

December 7, 2021

RE: Storey County ZIP Code Requests for Highlands and River District

#### Staff Summary

In 2018 county staff and federal lobbyist working with federal delegates successfully secured a unique ZIP Code for McCarran and the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center. The ZIP Code was 89434 Sparks, and it became 89437 Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center. This unique ZIP Code ensured that sales tax revenues generated at TRI-Center through regular and e-commerce, as well as building construction, were reported by the Nevada Department of Taxation appropriately to Storey County rather than Sparks, Washoe County. The unique ZIP Code also caused potentially beneficial insurance rates and other implications for companies located in Storey County.

County staff proposes to request ZIP Code amendments to other parts of the county, particularly those which are currently affiliated with Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County. Amending ZIP Codes to be unique to Storey County will ensure that residents are charged proper sales tax rate when making online purchases (e.g., Storey County 7.6% versus Washoe County 8.26%), that certain Storey County residents must not argue with DMV officials about vehicle smog requirements applicable in Washoe County, and that home and auto insurance rates are consistent with those of Storey County and not Washoe County.

The Virginia City Highlands, Highlands Ranches, and Virginia Ranches (the Highlands) is proposed to be merged with 89440 Virginia City/Gold Hill ZIP Code. This may in the future facilitate post office services to the Highlands out of Virginia City if requested by any resident. Potential expansion to the Virginia City Post Office facility will need to be discussed but is not yet a priority. This ZIP Code amendment, regardless of post office service, will not cause the Highlands to lose mail delivery services to the Cartwright Road mailboxes.

Lockwood, Mustang, Painted Rock, and other areas of the county are proposed to be merged with 89437 Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center. Mail may continue to be delivered from the Sparks/Vista USPS mail distribution facility. The county may in the future request that a post office be constructed in Lockwood or another River District community, and the presence of substantial population in this area may be a qualifier for that to occur.

Mark Twain currently shares the 89403 ZIP Code with Dayton, Lyon County. Amending this ZIP Code does not appear to cause significant benefit or impact to Mark Twain. Building a post office in Mark Twain is currently not feasible due to its small population, the Lyon County sales tax rate is lower than Storey County (7.1%) potentially benefiting resident online shoppers, and there are no vehicle smog requirements in Lyon County causing arguments with DMV officials. We recommend, however, that future potential ZIP Code changes in Mark Twain remain forefront in conversations with federal delegates as this community continues to grow in population and commercial development.

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