



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 26, 2026 – 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 Nemeec, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
Joseph Hardy, Secretary – Mayor, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
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*)
Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson (*via Teams*)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
- ABSENT:** Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming
- ALSO PRESENT:** (In Audience)
David Anderson, Elva Anderson, Toluwanimi Babarinde, Eugene Belin, Greg Borgel, Kathleen Boyd Jones, John Brown, Ann Casey, David Cherry, Judy Clark, Mike Curts, Anna Draper, David Harrison, Jill Hart, Judy Heath, Diane Henry, Ryan Hutchinson, Kurt Jaspersen, Edwin Kaehler, Gary Kantor, Keith Kennedy, KSNV, KTNV, Laura McSwain, Bradley Mayer, CJ Mortensen, Cheryl Pastore, Jessica Perez Vidrio, Edward Peters, Mary Peters, Cameron Pfand, Russell Pushard, John Recicar, Carol Reynolds, Lori Roberts, Christian Salmon, Jay Samuels, Neal Samuels, Larry Seely, Sharon Seely, Thomas Trenholm, Andre Vickers, David White, Harold White
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- STAFF:** Kevin Abbott, Adriana Alvarez, Kristen Anderson, Emily Anelli, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Haley Blake, Todd Bleak, Danielle Bohannon, Lori Bryan, Nicole Bungum, Nikki Burns-Savage, Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Victoria Burris, Donna Buss, Belen Campos-Garcia, Arcmiguel Cordial, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Rebecca Cruz-Nanez, Cherie Custodio, Gerard Custodio, Jeff Dawson, Jessica Donnell, Rayleen Earney, Lisa Falkner, Kimberly Franich, Tina Gilliam, Xavier Gonzales, Jacques Graham, Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Amineh Harvey, Raychel Holbert, Donna Houston, Carmen Hua, Tabitha Johnson, David Kahananui, Bob Kingston, Theresa Ladd, Dann Limuel Lat, Annie Lin, Josie Llorico, Carol Luna, Anil Mangla, Jonas Maratita, Blanca Martinez, Bernadette Meily, Kim Monahan, Corey Morrison, Brian Northam, Veralynn Orewyler, Laura Palmer, Kyle Parkson, Luann Province, Yin Jie Qin, Nancy Raleigh, Vivek Raman, Emma Rodriguez, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero,

Chris Saxton, Karla Shoup, Rosanna Silva-Minnich, Jennifer Sizemore, Cameron Smelcer, Randy Smith, Candice Stirling, Will Thompson, Justin Tully, Renee Trujillo, Jorge Viote, Donnie Whitaker, Tiana Wright, Edward Wynder, 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 9:00 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair thanked all attendees who participated in the community outreach session on February 24, acknowledging their patience amid room-capacity limitations and technical difficulties with the remote broadcast. The Chair expressed appreciation on behalf of the entire Board of Health and the Health District team for the community's engagement, interest, and willingness to share feedback. The Chair also noted that some audience members were present regarding the ISDS regulation proposals and stated that a Health District press release on the topic was issued the previous day, which was read into the record.

Member Brune joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

III. **RECOGNITIONS**

1. **Vivek Raman (Environmental Health Division)**

- Co-authored the published article "*The expansion of the yellow fever mosquito (Aedes aegypti) and evidence of its establishment in the Las Vegas metropolitan area, Nevada*" in the Oxford University Press on behalf of the Entomological Society of America

The Chair recognized Vivek Raman for co-authoring the published article "*The expansion of the yellow fever mosquito (Aedes aegypti) and evidence of its establishment in the Las Vegas metropolitan area, Nevada*" in the Oxford University Press on behalf of the Entomological Society of America. The study highlighted the need for effective vector control measures and public health strategies to mitigate the growing risk of vector-borne diseases in Las Vegas and other urban areas experiencing similar introductions of *Aedes aegypti*. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated Mr. Raman on this publication.

2. **Tawana Bellamy, Dr. Todd Bleak, Dr. Robin Carter, Tabitha Johnson, David Kahananui, Bernadette Meily, Randy Smith, and Merylyn Yegon**

- Southern Nevada Community Health Center 2025 HRSA Operational Site Visit Badge

The Chair recognized the Southern Nevada Committee Health Center Leadership Team (Tawana Bellamy, Dr. Todd Bleak, Dr. Robin Carter, Tabitha Johnson, David Kahananui, Bernadette Meily, Randy Smith, and Merylyn Yegon) for being awarded the 2025 Operational Site Visit Badge from HRSA. Following the completion of the recent Operational Site Visit, it was determined that the Health Center demonstrated full compliance with all Health Center

Program requirements. This achievement reflected a dedication to excellence, operational integrity, and continued service to our patients and community. This distinction honored the steadfast commitment to compliance, quality, and the mission of the Health Center Program. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated staff on this recognition.

3. Southern Nevada Health District – February Employees of the Month

- Stephanie Romano and Kris Schamaun

The Chair recognized the February 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.

- 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.

Laura McSwain, from the Water Fairness Coalition, commented on Item XI, Informational Item #5, referring to the Environmental Health Monthly Report. She raised concerns about water safety oversight after residents in Zone 2035 reported nearly two hours without water during the December 16, 2024 Washington Tank Return to Service event, which was administratively classified as a pressure reduction. She noted that loss of pressure can present contamination risks under EPA guidance and stated that no boil-water notice, bacteriological sampling, or public communication occurred. She also indicated that documents provided did not show that the Health District was notified of the event. Ms. McSwain emphasized the importance of precaution in a high-growth, high-construction community and asked the Board what role the Health District plays when a public utility experiences pressure failures affecting neighborhoods. She requested clarification on whether such events are reported to the Health District, how they are evaluated from a public health perspective, and whether reliance is placed solely on the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. She concluded by noting that if schools must notify the Health District of water outages, similar precautions should apply system-wide. Ms. McSwain submitted her written comments for the record.

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

V. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2026 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Brune, seconded by Member Bond, and carried unanimously to approve the February 26, 2026 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:** January 22, 2026 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #19-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement (CBE NO. 607772-25), between the Southern Nevada Health District and Clark County, Nevada to collaborate on RYAN WHITE Part A JURISDICTIONAL CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
3. **PETITION #25-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement for 55 Civic Way, Suites 111, 112, and 120, Laughlin, NV 89029 (APN #264-12-801-008) between the Southern Nevada Health District and Clark County Department of Real Property Management;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #26-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to increase access to fruits and vegetables;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
5. **PETITION #28-26: Approval of an Interlocal Contract between the Southern Nevada District Board of Health and the City of Las Vegas to provide services to support the Southern Nevada Health District Community Partnership to Promote Health Equity, Year 3 grant awarded to SNHD by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Award # NU58DP007746). The CDC refers to this grant award as Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH);** 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 February 26, 2026 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 #06-26: Request for Approval of Renewal of Authorization of Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center 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 Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center as a Level III Trauma Center. Ms. Johnson confirmed that Mike O'Callaghan Military 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 the Regional Trauma Advisory Board and staff recommended that the Board of Health approve the renewal application.

Member Summers-Armstrong reported attending a veterans' event where a representative from Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center informed attendees that they were a designated trauma-level facility offering services specifically for service members, and could request transport to the trauma center, even if they were no longer on active duty. She noted that this option provides a familiar and supportive environment for veterans and was valuable information for the veteran community.

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

A motion was made by Member Summers-Armstrong, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the Renewal of Authorization of Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center as a Level III Trauma Center, as presented.

2. Variance Request for an existing septic system located at 2510 and 2520 S. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain split across two parcels; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Daniel Burns, Environmental Health Engineer/Manager, outlined that the variance request was a requirement by the current regulations. Mr. Burns advised that the proposed regulations include an administrative waiver process that would allow staff to decide on variance requests, such as the one being presented.

Daniel Isler, Environmental Health Engineer/Supervisor presented the variance request for an existing septic system located at 2510 and 2520 S. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89149 (collectively the "Subject Property") to remain split across two parcels. Mr. Isler advised that the variance stemmed from a tenant improvement request to allow future building permits to be issued for the properties located at Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 163-11-101-001 (northern parcel) and 163-11-101-002 (southern parcel), the Subject Property. The existing septic system serves a single commercial building that is entirely on the northern parcel. The entire leach field and most of the septic tank were constructed on the southern parcel, with a small portion of the septic tank located on the northern parcel. Mr. Isler confirmed that staff was recommending denial of the variance, as per the regulations, as sewer was available within 400 feet of the Subject Property. Mr. Isler did note that was the only reason for the denial, and that staff did not have any other issues approving the variance request. Mr. Isler indicated that should the Board approve the variance, staff recommended four conditions.

Greg Borgel, representative for the petitioner, stated that tunneling under Rainbow Blvd. would be required and expressed that they could not agree to Condition #1. Mr. Borgel noted uncertainty regarding the timing and nature of future development on the Subject Property, including when sewer service might become available. Mr. Borgel requested that Condition #1 not be approved. Additionally, he raised concern about being required to combine the two parcels, as future development could require the parcel merger to be reversed, causing unnecessary delays to the overall project.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Christian Salmon expressed concern about the need for community members to attend and speak at meetings, stating that it was disheartening to examine issues in such detail. He emphasized that a wide range of matters, including those related to health, can arise in government and wanted to highlight this point.

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

Chair Black explained that at the outreach session at the YMCA many attendees asked why updates to the ISDS regulations were being proposed. He noted that after 17 years, changes in technology and best practices make it necessary to review and modernize the regulations. He emphasized Mr. Burns' key point that the updated regulations would include an administrative process to streamline approvals. This would reduce the need for variances, saving staff and applicants time and money, and improving overall efficiency. Chair Black highlighted that this improvement was a significant benefit of the proposed changes and reflects government working more effectively for the public.

Member Kirkpatrick stated that the conditions were reasonable and would not support the variance request without the conditions.

Further to an inquiries from Member Summers-Armstrong, Mr. Borgel reiterated the concerns of having to dig under Rainbow Blvd. and the uncertainty about the future development of the subject property and that they did not want to consent to the combining of the two parcels.

Further to an inquiry from Member Kirkpatrick, Mr. Isler advised that approximately 40% of the parcel contained the septic system and nothing could be built over the septic or leachfield.

Further to an inquiry from Chair Black, Mike Curts, VP of Construction for Pink Box Donuts, advised that they had received three estimates to connect sewer that were upwards of \$150,000.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Bond, and carried unanimously to approve the Variance Request for an existing septic system located at 2510 and 2520 S. Rainbow Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146, with the following conditions:

- 1. Petitioner shall combine the two parcels, APNs 163-11-101-001 and 163-11-101-002, into a single new parcel, and record the parcel map within one year of the date this variance is approved.*
- 2. Petitioner and their successor(s) in interest shall abide by all local governmental 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.*
- 3. Petitioner and their successor(s) will install and maintain a grease interceptor in accordance with the requirements of the most current SNHD Food Regulations and the Uniform Plumbing Code.*
- 4. Petitioner and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. PETITION #27-26: Approval of Augmentation to the Southern Nevada Health District FY2026 Budget; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Donnie (DJ) Whitaker, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolutions regarding the budget augmentation, as follows:

- Resolution #01-26 – Increasing the General Fund Budget by \$4,856,172, from \$117,309,423 to \$122,165,595
 - The decrease in total revenue sources (FY2026) in the General Fund budget is 1,566,700 will reduce resources to the FY2026 SNHD General Fund Budget.
- Resolution #02-26 – Decreasing the Grant Fund (Special Revenue) by \$8,363,702, from \$70,661,216 to \$62,297,514
 - With the increase of FY2025 end fund balance to the Grant Fund (Special Revenue) was \$39,372, from adopted \$82,081 to actual \$121,453. The FY2026 total adopted budget revenue is \$61,881,567 and has decreased to \$56,495,488, a difference of \$5,386,079 to align with year-to-date actual amounts.
- Resolution #03-26 – Increasing the Capital Fund by \$493,191, from \$2,811,000 to \$3,304,191
 - With the increase in FY2025 end fund balance to the Capital Fund is \$570,882, from adopted \$2,999,600 to actual \$3,570,482. The FY2026 total adopted budget revenue is \$109,559 and contains no change.

The Board requested information regarding federally funded grants that have been withdrawn, augmented and/or cancelled.

A motion was made by Member Summers-Armstrong, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to accept the recommendations from the Finance Committee and approve Petition #27-26 related to the Budget Augmentation to the Southern Nevada Health District (i) General Fund (Resolution #01-26), (ii) Special Revenue Fund (Resolution #02-26), and (iii) Capital Fund (Resolution #03-26) Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026, as presented, to meet the mandatory financial requirements of NRS 354.598005.

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 Brune requested a presentation on the potential fiscal implications on the loss of Ryan White grants.

Member Kirkpatrick requested an update on Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and legislative priorities in advance of the September deadline for bill drops.

Chair Black inquired as to the first public comment regarding water pressure testing and reporting procedures.

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

- DHO Comments

In addition to his written report, Dr. Lockett addressed public health funding, specifically the reduction to the Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection grant the Ryan White grant of approximately \$5.4 million. Dr. Lockett noted that the Health District did receive Senate Bill 118 and State Public Health Funds. Further, Dr. Lockett noted that some states experienced reductions to the Public Health Infrastructure grant, HIV Surveillance grant, HIV Prevention grant, and STD Prevention grant. Dr. Lockett advised that the Health District was monitoring the potential impact.

Member Kirkpatrick suggested that the Finance Committee review the contingency fund for a possible increase to \$5 million.

Member Summers-Armstrong suggested that the Health District increase the effort and be more proactive to make the community aware of the role and importance of public health and the services available. The Chair noted that April was Public Health Month and there was an opportunity to increase visibility during the State of Public Health.

Member Hardy recognized the Health District's Baby Shower event earlier in the month, and commended staff on a successful event.

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

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.

Ann Casey, residing at 7460 Helena Ave, raised concerns about the press release regarding proposed septic regulations. She questioned the claim that the regulations would not impact water rights, noting that draft language appears to change permanent lifetime permits to temporary, revocable ones. She requested clarification or correction. She also asked for clearer definitions of what constitutes a system "failure" and when sewer infrastructure is considered "available," noting that these terms were undefined and may lead to significant financial impacts for homeowners. Ms. Casey emphasized the need for direct notification to all septic system owners, stating that attendance at recent meetings shows strong public interest and that the agency should have accurate address records if it intends to regulate or bill system owners. She suggested including both supportive and opposing viewpoints in future informational materials so residents can better understand potential impacts of the proposed regulations.

Chair Black clarified that the Health District was currently in an active process of revising septic system regulations. The regulations circulating in the community are only proposed drafts, and the press release provides a summary of those proposals. Chair Black emphasized that public comments, including those shared by Ms. Casey, were valuable for refining the regulations and ensuring clear communication throughout the process.

Cheryl Pastore, residing at 1330 Rosanna St., shared observations from a neighbor's recent connection to the sewer system to highlight potential impacts on homeowners. She reported that the process required the residents to vacate their home for approximately two weeks due to contractor liability policies, creating added costs for temporary housing. She described significant property disturbance from heavy equipment used for trenching and installation, noting that materials and machinery were stored on the property throughout the work. Ms. Pastore stated that even in cases with minimal impact the costs were substantial. She emphasized that other properties with more complex layouts, limited access, or structures near septic locations could face additional expenses for repairs to walls, driveways, or landscaping. She expressed concern that these combined factors could create a severe hardship for many homeowners, particularly those with health issues or limited resources.

Sharon Seely, residing at 6475 Darby Ave., urged the adoption of a "Septic Owner's Bill of Rights." She noted that her home was built 49 years ago and her septic permit has no renewal or expiration requirement. She stated that her system was professionally installed and properly maintained, and she believes decisions about repairs or replacement should remain with the homeowner without added regulatory burden. Ms. Seely expressed that being required to connect to sewer would create significant financial hardship.

Member Summers-Armstrong left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Harold White, residing at 9470 W. Regina Ave., expressed concerns about jurisdictional inconsistencies related to septic regulations. He urged the Board to coordinate with all local jurisdictions so that homeowners across Clark County are subject to consistent rules. He described a situation in which a new nearby development placed his property within 400 feet of city sewer, raising the possibility that he could be annexed into the city and required to connect, despite county assurances that septic permits would not be revoked. Mr. White stated this creates conflicting directives between city and county authorities. He also referenced the "Septic Owner's Bill of Rights" and encouraged the Board to review it to better understand homeowners' concerns.

Member Summers-Armstrong returned to the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Hi Board, uh Chair, uh my name is Christian Salmon. Under NRS 241.035(1)(d), I respectfully, I request that the minutes reflect the substance of my remarks and I'm submitting uh my prepared remarks, so my words are preserved uh in verbatim word for word as part of the public record. Uh, today I am placing a uh homeowner first platform into the workshop or not the workshop but the uh this is for the other night, uhm record uh the Septic Owners Bill of Rights. I would like to read the headings only, but I will be giving you the full text so you can look at it. I'm uhm start off here. Number one, keep a lawful septic, no permission to occupy. Two, repair replace must not trigger forced sewer. Three, no proximity ambush and that's currently in the language, and I don't think that's fair either. Uh 400 feet uh accessible words like served, available, etcetera. Uh voluntary uh voluntary sewer connection only unless you're going to come and pay for the whole thing like restoration, like lodging like has already been discussed. Uh clear and objective rules. No vague

traps. This is littered with them. Uhm things like uh define altered so that normal maintenance isn't punished. Uh define commercial use so homeowners aren't relabeled. Uh eight real notice and direct outreach via mail, e-mail, text and proof that that's been done. Nine, no open-ended discretion, any other conditions or any other information quote unquote that is in this this wording. Due process plus appeals. People can actually use, uh such as giving them 90 days to respond, not the traditional 30 that's used normally. Uh eleven, homeowner favorable interpretation. So that no interpretation traps uh hook us when we're in the midst of what we saw today. Uh there should be no discrimination and no segregation. That's a common theme in our society. But yet we have rural versus residential versus uh uh commercial. Uh, thirteen build, rebuild or renovate without a sewer connection coercion. Uh, fourteen transparency plus we want to face the authors. I have Dr. Lockett here and I know that they're facing you, but you know what, they should face us. We want to hear what what the decision makers that are drafting all this or have to say. They are always facing the other way and I don't think that's appropriate. The gravity of what we're talking about is serious and uhm we want to face everybody in all these meetings. Uhm, also, just something else. Water is not lost. The water goes in the earth and we're going to pull it back up with my well. It's not going anywhere. We're talking about credits for the Colorado River. It's not lost. I'm going to pull it back up later, maybe years, but it's going in there. It's not going anywhere. So you're fighting us over something that's not logical. This whole thing is littered with illogical premises and it's not fair. Uhm, so if this is a one thing I'd like to ask is I asked for records release. Now I've told this to the Board and I've asked for records. This is a public policy. Why can't I get the records? Why can't we all know it? Everything should be disclosed. They told me administrative uh, deliberative law. That means what they're talking about behind the scenes. Shouldn't that be disclosed? Isn't that what this is all about? I mean, come on. I got denied up into Dr. Lockett. I appealed to him even though I didn't have to. The next step is I have to go to court. Do I have to pay for an attorney to get public records? I mean, this is totally ridiculous. Is this the United States or are we in a third world country? You know. Just makes me mad because this is not what America's supposed to be. This is totally ridiculous. Totally. And this is a one-way conversation. I hear. I see you guys looking at me. Now I've got your attention. We got your attention the other night, but you're still steamrolling forward. You're not listening. This Board should look at the premise that is being proposed and see if it's worth pursuing. I'm asking the Board right now even those that are not in attendance that are virtually, I'm asking you to please put this up for a vote that we have a time for a hearing, not that to approve it, but to see if it would even continue because this is a cart before the horse. And I'm gonna hand my documents to you.

David White, residing at 3202 Monecito Drive, requested adoption of the "Septic Owner's Bill of Rights." He asked whether routine maintenance or normal repairs to an existing septic system or leach field could trigger requirements to upgrade the system to current codes or to replace the system entirely, referencing language in the press release regarding repairs to distribution or leach field components. He requested that maintenance and standard repairs be exempt from new regulatory requirements if they trigger upgrades. Mr. White also asked whether a property transfer would preserve the grandfathered status of an existing septic system.

Edward Peters, residing at 7175 W. Linberg, stated that he reviewed the draft regulations and expressed concern that they appear to require Health District approval for constructing new buildings or sheds on his property, even if they have no plumbing. He questioned why such structures would fall under septic-related regulation rather than standard building permitting. Mr. Peters said homeowners maintain their septic systems responsibly and argued that additional regulation is unnecessary. He urged the board not to impose new requirements on functioning systems.

Judy Clark, residing at 3425 Maverick St., thanked staff for their professionalism at a prior meeting and expressed support for adopting a “Septic Owner’s Bill of Rights.” She noted that she may need to sell her property and was now concerned that septic-related regulations could negatively affect its marketability. Ms. Clark questioned the need for new septic regulations, stating she has not seen evidence of septic systems posing health issues in Nevada. She expressed concern about perceived federal involvement and urged the Health District to avoid unnecessary regulation. Ms. Clark further stated that if sewer connections were required, the financial responsibility should fall on the city or county rather than homeowners.

Member Bond left the meeting at 10:48 a.m. and did not return.

Diane Henry thanked the Health District for revisions made to the proposed septic regulations but stated that some language remained vague and could negatively affect several groups of homeowners, including those with new construction and those needing system alterations. She urged postponing new requirements until a funding mechanism is in place. She noted that new construction already requires an SNWA septic waiver and a \$20,000 fee, along with additional restrictions such as obligations to install future sewer infrastructure even when sewer access may be decades away. She requested clarification on how “rural areas” were defined, particularly for neighborhoods designated as Rural Neighborhood Preservation areas that lack sewer access. Ms. Henry also expressed concern about how the regulations define “altered systems.” She stated that many repairs appeared to trigger permit revocation, temporary permits, and additional reviews, even when the system can be restored to proper function. She pointed to proposed decommissioning language stating that replacement of major components requires system shutdown and asked the Health District to reconsider how altered systems were defined and regulated.

Keith Kennedy explained that he currently owned a home on septic and also has a separate property he hoped to develop for retirement. He stated that new requirements, such as the \$20,000 SNWA septic waiver, higher permit fees, mandatory soil and perc testing, and five-year permit renewals, have significantly increased costs compared to when he installed his original system in the 1990s. He also noted that installation costs for septic systems have risen substantially. Mr. Kennedy expressed concern that changes in sewer-distance requirements (from 400 feet to 600 feet) could obligate property owners to pay for costly sewer extensions, citing per-foot cost estimates from the City of Henderson that could total more than \$100,000. He stated that these expenses could make his property financially impractical to develop and could also reduce its resale value. He emphasized that many rural preservation areas were far from sewer infrastructure and were unlikely to see development that would extend service.

Member Larson left the meeting at 10:57 a.m. and did not return.

Carol Reynolds referenced a statement from the previous Board meeting in which private septic owners were described as “stakeholders.” She expressed concern that the term was often used politically without genuine inclusion of affected residents. Ms. Reynolds stated she hoped septic owners would be meaningfully recognized and treated as true stakeholders in the regulatory process.

Elva Anderson, residing at 2672 Barberdale Circle, stated that she recalled years ago properties with a cesspool but now have a modern, compliant septic systems. She expressed strong support for the “Septic Owner’s Bill of Rights” and asked the Board to review it carefully, noting the emotional impact the issue has on septic owners.

David Anderson, residing at 6217 O'Bannon Drive, thanked the Board for their professionalism and communication during the previous outreach meeting, noting they handled the large crowd effectively. He expressed a desire to avoid additional charges for septic system owners. He further encouraged broader public education on HIV-related health issues, stating he believed many people no longer understood the seriousness of the problem.

Laura McSwain, from the Water Fairness Coalition, commented on the proposed updates to the septic regulations. She noted that while the stated goal was to simplify language and protect public health, the red-lined revisions removed existing intent and scope language and restructure regulatory authority. She acknowledged that earlier drafts contained more aggressive provisions that were scaled back in response to public input but stated that the remaining proposal still expands enforcement mechanisms, maintains discretionary authority for compelled sewer connections, and does not assign funding responsibility to the entities that would benefit from increased recycled water supply. Ms. McSwain stated that if the regulations addressed documented public health failures, those should be clearly demonstrated and narrowly targeted. If the goal was to increase return-flow water, she argued that such policy should be handled within water resource planning and funded accordingly, rather than shifting costs to homeowners. She concluded that describing the revisions as merely "simplifying and clarifying" asked the public to overlook substantive changes. Ms. McSwain submitted written comments for the record.

Gary Kantor, residing at 2816 Vista del Sol, thanked the Health District for revisions in the most recent draft of the proposed septic regulations. He noted the large public turnout at the outreach meeting as an indication of widespread concern. He stated that homeowners in established residential areas without sewer access should be allowed to install septic systems, explaining that otherwise vacant lots could become unusable or financially burdensome. Mr. Kantor questioned why the Health District was regulating septic systems, stating that in his experience and review of medical literature, he has found no documented health or environmental issues caused by properly functioning septic systems. He submitted written documents for the record.

Thomas Trenholm, residing at 2834 S. Torrey Pines Drive, commended the Las Vegas Valley Water District for its prior program that covered up to 85% of sewer-connection costs, noting it successfully helped some residents convert from septic to sewer. He expressed concern about the high cost of sewer connections, estimated at approximately \$400 per foot, which could place significant financial burdens on homeowners, especially those far from existing sewer lines. Mr. Trenholm stated that mandates requiring homeowners to connect due to system failure or property transfer could greatly devalue properties and expose sellers to legal risks. He urged that no mandatory sewer connections be imposed at homeowners' expense and suggested alternative approaches, such as providing cost-sharing programs, offering better information to septic owners, and considering caps on homeowner expenses based on the cost of septic repair or replacement.

Ms. Cordovez Mulet advised that written comments were received, in advance of the meeting, that would be included with the meeting minutes.

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

Chair Black reiterated appreciation for public participation, noting they have been present at every meeting on this topic since October. Responding to earlier comments about the term

“stakeholder,” Chair Black clarified that stakeholders include both the Board and community members, as all share a mutual interest in how regulations affect the community. He emphasized that the regulatory process was ongoing, public input was part of the official record, and revisions would continue with the goal of meeting the Health District’s intent while ensuring fairness to residents. Chair Black thanked participants for their engagement and reaffirmed that the community was an essential partner in the process.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

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

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