

April 29, 2022

Washoe County Community Services Department  
c/o Roger Pelham, Senior Planner  
1001 E. North Street, Bldg. A  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: WAC22-0002 Extension of Time for WSUP19-0003 Vya Monopole

Dear Mr. Pelham:

As a concerned ranch owner in Vya and the Board Chair for the Vya Conservation District, I agree with the comment from Mr. Jim Shaffer (Washoe-Storey Conservation District) regarding the mitigation of mortality concerns with sage grouse and fencing. Additionally, here are a few other concerns that merit consideration when reviewing the amendment to extend the special use permit for two additional years.

**Wild Horses:** The proposed mono pole site is in an area used by local wild horses for spring foaling. It is anticipated this has been taken into consideration in the design and build of the proposed fencing.

**The Tower's Proposed Service:** Currently, the tower is providing cell coverage for AT&T. Many private ranchers, visitors to the Black Rock Desert and the Massacre Rim for stargazing, along with governmental agencies, use Verizon and US Cellular here as this has been the service available for more than a decade in the surrounding Nevada and California communities. It is our request that consideration be extended to add Verizon and US Cellular to this facility.

**The Maintenance of the Dugway Road:** Access to the tower is via the Dugway "shortcut" road which also provides access to most of the northern ranches and the Sheldon/Massacre Rim areas. As to the Dugway road maintenance, the amendment does not address this issue with any definition. This road saves approximately 6.2 miles for travelers to California or to view our northern Long Valley and its attractions. Surprise Valley Electric also uses the road (power line runs parallel to the road) to maintain the power to Long Valley residents and the Washoe County Road Maintenance facility.

The upkeep of the Dugway has become almost nonexistent since Washoe County stopped maintaining it. The road has remained passable only due to a local resident grading it and sporadic BLM or contractor support. It is requested that as part of the conditions for applications that a maintenance plan be considered to service this road and maintain its serviceability.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to review and provide comment for the upcoming Public Hearing on this matter.

Best regards,

Tony Stobiecki

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