



Ms. Susan Brager
Clark County Commissioner
500 S. Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89155

August 8, 2011

Via e-mail: ccdistsf@ClarkCountyNV.gov

RE: Rhodes Development – Blue Diamond Hill

Dear Ms. Brager:

Please accept the following comments regarding the concept plan for Blue Diamond Hill before the Commission on August 17, 2011 on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (“Center”).

The Center is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 315,000 members and on-line activists throughout Nevada and the United States.

We submit these comments on behalf of our members, activists, staff, and members of the general public who are interested in protecting native species and their habitats and the natural treasures of Nevada.

The Center requests you protect Red Rock National Conservation Area (“RRNCA”) and its general vicinity by voting against the proposed Blue Diamond Hill development concept plan.

We are not opposed to any development that is built under the zoning and density that was in effect when Mr. Rhodes purchased the property – one dwelling per two acres. We are opposed to any development with increased density for the following reasons:

It changes the landscape of a national treasure in our own backyard. Building 7,000 homes along with commercial centers and industrial shops would create pollution and congestion right in the middle of one of the region's most popular hiking, cycling, and rock climbing destinations. The Clark County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Report and amendment to the Clark County Comprehensive Plan identifies Blue Diamond Hill as one of the key aesthetic viewpoints in Clark County. The proposed development would blight the view of Red Rocks from the Las Vegas Valley as well as diminishing the wild recreational experience enjoyed by those recreating in the RRNCA.

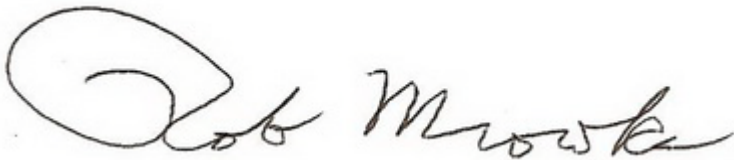
It does not make economic sense. The proposed plan places additional strain on the already overdeveloped housing market and requires an expansion of the county's current infrastructure to service a new area. With home prices at their lowest in 20 years, and with a community still feeling the impacts of the largest foreclosure crisis our nation has ever seen, Why would we

approve this development?

It opens the door to future developers trying to break the rules for building in rural areas. These codes exist to limit the consumption of limited resources, such as water, in areas with limited access to resources, as well as to protect the natural character of our most beloved natural areas. Allow a density increase sets a bad precedent to be copied by other speculative developers.

Don't diminish the values of our natural heritage treasure that is RRNCA. Hold to the existing density for Blue Diamond Hill.

Sincerely yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Mrowka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rob Mrowka
Ecologist/Nevada Conservation Advocate