors and expressed appreciation for community engagement. She identified herself as a real estate broker and voiced agreement with concerns previously raised by another realtor from Sandy Valley. Ms. Scaro (?sp) emphasized the financial burden associated with sewer connection, citing a past estimate of \$55,000 for trenching alone, excluding additional costs such as connection fees and landscaping. She advocated for greater transparency and accountability, expressing this should not be in the purview of the Health District. Ms. Scaro (?sp) highlighted ongoing issues with short-term rentals in her neighborhood, including improper pool water disposal, excessive trash, and unregulated business activities posing health and safety risks. She requested clarification regarding discussions held in a prior meeting about short-term rentals and stressed the importance of protecting responsible homeowners from undue burdens.

Hardy Brunell, a long-time resident of over 40 years, expressed concerns regarding the financial burden of connecting to the city sewer system, citing his background as a general contractor and the high costs associated with such infrastructure work. He noted that he built his home at age 23 and has relied on a septic system since. Mr. Brunell acknowledged the Health District's role and expressed appreciation for its historical contributions to the community, sharing personal experiences from his youth and early adulthood. He voiced regret that the responsibility for the sewer issue appears to have been transferred from the Water Authority to the Health District and urged the Health District to act in the community's best interest.

Jim Cavin, a homeowner for 47 years, shared insights and concerns regarding proposed septic system regulations. He emphasized that uniform regulations may not be appropriate for diverse communities such as Sandy Valley, Mount Charleston, Moapa Valley, and Mesquite, each with unique infrastructure and property characteristics. Mr. Cavin noted that some properties may require costly pumping systems even if sewer lines are available, and that septic permits can exceed \$20,000. He cited the existence of approximately 18,500 septic systems in Clark County and expressed concern that few users were notified of the proposed changes. He questioned the basis for presenting the regulations as a health and safety issue and requested data on septic-related emergencies responded to by the Health District. He estimated the need for four full-time employees at an annual cost of \$300,000 to conduct inspections. Mr. Cavin advocated for a collaborative approach between the Health District and homeowners, suggesting that assistance should be provided when systems fail, rather than mandating costly sewer connections. He concluded by urging the Health District to present data supporting the need for regulation and cautioned against unnecessary changes to functioning systems.

Lois Thompson, a resident of the Lone Mountain area, expressed concern that the proposed septic system regulations would impose a significant financial burden on many residents. She noted the absence of a cost-benefit analysis for the program despite reviewing available materials on the Health District's website and past agendas. Ms. Thompson highlighted that many rural areas lack access to wastewater treatment facilities or have property conditions that prevent discharge to existing systems. She stated that the proposed regulations do not equitably distribute benefits among affected properties and appear to expand administrative authority over private property owners. As a closing remark, she suggested that resources would be better allocated toward addressing the mosquito problem in the area.

Cheryl Pastore, a retired golf professional with over 50 years of experience and multiple academic degrees, shared her insights on mosquito control and septic system management. Drawing from her background managing large golf courses, she recommended the use of mosquito fish and water circulation systems, such as fountains, to effectively eliminate mosquito populations and prevent algae growth in standing water. She emphasized that these methods had proven successful in her past operations, eliminating the need for chemical spraying. Ms. Pastore also voiced concerns regarding proposed septic system regulations, noting that her above-ground cement septic tank requires pumping every 4-5 years, contrary to the suggested 10-12 year interval. She criticized the financial burden and impracticality of mandated sewer hookups for senior homeowners, particularly those in cul-de-sacs, and expressed frustration over the lack of representation and understanding from decision-makers who do not live in homes with septic systems.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the Second Public Comment portion.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Cassius Lockett, PhD
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary
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