

**Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: March 19, 2013

Agenda Date Requested: March 25, 2013

Time Requested: 10 Minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: City Manager

Subject Title: For possible action. Discussion and possible action to convey to the 2013 Legislature the Board's support on AB356 (BDR S-493), a bill authorizing the cooperation between the State of Nevada, Carson City, and other nonprofit organizations for the development of a plan to preserve the Nevada State Prison as a historical, educational and scientific resource.

Staff Summary: See the attached bill draft. Additionally, the Carson City Cultural Commission will have discussed this item on March 19, 2013 at their regularly scheduled meeting and the results of the discussion will be submitted as late material.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

Resolution

Ordinance

Formal Action/Motion

Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: Yes No

Recommended Board Action: I move to convey to the 2013 Legislature the Board's support on AB356 (BDR S-493), a bill authorizing the cooperation between the State of Nevada, Carson City, and other nonprofit organizations for the development of a plan to preserve the Nevada State Prison as a historical, educational and scientific resource.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: See staff summary

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: None

Fiscal Impact: None by this action.

Explanation of Impact: None by this action.

Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives: Do not support or support with amendments.

Supporting Material: BDR S-493, Cultural Commission March 19, 2013 Meeting Agenda Item 3C.

Prepared By: Lawrence A. Werner, P.E., P.L.S.

Reviewed By:

(Department Head)

(City Manager)

(District Attorney)

(Finance Director)

Date:

Date:

Date:

Date:

3/18/13

3/19/13

3/19/13

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)

SUMMARY—Encourages the development of a plan to preserve the Nevada State Prison for historic and certain other purposes. (BDR S-493)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: No.

AN ACT relating to the Nevada State Prison; encouraging the development of a plan to preserve the Nevada State Prison for use as a historical, educational and scientific resource for the State of Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill encourages the development of a plan for the preservation of the Nevada State Prison for use as a historical, educational and scientific resource for the State of Nevada.

WHEREAS, The Nevada State Prison located on East Fifth Street in Carson City was originally built in 1860 by pioneer Abraham Curry as the Warm Springs Hotel; and

WHEREAS, The landmark prison was established in 1862 by the Nevada Territorial Legislature and administered by Abraham Curry at the site of the Warm Springs Hotel, and thus represents the first executive agency created in the State of Nevada; and



WHEREAS, The sandstone quarry on the site contributed to the construction of state, city and private buildings during the early history of the State of Nevada and Carson City, including the Capitol Building, the United States Mint, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad engine house and many other public and private buildings; and

WHEREAS, The lands and grounds of the prison are known to contain unique specimens of extinct species and the legend of *Homo Nevadensis*; and

WHEREAS, The first lethal gas execution chamber in the world was designed and used at the prison and is currently active; and

WHEREAS, The prison has a well-established and colorful history as a maximum security prison, replete with riots, escapes, gangs, executions, musicians, gambling and Hollywood filming, all of which provide intriguing historical value; and

WHEREAS, The history of the manufacture of Nevada's license plates are integral to the prison; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada State Prison was decommissioned in May of 2012 and is likely to fall into a state of disrepair without continued maintenance and upkeep; and

WHEREAS, Efforts are underway to establish the historic sections of the prison as a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places; now, therefore,



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Nevada Legislature hereby finds and declares:

1. That the Nevada State Prison is an integral part of the history of the State of Nevada, particularly with respect to Carson City and the early development of this State, and should be preserved as a historic place.

2. That Carson City, any nonprofit organization and any other interested stakeholder are encouraged to work cooperatively with the Office of Historic Preservation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the State Land Registrar to:

(a) Develop a plan for the preservation, development and use of the Nevada State Prison as a historical, educational and scientific resource for the State of Nevada; and

(b) Present the plan to the Nevada Legislature along with any recommendations for legislation that may be necessary to fully implement the plan.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.



CULTURAL COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 19, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

APPLICANT: Assemblyman Pete Livermore
Tom Porada, Nevada State Prison Preservation Society
Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of a resolution dated January 25, 2013, requesting the State of Nevada to preserve the decommissioned Nevada State Prison as an historic place without obligating Carson City to any financial commitments for this effort until the State of Nevada and its community partners have developed a comprehensive plan, including projected costs for the prison's historic preservation and its future uses.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The Nevada State Prison Preservation Society (NSPPS) has asked Assemblyman Pete Livermore to sponsor a resolution in the 77th Nevada State Legislative session to support the preservation of the decommissioned Nevada State Prison. According to the resolution (Refer to Exhibit A), the NSPPS is requesting the State of Nevada preserve the Nevada State Prison (NSP) for the education of Nevada's citizens; for its rich geologic, Paleozoic, anthropologic, architectural and social history; for its significant value as a tourist attraction and destination; and for its contributions to Carson City's development. NSPPS's goal is keep alive the idea of preserving the NSP in public forums and to provide support for moving this effort forward with the State of Nevada, non-profit community organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

Assemblyman Livermore is seeking support from the Cultural Commission, the Historic Resources Commission, and the Carson City Board of Supervisors on this resolution. City staff has reviewed the resolution and believes it is in the best interest of Carson City to cooperate with the State of Nevada, non-profit community organizations, and other interested stakeholders to cooperatively develop plans for the preservation, development and use of the Nevada State Prison as an historic, educational, and scientific resource of Nevada. However, staff believes it is premature for Carson City to make any financial commitments to this effort until a comprehensive plan with projected costs can be developed for the prison's historic preservation and its future uses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of a resolution dated January 25, 2013, requesting the State of Nevada to preserve the decommissioned Nevada State Prison as an historic place without obligating Carson City to any financial commitments for this effort until the State of Nevada and its community partners have developed a comprehensive plan, including projected costs for the prison's historic preservation and its future uses.

Exhibit A

Proposed Resolution for NSP

RESOLUTION - Preserving the Nevada State Prison (NSP) for the education of Nevada's citizens, for its rich geologic, Paleozoic, anthropologic, architectural and social history, for its significant value as a tourist attraction and destination, and for its contributions to Carson City's development.

WHEREAS, the Nevada State Prison, on east Fifth Street in Carson City, was originally built in 1860 by pioneer Abraham Curry as the Warm Springs hotel with mineral springs; and,

WHEREAS, the landmark prison was established by the Territorial Legislature and administered by Abraham Curry in 1862 at the Warm Spring Hotel, and thus represents the first executive agency created in the State of Nevada: and,

WHEREAS, the sandstone quarry on the site contributed to the construction of state, city and private buildings in the early history of Nevada and Carson City, including the capitol building, the United States Mint, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad engine house, and many other public and private buildings; and,

WHEREAS, the prison is an integral part of the history of Nevada and of Carson City and the surrounding communities in particular; and,

WHEREAS, the lands and grounds of the prison are known to contain unique specimens of extinct species and the legend of *Homo nevadensis*; and,

WHEREAS, the first gas execution chamber in the world was designed and implemented at the prison and is currently active; and,

WHEREAS, the prison has a well established and colorful history as a maximum security facility, replete with riots, escapes, gangs, executions, musicians, gambling and Hollywood filming, all of intriguing historic value; and,

WHEREAS, the history of the manufacture of Nevada's artistic license plates are integral to the prison; and,

WHEREAS, the Nevada State Prison was decommissioned in May 2012 and may fall into disrepair without continued maintenance and upkeep; and,

WHEREAS, efforts are underway to establish the historic sections of the prison as a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places..

RESOLVED, that the Nevada State Prison shall be preserved as an historic place; and,

RESOLVED, that the State, Carson City, and non-profit community organizations and other interested stakeholders are urged to cooperatively develop plans for the preservation, development and use of the Nevada State Prison as an historic, educational, and scientific resource of Nevada.

1/25/13

Updated: February, 2013