



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 20, 2025 – 11:00 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 (*via Teams*)
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 (*in-person*)
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson (*in-person*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*via Teams*)

ABSENT:

N/A

ALSO PRESENT:

(In Audience)

Allon Adar-Burla, Saul Alvarez, Carol Anderson, David Anderson, Elva Anderson, Brett Andow, Joan Aten, Karla Bearden, Amanda Bown-Trujillo, Christopher Boyd, James Cavin, Renee Charles, Adam Childress, Judith Clark, Jim Crawford, Wendy Crawford, David Croteau, Rick Davis, Ryan DiNardi, Karen Dowds, Maria Elliott, Linda Faraimo, Andrew Farrell, Jose Figuaroa, Josh Findley, Phil Glessner, Greg Griffin, Cade Grogan, Jill Hart, Jody Heath, Diane Henry, Kathy Howell, Richard Howell, Kiky Hutton, Donna Johannson, Richard Jost, Bob Kawamura, Edwin Kaehler, Mariela LaBounty, Gail Logan, William Logan, Breanna Lucas, Joni Mann, Dale Martin, Carole McFeeley, Mark Medina, Myra Medina, Robert Morales, Rachel O'Neill, Aeryn Oliver, Mike Partridge, Cheryl Pastore, Mari Pepper, Roland Pepper, Michael Ramsey, Svetlana Reile, Carol Reynolds, Michelle Richardson, Philip Rivers, Gary Ross, Christian Salmon, Michelle Seebeck, Larry Seely, Sharon Seely, Kathryn Sepulveda, Cindy Serdoz, Richard Serdoz, Steve Sidhu, Chuck Siefert, Maria Siefert, Jeanne Smith, Kirby Smith, Bruce Stephen, April Thompson, Sandy Thompson, Ed Traasdahl, Susan Traasdahl, Nigel Trujillo, Matthew Vance, Reginald Varra, Brian Watkins, Amelia Wignall, Julie Wignall, Marilyn Yamamoto, William Zuk

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

LEGAL COUNSEL: Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel

STAFF: Kevin Abbott, Adriana Alvarez, Emily Anelli, Steven Arcuri, Jacqueline Ayala, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamyk, William Bendik, Joy Bidinger, Haley Blake, Ruby Bolus-Rosano, Lori Bryan, Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Victoria Burris,

Donna Buss, Erika Bustinza, Nancy Cadena, Belen Campos-Garcia, Robin Carter, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Cherie Custodio, Aaron DelCotto, Diana Delgado, Lisa Falkner, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich, Fabiana Gonzales, Xavier Gonzales, Jacques Graham, Grisly Guerrero, Maria Harris, Amineh Harvey, Richard Hazeltine, Raychel Holbert, Carmen Hua, Dan Isler, Jessica Johnson, Bob Kingston, Theresa Ladd, Heidi Laird, Dann Limuel Lat, Annie Lin, Josie Llorico, Sandy Luckett, Carol Luna, Cassondra Major, Julie Maldonado, Anil Mangla, Jonas Maratita, Blanca Martinez, Corey Morrison, Semilla Neal, Todd Nicolson, Brian Northam, Veralynn Orewyler, Luann Province, Yin Jie Qin, Jeff Quinn, Wei Ren, Emma Rodriguez, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Chris Saxton, Dave Sheehan, Jennifer Sizemore, Randy Smith, Bruno Stephani, Will Thompson, Helen To, Danielle Torres, Amy Tran, Renee Trujillo, Marjorie Ubando, Donnie Whitaker, Michelle Wong, Merylyn Yegon, Angela Young

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 11:10 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 advised that as there was no posted agenda item related to the proposed septic system regulations, attendees were invited to share comments during the Second Public Comment period.

III. RECOGNITIONS

1. Salman (Skip) Afzal, William Bendik, Erin Butterly, Dr. Horng-Yuan Kan, Dr. Cassius Lockett, Angela Young, and Hong Zhang

- Co-authored the published article “*Early detection of emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variants from wastewater through genome sequencing and machine learning*” in *Nature Communications*

The Chair recognized Skip Afzal, William Bendik, Erin Butterly, Dr. Horng-Yuan Kan, Dr. Cassius Lockett, Angela Young, and Hong Zhang for co-authoring the published article “*Early detection on emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variants from wastewater through genome sequencing and machine learning*” in *Nature Communications*. The study presented an unsupervised learning approach that clustered co-varying and time-evolving mutation patterns to identify SARS-CoV-2 variants, using wastewater samples collected over two years. This method accurately detected the Delta variant in late 2021, Omicron variants in 2022, and emerging recombinant XBB variants in 2023. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employees on this publication.

2. Southern Nevada Health District – October and November Employees of the Month

- Avery John Nerveza and Michelle Wong
- Joy Bidinger and Brianna Lucas

The Chair recognized the October and November Employees of the Month. The Health District, and the Board of Health, recognized these employees go above and beyond for the Health District and our community and best represented the Health District's C.A.R.E.S. Values. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employees on this recognition.

3. Southern Nevada Health District – Manager & Supervisor of the Quarter (Q3 and Q4)

- Victoria Burris and Bernie Meily
- Jessica Johnson and Meryllyn Yegon

The Chair recognized the Managers and Supervisor of the Quarter for Q3 and Q4. Each quarter two individuals are selected, as nominated by staff, to recognize leadership, teamwork efforts, ideas, or accomplishments, and best represent the Health District's C.A.R.E.S. Values. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated staff on this recognition.

Member Summers-Armstrong joined the meeting at 11:16 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.

Diane Henry expressed concerns regarding the handling of variances and associated conditions. She questioned the necessity and perceived arbitrariness of certain requirements, such as removing sheds or trees near septic systems, which may create hardships for homeowners. Ms. Henry suggested that a septic inspection could be a more reasonable alternative to costly variances, allowing homeowners to assume responsibility for future issues. She also raised concerns about conditions attached to variance approvals, particularly the requirement to agree to sewer connection within 400 feet, citing potential financial burdens and impacts on property values. Ms. Henry urged the board to reconsider these longstanding practices and avoid imposing conditions that could discourage compliance or lead to unpermitted work.

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

V. ADOPTION OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2025 MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the November 20, 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:** October 23, 2025 (for possible action)
2. **PETITION #15-26: Approval of the CHEMPACK Storage Facility Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the State of Nevada, Division of Public and Behavioral Health Public Health Preparedness Program for Storage and Maintenance of Emergency Medical Counter Measures;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)
3. **PETITION #16-26: Approval of the Revision to Leadership Team Employment and Appeal Rights, Employment Rights and Appeal, Employee Privacy, and Separation from Employment in the SNHD Employee Handbook;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)
4. **PETITION #17-26: Approval of the Agreement Amendment A01 to C2500086 and Supplier Schedule Q-64920 made with reference to the original Master Supply Agreement for the purchase of the LIAISON XL – high volume chemiluminescence analyzer from DiaSorin;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

A motion was made by Member Brune, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to approve the November 20, 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. **Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD #ON0024214, located at 5965 N. Grand Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain underneath the existing shed;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Mr. Isler presented the variance request for an existing septic system located at 5965 N. Grand Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain underneath the existing shed. Mr. Isler advised that the variance stemmed from a tenant improvement request, wherein the homeowner constructed a shed over the leach field. Mr. Isler noted that the shed was 400 square feet, which requires a building permit process. Mr. Isler confirmed that there was no building permit associated with the shed. Mr. Isler confirmed that staff was recommending denial of the variance, as sewer was available less than 400 feet from the property. However, if the Board approved the variance, staff recommended approval with conditions.

Matthew Vance, the homeowner, was in attendance virtually and advised that the floor in the shed was a 'floating floor' that allows airflow under the floor.

Further to an inquiry, Mr. Vance agreed to amend the recommended condition to maintain a nonpermanent shed floor and not replace it with a nonpermeable surface.

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 Gallo, and carried unanimously to approve the Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD #ON0024214, located at 5965 N. Grand Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain underneath the existing shed, with the following conditions:

- 1. Petitioners and their successors in interest shall abide by all local government regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems. Use of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected to any community sewage system within 400 feet of the Petitioner's property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*
- 2. Petitioners and their successors in interest must abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*
- 3. Petitioner and all future owners will maintain the current, nonpermanent shed floor above the leach field and will not replace it with a nonpermeable surface or cover any additional portion of the leach field.*
- 4. The variance will be in effect until the existing residential septic system is inactivated, removed, or if the property changes land use. Conversion of the existing septic system for commercial use will result in the variance becoming null and void.*
- 5. Petitioners and their successor(s) must provide a copy of the variance to potential buyers as part of the disclosure process per NRS 113.*

2. Variance Request for an Application to Construct a Septic System located at 6225 Lee Canyon Road, Mount Charleston, NV 89124 to allow the installation of a septic system on an undersized lot; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Mr. Isler presented the variance request for an application to construct a septic system located at 6225 Lee Canyon Road, Mount Charleston, NV 89124 to allow the installation of a septic system on an undersized lot. Mr. Isler confirmed that staff recommended approval of the variance with conditions.

Dale Martin, representative for the Petitioner, was in attendance.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

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

A motion was made by Member Becker, seconded by Member Larson, and carried unanimously to approve the Variance Request for an application to construct a septic system located at 6225 Lee Canyon Road, Mount Charleston, NV 89124 to allow the installation of a septic system on an undersized lot, with the following conditions:

- 1. Petitioners and their successor(s) in interest shall abide by all local government regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems. Use of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected to any community sewage system constructed in the future to within four hundred (400) feet of the Petitioner's property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*

2. *Petitioners and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*
3. *Construction of the ISDS must commence within one year of the date of approval of the variance. If construction does not commence within that period, this variance shall automatically expire and be of no further force and effect, unless application is made and approved for an extension of time prior to the expiration date by the Petitioner or their successor(s) in interest.*
4. *If an existing ISDS is encountered during construction of the proposed ISDS, it will be abandoned or removed in accordance with Section 17 of the SNHD ISDS Regulations.*

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

- 1. Review, Discuss, and Accept the Recommendations from the November 19, 2025 Finance Committee meeting regarding the Financial Statement Report, as of June 30, 2025, from FORVIS MAZARS LLP; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)**

Josh Findlay, Senior Manager, of FORVIS MAZAR LLP attended the meeting to present the FY2025 audited Financial Statement Report. Mr. Findlay advised that they issued an unmodified audit opinion for the Financial Statement and had no findings on the Internal Financial Report on Internal Control regarding the governmental auditing standards.

Mr. Findlay advised that the single audit, related to federal grant expenditures could not be finalized as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had not issued the Compliance Supplement, which lists every federal assistance program. Mr. Findlay advised that the single audit would be brought to the Board at a later date.

Mr. Findlay further outlined the required communications related to accounting policies and practices, and advised there were no matters reportable related to judgments about the quality of the Health District's accounting principles, no significant issues discussed with management and no disagreements with management.

Mr. Findlay proceeded to outline future accounting pronouncements of GASB 103, and GASB 104.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to accept the recommendations from the Finance Committee to accept the Financial Statement Report, as of June 30, 2025, from FORVIS MAZARS LLP, as presented.

Member Nielson acknowledged Donnie Whitaker, Chief Financial Officer, and her team for their hard work associated with the audit. Member Nielson further advised that the Finance Committee received the SNHD Financial Report, as of September 30, 2025, which is provided under Information Items.

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 Nielson advised that the Finance Committee discussed the delegation of authority to the District Health Officer to approve contracts up to \$100,000 (previously \$50,000). The Finance Committee discussed establishing criteria for these approvals and clarified the approval process. It was agreed that staff will provide a quarterly report listing all contracts approved under \$100,000, including approval dates, descriptions, and amounts. These reports will be included in Informational Items for the Board, with the option to request additional details if needed. The Board requested a written policy outlining this process to ensure consistency.

Member Kirkpatrick discussed the challenges related to septic system regulations and public awareness. Specifically, Member Kirkpatrick emphasized that changes to regulations follow a lengthy state-mandated process, which includes business impact statements and statutory requirements, noting that the pool regulations took five years to finalize. Member Kirkpatrick highlighted public awareness issues, as noted earlier in the meeting that some residents were unaware, they have septic systems or the maintenance requirements, which often leads to improper waste disposal and costly repairs. Member Kirkpatrick noted that Clark County allocated \$15 million to assist with septic-to-sewer conversions. Member Kirkpatrick noted that 90 homes in Henderson were being fully funded to convert to sewer. Member Kirkpatrick noted that most septic permits were temporary until sewer was available. Member Kirkpatrick noted that the Health District could improve the website and create education materials for septic owners. Member Kirkpatrick noted that the Health District was considering conducting surveys and public engagement before finalizing regulations and addressing technical issues in existing regulations. Member Kirkpatrick noted the importance of collaboration among agencies such as Water Reclamation, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and municipalities to streamline conversions and reduce costs. Member Kirkpatrick noted the concern of nitrate contamination risks in certain areas.

X. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS (*Information Only*)

- DHO Comments

In addition to the written report, Dr. Lockett advised that Bob Kingston joined the Health District as the Chief Facilities Officer on October 27th. Mr. Kingston is a local resident and was recently an electrical engineer at the City of Henderson. Mr. Kingston brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and education that will make him an asset to the Health District.

Further Dr. Lockett advised that the Health District partnered with Three Square to host three community food distribution events at the Decatur and Fremont locations. These events provided fresh produce and emergency food supplies to families experiencing food insecurity. A total of 1,031 households were served, and approximately 72,000 pounds of food were distributed, averaging 70 pounds per household. These efforts supported households with limited access to nutritious foods, including those awaiting or receiving reduced SNAP benefits. An additional food distribution event will be scheduled for mid-December at the Decatur location to help prevent hunger during the holiday season.

Further, the Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, in collaboration with partners, continued to operate pop-up produce stands at the Bonneville Transit Center. These stands offer affordable, regionally grown fruits and vegetables, accepting SNAP, EBT, cash, debit, and credit payments. Stands are open from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with the remaining 2025 market dates held on December 2 and December 9. This initiative helped families manage rising food costs and SNAP benefit changes while supporting local growers and promoting healthy nutrition. In 2024, the program distributed 2,471 pounds of produce, improving food access for households facing barriers.

Dr. Lockett advised that on November 7, the Health District confirmed its first measles case since 2018, involving an infant too young to receive the MMR vaccine. The child was hospitalized and had fully recovered. More than 100 contacts were identified, most with verified vaccination status, and no secondary cases have been reported to date. A health alert was issued to healthcare providers to remain vigilant for measles symptoms. Nationally, measles activity has risen sharply in 2025, with 1,723 cases and 45 outbreaks reported in the U.S., compared to 285 cases and 16 outbreaks in 2024. Canada has also experienced over 5,000 cases in the past year, losing its elimination status. Dr. Lockett advised that the Health District continued active surveillance, contact tracing, and provider outreach to prevent further spread and urged community members to stay up to date with MMR vaccination and seek care promptly if symptoms such as fever, cough, or rash occur.

Dr. Lockett concluded by advising the Board that the Health District reported the season's first flu-related death involving an 80-year-old male. The Health District had a new respiratory dashboard that indicated overall respiratory illness remained low, including RSV and COVID-19, but influenza activity had increased by 7.1% over the past two weeks. As of November 8, there had been 26 flu-related hospitalizations. The Health District urged everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated, as flu season typically peaked between December and February. Preventive measures such as staying home when sick, frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding close contact with ill individuals are strongly recommended.

Member Brune requested additional information regarding the program at the Bonneville Transit Center.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. SNHD Financial Report, as of September 30, 2025
2. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report
4. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report
5. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report
6. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report
7. Public Health & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report

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.

Cheryl Pastore addressed the board regarding septic system regulations and long-term water solutions. She emphasized that approximately 18,245 residents currently use septic systems and expressed that individual circumstances should be considered when implementing regulations. Ms. Pastore proposed exploring alternative solutions, specifically desalination technology, as a faster and more sustainable approach compared to decades-long septic-to-sewer conversions. She cited successful examples, including a Texas town that secured \$30 million in federal funding to resolve water issues and El Paso's operational desalination plant, which produces 27.5 million gallons of water daily and 40 billion gallons annually. Ms. Pastore recommended sending engineers and board members to study the El Paso facility and suggested leveraging available resources, such as the Water District's \$1.5 billion reserve, to fund similar projects in Las Vegas. Her comments stressed the importance of planning for future water needs beyond current challenges.

Summer Golia expressed strong objection to the Health District imposing new or additional regulations on existing, approved, and paid-for septic systems. She emphasized that these systems were permitted and installed under the codes and requirements in place at the time of approval, and applying new regulatory conditions retroactively creates an undue burden on property owners. Ms. Golia stated that such actions undermine reliance on original approvals and raise concerns about fairness and administrative overreach. She requested that the Health District honor existing permits and installations as grandfathered under their initial terms, without additional fees, modifications, or inspections, unless clear evidence of a legitimate health or safety risk exists. She concluded by rejecting the proposed regulations package.

My name is Christian Salmon, a Clark County homeowner under NRS 241.035(1)(d) I respectfully request that my comments be entered in verbatim into the public record. The process has been hidden from the public. Throughout this year the regulations were developed quietly through the Business Impact surveys in internal drafting workshops and notice of intent, all without meaningful participation from home homeowners who will bear 100% of the burden. Only after septic families discovered the process on their own did we fill this room. Why was this done in secret? Why were we not included from day one? Especially when we repeatedly expressed our desire to participate. And why have some voices even discouraged some people from showing up today? Ms. Kirkpatrick. Uh, that alone raises serious concerns about intent. I mean, the regs were to be voted on on October 23rd. This is all set and ready to go and all of a sudden, because we're involved now, everybody's backing off. Uhm, this is not how a fair and democratic regulatory process is supposed to operate. Who started this and why? The public still does not know who initiated this regulatory overhaul. Which agencies and individuals pushed it forward, or what the justification was for launching such a sweeping rewrite. No vote from this board has ever been presented showing that you authorize this process. Yet staff proceeded as if directed a direction have been given. A package of this magnitude should never originate without a clear public board approved mandate. We deserve full disclosure. Names, titles, agencies, communications and the reasoning behind the push. No health emergency. Uh, there's no health emergency, no justification. The government is supposed to solve real problems, not phantom ones. To justify new mandates, there must be a documented health threat, a declared emergency, failure rate studies, evidence of contamination, peer review data, but none exist. Your own flyer confirms no septic failure rate study, so no outbreaks have been identified, no emergency has been declared. And if one were to happen now, I would be suspicious of it, to be honest with you. Without a documented health problem, creating a new sweeping regulatory regime is not public health. It is an administrative overreach. A regulatory trap and the taking of properties where we're at. Homeowners built or purchase their homes under stable rules and lifetime septic permits now are being dragged into a new system. A five-year permit process, reoccurring fees, engineering

requirements for basic repairs, expanded inspections, property transfer complications, threats of forced sewer connection based solely on distance. This is not modernization. This is taking of property rights and is a creation of permanent regulatory trap. We reject every part of this package completely and when massive new residential projects and water intrusive data centers are being approved monthly. It becomes clear that who is being targeted. Long time homeowners who are the easiest group. Many of them are seniors. Unfair one-sided participation. These those advanced regulations receive unlimited time, full presentations and open dialogue with the board. Homeowners receive and are regulated to 5 minutes here to discuss. No, no or no discussion, no opportunity to correct. You know what's what's going on here. This is not democratic. This is not balance. This is the administrative state operating without consent from its citizens. This is the cart before the horse. This is not about septic. This is about water policy failure. Nevada receives .85% of the Colorado River compact allotment in the smallest of any base of state instead of the targeting homeowners, the real work should be done renegotiating the compact, requiring other states to recycle to Nevada standard, capturing storm water through the regional control district and infrastructure has been in place and we don't even have to pay for that. Why are we not getting that. Addressing evaporative loss considering desalination partnerships, finally studying primary water sources beneath Nevada. They're already here. None of that has happened. Instead, we are coming. You're coming after families that have done nothing wrong. This is discriminatory enforcement, not environmental policy. We reject this package fully and without conditions. We are not negotiating pieces of this. We reject the entire premise. The government wants us even to consider future changes starting with this point. So we want 0 cost to homeowners if you want us to come on board.

Cheryl Reynolds shared concerns about the financial and emotional impact of proposed septic regulations on long-time residents. She explained that, as a 77-year-old who planned carefully for retirement and health maintenance, she now faces unexpected financial uncertainty due to recent water rate increases and proposed septic regulations. Ms. Reynolds stated that changing permanent septic permits to temporary status would create a “permanent state of limbo” for homeowners and described this as a form of elder abuse, both financial and emotional. She urged the board not to support measures that she believes prioritize county growth at the expense of residents’ stability and well-being.

Diane Henry expressed concern about replacing permanent septic permits with temporary, revocable ones. She noted fears that revocable permits could eventually be used to force homeowners to connect to adjacent sewer systems at their own expense. While SNHD’s website FAQ states there is no intention to mandate sewer connections for properly functioning systems, Ms. Henry argued that revocable permits are unnecessary even for failing systems, as homeowners must address failures regardless. She questioned the purpose of new permits if SNHD does not plan to target functioning systems, suggesting it would waste resources. Ms. Henry urged the board not to change the rules or revoke lifetime permits unless funding is available to financially support septic conversions.

Jim Cavin, a Section 10 resident and septic system user for 45 years, expressed strong opposition to the proposed septic regulations. He thanked Member Kirkpatrick for acknowledging the wide range of circumstances affecting septic users. Mr. Cavin stated that the regulations were introduced as a response to potential public health hazards but noted that his repeated inquiries about the number of septic system emergencies in the past year have gone unanswered. He emphasized that homeowners were not notified of pending regulations or meetings and described the proposals as unnecessary, intrusive, and an example of government overreach. Mr.

Cavin highlighted the significant financial burden on homeowners, estimating costs of \$40,000–\$50,000 for compliance, and warned that such mandates could have political repercussions.

Richard Cerdos expressed strong concerns about the financial impact of proposed septic-to-sewer conversions. He stated that estimated costs of \$38,000–\$60,000 per household are unacceptable unless fully funded by the city or county. He emphasized that he purchased his home with a septic system to control expenses and has successfully maintained it for 15 years without issues. Mr. Cerdos criticized the lack of direct communication from SNHD, noting he learned about the proposal from a neighbor rather than official notifications. He warned that conversion would lead to ongoing monthly charges, creating additional financial burdens for homeowners. While he supports water conservation and reclamation efforts, he urged the board to improve outreach and coordination among agencies and to consider fairness for long-time residents who did not choose city expansion.

Julie Wignall expressed concerns about the economic hardship posed by potential septic-to-sewer conversions and criticized the lack of transparency and communication surrounding the issue. She stated that many residents feel misled and pressured, citing lobbying efforts by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Ms. Wignall urged SNHD to improve outreach by collecting email addresses at meetings and sending regular updates to keep the public informed. She emphasized the need for trust and open dialogue to address fears and uncertainty among residents. Additionally, Ms. Wignall requested that SNHD conduct studies on water contamination beyond nitrates from septic systems, including potential chemical pollutants from large AI data centers and industrial projects. She referenced recent incidents involving chemical exposure and stressed the importance of understanding what substances are entering wastewater systems to protect public health.

Christine Hicks stated that she represents 160 homes in Eastland Heights, which is served by the Eastland Heights Water Association. She noted that their water comes from two wells, is regularly tested, and complies with all federal and state drinking water regulations, with no issues related to nitrates or contaminants. Ms. Hicks shared that residents in her community have two primary concerns: the significant financial burden posed by the proposed septic regulations and the lack of evidence of any health hazard in their area. She emphasized that homeowners would address septic issues if they existed but believe the proposed regulations are unnecessary and unfounded.

Edwin Kahler expressed support for the Health District's mission and reputation, but voiced concern that involvement in proposed septic regulations is damaging its credibility. He criticized recent public communications, including postcards describing the changes as routine updates to "simplify and clarify," calling these statements misleading. Mr. Kahler argued that current regulations are sufficient to address failing systems and questioned the need for expiring permits or additional restrictions. He emphasized that septic systems are not causing public health crises or premature deaths and urged the board to improve transparency and communication. Mr. Kahler also noted that approximately 30,000 voters live on properties with septic systems and warned that imposing unnecessary regulations could create significant public opposition.

Laura McSwain expressed appreciation for board members' concern for community investments and quality of life, but criticized the current process for developing regulations, particularly, the Business Impact Statement process. She stated that this process bypasses those most directly affected by proposed policies, citing past issues with excessive use charge penalties where residents were not properly notified despite the Water District having customer contact

information. Ms. McSwain noted that the process currently involves only about 70 parties, many of which are associations rather than actual businesses, and argued that this is inadequate for meaningful public input. She commended community members for participating and emphasized the need to reform notification procedures so that residents directly impacted by rate changes, septic regulations, or similar policies receive timely and transparent communication.

Sharon Seeley stated her opposition to the proposed septic regulations, citing that they would create a serious financial hardship for her family. She urged that these regulations should not be enacted until adequate funding is available to cover the significant costs associated with compliance.

Mark Medina, a Section 10 resident for 55 years, expressed strong opposition to the proposed septic regulations and questioned the priorities of local leadership. He noted rapid growth in Southern Nevada, including new car washes, casinos, and apartment buildings, despite ongoing water concerns, and contrasted this with claims that septic systems pose a major issue. Mr. Medina urged county commissioners and elected officials to fight for federal funding to assist homeowners with conversion costs, citing examples such as Puerto Rico receiving \$365 million for its power grid. He criticized political divisions and called on leaders to set aside prejudices and work together to secure resources for residents.

David Anderson briefly commented on mosquito control, sharing a personal anecdote about unintentionally drowning mosquitoes in canola oil. He expressed agreement with previous remarks regarding sewer issues, but emphasized his concern about mosquito presence.

Judy Heath expressed strong opposition to the proposed septic conversion efforts, citing concerns about transparency, political influence, and potential impacts on property values. She noted that initial meetings lacked proper notification to septic owners, who learned of them through word of mouth and social media. Ms. Heath alleged that the push for septic-to-sewer conversions benefits real estate developers and referenced campaign contributions and board memberships as possible conflicts of interest. She warned that high conversion costs could force homeowners to sell at reduced prices, benefiting builders seeking to increase housing density. Ms. Heath also questioned the motives behind the regulations and highlighted a recent sewer line break as an example of existing infrastructure issues, contrasting it with the reliability of her septic system.

Michelle Richardson expressed concerns about the uncertainty surrounding proposed septic regulations and emphasized the need for clear communication before future meetings. She suggested creating a reliable point of contact and improving website resources to provide accurate information on requirements, waiver processes, and inspection procedures. Ms. Richardson questioned the language on the SNHD website regarding mandatory sewer connections and requested clarification on existing restrictions in other communities. She raised concerns about third-party inspections, including qualifications, homeowner input, and potential costs, and asked for transparency on who would conduct inspections and whether entry into homes would be required. Additionally, she requested a simplified explanation of the waiver process for properties meeting criteria such as distance from sewer connections and expressed concern about unexpected costs for consulting licensed professionals. To improve communication among residents, Ms. Richardson offered to maintain an email list for interested homeowners and provided an address for sign-up: 918273septic@gmail.com.

Jim Crawford expressed frustration over the proposed septic regulations, stating that the messaging is causing unnecessary fear among residents. He noted that he has received more information on unrelated topics, such as Bitcoin and addiction, than on septic system concerns and criticized the lack of clear communication. Mr. Crawford urged the board to focus on its responsibilities without alarming the community.

Joni Mann stated that she strongly opposes the proposed septic regulations.

Bob Kawamura requested additional information regarding the motivation behind the proposed septic regulations, expressing skepticism that the initiative is health-driven. He suggested the effort appears politically and economically motivated, particularly related to return water credits. Mr. Kawamura shared concerns about the effectiveness of return credits, noting his personal observations at the Las Vegas Wash where water quality appeared poor and emitted chemical odors. He questioned how this water could be treated for safe drinking or agricultural use and asked for clarification on how return water credits benefit the community beyond meeting accounting or regulatory goals.

Karla Bearden thanked the board and fellow residents for their participation and expressed appreciation for the community's engagement. She voiced concern over remarks suggesting the public is unaware of their septic systems, stating that such assumptions are offensive. Ms. Bearden also criticized comments referencing the cost of conversions, noting that statements about paying \$38,000 for homes to convert were troubling.

Member Kirkpatrick requested to clarify a previous statement, noting that their earlier remarks were misinterpreted. Member Kirkpatrick indicated she would wait until the speaker finished before providing clarification to ensure accuracy and avoid taking time from public comment.

Ms. Bearden expressed frustration over statements regarding funding for septic conversions, emphasizing that taxpayer money - not personal funds - was used for projects such as those in Henderson. Ms. Bearden questioned fairness and transparency in how funds are allocated, noting that excessive use fees do not apply uniformly across jurisdictions like Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Boulder City. Ms. Bearden raised concerns about declining property values, burdensome regulations, and restrictions on property use, calling for accountability and expressing dissatisfaction with perceived loss of personal freedoms.

Ms. Cordovez Mulet advised that a written comment was submitted by Eugene Yazzie.

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

The Chair reiterated the significance of the septic regulations, emphasizing that it was important to both the Board and the public. The Chair acknowledged the time and effort invested in the meeting. The Chair announced that after the start of the new year, a comprehensive communication process will be implemented to ensure broad engagement, including those unable to attend the meeting. While recognizing that the process was not perfect and past actions cannot be changed, the Chair stressed the Board's commitment to moving forward collaboratively as an organization and community. The ultimate goal, as stated by the Chair, was to achieve outcomes that make sense for those affected and to prioritize public health.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Cassius Lockett, PhD
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary
/acm

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