

# NEVADA PLANNER



American Planning Association  
**Nevada Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association

## FALL 2022

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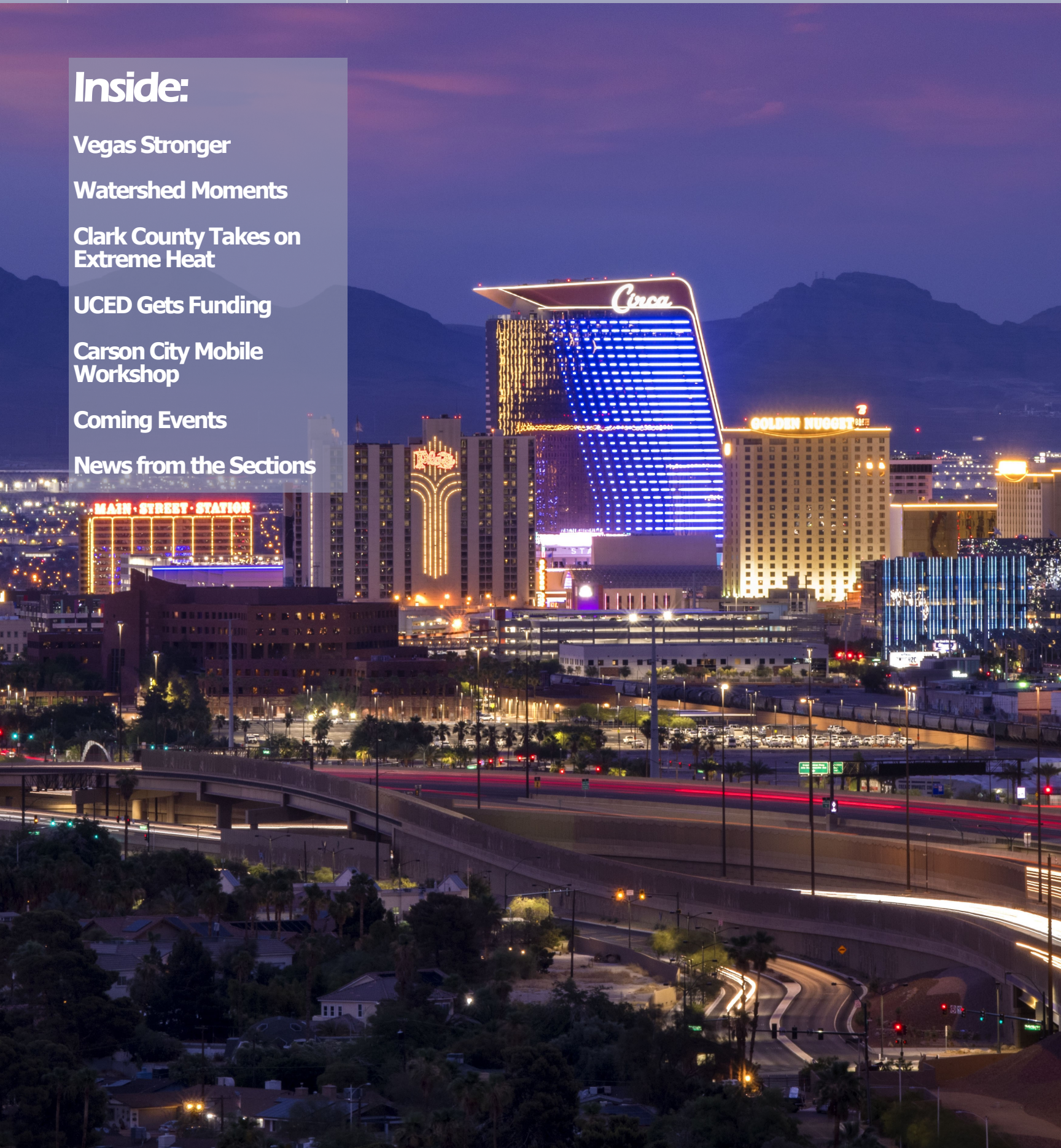
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## American Planning Association Nevada Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*



**ON THE COVER:** DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS, INCLUDING THE PLAZA HOTEL CASINO, HOST SITE OF THE 50TH ANNUAL STATE PLANNING CONFERENCE, SPARKLES AMIDST A STUNNING SUNSET.  
PHOTO: CITY OF LAS VEGAS.

# WHO's WHO

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## THE NEVADA PLANNER

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# NORTHERN SECTION NEWS

FREDERICK STEINMANN  
DIRECTOR, NORTHERN SECTION

It has been a busy first half of 2022 for the Northern Section of the APA Nevada Chapter! Beginning in the spring, the Northern Section kicked-off a series of educational sessions focused on various development-related topics ranging from housing to transportation to changing demographics to natural resource management. As the northern part of Nevada continues to grow, these development-related issues have received increased attention and will continue to remain critical parts of how the wider region continues to address continued population and economic growth. The Northern Section has also hosted a series of social events, including our annual “Reno Aces Night” back on June 28 and will be hosting a series of additional educational and social events and activities over the remainder of 2022.

The Northern Section, in partnership with Southern Section members and Chapter officers, also hosted the 2022 Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association Rural Planning Conference on August 18 and 19, 2022 in Elko! Nearly 100 participants from across the state attended and this was the first Rural Planning Conference that the Chapter has hosted in over ten years. The Rural Planning Conference consisted of two separate plenary sessions, including a Planning Law Plenary Session and a Planning Ethics Plenary Session, along with nine separate breakout sessions, and a luncheon panel discussion on Friday, August 19, featuring representatives from several of Nevada’s largest mining and natural resource extraction firms, from the Nevada Division of Minerals, and from the Nevada Mining Association. On behalf of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association, I would just like to thank everyone that attended and all of our Rural Planning Conference sponsors for helping make this event a success!

As we all continue to emerge from the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Northern Section is committed to providing Chapter members with broad opportunities for professional development and for social engagement with other Chapter members and like-minded professionals that share an interest and passion for planning. We hope that you are able to join us for some of the many educational and social events that the Northern Section has planned for the rest of 2022! 🌴

# SOUTHERN SECTION NEWS

ALFREDO MELESIO, AICP  
DIRECTOR, SOUTHERN SECTION

Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing this blurb one week before our 50th Annual Nevada Chapter State Conference at the Plaza Hotel. It has been my honor to work with a great team and great board on this conference. The speakers are going to be phenomenal! I want to thank everyone who helped and give a special thanks to folks like Marco Vellota, Las Vegas and Amber Harmon, Wood Rogers who are the heart and soul of this conference every year. I appreciate you. 🌴

## 2022 WESTERN PLANNER OF THE YEAR: GREG TOTH, AICP



At its annual conference in Bismarck, North Dakota, Western Planning Resources named our very own Newsletter Guy, Greg Toth, AICP, its 2022 Planner of the Year. The award seeks to recognize and honor an individual who has the fortitude, skill, and humor necessary to be a practitioner and an outspoken advocate on behalf of planning in the West. Greg has been at this for almost 25 years, most of which has been at the City of Henderson (with a brief stint as an intern at the City of Las Vegas). Congratulations with aloha, Greg!





PHOTO: MSN

## FIVE YEARS LATER: ARE WE “VEGAS STRONGER?”

IRENE NAVIS, AICP

Five years ago on October 1, 2017, Southern Nevada experienced the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Of the 22,000 in the audience and 2,000 people working the last night of the Route 91 Harvest Festival on the Las Vegas Strip, nearly 800 people were injured, and 58 people were killed. Subsequently, several people died as a result of complications from their injuries, from other unrelated accidents or illnesses, or from suicide. Many are still affected emotionally, psychologically, physically, and financially. We were told by experts and survivors of past mass casualties that recovery would take many years, and they were right. While 90% of the people in attendance were from places other than Las Vegas, recovery efforts were focused on assisting ALL affected, no matter where they reside.

In the Winter/Spring 2018 edition of the Nevada Planner, I wrote about the Clark County Resiliency and Recovery Framework, and the multi-disciplinary efforts to assist the community recover and bounce back with resilience, moving from “Vegas Strong” to “Vegas Stronger.” Many combined community resources in grant funding, donations, volunteer efforts, and others have kept the recovery effort moving forward. Community non-profit agencies

have played a key ongoing role, and Legal Aid of Southern Nevada has done a phenomenal job reaching out to the community and provided meaningful, timely services to both survivors and the community at large. The Clark County Office of Emergency Management has continued to play a lead role in the recovery and resilience effort, and members of that team have been called upon to fulfill the promise to “pay it forward” in support of other communities subsequently faced with mass shootings. State of Nevada and other Southern Nevada agencies have played an important role in the ongoing activities in support of making progress toward a more resilient community, and in sharing experiences, lessons learned, and best practices within their communities and with other affected communities.

Since October 2017, significant actions have been taken to implement the Resiliency and Recovery Framework, and to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in it. After recently reviewing the plan, I can state with confidence that indeed, the plan has been implemented. What Clark County and its partner agencies set out to do has been done, and in some cases, exceeded expectations. For example, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center (VSRC), originally funded solely for recovery from the shooting and expected to be in place only three years, is still in place. Not only does the VSRC support shooting victims, survivors, family members, first responders and others affected by the shooting, but the VSRC is now funded as an “all hazards” resource. The VSRC played a vital role, for example, in supporting local and state government response and recovery efforts related to the COVID-19



pandemic.

The Resiliency and Recovery Framework established for Clark County was not only implemented successfully here in Southern Nevada, it has been designated as a best practice planning tool by FEMA and has been used in other communities such as El Paso after their own tragic mass shooting. The Department of Homeland Security also recognized Southern Nevada agencies' investment in mass casualty preparedness. They also commended Southern Nevada leaders for their ability to pivot after the shooting to effectively reprogram federal funds to assist in filling gaps and implementing improvements identified in after action reports.

Each year in remembrance of the shooting, the community gathers to honor those who were lost, the survivors, and to thank those who were involved in the response and recovery such as first responders and medical personnel. Visitors from all over the US and Canada are in attendance, and this year was no exception. Remembrance activities such as sunrise service and art exhibit at the Clark County Government Center, a 5k race in downtown Las Vegas, and a remembrance event at the Las Vegas Community Healing Garden. The VSRC sponsored a number of on-line and in-person activities in remembrance and to promote ongoing healing. The Clark County Heritage Museum houses art and artifacts left in remembrance to the victims. Even 5 years later, these activities are very well attended. I had the privilege of attending the sunrise service, and also visited the Las Vegas Healing Garden for the first time. The Healing Garden is a serene and reverent place of reflection that was created as a result of leadership and generosity from the City of Las Vegas and many community volunteers. In the future, a location on the Las Vegas Strip, donated by MGM Resorts, will be home to a facility which serves as a permanent remembrance for the benefit of the survivors, their families, responders, and the general public.

The question remains, five years later, are we truly



“Vegas Stronger?” All evidence points to “yes.” The proof is in the pudding, so to speak, in the collective response and ongoing recovery related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I have had the honor of being involved in the development of after action reports related to the pandemic. Almost everyone involved has credited the response, recovery, and ongoing improvements and best practices in planning, training, and response capabilities resulting from the Route 91 tragedy as the foundation for the success




of our collective response to the pandemic. As I mentioned in my previous article, what we invest in preparedness has a direct correlation to our ability to recover and bounce back, strong and resilient.

State and community-level planning has played an integral role in increasing community resilience. Building from existing emergency response, hazard mitigation, and continuity plans has increased resilience. Existing relationships were strengthened, and new ones were formed. A better understanding of the role of government, non-profit agencies, and the private sector has increased resilience. Recognizing the importance of Social Service agencies and the resources they bring to the table to protect, house, and feed people has increased resilience. Leveraging public and private sector resources in response and recovery has increased resilience. Promoting community unity and raising awareness of long-term recovery issues through remembrance events has increased resilience. As I mentioned in my previous article, what we invest in preparedness has a direct correlation to our ability to recover and bounce back, strong and resilient.

So, are we there yet? Indeed, the journey continues. We continue to improve communication, strengthen plans, policies, procedures, and programs, and expand our network of resources to better prepare for whatever the community may face in the future. In my first article, I expressed the hope that Southern Nevada would not primarily be known for the shooting, but rather for how we recovered





afterwards. If the conversations I overheard at the various remembrance events are any indication, we are widely recognized as a welcoming, supportive, strong, resilient community. We have demonstrated we are not just a slogan, we were **Vegas Strong** where it counted, and **Vegas Stronger** forever. 



*Irene Navis, AICP, is a retired Assistant Emergency Manager for Clark County, an emergency preparedness and strategic planning consultant, and currently serves as the Nevada Coordinator for the Western Regional Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management.*



PHOTO:  
IRENE NAVIS

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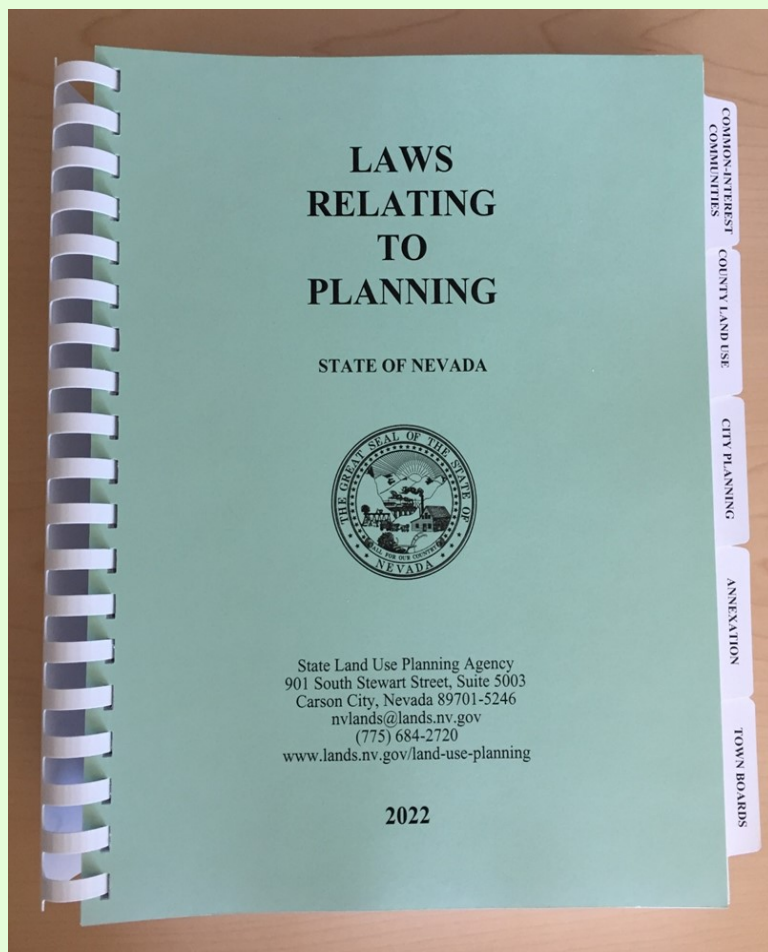




# LAWS RELATED TO PLANNING BOOK SALE

**SCOTT CAREY, AICP**

The State Land Use Planning Agency is pleased to announce a "Fall Clearance Sale" for the 2022 version of the Nevada Laws Related to Planning book. This book is a compilation of the Nevada Revised Statutes relating to planning, zoning, land division, planned use development, housing, and other land use planning subjects. The book is updated after each Legislative session and is organized by subject matter to provide a one-stop resource for everything land use planning, zoning, and development law in Nevada. Copies of the book are currently available at a special discounted rate of \$20.00, while supplies last. For additional information or to order a book please visit <http://lands.nv.gov/land-use-planning/state-land-use-planning-agency> or contact Scott Carey, AICP at 775-684-2723 or [scarey@lands.nv.gov](mailto:scarey@lands.nv.gov).



# COMING EVENTS

## OHIO APA WEBCASTS

(Click Here to Register for All Ohio APA Webcasts)

### October 19

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

[Creating Policy for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure](#)

Presented by the Sustainable Communities Division

CM | 1.5 + 1.0 SUSTAINABILITY

### October 21

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

[Zoning for Equity, Resilience, and a Post-Pandemic World](#)

Presented by the Ohio Chapter

CM | 1.5 + 1.0 EQUITY

### October 28

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

[When It Rains, It Pours: A Dialogue on Urban Flooding Across the U.S.](#)

Presented by the HMDR Division

CM | 1.5 + 1.0 SUSTAINABILITY

CM credits can be claimed by looking up the sponsoring Chapter or Division as provider on the [APA website](#).

## PLANETIZEN WEB COURSES

(Click here for list of courses)

All courses are free, available anytime, and are approved for 1 CM.

## APA LEARN

(Click here for list of courses)

APA Learn has over 400 courses, including Law and Ethics, all of which are eligible for CMs and available at a low, per-credit cost.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Planner I, Current Planning**

[City of Henderson](#)

**Senior Planner, Long Range Planning**

[City of Henderson](#)

**Planner II**

[City of Las Vegas](#)





## WATERSHED MOMENTS

### PROMOTING WATERSHED LITERACY IN THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED

**BRENDA HUNT**

In 2020, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) released the first film in the I Am Carson River Watershed campaign film series, A Walk Through the Carson River Watershed. Viewers are treated to a tour of the region by local news figure Vanessa Vancour. Starting high in the Carson River headwaters of Alpine County, California, the video showcases the beautiful scenery from 24 different locations, highlighting the diverse beauty of the watershed and emphasizing our connection to its health.

The I Am Carson River Watershed campaign is an outreach and education effort to improve watershed literacy in the community. A watershed-wide survey, conducted by CWSD in 2015, revealed that many residents are unaware they live in a watershed and their actions affect the quality of the environment; thus, the campaign was born.


The second film in the series, "Water Connects Us All," was released during Earth Week of 2021. This public service-style announcement aims to motivate Carson River Watershed residents to act in ways that protect the health of our environment and the quality of our drinking water. The film features 40 community members from around the watershed reminding their neighbors take a couple simple actions to make a big difference in preventing pollution.

In 2022, the campaign continues to build on the theme of individual actions people can take to help make a positive impact on the Carson River's water quality. Monthly videos, dubbed "Watershed Moments," target encourage and reward citizens to foster a healthy watershed

throughout the year. Monthly promotional prizes are given away to those who take part in the campaign. To be eligible for prizes, participants must watch the video on social media, YouTube, or the I Am Carson River Watershed website, complete the pledge, and tag a friend. Additionally, participants can direct message and tag us @CarsonRiverWatershed on Facebook and/or Instagram using #MyWatershedMoment and show us the actions they are taking to make a difference in the Carson River Watershed. This is the Watershed Moments schedule for 2022:

- **January:** "Bag It" - Pet waste impact on Carson River's water quality
- **February:** "Recycle Motor Oil" – Improper oil disposal impacts to water quality
- **March:** "Use a Car Wash" – Why a car wash is better than your driveway
- **April:** "Foster Healthy Soil" – Why soil health is so important
- **May:** "Explore Your Watershed" – Highlights 24 locations in the Carson River Watershed
- **June:** "Promote Pollinators" – Celebration of Pollinator Month
- **July:** "Recreate Responsibly" – How to have fun while keeping the Watershed healthy
- **August:** "Stop Invasive Species in Your Tracks" Invasive weeds' effect on local ecosystems
- **September:** "Make Your Yard a Sponge" – Urban landscaping tips
- **October:** "Pitch In" – Toss trash in the trash, not the watershed
- **November:** "Engage in Your Watershed" – Get active, get involved
- **December:** "Curb Your Chemical Use" Environmentally friendly alternatives

The I Am Carson River Watershed campaign is funded through Clean Water Act 319(h) funds, with support from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and CWSD. Partnering with Neon Agency, CWSD hopes this series of captivating videos inspires and informs residents about how they are connected to the place they live, especially, how water really does connect us all.

Visit [www.iamcarsonriver.org](http://www.iamcarsonriver.org) to watch all the videos released so far or the CWSD YouTube Channel: Carson River Watershed. You can also find Carson Water Subconservancy on Facebook, Instagram, and at [cwsd.org](http://cwsd.org). See our press kit for more pictures and icons. For more information about the I Am Carson River Watershed campaign, contact Brenda Hunt at [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org). 

**Brenda Hunt** works for the Carson Water Subconservancy District as the Watershed Program Manager.



# CLARK COUNTY ON EXTREME HEAT: TAKING ACTION TODAY

**SAM BAKER & ARIEL CHOINARD**

It's no secret that southern Nevada gets really hot. Due to climate change, Las Vegas is among the top three fastest-warming cities in the country. And we've already broken multiple records for temperatures this year. According to the CDC, heat is the single-most deadly natural hazard and claims more lives across our nation than any other disaster. Heat has already claimed lives in our community, and the stakes grow ever higher as the impacts of our warming climate accelerate. That's why Clark County is taking action on extreme heat - and fast.

## **Leading by Example: All-In Clark County**

In 2019, Clark County started a multi-phased approach towards sustainability and climate action. All-In Clark County is the comprehensive effort to prepare Southern Nevada for a changing climate and create a sustainable future for all. This involves multiple planning efforts, beginning with a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan for County Operations. The idea here is for the County to lead by example, modeling climate change mitigation and adaptation for the community. Every All-In Clark County initiative is being led by four guiding principles: greenhouse gas emissions reductions, transparency, equity, and resiliency for social, economic, and environmental indicators.

Part of this effort included hiring fellowship positions, with one focused on urban heat. That Urban Heat Fellow, Ariel Choinard, has been working with Clark County's Office of Sustainability since June of 2021 on a number of initiatives related to the county operations plan. Ariel worked with local heat vulnerability data and area stakeholders to assess the number of cooling centers in the metro area to ensure they are distributed equitably and can continue serving the most heat stressed neighborhoods. Where gaps in front-line cooling center resources were identified, Ariel worked to expand the cooling center response and establish relationships with nearby municipalities to ensure everyone has access to vital cool spaces. Moreover, her efforts and collaboration have allowed for a partnership with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, making all libraries an official cooling resource to community members.



Ariel's participation in regional groups encourages the deep collaboration necessary for confronting our region's most deadly natural hazard and addresses the interconnected nature of extreme heat. Extreme heat intersects with many other chronic stressors in Southern Nevada, like water scarcity, housing insecurity, and pandemic pressures. The relationships and open communication fostered through her position will ensure that extreme heat is met with coordinated and informed response from decision makers across the county.

Additionally, Ariel is making sure that County facilities and property are not contributing to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. Identifying County properties adjacent to heat stressed urban areas gives the County an opportunity to prioritize equity and reduce any contribution to UHIs. Expanding urban tree canopy is identified in *All-In* as an effective, nature-based, and adaptive method for creating heat resilience. However, in this extreme, not naturally forested and very arid environment, expanding tree canopy is just one solution Clark County can use to adapt to extreme heat. Ariel is working to identify what combination of other heat mitigation techniques, like cool roofs and built shade structures, will be most effective across the county.

## **Planning for the Community**

The next step in the multi-phased approach is the development of a Community-Wide Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (Plan) under All-In Clark County. Starting with a regional greenhouse gas



inventory, Clark County is committed to a plan that is both data-driven and includes the perspectives of community stakeholders, residents, and visitors. The greenhouse gas inventory shows sector, source, and location of our greenhouse gases to inform the Plan



on actions that can make the most impact. The public remains engaged through surveys, pledges, forums, round table events, and more. The Plan will focus on six key areas: clean & reliable energy, connected & equitable mobility, diverse & circular economy, sustainable water systems, resilient & healthy community, and smart buildings & development. Clark County will release a draft for public comment in January, 2023.

## Climate Vulnerability Assessment

In addition to the greenhouse gas inventory and community engagement, Clark County is wrapping up a climate vulnerability assessment (CVA). This commenced with a technical report, reviewing historical data and projections related to climate hazards and events. Climate hazards in Clark County include: drought, wildfire, flash flooding, and of course, extreme heat. The technical report laid the groundwork to inform the rest of the CVA process, which included an organized and coordinated effort of more than 50 local government agencies, private industry, utilities, and other community resources, all committed to addressing the impacts of extreme heat on our community.

Coined the “CVA Stakeholder Working Group,” this collection of people was carefully selected to converge and inform the CVA. This assessment provides a baseline to determine Clark County’s assets and systems as they relate to climate hazards and adaptability. More than just commissioning studies and surveys, the CVA Working Group drove

the development of effective strategies and recommendations to directly address urban heat.

The CVA informs the solutions Clark County pursues, including researching opportunities to better understand how hot our heat-burdened communities are becoming. Moreover, it provides opportunities for expanding heat mitigation techniques, identifying opportunities to protect workers from extreme heat events, and using parks and open spaces to reduce surrounding air temperature.

The final CVA Report will be released in October 2022 and includes resiliency recommendations such as providing demand-side energy management programs and expanding resources for addressing extreme heat in communities that are most vulnerable to extreme

heat. Moreover, strategies include recommendations for urban heat mitigating techniques, such as expanding tree canopy in addition to providing financial assistance for cooling features in low- and fixed-income households.

## Stay Cool, Clark County!

July 2021 was the hottest month ever on record, hitting temperatures nearing 120 degrees in the region. In addition, according to the National Weather Service, 2021 was the sixth hottest year on record for Vegas. We could go on and on with statistics and data about how hot it is and how hot it will get. But, we know that addressing extreme heat in Clark County needs to happen... and now. What’s more is that we can use resiliency recommendations from the CVA process to guide us today.

In preparation for this year’s “hot season,” we worked with local partners to develop Stay Cool Clark County. This is a central resource for community members to stay “in the know” regarding how to plan for extreme heat. This website displays official cooling centers, libraries, pools and splash pads, parks, and public transportation routes so users can easily locate and plan to get to their nearest cooling resource when needed. Fostering heat resilience goes beyond locating a cooling center, and Stay Cool Clark County helps community members connect with utility bill aid, weatherization programs, and energy saving initiatives. The site is designed to grow and incorporate new information and resources as Clark County and partners continue their work on extreme heat. As



stakeholders and community members provide input, we intend to expand this resource to include urban tree canopy mapping, information on native and desert adapted trees, best practices for establishing trees, and a space for the public to share their challenges with extreme heat and suggestions for heat resilience strategies.



**Ariel Choinard** is the Urban Heat Resilience Fellow with Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability. She is also a graduate student at UNLV in the School of Public Policy and Leadership where her research focuses on climate resilience. Previous to her work in Las Vegas, she worked with the City of Los Angeles to expand their responses to extreme heat events, and with TreePeople on collaborative water governance and urban tree canopy. Ariel has a Master's degree in Urban Sustainability from Antioch University in LA.

## Stay Cool Clark County

Climate change demands bold action to ensure Clark County's future is healthy, livable, prosperous, and resilient. We cannot do that without resources for the community, and a way to easily find those resources. Stay Cool Clark County intends to do just that.

### Tying it All Together

Clark County is striving to lead by example and prepare Southern Nevada for climate change. The All-In effort has been met with enthusiasm both from County partners and residents, without whom our urgent work would not be possible. Their perspectives, voices, and experiences have guided the process from the beginning, and will continue to inform and enrich our work.

Without this feedback, these partners, and the alchemy of collaboration, we would not have something that is immediately actionable - and we know we need to act today.

To stay up-to-date on our All-In Clark County sustainability and climate action plan at [AllInClarkCounty.com](http://AllInClarkCounty.com) and learn about our ongoing efforts to address extreme heat, visit [StayCoolClarkCounty.com](http://StayCoolClarkCounty.com) 



**Sam Baker** currently serves as the Sustainability Program Administrator for Clark County's Department of Environment and Sustainability. She oversees sustainability efforts, including implementing the All-In Sustainability and Climate Action Plan for county operations, as well as the planning process to create a community-wide plan. She has worked in sustainability for over 10 years. She holds bachelor's degrees in environmental studies and sociology from Florida State University and a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University in sociology, with a concentration on environmental issues.

#PlanningMonth






# DOWNTOWN CARSON CITY MOBILE WORKSHOP

SCOTT CAREY, AICP

On October 5th, members of the Northern Section spent a beautiful, fall afternoon participating in a mobile workshop of downtown Carson City. The workshop was led by Hope Sullivan, AICP, Carson City's Community Development Director, and featured an engaging tour of Nevada's Capitol City. The workshop focused on the tools that Carson City has used over the years to transform its downtown and preserve its historic neighborhoods.

Workshop participants got to see firsthand how Carson City has used its downtown mixed use zoning district, historic district overlay zone, redevelopment area, and neighborhood improvement district to create a vibrant downtown for residents and visitors. After the tour, members enjoyed a reception hosted by the Section at Fox Brewpub, where \$105.00 in donations were raised to support the Alex Fittinghoff Scholarship Fund. The Northern Section would like to extend its appreciation to the entire staff of the Carson City Planning Division for organizing this mobile workshop and to all the APA members who participated! 





# 2020 RURAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

## AUGUST 18-19, 2022, ELKO

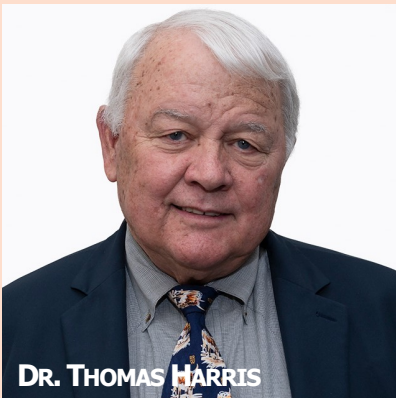




# UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES RENEWED FIVE-YEAR FUNDING

## DR. FREDERICK STEINMANN

The University Center for Economic Development, part of the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, received a five-year grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) as part of EDA's University Center program. The University Center for Economic Development (UCED) is the only EDA-recognized University Center in Nevada and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022. Dr. Thomas Harris, Professor



of Economics and State Extension Specialist, has served as the Center's only Director since 1992, stepping down on June 30, 2022. Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Assistant Research Professor with the College of Business, assumed the Director role on July 1,

2022 upon receiving the EDA five-year University Center grant. The UCED was awarded a total project cost of \$1.65 million, with \$825,000 over five years coming from the EDA and an additional \$825,000 over five years coming from local and state government agency matches. This is the largest award from the EDA that the UCED has received since its creation in 1992.

Over the next five years, the UCED will focus primarily on assisting local municipalities, counties, and each of the eight regional economic development authorities in development and implementation of their five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Recently, UCED faculty have successfully completed the development of new five-year CEDS for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority and are currently working with the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority and the

Southwest Central Regional Economic Development Authority to develop new five-year CEDS. For the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, a region that includes Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine counties, the development of a new five-year CEDS also included new CEDS documents for several local communities located within the region. Individual community-level CEDS were developed for Eureka County, Lander County, and White Pine County, for the City of Carlin, the City of Wells, and the City of West Wendover, and for the City of Elko and the communities of Jackpot and Spring Creek. Two individual CEDS are currently being developed for Esmeralda County and Nye County, each part of the Southwest Central Regional Economic Development Authority and one individual CEDS is currently being developed for Lincoln County, administered by the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority. This work also included assistance in the implementation and update to the current five-year CEDS for the Western Nevada Development District, one of two EDA-recognized Economic Development Districts in Nevada.

The UCED is also currently working with the Nevada Indian Commission, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and with each federally recognized Tribe in Nevada to develop a statewide Nevada Native American Community and Economic Development Plan. This collaborative planning effort



will include the development of a series of community and economic development strategies divided into nine separate community and economic development priority areas, including organizational administrative capacity building, healthcare services,




education and workforce development, infrastructure, business development, cultural preservation and development, elder (senior) and youth services, housing, and natural resource management. As part of this effort, UCED faculty



published a UCED technical report, *An Examination of Economic Distressed Community Levels for Nevada's Native American Communities* (UCED Technical Report 2021/22-20, Miller and Steinmann) in March 2022. An "economically distressed community," as defined in Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Section 301.3 Part 301 Subpart C, is a community with an unemployment rate that, for the past 24 month period, is at least one percentage point greater than the national average, or has a per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data is available, 80 percent or less than the national average per capita income level, or has a demonstrated special need. Using this criteria, UCED faculty found that all 27 federally recognized Tribal communities in Nevada exhibited some level of economic distress. Over the coming months, UCED faculty will work collaboratively with each Tribe to identify specific community and economic development projects that can be developed and completed in order to decrease community-wide levels of unemployment, increase community-wide levels of per capita income, or address identified special needs.

Over the past several months, UCED faculty and staff have been working with several local communities and several of the regional economic development authorities to develop comprehensive housing development plans as part of their broader community and economic development efforts. In February 2022, UCED faculty facilitated a day-and-a-half housing development summit and planning workshop in Tonopah. Workshop participants, including public sector, private sector, and non-profit

community based organization representatives, spent this day-and-a-half developing a series of housing development-related goals and actionable items with the primary goal of increasing the overall housing stock for the Esmeralda and northern Nye County region. Over the next several years, new mining and natural resource extraction operations throughout the area will significantly increase the demand for new workers and new housing will be needed to support additional workforce growth. In May 2022, a similar housing development summit and planning workshop was held in Pahrump with a similar, broad goal of sustainably growing the available housing stock in southern Nye County. 



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**Planners work to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities by taking a comprehensive perspective. This approach leads to safer, resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities. We celebrate the role that planning plays in creating great communities each October with National Community Planning Month.**

**Planning is more important than ever as communities continue to navigate the disruptive changes brought about by the pandemic.**

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# NEVADA PLANNER

The *Nevada Planner* is a publication of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association, with a circulation of approximately 300 Chapter members, members of APA leadership, and Chapter Presidents. It is published three times per year.

## ARTICLES

To submit articles, letters, announcements, events, or photos, please contact Greg Toth, Editor, at [greg.toth@cityofhenderson.com](mailto:greg.toth@cityofhenderson.com). The next issue is planned for the end of the year.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

The Nevada Chapter receives all member mailing and email addresses from APA's National database. To change your mailing or email address, please log in to your account at **[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)** and update your information there.

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