

2006

Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending September 30, 2006

Margaret N. Rees

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, peg.rees@unlv.edu

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending September 30, 2006

Assistance Agreement Number FAA010017

Task Order Number FAF040019

Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Task 1: Project Coordination

Assist in project coordination between numerous stakeholders such as the Clark County School System, Desert Research Institute, Community College of Southern Nevada, UNR Cooperative Extension, Nevada State College, local museums, state parks, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and the public to ensure appropriate educational curricular activities and venues are provided for in the conceptual design of the School and the Wild Horse and Burro facility where appropriate as well as assist in the NEPA process as needed. The activities will be conducted at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research, teaching, and service mission.

PROGRESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

There has been no new activity in Task 1 during the past quarter. The Bureau of Land Management has not called any meetings of the community stakeholders group (i.e., Core Group) since March 2006. The agency held a meeting with selected community stakeholders and agency personnel on October 5, 2006, to discuss the potential option of phasing the project. University representatives were unable to attend this meeting, but have been informed by other attendees that Las Vegas Field Office Manager Juan Palma expressed a desire to form a new community group – composed of high-level Las Vegas businesspeople – to provide the agency with consultation on phasing the project. Mr. Palma also apparently is interested in conducting another feasibility study for the proposed science school that would examine a smaller-scale, phased project.

Task 2: Educational Curricular Coordination

Provide educational thematic and curricular coordination between numerous stakeholders such as the Clark County School System, Desert Research Institute, Community College of Southern Nevada, UNR Cooperative Extension, Nevada State College, local museums, state parks, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and the public and help develop a written curriculum that synthesizes the input of these stakeholders. In addition, suggest other compatible uses for the School including but not limited to science and educational research. The activities will be conducted at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research, teaching, and service mission.

PROGRESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

The University continues to work on a professional product that assembles together all curriculum materials produced during the term of the task agreement. This formal product will be made available to the Las Vegas Field Office for its future use as well as to the CESU for purposes of sharing it with other CESU institutions. Completion of the curriculum summary is anticipated by the close of this task agreement on December 31, 2006.

Task 3: Operational Analysis

Provide coordination for the business model with curriculum development to elucidate the potential operations and maintenance cost and projected revenues for the School as the design evolves and potential funding sources are more predictable. The activities will be conducted at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research, teaching, and service mission.

PROGRESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

This subtask was eliminated from the task agreement by formal modification dated 5/22/06.

Task 4: Community Coordination

Provide community outreach coordination to the public and facilitate collaborative processes with the Oliver Ranch committees including but not limited to the core committee and its designated subcommittees as outlined in the current BLM Oliver Ranch minutes. This role will include the calling of meetings, development of meeting agenda, recording and distribution of minutes, meeting facilitation, and other communication and coordination as needed for the smooth functioning of the Oliver Ranch committees. This service will be provided at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research and service mission.

PROGRESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

There has been no activity in Task 4 during the past quarter. As noted in our June 30 year-end report, several anticipated public hearings on the RRDLC project were cancelled by the agency. The university has received no direction from the BLM project coordinator as to future plans for community outreach on this project.

Submitted by: _____

Margaret Rees, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator