

Ex-MGS future use desires told * News for immediate use (with pictures)

LAUGHLIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

“Community Partnership for Action”

Contact jimmaniaci@centurylink.net or 505-879-3142

Laughlin Residents: Put gas-fired generating plant on the 9,000 acres, not in the middle of town!

Contributed

LAUGHLIN – Nevada State Senator Joe Hardy’s meeting on Aug. 12 at a new hall in Upper Laughlin showed residents overwhelming favored by a 6:1 margin locating a gas-fired electric power generating plant in the 9,000 acres Clark County holds in trust for the town at the southern end or the unincorporated community, not on the former Mohave Generating Station land in the middle of town.

In fact, Senator Hardy labeled the virtually vacant four square-miles between the Casino Drive Laughlin Strip and Upper Laughlin, “a hole in the middle of your community with a fence around it.” As of Dec. 31, 2015, it will have been a full decade since MGS put out any of its 1,580-megawatt capacity. It has since been torn down.

As the state senator for the 12th District that includes Laughlin, Hardy wanted to know residents' desires for the proper zoning for the 2,300 acres eligible for sale under a Nevada law he authored and the preferred location for a commercial gas-fired generating plant.

At the end of the meeting residents pushed pins into display board illustrations to show their preferred options. The results: For an urban village-mixed development zone that would allow commercial alternative power generation (only solar has been considered for Laughlin) but not a gas-fired plant, 46; For an urban village zone that would prohibit any commercial power generation, 10; For heavy manufacturing (the current zone), 7; For gas-fired generation on the Laughlin Southland, 52; For a gas-fired plant in the middle of town, 8.

Among the audience of 150 in the new Fellowship Hall of the Gladys Laughlin Christian Education Center at Laughlin Community Church were representatives of Nevada Third District Congressman Dr. Joe Heck, Southern California Edison (majority owner and managing partner of the ex-MGS and thus of the disposal of the site), NVE Energy (a minority partner along with Phoenix-based Salt River Project and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power); and the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (Nevada's regional economic development agency of which the Laughlin Economic Development Corporation is a member.)

Hardy's law requires electric generating utilities to dispose of unproductive assets as surplus within 3 years of the Nevada Public Utility Commission approving a utility's list.

No officials from the Laughlin Town Manager's Office of the Clark County central government, nor any of the 5 members of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board appointed by the County Commission in Las Vegas, nor the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce was identified among the crowd.

The program was sponsored by Senator Hardy, with logistical support provided by Laughlin Community Church, the LEDC, and the Laughlin Republican Women's Club in conjunction with the Pioneer Hotel and Gambling Hall.

CAPTIONS FOR PHOTOS:

(image 2)

Photo contributed

The lights glisten from pins Laughlinites used to show they prefer a gas-fired electric generating plant be in southern Laughlin, rather than in the middle of the town. State Sen. Joe Hardy sponsored a program on Aug. 12 to obtain residents desires. The southern location won by more than a 6:1 margin.

(image 3)

Photo contributed

Laughlinites gather on Aug. 12 at a meeting sponsored by State Sen. Joe Hardy for a closer inspection before voting by pushing pins into their preferred alternatives for the zoning of the 4-square-mile ex-Mohave Generating Station and for the location of a gas-fired generating station.

#