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As Chair of the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, I am pleased to report that at our meeting on this date the Committee voted unanimously in favor of approving this version of the Nevada Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan and forwarding it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their review and approval.

The Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is composed largely of volunteers from state and local governmental agencies and the private sector (<http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/nhmpc/nhmpc.htm>). The committee advises the Nevada Division of Emergency Management on issues regarding hazards and mitigation. One of its main subcommittees has helped to update the Plan from the version that had been approved by FEMA three years ago. I would like to thank Jim Walker, chair of the Planning Subcommittee and employee of the Nevada Department of Transportation, and Elizabeth Ashby, Grants and Projects Analyst with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, for their hard work on bringing the Plan to its current stage.

We feel that the Plan is a significant improvement over the previous version, because we are now incorporating information from tribes and FEMA-approved plans of local jurisdictions; we have re-evaluated all hazards, in some cases taking advantage of new information from FEMA's loss-estimation model, HAZUS, and in some cases bringing new information to light through the efforts of Dr. Jeff Underwood, the Nevada State Climatologist; we have elevated potential dam failure to the highest category – the same category as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires; and, with the help of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, the Nevada Division of Water Resources, and the Nevada Division of Forestry, we have revisited and set new priorities for mitigation efforts at the state level. Nonetheless, we recognize that more work needs to be done on this Plan. We are developing a new process for maintaining the Plan on a regular basis (rather than waiting for the next three-year cycle to start). This will involve quarterly meetings of the Planning Subcommittee and updates of the Plan as needed, including adding and referring to new information from HAZUS scenarios and hazard incidents as they occur. The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology looks forward to assisting the Nevada Division of Emergency Management in this work.

Sincerely,

Jonathan G. Price