That the Board of County Commissioners approve, adopt, and authorize the 2013-2015 Implementation Plan and Budget Report (IPB Report) for the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan; approve the continuation of five limited permanent positions; and authorize the Plan Administrator to submit the IPB Report to the US Fish and Wildlife Service; or take other action as appropriate. (For possible action)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund #: 2361.000
Fund Center: 1300215030
Description: 2013-2015 IPB

Fund Name: Habitat Conservation
Funded Pgm/Grant: TBD
Amount: $8,404,941

BACKGROUND:

On January 9, 2001, Clark County along with the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Mesquite and the Nevada Department of Transportation (Permittees) were issued a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit for 78 species in Clark County by the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The permit operates in conjunction with the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), approved by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on July 16, 1999 and is known as the Desert Conservation Program. Clark County is responsible for administering this Program and the Environmental Manager in the Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management serves as the Plan Administrator.

The County and Permittees must expend Section 10 funds in cooperation with the USFWS for the conservation of species and habitats. These funds can only be used for the purpose of implementing the MSHCP. From March through September 2012, staff conducted budget discussions with the Permittees, Science Advisor and the USFWS to develop project concepts and finalize the proposed Implementation Plan and Budget (IPB). The IPB was posted for public comment in August 2012.

The attached 2013-2015 IPB Report describes the development process and provides the proposed biennial budget of $8,404,941. This includes funding for five limited permanent positions to be continued through June 30, 2015: one Administrative Specialist, three Environmental Specialists, and one Senior Management Analyst.
Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lipski, Director