



Nye County  
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy  
**2013 ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT**



**SUBMITTED TO:**

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## 2013 Annual Report Nye County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

### 1 Nye County Economic Authority

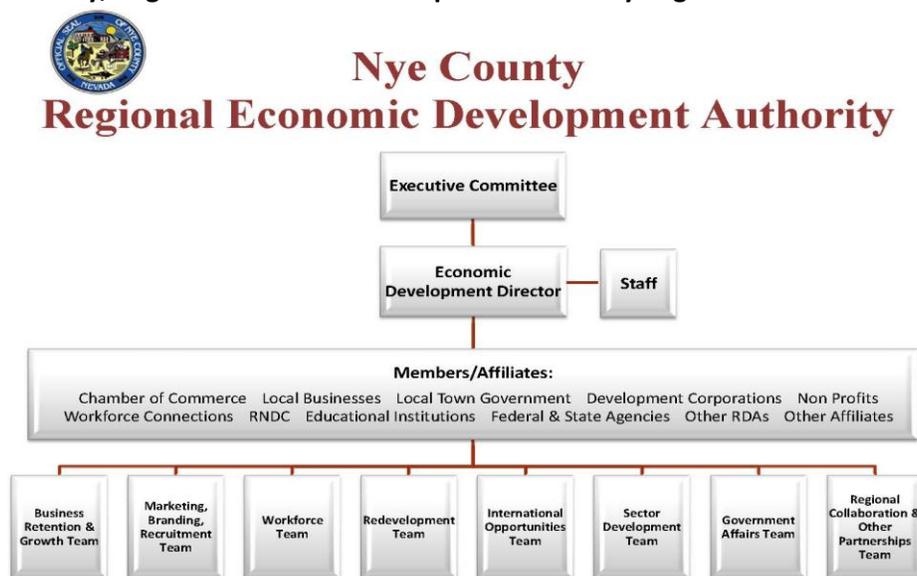
Nye County, Nevada is a unit of local government with a demonstrated



commitment to promoting economic development and diversification within its communities and neighboring Counties. This Annual Report demonstrates that while the characteristics of Nye County economy have not changed dramatically since 2012 and the economic development strategy adopted then remains largely appropriate today, the County has taken many steps to refine and implement said strategy in an attempt to capitalize upon opportunities and to overcome constraints.

The Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority (NCREDA) was organized in 2012 as the economic development organization for Nye County. NCREDA completed incorporation as a non-profit 501(c)6, and formed a dynamic executive board from seven representatives of the county, including one from each of: the Nye County School District, NyE Communities Coalition (that manages the local Job Connect), the Town of Pahrump, the Towns of Amargosa/Beatty, Northern Nye County, Rural Nevada Development Corporation, and Nye County Administration.

Figure 1. Nye County, Regional Economic Development Authority Org Chart





Over the course of the past year, NCREDA has completed bylaws and membership recruitment processes, and most of the milestones established for the entity for the first year. NCREDA has implemented economic development strategies throughout Nye County as proposed in the county's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). NCREDA and the CEDS have aligned the county's economic development objectives with the State of Nevada's Plan for Excellence in Economic Development and utilize the State Plan as the overarching guide for promoting economic development initiatives across the region.

NCREDA benefited from continuing key partnerships with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, corporate partners, the communities within Nye County and the Board of Nye County Commissioners. During 2012 the Board of Nye County Commissioners continued their support for the Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority (NCREDA) by the County Manager and Assistant County Manager sitting on the Board of Executive Directors as well as allowing NCREDA to utilize County staff as support including in-kind services for grant management, accounting, contract administration, and legal services. The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) provided NCREDA with a basic operating grant of \$90,000 in FY13 and \$80,000 in FY14. In addition, NCREDA secured membership fees as well as donations to hold its first Annual Job Fair in April 2012. Consequently, the important financial assistance of GOED was effectively leveraged by NCREDA with cash and in-kind services. During 2012, the Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority continued to utilize its limited funding to position Nye County and the State of Nevada with prospects for substantial return on their investment in the Nye County economy.

Nye County and NCREDA has reviewed economic conditions, goals and strategies outlined in the Nye County CEDS. Recommendations for new goals and strategies have been made by each of the six populated communities within Nye County, which are included in this report. This 2013 Annual Report was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Nye County Commissioners and subsequently by the Executive Board of the Nye Regional Economic Development Authority.



## 2 Strategy Committee

In 2012, Nye County formed a preliminary CEDS planning committee, comprised of the Nye County Manager, multiple Department Heads and other Nye County staff, to establish the process for obtaining widespread community involvement in the CEDS development process. This initial planning committee recognized the need to involve as many community and business leaders as possible to create an effective strategy for economic development. The planning committee was subsequently expanded to include Town Managers and Board Members, many of whom are not only public servants but are also owners and employees of private business enterprises within the County. The expanded membership provided insight into community-specific needs and identified additional members for the CEDS Strategy Committee. The CEDS Strategy Committee members also formed smaller Community Committees to address issues specific to Nye County's six most populated communities (Amargosa, Beatty, Gabbs, Pahrump, Round Mountain, and Tonopah). Participation in the CEDS Strategy Committee was solicited from a wide range of public and private stakeholders to ensure viewpoints from all sectors of the communities were considered, including:

- Local government
- Business
- Industry
- Finance
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Professions (e.g. law, medicine, engineering, etc.)
- Utilities
- Education
- Community organizations
- Public health agencies
- Workforce development

Community Committee participants were provided an outline for assessing the core strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) facing their particular community and the County. The full SWOT analysis can be found in the 2012 Five Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy by visiting [www.nyecounty.net/doingbusinessinye](http://www.nyecounty.net/doingbusinessinye). The Community Committee meetings provided a venue for stakeholders to evaluate ideas discussed during the CEDS Strategy Committee meetings, to encourage the parties to talk through the issues—actual and perceived—impacting area residents, to identify goals and objectives to address those issues, and to review how the community's goals and objectives (both individually and collectively) aligned with the GOED State economic development plan, which emphasizes regional collaboration.



Members of the Nye County CEDS Strategy Committee and Community Committees included private residents and representatives throughout each Community. Without the support of all the businesses, industry representatives, chambers of commerce, community organizations, town board members, County commissioners and other crucial stakeholders, the in-depth detail of each community's visions, goals and economic development needs listed within this document could not have been achieved. Nye County extends its sincere appreciation to all the individuals and organizations that participated in the CEDS Annual Update process. County staff time and expertise were critical to the initiation and preparation of the CED Annual Update.

### **2.1 Data Collection and Analysis**

Current economic performance metrics were compiled from an array of sources, including the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the U.S. Census Bureau, and others. This information was collected and evaluated to help frame an understanding of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats influencing economic and community development across the entire County.

### **2.2 Plan Organization**

The Nye County CEDS Annual Update addresses each of the required areas presented in the CEDS guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).



### 3 Regional Economic Changes

Nye County has a population of more than 40,000 and offers a quiet quality of life. Mining, service industries and government are the largest industries in the county. Nye County has a varied economic base which includes Natural Resources (agriculture) and Mining; Government; Leisure and Hospitality; and Trade, Transportation and Utilities. Additional sectors influencing Nye County's economy include Health and Education Services and Construction. Nye County has numerous golf courses and mining ghost towns, and hosts annual professional off-road competitions. Additionally, the area is in close proximity to Death Valley and its endless recreational opportunities. Nye County, the third largest county in the United States, totals 18,064 square miles.



New opportunities in the field of renewable energy and utility-scale electricity production offered the potential for not only economic diversification and job growth but also new and/or upgraded infrastructure, particularly electrical transmission. These opportunities demanded close coordination between NCREDA, County staff and the federal agencies responsible for managing lands within Nye County to ensure new commercial developments were compatible with existing Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE) operations.

The CEDS update development process entails close coordination with each of the six main communities within Nye County, as they all have unique economic development challenges. Core elements of the Nye County approach for this CEDS process are broken down by each of the six main communities identified.

The six main communities in Nye County, based on population, include the towns of Amargosa Valley, Beatty, Gabbs, Pahrump, Round Mountain/Smoky Valley, and Tonopah. The 2010 population of 43,946 (2010 Census, Nye County Nevada) is heavily concentrated in the Pahrump Valley (36,583).

#### 3.1 Nye County

The economy of Nye County has realized only modest changes over the past year and since the adoption of the Nye County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in September 2012. Many local economic conditions, which characterized Nye County in 2012, are similar to those present when the Nye County CEDS was adopted. As a result, many of the development strategies adopted in 2012 remained relevant in 2013.

Unemployment in the County remains high at a rate of 13.5 percent as reported for 2012 (Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Nevada Workforce



Informer, LAUS). This compares to a 2012 reported unemployment rate for the State of Nevada of 11.1 percent. It is important to note that the covered unemployed data reported by the State of Nevada does not reflect persons whose unemployment benefits have run out, discouraged unemployed persons or those who are underemployed.

The Nevada State Demographer's Office reported in 2012 that modest population growth will occur in Nye County during the period between 2011 and the year 2031. During that time, the Nevada State Demographer forecasts the population of the County to grow from 44,513 to 64,903 over the reported period. Comparatively, the State of Nevada is projected by Nevada's State Demographer to grow by nearly 19 percent through the year 2031.

Residential and industrial development in Nye County would cause a substantial increase in the county population compared to the State Demographers forecasts. Increasingly, southern Nye County is being seen as a favorable location for large-scale planned communities seeking to offer an alternative to living in the metropolitan Las Vegas area. Limitations in land availability and cost of land in the Las Vegas Valley make Nye County locations near Clark County line on U.S. Highway 95 desirable industrial and residential development alternatives. Approximately 98% of Nye County is public land, a reality that has severely limited economic development opportunities in the region.

Nye County's population accounts for 1.6 percent of Nevada's population (2013 Census, Nye County and Nevada). The County's population growth since 1975 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Nye County Population, 1970-2012**

Year	U.S. Census		NV Taxation Department / State Demographer	
	Population	Percent Change	Population	Percent Change
1970	5,599			
1975	5,500	-1.77%		
1980	9,048	64.51%		
1985	14,706	62.53%	14,570	
1990	17,781	20.91%	18,190	24.85%
1995	24,139	35.76%	23,050	26.72%
2000	32,485	34.57%	35,924	55.85%
2005	40,027	23.22%	41,302	14.97%
2010	43,946	9.79%	45,459	10.06%
2011	43,351	-1.35%	44,513	-2.08%
2012	42,963	-0.90%	44,292	-0.50%



Source: DETR, Nevada Workforce Informer. (2012). Historical Data for Population in Nye County [Data File]. <http://www.nevadaworkforce.com/>

### Labor Force

The 2012 annual unemployment rate in the County was 2.4 percentage points higher than the State rate and 5.4 percentage points higher than the national rate. While Nye County's population accounts for 1.6 percent of the State's population, the County labor force only makes up 1.3 percent. Table 2 provides a snapshot of labor force, employment and unemployment in Nye County and Nevada between 1990 and 2012.

**Table 2. Nye County and Nevada Historical Labor Force Data, 1990 to 2012**

Subject	Nye County				
	1990	2000	2010	2011	2012
Total Labor Force	8,945	14,062	18,113	18,138	17,789
Unemployment	329	958	2,982	2,991	2,404
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	6.8%	16.5%	16.5%	13.5%
Total Employment	8,616	13,104	15,131	15,147	15,385

Subject	Nevada				
	1990	2000	2010	2011	2012
Total Labor Force	655,896	1,062,845	1,385,729	1,385,872	1,378,876
Unemployment	33,380	47,624	190,420	187,732	152,468
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.5%	13.7%	13.5%	11.1%
Total Employment	622,516	1,015,221	1,195,309	1,198,140	1,226,408

Source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Nevada Workforce Informer, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Annual statistics, not seasonally adjusted.

Unemployment in Nye County began to rapidly increase between 2007 and 2010, jumping from 6.8 percent in 2007 to 16.5 percent in 2010. However, since this time the rate has begun to decrease with a rate of 13.5 reported for 2012 (Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Nevada Workforce Informer, LAUS). While the recent worldwide economic recession has had a severe impact on Nye County, the County is optimistic employment opportunities in historic industries and new target sectors will be generated through its economic development and diversification efforts.

#### **3.1.1 Economy**

For a large part of Nye County's history, the local economy has been focused on mining and government (either direct employment or contracted professional and business services) sectors. Other primary industrial sectors have historically included Agriculture and Leisure and



Hospitality; while more recently, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities and Education and Health Services have grown in their share of the County’s economy. These industries fall in line with those that have been prevalent throughout Nevada’s history.

While mining will continue to be a primary sector of the local economy, the County understands its cyclical nature and it requires that other industries need to make up a larger share of its economic portfolio to avoid significant impacts to Nye County communities should gold and silver prices fall or a mine close. Likewise, the change in mission for the NNSS and the unknown future of the Yucca Mountain Project, which have resulted in significant job loss and lost federal financial resources, also supports the County’s mission to diversify its economy.

Nye County is looking to maintain its market share in the industries that have been at the heart of its economy while expanding into new sectors within and in addition to those industries. These industrial sectors are consistent with five of the seven targeted sectors expressed in the State’s economic development plan, including: (1) Clean Energy; (2) Health and Medical Services; (3) Mining, Materials, and Manufacturing; (4) Aerospace and Defense; (5) Tourism, Gaming, and Entertainment.

#### Tax Climate

Nevada has no personal State income tax, corporate State income tax, inheritance tax, franchise tax, inventory tax, sales tax on services, or construction tax. The County’s sales and use tax rate is 7.1 percent, which is one percentage point lower than the tax rate in neighboring Clark County. The property tax rates for Nye County districts range from 2.8518 to 3.6567 as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. 2012-13 Tax Rates PER \$100 Assessed Value**

District	District Name	Tax Rate
1	Beatty	3.3364
2	Gabbs	3.3364
3	Manhattan	3.4368
4	Round Mountain	3.4368
5	Outside North	2.8518
6	Pahrump	3.3752
7	Tonopah	3.6399
8	Amargosa	3.6567
9	Outside South	2.8518
10	Smoky Valley Library	3.1204
11	Smoky Valley TV	3.1204
12	Tonopah Library	3.0518
13	Amargosa Library	3.1618



15	Beatty Library	3.1259
16	Beatty GID	3.3364
17	Beatty Water & Sanitation	3.3364

Source: Nye County Assessor. Table available at: <http://www.nyecounty.net/index.aspx?NID=680>

### 3.1.2 2012 Goals

Nye County's 2012 goals were to:

- A. Restructure economic development activities and initiatives
- B. Attract new businesses and industry
- C. Expand business development, retention, and growth
- D. Align industrial sector development with state initiatives
- E. Connect workforce to jobs
- F. Understand and expand international opportunities
- G. Promote regional collaboration and other partnerships
- H. Use redevelopment programs to promote sustainable economic growth
- I. Increase opportunities for locally managed economic incentives

Nye County, along with assistance from the newly developed Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority (NCREDA), has made great strides in meeting milestones in the above listed goals. Through NCREDA efforts, recruitment of members across Nye County has been implemented to join NCREDA, further expanding the County's economic development team.

One of the strategies for economic growth throughout the County is to get industrial parks in each of the communities. A park with infrastructure already installed and with pads available for build out would be an immense incentive to enticing new business to our communities. This will be one of the primary focuses of the new NCREDA Executive Director as we work to research funding opportunities and strategic locations. Additional Goals and Objectives are discussed in further detail in sections 4 through 6 of this report.



### 3.2 Amargosa Valley, Nevada

Amargosa Valley, Nevada, formerly known as Lathrop Wells, is a quiet, friendly hamlet set in a region of historical significance on the southern Nevada-California border. Situated in a desert of the same name, it is flanked by the Funeral Mountains to the west, the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) on the north, and Yucca Mountain to the east. The Town of Amargosa Valley is located approximately 88 miles northwest of Las Vegas, 35 miles northwest of Pahrump, 30 miles southeast of Beatty, and seven miles north of Death Valley Junction, California. The desert and Town were named for the Amargosa River.



Photo courtesy of Thomas Smith, Town Board Member

#### 3.2.1 Background and History

Since the early mining days, Amargosa Valley has been the site of many booms and busts related to mineral resource and Nevada Test Site, now known as the NNSS, activity cycles.

Ancient campsites dating back to the last ice age, at least 10,000 years ago, suggest an ancient people once inhabited the valley. Amargosa Valley's water, particularly Ash Meadows Springs, has historically drawn travelers crossing the arid west. Amargosa was home to Indians who moved from one watered area to another until the California Gold Rush brought miners and settlers through the Amargosa Valley. Horse traders opened a trail through the Amargosa Valley in 1830. The first documented entry into the valley by non-native settlers came in 1849 when forty-niners, who became lost trying to find a shortcut to southern California, crossed the valley before wandering into Death Valley. When mining declined in the early 1880s, most of the homesteaders were forced to abandon their lands.

#### 3.2.2 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

Amargosa Valley has a population of 1,456. The median age of the population is 38.2 years, with 74.8 percent (1,089) age 16 and older and 16.6 percent (242) age 65 and older (2010 Census, Amargosa Valley CCD). Table 4 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for Amargosa Valley and Nye County.

**Table 4. Amargosa Valley Demographic and Socioeconomic Data**

Subject	Amargosa Valley	Nye County
Population <sup>1</sup>	1,456	43,946
Median Age (Years) <sup>1</sup>	38.2	48.4
16 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	74.8%	82.1%
65 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	16.6%	23.4%



Percent Minority <sup>1</sup>	49.6%	21.1%
Average Household Size <sup>1</sup>	2.66	2.42
Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	47.3%	18.9%
Per Capita Income <sup>2</sup>	\$13,075	\$22,687
High School Graduate or Higher <sup>2</sup>	81.4%	81.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher <sup>2</sup>	14.6%	10.5%

<sup>1</sup>Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census data and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

### 3.2.3 Economy

#### Agriculture

Historically, agriculture has been a major employer, which has caused fluctuations in population. Agriculture continues to be a major source of employment and contributes to full-time and part-time residence.

#### Gaming

The gaming industry has historically been and continues to be a source of employment; however, the gaming industry tends to be a low-wage, low-benefit employer. The Town has seen a loss of jobs in this industry due to closure of one of the two local casinos in 2012.

#### Mining

Historically, mining has been a major employer that has caused fluctuations in population. Mining continues to be a major source of employment and contributes to full-time and part-time residence.

### 3.2.4 Action Plan

In 2012 an Action Plan had been developed for select goals. Those items not accomplished in 2012 will be rolled over into the 2013 Action plan as summarized below:

- A. Acquire developable land.
  - Obtain land from BLM to set up an adjacent facility to serve the visitors to Big Dune by 2014.
- B. Expand business opportunities in Amargosa Valley.
  - Create list of private sector companies that have common goals by August 2012  
**ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012**
- C. Educate stakeholders, both private businesses and public agencies, about the wonderful resources available in Amargosa.
  - Obtain commitments to take advantage of our resources within the County guidelines, policies and law by December 2012. **ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012**



- Have agreements in place with Energy developers, Tour Companies, Mining Equipment and Shipment Companies by July 2013. **ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012**
- D. Increase tourism dollars.
- Work with the Wild Life Refuge to increase visitation and education to offer RV accommodations for international visitors as well as local and interstate visitors by 2013.
  - Develop signage on Hwy 95 the major highway promoting Amargosa Valley as the Gateway to Death Valley. Identify placement of signage outside Town on Hwy 95 and inside Town on Hwy 373. Design signage concepts and content. Leverage “Historic 95” (similar to route 66) and Gateway to Death Valley.
  - Assess internet advertising opportunities. Research team will search and identify internet advertising opportunities, such as enthusiast sites about pets, hiking, motorcycling, off-roading, bird watching, etc.; hotel sites; Death Valley website; and historical interest sites. Take action to add the Amargosa Valley Town and Amargosa Valley Chamber to selected websites.
  - Install theme signage in Town highlighting amenities, areas of historical interest, and things to do. Research team will review theme signage in place in other communities, identify design concepts, identify sign content and locations in town, and obtain cost estimates.
  - Establish a strong, interactive relationship with Death Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Park Service. Identify and resolve conflicts and leverage joint promotion. Open dialogue pertaining to a Death Valley Visitors Center in Amargosa Valley. The Visitor Center could be incorporated into an existing organization or business. Discuss requirements for Death Valley information signage to be approved by the Park Service. Promote Death Valley points of interest and distance from Amargosa Valley. Amargosa is much closer to Furnace Creek and Bad Water than any other community. Gather information detailing distance in miles and time from Amargosa Valley to points of interest in Death Valley and incorporate in specialized brochures
  - Attempt to determine how major GPS providers select routes and amenities that are used in their customer search requests.
  - Create specialized brochures highlighting amenities, items of interest and things to do
  - Identify funding sources for promotional signage and materials and present plan to funding sources to gain commitment
- E. Attract solar and other alternative energy companies.
- Advance solar power development in Amargosa Valley **ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012/2013**



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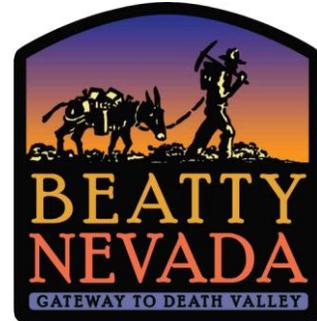
**Additional Comments:**

1. A Mining Company has been looking at the Amargosa Valley area to start a new operation, in which tailings from other mines are shipped to their site for further processing. Potential jobs from this company are predicted to be around twenty full time jobs, with anticipation of operations beginning in the fall of 2013.
2. Sunshine Valley Solar is in the Development Agreement stage. Once the project commences, they predict up to 300 temporary construction jobs, and 3 full time permanent jobs to operate the plant.



### 3.3 Beatty, Nevada

Beatty is located in southern Nye County approximately 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas along U.S. 95. Beatty is just eight miles from Death Valley National Park and has been known as “The Gateway to Death Valley” since 1937. A formal trademark was filed with the State of Nevada in 2010 for the phrase “Gateway to Death Valley” along with the Burro and Miner logo.



#### 3.3.1 Background and History

The Town of Beatty was formed in the early 1900s as a result of mining exploration in the area and served as the railhead for three separate rail lines, including the Tonopah and Tidewater, Las Vegas and Tonopah, and Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad. The rail lines to and from Beatty spurred the community’s growth and kept the Town alive, unlike the neighboring Town of Rhyolite, a mining-turned-ghost town just four miles away from Beatty. Beatty consolidated with the neighboring town of Rhyolite, which was essentially abandoned by the 1920s and residents and facilities from Rhyolite were moved to Beatty. The nearby ghost town now serves as one of Beatty’s many tourist attractions.

#### 3.3.2 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

Beatty has a population of 1,010. The median age of the population is 50.2 years, with 85.4 percent (863) age 16 and older and 20.8 percent (210) age 65 and older. (2010 Census, Beatty CDP). Historically Beatty has had an expandable/flexible workforce, and when gainful employment is available, a workforce will move to the area and make Beatty their home. Table 5 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for Beatty and Nye County.

**Table 5. Beatty Demographic and Socioeconomic Data**

Subject	Beatty	Nye County
Population <sup>1</sup>	1,010	43,946
Median Age (Years) <sup>1</sup>	50.2	48.4
16 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	85.4%	82.1%
65 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	20.8%	23.4%
Percent Minority <sup>1</sup>	20.8%	21.1%
Average Household Size <sup>1</sup>	1.99	2.42
Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	16.7%	18.9%
Per Capita Income <sup>2</sup>	\$20,781	\$22,687
High School Graduate or Higher <sup>2</sup>	80.9%	81.7%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher <sup>2</sup>	17.9%	10.5%

<sup>1</sup>Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census data and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).



### **3.3.3 Economy**

The mining industry historically has been the major employer leading to fluctuations in the population based on industry trends. Mining was the catalyst on which the Town developed. Railroads serving the mining industry in the area also provided historic employment and helped spur the Town's growth by providing needed materials, goods, shipping and transportation to the surrounding metropolitan and rural areas. Rhyolite, which is now a ghost town approximately four miles from Beatty, was one of the largest Nevada towns by population in the early 1900s. The decommissioning of the rail line resulted in a loss of jobs and economic benefits for the Town and its residents.

The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) also provides a primary source of employment for local (fulltime and part-time) residents. Like the NNSS, the Yucca Mountain Project has also been a key source of employment as well as funding for the Town; however, the de-funding of the Yucca Mountain Project has resulted in a loss of employment and funding opportunities.

The leisure and hospitality industry has, for a long time, been a key part of the Town's economy and is currently the main employer. This industry shows the greatest potential for growth; however, the employment opportunities associated with this industry provide low wages and limited benefits. While gaming is included in this sector, it is not a major factor in the growth of the leisure and hospitality industry, and actually resulted in significant job loss due to closure of two of the three casinos in the late 1990s.

### **3.3.4 Action Plan**

In 2012 an Action Plan had been developed for select goals. Those items not accomplished in 2012 will be rolled over into the 2013 Action plan as summarized below:

- A. Increase tourism dollars.
  - Tourism Promotional Materials – Beatty would like to install signage on the three major highways promoting the Town as the "Gateway to Death Valley." This project will include identifying placement of signage inside the Town and within one square mile of the Town boundaries and supporting the marketing of U.S. 95 as "Historic 95" similar to the Route 66 advertising model. The Town would also like to develop an internet-based advertising campaign that would include designating a research team to search and identify internet advertising opportunities, such as enthusiast sites related to nature and outdoor recreation, historical adventures, and paranormal activities as well as traditional travel websites. The team would then take action to add links to the identified websites for the Beatty Town, Beatty Chamber, and Beatty Museum websites.
  - Additionally, Beatty would like to install theme signage around town highlighting amenities, items of historical interest, and things to do. The research team will



- review theme signage in place in other communities, identify design concepts, identify sign content and locations in Beatty, and obtain cost estimates.
- Beatty would also like to establish a strong interactive relationship with the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce and the National Park Service to identify conflicts and leverage joint promotion. The Beatty tourism promotional team will discuss opportunities for reestablishing a Death Valley Visitors Center in Beatty, such as incorporating the visitor center into an existing organization or business. The team will also provide the Park Service with an opportunity to review and comment on signage and promotional materials relevant to Death Valley. The Death Valley promotional materials and signage would include points of interest, things to do, and distance from Beatty. The team will attempt to determine how major GPS providers select routes and amenities that are used in their customer search requests and get the GPS providers to include Beatty as the travel route to selected points of interest.
  - In order to develop and install the signage and prepare promotional materials, the team will identify funding sources and present a plan to the identified funding sources.
- B. Attract solar or other alternative energy companies.
- Beatty Renewable Energy Development - Beatty is situated in an excellent solar resource zone with sufficient private and public land available for development of small (10 to 20 MW) and large generation sites. Over the last several years, there has been substantial interest from a variety of developers exploring options and issues associated with constructing solar generation facilities in the Beatty area.
  - The existing area transmission lines and substation, owned by Valley Electric Association (VEA), are being upgraded. VEA will become part of California Independent System Operator (CAISO) group in January 2013, thus allowing renewable power produced in Nevada and transmitted to California over VETA lines to qualify for California portfolio standards credit. This circumstance favors utility scale solar power generation within the VEA service area.
  - Beatty's role in advancing local solar projects lies in making its interests in such development known to the County, State, and private landowners. Securing VEA's participation and cooperation in advancing local solar power development within VEA's service area is critical, as local power would have to be purchased by VEA for local consumption or transmitted over VETA lines to the California market. The Beatty Town Advisory Board will work with VEA to identify how to best advance solar power production in the area and to assess the feasibility of such an endeavor.
- C. Improve water infrastructure to support community needs and business development.
- Water Infrastructure Improvements – Beatty will leverage the existing engineering plans to connect the two million gallon tank to the Beatty Water and Sanitation distribution system. Beatty Community Committee members will work with the



BWSD to gain their commitment and clearly define their contributions to the project. The team will identify current costs associated with interconnecting and rehabilitating two million gallon tank and work with County staff and commissioners to identify funding and other resources for the project.

- D. Retain and increase business sectors that have had a historic impact on the Town's economy.
- Promote Auto-testing and Movie/Film Industries – The Beatty Community Committee will identify Town representatives who have had or may have experience with major/minor auto manufacturers that, used or currently use facilities in Beatty. These Town representatives will form an economic development team focused on expanding opportunities in the auto-testing market. The team will identify contacts with all major/minor auto manufacturers to share information about Beatty. The team will also identify contacts in engineering fields whose testing would benefit from extreme conditions. The team will create promotional material, highlighting extreme conditions, close proximity to Las Vegas (for transportation and logistics), and advertising long and short-term lodging options and amenities.
  - A team of community representatives will be formed to support economic development in the film industry. The team will identify films and other works filmed in the area. The team will contact the producers to obtain feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of Beatty as a filming location. The team will identify companies/services used by industry to locate shooting locations and market area assets/amenities to appropriate industry contacts. The team will develop marketing materials for this purpose.
- E. Support other infrastructure projects that will enhance community and economic development in Beatty.
- Develop and implement business and marketing plans for the Beatty Airport.
  - Bring a water pipeline to the Beatty Airport to support future airport operations.
  - Establish fueling facilities to support airport operations.
- F. Support other infrastructure projects that will enhance community and economic development in Beatty.
- Transportation and Infrastructure Project Awareness - The community will keep abreast of Yucca Mountain project status. Should the project move forward, the community would keep abreast of the potential railway project in an effort to leverage the impacts associated with the project to support community and economic development in Beatty.
  - The community will keep abreast of any local, State, or federal plans or initiatives that may affect the availability of fiber optic communications and mass transit options/expansion in the Beatty area.



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**Additional Comments:**

1. The Beatty Water and Sanitation District has completed their Master Plan and GIS mapping of the system infrastructure, funding for this project came from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with a cash in kind match from Nye County and BWSD. The master plan identifies projects over the next ten years and addresses current and future issues such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades and aging infrastructure.
2. BWSD has started the planning process for a new office building that will meet ADA requirements, and is working to identify potential grants and other funding sources for the construction of the new office building.
3. The lack of historical markers and signage, highlighting our attractions such as; Beatty being the Gateway to Death Valley, things to do, and places to visit, may limit the potential for extending the stays of tourists already visiting Beatty and may limit the expansion of its tourism market.
4. In FY14, the Town of Beatty received a State of Nevada, Division of State Parks, Land & Water Conservation Grant. Funds will be used on the Beatty Town Park development including landscaping, irrigation, signage, flagpoles, memorial block wall with seat, sheltered benches, fencing, and paved walkways.



### 3.4 Gabbs, Nevada

The Town of Gabbs was founded in 1941. It was a company town for Basic Magnesium, Inc. (BRI), which operated a magnesium mine within the town limits. The magnesium was used for the World War II efforts to make plane parts lighter than aluminum. The Town incorporated on March 29, 1955.



Photo: Gabbs  
Photo courtesy of the Town of Gabbs

#### 3.4.1 Background and History

In 1955, BRI began producing magnesium for the private sector. The Town's population climbed to 796 by 1960. In 1982, BRI laid off half its 350 workers, which caused the Town's population to decline. Premier Magnesia, LLC, currently operates the mine and employs over 90 employees, with many years of production left in the mine. The mine in Gabbs is the oldest, continuously operated mine in Nevada.

In 2001, Gabbs was dis-incorporated. Today the Town boasts a progressive mine, kindergarten through twelfth grade public school, grocery, café, bar, gas station, motel, propane utility company, library, volunteer fire and ambulance service, senior center, community swimming pool, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Ladies Auxiliary, Women's Club, Latter-day Saints (LDS) Church, and Community Church.

#### 3.4.2 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

Gabbs has a population of 269. The median age of the population is 50.1 years, with 81.0 percent (218) age 16 and older and 20.8 percent (56) age 65 and older (2010 Census, Gabbs CDP). According to the last two decennial censuses, the population decreased by 49 residents (approximately 15 percent) between 2000 and 2010. Table 6 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for Gabbs and Nye County for 2010.

**Table 6. Gabbs Demographic and Socioeconomic Data**

Subject	Gabbs	Nye County
Population <sup>1</sup>	269	43,946
Median Age (Years) <sup>1</sup>	50.1	48.4
16 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	81.0%	82.1%
65 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	20.8%	23.4%
Percent Minority <sup>1</sup>	14.9%	21.1%
Average Household Size <sup>1</sup>	2.22	2.42



Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	20.1%	18.9%
Per Capita Income <sup>2</sup>	\$19,027	\$22,687
High School Graduate or Higher <sup>2</sup>	73.6%	81.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher <sup>2</sup>	10.1%	10.5%

<sup>1</sup>Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census data and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

### 3.4.3 Economy

Mining created Gabbs during World War II. Gold mines have opened and closed over the years but the magnesium mine has been in continuous operation since the 1940s, the oldest, continuously operating mine in Nevada. Other businesses in the Town include a grocery, café, bar, gas station, and motel. Recent business closures have included FMC Gold, Rawhide, Glamis Gold Ltd., Tom Jones's (TJ's). Additionally, the Gabbs School cut its staff in 2002.

### 3.4.4 Action Plan

In 2012 an Action Plan had been developed for select goals. Those items not accomplished in 2012 will be rolled over into the 2013 Action plan as summarized below:

- A. Promote Gabbs as a small town where kids can grow up safely and seniors can retire peacefully.
  - Develop a community newsletter to advertise programs for children and seniors in the community.
- B. Make Gabbs a more attractive place to live.
  - Improvement to the uptown park, providing small kids playground equipment
  - Overall cleanup of town, trailer courts, etc.
  - Removal of junk cars.
  - Make the pool an indoor pool and fix up the area.
  - Spruce up the school by painting, landscaping, etc.
  - Fixing the tennis/basketball courts.
- C. Improve opportunities for Gabbs Workforce.
  - Work with existing café, store, and gas station to expand hours of operation to seven days a week and later than 6 p.m.
- D. Attract new businesses (i.e. campground, store, etc.) and developers to Gabbs.
  - Identify public and private land suitable for future development opportunities.
  - Attract an all-in-one truck stop, café, and motel.
  - Attract a campground.
  - Attract a general store.
  - Prepare promotional material to advertise local tourist attractions and construct signs to mark trails open to the public. The tourism focused promotion material will



provide a market for the businesses in the service industry the Town is interested in attracting to the area

- E. Improve housing stock to attract new residents or to provide additional housing options for existing residents.
  - Develop a plan for fixing up dilapidated homes that are either empty or abandoned.
  - Preparing a housing needs and evaluation study to provide as reference material for potential developers.
- F. Establish new community programs and services available to Town residents.
  - Identify a funding mechanism and attract a full time physician for Gabbs.
  - Identify an existing facility that can be used as a youth center or develop a plan to construct a new facility for a youth center.
  - Establish a community food bank to help those in need.

**Additional Comments:**

1. The Town of Gabbs has been working diligently to clean up the Town by holding Town Clean up Days and other events.
2. Arizona Nevada Tower Company (ANTC) was awarded funds under the Community Connect Broadband Grant Program administered by the Rural Utilities Service ("RUS") of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") to install a Broadband tower adjacent to the Town of Gabbs and provide internet workstations available to the public for two years post completion of the project. As part of this award, along with support from Nye County the Gabbs Town Community Center building, that has been sitting, as an empty shell for several years will be renovated. The Town of Gabbs office will move into the new community center once completed.



### 3.5 Pahrump, Nevada

The Town of Pahrump is an unincorporated town and the population center of Nye County, located at the southernmost tip of the County, approximately 60 miles west of Las Vegas.

#### 3.5.1 Background and History

Pahrump Valley was populated by American settlers beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and early settlement was in the form of large ranch-style settlements, where ranchers grew cotton, alfalfa, and raised livestock. Interest in Pahrump increased during the 1960s, with the beginning of large-scale land development and speculation, and the introduction of telephone lines and a paved road into the Valley from Las Vegas.



Photo: Lakeside  
Photo courtesy of Michelle Banuelos

More recently, Nye County and the Town of Pahrump have been struggling to combat excessive unemployment rates well above the State and national averages. A large portion of Pahrump’s labor force worked in service industries hardest hit by the recession, leading Pahrump to have one of the highest rates of unemployment in the nation. Pahrump and Nye County have per capita incomes approximately 20 percent less than the State and national averages, and poverty rates more than 30 percent higher.

#### 3.5.2 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

Pahrump has a population of 36,441, according to the 2010 Census. The median age of the population is 49.7 years, with 82.8 percent (30,156) age 16 and older and 25.4 percent (9,260) age 65 and older. The largest racial or ethnic group is white (non-Hispanic), making up 79.7 percent of the population. The percent of the population identified as Hispanic is 12.9 percent. The remaining 7.4 percent is identified as Black, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, some other race, or two or more races. The median annual income for Pahrump households is \$40,506, with a poverty rate of 19.7 percent. (2010 Census, Pahrump CDP). Table 7 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for Pahrump and Nye County.

**Table 7. Pahrump Demographic and Socioeconomic Data**

Subject	Pahrump	Nye County
Population <sup>1</sup>	36,441	43,946
Median Age (Years) <sup>1</sup>	49.7	48.4
16 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	82.8%	82.1%
65 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	25.4%	23.4%
Percent Minority <sup>1</sup>	20.3%	21.1%



Average Household Size <sup>1</sup>	2.44	2.42
Unemployment <sup>2</sup>	22.1%	16.5%
Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup>	19.7%	18.9%
Per Capita Income <sup>3</sup>	\$22,601	\$22,687
High School Graduate or Higher <sup>3</sup>	81.4%	81.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher <sup>3</sup>	9.2%	10.5%
No Health Insurance Coverage Rate <sup>4</sup>	24.7%	23.6%
Employed: No Health Insurance Coverage Rate <sup>4</sup>	35.1%	30.4%
Unemployed: No Health Insurance Coverage Rate <sup>4</sup>	75.5%	74.6%
Disability Status <sup>4</sup>	20.6%	19.4%

<sup>1</sup>Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census data and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup>Data for Nye County, Nevada, and the United States is for the 2011 average unemployment rate from the Bureau of Labor Statistics(BLS) and is available at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov). Data for Pahrump is reported from the 2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>3</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>4</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Of those residents over the age of 25, the highest education level attained is as follows: 16.77 percent did not complete high school, 42.82 percent completed high school, 21.94 percent completed some college, 6.95 percent completed an associate degree, and 7.86 percent completed a bachelor's degree. The percentage of residents completing at least a bachelor's degree is much lower than the national average of 17.52 percent.

### 3.5.3 Economy

During the past year, home prices began rising but not as fast as those in Las Vegas. New homes are again starting to be built in the master-planned Mountain Falls sub-division. The available inventory of foreclosures and short-sales is shrinking. Unemployment rate is slowly decreasing. Companies, such as Valley Electric Association continue to add employees to their operations. The Town of Pahrump is working with Nye County, on a new web-based concept of one stop shopping, which will better facilitate business licensing.



Photo: Desert View Hospital  
Photo courtesy of Meagan Kowalski

### 3.5.4 Action Plan

In 2012 an Action Plan had been developed for select goals. Those items not accomplished in 2012 will be rolled over into the 2013 Action plan as summarized below:



A. Improve and expand infrastructure.

- Improve highways and roadways – The Town of Pahrump, Pahrump Regional Planning District (PRPD), and Pahrump Community Committee will revisit and update the Capital Improvement Plan for Streets and Highways and add action steps and timelines for accomplishing improvements. Attention will be focused on roadways that will sustain existing businesses and attract new ones. (For example, constructing the roadway for Hafen Road to Front Sight, eventually feeding the future BrightSource Hidden Hills Project planned 15 miles southeast of Hafen Elementary School.) The team will study the feasibility of expanding State Route 160 to a double lane highway, from Las Vegas through Pahrump up to U.S. 95; whereby making the Valley more attractive for businesses requiring heavy trucking services. In order to accomplish these tasks, the team will identify industrial development bonds and other funding sources that could be used for these purposes.
- Improve/expand utilities – A Pahrump Community Committee and other community stakeholders will work together to provide businesses, both current and new, with projection of costs relative to bringing electrical power to a given location. The group will invite VEA staff to participate in the economic development team. Public and private grants and other funds will be sought to assist businesses in the out-of-pocket expenses needed to cover for electrical utility costs.
- Businesses, current, new, and expanding, will be provided projected costs relative to the installation of sewer and water lines along with monthly service fees. A feasibility study of the possibility of Nye County owning and operating a municipal sewer and water system for the Valley will be completed. Funding sources will be identified to assist the Valley in expanding sewer and water systems, specifically in locations zoned for light and heavy commercial use.
- The installation of a natural gas pipeline in Nye County, particularly the Pahrump area, will continue to be pursued. The team will evaluate potential for providing utilities service for additional areas in the Valley.
- Expand broadband access and availability – The rural-regional bandwidth project study (Connect Nevada) will be completed. The Pahrump Community Committee and other key stakeholders will actively support the installation of broadband capable of handling the short- and long-range needs of the Valley for both commercial and residential use. Additional fiber optic lines to transmission lines run by VEA will be examined.
- Develop a local public airport – The environmental study for the proposed airport site will be completed. The Town of Pahrump Airport Advisory Board will be reinstated with the defined purpose of: (1) seeking BLM transfer of land, (2) seeking grant funding for phase-in construction, and (3) identifying the potential economic development impacts of the airport.



- Develop an industrial park – A task force will be created with the assignment of: (1) identifying a viable site (public or private); (2) detailing development costs, including purchase and infrastructure costs; (3) seeking funding sources to offset purchase and infrastructure costs; and (4) establishing a collaborative partnership with local utility companies aimed at sharing costs and operations of the park.
  - Extend rail service to Pahrump – The feasibility of extending rail service to the Pahrump area will be evaluated and potential funding sources will be identified.
  - Provide incentives to encourage computer purchases among students develop or identify a broadband training and awareness program for small and medium sized businesses and improve online business services offered by the government.
- B. Increase recreational opportunities.
- Develop recreation facilities and events – The Pahrump Community Committee and other stakeholder will identify public and private resources to construct a new/larger senior center, a community/civic center, a performing arts center, a movie theater, fairgrounds, and new parks. The team will also work to attract additional recreational events and resources to the area.
  - Continue to develop the Pahrump/Nye County Fairgrounds on 427 acres of land near Dandelion Street and State Route 160. Funding is still being sought for the Fairground’s project and it is currently in the initial stages of development. Eventually, the facilities will include ball fields, exhibit halls, and a rodeo area. When complete, the Fairgrounds will be a major recreational facility for Nye County and Pahrump.
  - Hold the 2013 Pahrump Fall Festival September 26 - 29 at Petrack Park complete with carnival, rodeo, entertainment, arts & crafts, and a variety of vendors. Last year's festival was the largest yet and it is hoped this year's event will be even larger. For the last 13 years, Pahrump has held its own version of the Pony Express. The ride has varied from over 40 miles to a little over 10 miles. This year, the trail riders will participate in the Fall Festival Parade and it will serve as the beginning of the journey.
- C. Improve educational facilities.
- Develop a college campus – The Pahrump Community Committee and other key stakeholders will work with GBC on their plans to construct a new facility on 180 acres at State Route 160 and Manse Road.
  - Upgrade Pahrump Valley High School facilities – The Pahrump Community Committee will work the NCS D to assist in moving forward with the completion of phases II and III at the Pahrump Valley High School.
- D. Develop additional medical facilities and add health care professionals.
- Construct a new Veteran’s Affairs medical clinic – The Pahrump Community Committee and other stakeholder will identify public and private resources



- necessary to construct a new medical clinic to service the needs of Pahrump's veteran community.
- Attract additional medical specialists – The Pahrump Community Committee and other stakeholder will identify public and private resources to attract additional medical specialists.
- E. Continue developing tourism industry.
- Promote tourism opportunities in Pahrump – The Pahrump Community Committee and other key stakeholders will actively promote tourism in Pahrump through participation in trade shows and RV shows, advertisements on tourism websites, and development of promotional videos, social media content, brochures, and other marketing materials. The team will also work to brand Pahrump as “Your Base Camp for Adventure” by building on the existing recreational opportunities and new opportunities generated as a result of actions taken under Goal B.
- F. Promote economic development.
- Remove barriers to business expansion and development – The County is working to institute a moratorium on impact fees, allow conditional use permits to reinstate grandfathered land uses, and reduce or relax regulations/restrictions negatively impacting development.
  - NyE Communities Coalition (NyECC) has been and will continue to hold monthly job fairs for both job seekers and employers.
  - Recruit a Pahrump community member to the NCREDA Executive Board.
  - Begin developing possibility of a rural southern Nevada EB-5 regional center.
- G. Promote a positive image.
- Continue to update local websites such as the Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce, [pahrumppchamber.com](http://pahrumppchamber.com) and Pahrump Tourism, [www.visitpahrumpp.com](http://www.visitpahrumpp.com).

**Additional Comments:**

1. Valley Electric Association Inc. (VEA) is a member-owned nonprofit electric utility headquartered in Pahrump. The cooperative was founded in 1965 as a result of a merger between the Amargosa Valley Electric Cooperative and the White Mountain Electric Cooperative. VEA's service territory includes more than 6,800 square miles in Nevada and California, with the majority in Southern Nevada. VEA serves more than 45,000 customers, including residential members, local businesses and high-profile government facilities.

The company strives to find the lowest-priced wholesale power available to minimize rate increases to VEA members. The cooperative has also demonstrated a commitment to giving back to the communities it serves through charitable donations and community partnerships.



VEA operates the nation's largest domestic solar water heater program, offering the energy-saving technology to members at cost with no down payment, five-year financing at zero percent interest and on-bill financing. To date, nearly 1,000 solar water heaters have been installed in members' homes. Each unit displaces approximately 3,082 pounds of carbon dioxide per year while reducing participating members' power bills by about 30 percent.

VEA is the first utility outside of California to participate in the California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO). The CAISO manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage, long-distance power lines that make up 80 percent of California's power grid. The CAISO operates a wholesale power system that balances the need for higher transmission reliability with the need for lower costs. VEA's participation in the CAISO opens up significant market and economic benefits, allowing both entities to share efficiencies and serve as a conduit for cost-effective renewable resources.

2. The location and climate in Pahrump are excellent for solar power generation. Opportunities exist for economic development related to the solar industry, including the revenue and jobs associated with construction and operation of the facility as well as the ancillary services such as lodging that can be provided in Pahrump to house the workforce. There are several renewable energy developers in the CAISO queue looking to build in the Pahrump area.
3. Spring Mountain Motor Resort and Country Club has embarked on a massive expansion project, including over 2 miles of new track surface, a 150,000 square foot skid-pad, a multi-purpose building for Cadillac school operations, a sewer & water plant and more. The track expansion is located on a new 120-acre parcel acquired from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) last year, and can be run separately or as part of the existing road course. The project guarantees more extended road course variations with the longest configuration at 6.1 miles, making Spring Mountain the longest track in the country and second longest in the world.
4. Valley Electric Association (VEA) has increased their workforce by 30% in the last 18 months. Perhaps the catalyst for growth was the decision to join the California Independent System Operator Corporation or ISO, which has opened the door to new opportunities.
5. Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority held the first annual Job and Business Fair in Pahrump April 12, 2013. Almost 400 entities and/or individuals from throughout the County participated. There were 44 exhibitors on hand assisting both job seekers and existing businesses.
6. Completed a Broadband Assessment with the support of Connect Nevada. This resulted in open wifi access at both the Bob Ruud Community Center and the Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce.
7. Launched a new Tourism Website, [www.visitpahrump.com](http://www.visitpahrump.com) in October 2012. Increased emphasis on social marketing, new Face book page, Face book Ad Campaign. Emarketing includes a bi-monthly email distribution and eventual mobile website.
8. Hosted Nevada Rural Roundup in Pahrump, April 17 – 19, 2013.



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9. There are approximately 1900 active business licenses in Pahrump.
  10. Nye County created a one-stop facility for community development services in Pahrump on 250 N. Highway 160. Planning, zoning, building & safety, and public works are all housed in one location. This will make the process simpler for developers to get assistance needed in a timely manner.
  11. Great Basin College (GBC) operates a campus in Pahrump and a satellite site in Tonopah. The Pahrump Valley Center (PVC) is the largest center for GBC outside of the Elko main campus. The PVC is home to Live, Interactive, and On-Line classes and offers Associate and Bachelor Degree and course offerings to communities throughout Nye County.



### 3.6 Round Mountain, Nevada

Round Mountain is best known for the Round Mountain Gold Mine, a large open pit heap-leach gold mine owned by Kinross Gold Corporation (50 percent owner and operator) and Barrick Gold Corporation (50 percent owned). The first gold production from the Round Mountain District was in 1906, and by 2006 the mine reached the significant milestone of 10 million ounces poured. The gold occurs on the rim of an ancient collapsed caldera and is mainly fine-grained, with visible (and sometimes spectacular) gold occurring in structural intersections.



Photo: Hadley  
Photo courtesy of the Town of Round Mountain

#### 3.6.1 Background and History

As mining properties at Round Mountain changed hands in the 1970s and 1980s the emphasis on the methodology of the recovery of ore swung from the adits and stopes of underground mining to the open pit. In 1987 Round Mountain Gold began expanding their operations and the need to open up additional housing for the influx of employees became apparent. Legal questions regarding the land at the Round Mountain town site precluded expansion at that location; the company began exploring other feasible options and within the next two years had acquired the ICT Ranch in Smoky Valley from one Ingvard Christianson and began platting and construction at the new town's site.

While the original town of Round Mountain remains near the current mining operation, the construction of Hadley served, in essence, as a relocation of the former community. As such, and with the new town existing as of, by, and for Round Mountain Gold, the surrounding areas, including both towns (occasionally including the town of Carvers as well), are often generically referred to as Round Mountain or Smoky Valley. In Hadley there is an elementary school, a high school, a library, a swimming pool, a golf course and a football field. The valley is very active with American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Boy and Girl Scouts, adult co-ed softball league and little league, men and women's golf leagues, barrel racing and roping circuits as well as a museum.

#### 3.6.2 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

Round Mountain has a population of 1,577. The median age of the population is 36.7 years, with 77.3 percent (1,219) age 16 and older and 8.7 percent (137) age 65 and older. (2010 Census, Round Mountain CCD) Table 8 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for Round Mountain and Nye County.



**Table 8. Round Mountain Demographic and Socioeconomic Data**

Subject	Round Mountain	Nye County
Population <sup>1</sup>	1,577	43,946
Median Age (Years) <sup>1</sup>	36.7	48.4
16 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	77.3%	82.1%
65 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	8.7%	23.4%
Percent Minority <sup>1</sup>	17.8%	21.1%
Average Household Size <sup>1</sup>	2.54	2.42
Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	2.1%	18.9%
Per Capita Income <sup>2</sup>	\$27,425	\$22,687
High School Graduate or Higher <sup>2</sup>	89.5%	81.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher <sup>2</sup>	25.8%	10.5%

<sup>1</sup>Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census data and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

### 3.6.3 Economy

Mining is the main industry in Round Mountain, providing direct and contracted employment for approximately 1050 individuals. Agriculture is a distant secondary industry. Based on the U.S. Census 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, there was an estimated total of 1,039 employees in Round Mountain, with the largest number of those in the mining industry. Those job categories that employed the most residents were: mining/agriculture (66.7 percent), educational services (10.1 percent), retail trade (7.2 percent), information (3.2 percent), and transportation and warehousing (2.7 percent).

### 3.6.4 Action Plan

In 2012 an Action Plan had been developed for select goals. Those items not accomplished in 2012 will be rolled over into the 2013 Action plan as summarized below:

- A. Attract other industries to sustain community after mine life.
  - Increase land available for development – The Round Mountain Community Committee (RMCC) will work with key stakeholders to research opportunities for land acquisition to support private development.
  - Expand infrastructure – The RMCC will work with key stakeholders to identify public and private resources to expand water and power infrastructure to increase capacity for much needed housing, even at the current population level.
  - Improve emergency medical services – The RMCC and other key stakeholders will explore the possibility of Nye County purchasing the airstrip from Round Mountain



Gold Corporation. The team will then work with Nye Regional Medical Center, Nye County, and Round Mountain Gold Corporation to establish an emergency triage facility to prepare patients for air ambulance transportation. This would ease the burden of local volunteer emergency medical technicians who have to travel to Tonopah (60 miles one way) on these runs. The more critical patients would be transported to Tonopah or flown from the Hadley Airport. The team will also work with the public to recruit and train volunteer emergency medical technicians to ensure coverage in Smoky Valley and as far as Austin.

- Foster the agriculture industry – The RMCC and other key stakeholders will research and institute an agricultural program to seed, grow, and sell native vegetation to mines for reclamation. This could become a business residents can pass on to younger generations for community sustainability. The team will also develop and support a greenhouse facility.
- Sustain and develop current resources – The RMCC will work with key stakeholders to assess future demand on community resources and identify potential funding sources to support projects identified in the assessment. There are 40 acres at Carvers where outdoor rodeo currently takes place and where an indoor facility could be built.
- Increase tourism – The RMCC will research opportunities to promote tourism. Construct information kiosks to inform visitors of local attractions and guide them to local services (possibly at the turnoff into the Hadley subdivision from highway 376 and/or at the Carvers Corner).
- Expand local business opportunities – The Greater Smoky Valley Chamber would like to host a small business expo, with representatives from different entities there to provide the resources needed to build and expand businesses. Information regarding funding, permits, regulations, as well as available opportunities. There is also a need for additional banking services.

**Additional Comments:**

1. The only health care clinic within the area shut down.
2. During the course of the past year, the Town acquired two new businesses as well as a Community Water System.
3. The Town of Round Mountain in conjunction with Round Mountain Gold Corporation will be addressing housing issue, and working on a joint new housing project.



### 3.7 Tonopah, Nevada

Tonopah is an unincorporated town in northern Nye County and is the County seat. The Town is located along U.S. 95 about halfway between Nevada’s two main population centers of Las Vegas (220 miles) and Reno (240 miles).



Photo: Tonopah, NV  
Photo courtesy of the Town of Tonopah

#### 3.7.1 Background and History

The community began around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the Town’s founder, Jim Butler, discovered what would be the second richest silver strike in Nevada history.

#### 3.7.2 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

Tonopah has a population of 2,478. The median age of the population is 39.3 years, with 78.6 percent (1,947) age 16 and older and 10.9 percent (271) age 65 and older (2010 Census, Tonopah CDP). Table 9 provides a summary of demographic and socioeconomic data for Tonopah and Nye County.

**Table 9. Tonopah Demographic and Socioeconomic Data**

Subject	Tonopah	Nye County
Population <sup>1</sup>	2,478	43,946
Median Age (Years) <sup>1</sup>	39.3	48.4
16 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	78.6%	82.1%
65 Years and Older <sup>1</sup>	10.9%	23.4%
Percent Minority <sup>1</sup>	15.3%	21.1%
Average Household Size <sup>1</sup>	2.23	2.42
Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	10.2%	18.9%
Per Capita Income <sup>2</sup>	\$25,888	\$22,687
High School Graduate or Higher <sup>2</sup>	81.0%	81.7%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher <sup>2</sup>	13.1%	10.5%

<sup>1</sup>Data is from the 2010 U.S. Census data and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>2</sup>Data is from the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates and is available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

#### 3.7.3 Economy

Tonopah was founded in 1900 after the discovery of silver. Over the years, mining has continued to serve as one of the core industries for the town and small mining ventures have provided income for local miners.



In addition to mining, Tonopah’s economy includes government operations, entertainment/tourism, and agriculture/ranching. By the mid-1900s, local and county government, public schools, and federal facilities became the primary employers. In 1957, the Department of Energy (DOE) developed the Tonopah Test Range (TTR) for weapons testing and has since relied on the nearby town as one of its main sources of employment. The DOE and the Department of Defense (DOD) have used the range and surrounding areas as a nuclear test site, a bombing range, and as a base of operations for the development of the F-117 Nighthawk.

The town’s economy is “supplemented by ranching and highway-related businesses” (Community Source Water Protection Plan for Public Water Systems in Nye County, Nevada February 2012, 46). The town has capitalized on its location between Reno and Las Vegas as a stopover and rest spot for travelers with gaming options offered at the Tonopah Station and the Banc Club.

For the past decade, Tonopah has been working to diversify its economy by promoting energy-related development, including solar, geothermal, wind, and transmission. The Tonopah Airport and areas near the town have been identified for solar energy projects. Proposed developments will help meet the increasing demand for clean, renewable electrical energy in the U.S. and help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2011, Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SolarReserve, LLC, began constructing the Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project, a solar generating facility located northwest of Tonopah. The Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project has a nominal net generating capacity of 100 MW. Once in operation (expected 2013), Tonopah Solar Energy’s facility will supply approximately 480,000 MW hours annually of clean, renewable electricity – enough to power up to 75,000 homes during peak electricity periods. The Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project will utilize concentrating solar power (CSP) technology, with a central receiver tower and the advanced molten salt system technology from United Technologies Corporation.

#### **3.7.4 Action Plan**

In 2012 an Action Plan had been developed for select goals. Those items not accomplished in 2012 will be rolled over into the 2013 Action plan as summarized below:

- A. Attract diverse businesses to support a stable economy.
  - Tonopah Water System Project – The proposed project is included in the Tonopah Public Utilities Preliminary Engineering Report, which outlines the current status and next steps. To date, \$7,196,827 has been secured through grant and loan funding from the USDA Rural Development – Nevada Office and a grant through the State Revolving Loan Fund. The next priority phase of the project, which will require approximately \$3,500,000 in funding, will entail upgrading the remaining



transmission system to a 14” main to prevent pipe failure and complete by the Spring of 2014.

- Tonopah Reclaimed Water Reuse Project – The Tonopah Public Utilities Preliminary Engineering Report details the project status and next steps. Tonopah has received grant funding through the State Revolving Fund for the initial phase of the project; however, an additional \$7,000,000 is needed to irrigate the lower and upper zones using the reclaimed water.
  - Internet Access Improvements – Tonopah’s current fiber optic infrastructure enables broadband service in the community at a data transfer rate of one Mbps. Tonopah would like to upgrade the existing broadband infrastructure to 2 Mbps to improve the reliability of the internet service. In order to move the project forward, the next step is to approach Frontier Communications about the feasibility of increasing available internet speed/capacity.
  - Land Availability - Public lands adjacent to Tonopah are unavailable for growth and development due to federal management designations. A mechanism needs to be developed that will enable adjacent public lands to be transferred to Nye County and annexed to the Town. The strategy for moving forward is to engage the BLM and congressional representatives to identify potential growth options.
  - Commercial Delivery Service Store – While Tonopah residents and businesses can receive packages through commercial delivery services, residents and businesses can only mail packages through the United States Postal Service. The expansion of business opportunities in Tonopah is reliant on locating a commercial postal service store (such as UPS or FedEx) in the area. The next step to accomplishing this objective is to contact commercial delivery companies to gauge their interest in opening a store in Tonopah. **ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012**
- B. Improve access to and awareness of higher education options.
- Learning Center – Tonopah would like to establish a learning center that will enable residents to access education materials and resources.
  - Awareness Campaign – There is a misconception that post-secondary education options are not available in Tonopah. However, higher education opportunities are available through GBC, which provides online classes and has established a satellite campus in Tonopah where residents can take live video classes streaming from the Pahrump location. Improving internet access, as identified under Goal 1, will make classes offered in Tonopah through Great Basin College more accessible.
- C. Promote high quality healthcare services.
- Eldercare Services – While Tonopah currently has a senior center, there are no assisted-living or skilled-nursing facilities. These facilities are necessary to enable older residents (and their families) to remain in Tonopah, should those services be needed. Nye County and Tonopah are currently working with the non-profit arm of the Nye Regional Medical Center to develop an eldercare service facility. The



County deeded land to the non-profit for the future facility at no cost; however, the non-profit needs construction and operations funding.

- Medical Specialists - Medical specialists visit Tonopah infrequently resulting in a delay in obtaining necessary services or high costs associated with travelling to receive medical care. The strategy for addressing this issue is to approach Nye Regional Medical Center about increasing visits by medical specialists based on community need, using a model similar to those established by the William Bee Ririe Hospital and Rural Health Clinic in Ely, Nevada.
- Pharmacy Services – Tonopah has one pharmacy that is only open four days a week, which restricts residents from quickly obtaining necessary medications. In order to address this issue, Tonopah intends to approach Scolari’s Pharmacy to discuss the community need for expanding the pharmacy schedule and to recommend additional days for service on a trial basis.
- Eye Care and Dental Services – There are currently two dental offices in Tonopah. However, for any major or orthodontic procedures, residents have to travel out of town. Additionally, there are no eye doctors located in Tonopah.

D. Increase community programs and public services.

- Convention Center Rehabilitation– The Tonopah Convention Center is the primary venue for public and private meetings and events in Tonopah, but the facility is outdated and in need of repair. The Town funded the replacement of the Convention Center Roof. Additional funding is needed to complete the remaining rehabilitation of the convention center and eventually upgrade the Town/TPU offices.
- Youth Athletic Programs – The Town would like to provide additional sports programs to youth, such as tennis, wrestling, soccer, etc.
- Youth Computer Programs – The town would like to establish informal computer training opportunities for local youth.
- Long Distance Public Transportation – The town would like to increase transportation options for residents to travel to Reno and Las Vegas by working with a private company or citizen to establish a new van or bus service or by working with an existing service provider to include a stop in Tonopah. This is a critical need.
- Licensed Daycare – Tonopah would like to attract a licensed day care provider to the area to provide childcare services to residents with children.
- Craft Fair/Art Festival – There is currently a craft fair held during Jim Butler Days, an annual festival in Tonopah, but the Town would like to establish a stand-alone art festival. As part of the strategy for initiating the Tonopah Art Festival, the Town will encourage art departments at Tonopah Elementary/Middle School and Tonopah High School to sponsor the festival and identify potential grants or Town funds that can be used for this project. The Town can provide cost sharing for potential grants by using a public facility, such as the convention center, for the festival.



- Community Performing Arts Groups – The town would like to promote the formation of local performing arts groups to build a greater sense of community in Tonopah.
- Art and Performing Arts Venue – Tonopah would like to identify/construct a facility for displaying art and hosting performing arts events.

**Additional Comments:**

1. Education - Great Basin College offers online classes. (<http://www.tonopahnevada.com/>). University of Nevada Reno Cooperative Extension has an office in Tonopah. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's office in Tonopah links citizens of Northern Nye and Esmeralda counties with educational opportunities from the University of Nevada and United States Department of Agriculture.
2. The Town of Tonopah and Tonopah Public Utilities (TPU) has upgraded water distribution lines, water storage capacity, and has completed Phase 1 and will complete Phase 2 of the Arsenic Mitigation and Transmission Project in the Spring of 2014. The Town of Tonopah/TPU has upgraded sewer collection lines, built a new sewage treatment plant, has new septage drying beds, and has constructed a new reclaimed water and distribution system.
3. The Town has developed two new wells 4.5-5 miles from the existing well field and new piping along the existing right-of-way. There is approximately 19 miles of transmission line. The new 14-inch pipe will address the current bottlenecks in the system. Phase 1 of the water project is complete; the Town is in compliance with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and safe drinking water standards. The Town received funding from the State Revolving Loan Fund and USDA Rural Development to replace the remainder of the transmission line (Phase 2) which will be completed by Spring 2014.
4. The Town of Tonopah was recently selected to participate in a promotional video hosted by Terry Bradshaw to be distributed nationally by Today in America. This promotion was funded and completed through the 5/8ths Room Tax Program, which helps to increase tourism and room tax revenues in Tonopah, which supports the Tonopah Historic Mining Park, Convention Center and Town Parks and Recreation.



#### 4 Effectiveness of meeting Economic Development Goals and Action Plans

In 2012 the CEDS Strategy Committee identified common goals expressed by each of the communities and the County and consolidated the individual objectives to generate a unified strategy with broad economic impacts. The goals and associated plan of action for achieving these goals may have been modified at any time during the implementation process. It is not the intention of the Strategy Committee to restrict or limit the addition of new, viable, and supportable initiatives. The CEDS Strategy Committee may add goals and strategies to this list as they are identified. Overall, the goals of Nye County, and eventually the Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority (NCREDA), are to promote economic development and diversification and to develop and expand infrastructure to facilitate economic development.

These goals were or will be achieved by accomplishing the following major steps as strategies, Table 11. Nye County staff took the initial lead in coordinating formation of the NCREDA, once the Authority was established; NCREDA and its membership began completing strategies 2 through 9 below. In June 2012 the funding for this effort was awarded by the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) when they approved Nye County’s request to develop the NCREDA, and subsequently NCREDA received funding in July 2013 to continue the efforts of NCREDA and Economic Development initiatives throughout Nye County. Table 10 dictates which strategies were identified in 2012 and which were accomplished during the past year.

**Table 10. Action Plan Strategies**

Strategy Priority	Strategies (Work In Progress)	Nye County	2012 – 2013 Achievements
1	Restructure economic development activities and initiatives.	Form the Board of Directors for the NCREDA.	Complete
		Legally incorporate NCREDA.	Complete
		Adopt by-laws for NCREDA.	Complete
		Adopt and execute the newly revised CEDS through NCREDA.	Complete
		Recruit NCREDA members from Nye County economic development stakeholders.	On-going
		Select an Executive Director for NCREDA.	In Progress
		Complete inter-local agreements with local government and other organizational NCREDA members.	In Progress
		Identify funding mechanisms to establish organizational infrastructure and implement NCREDA initiatives.	On-going
		Establish an initial operating budget for NCREDA.	Complete
2	Align industrial sector	Interview and establish working relationships	On-going



	<b>development with state initiatives.</b>	with the GOED Industry Specialists for each key target sector identified in the CEDS to obtain recommended approaches to efficiently market each target sector industry.	
		Document a list of potential industrial park locations and other infrastructure necessary to attract and retain target sector industries.	In Progress
		Obtain membership and/or cooperative agreement, as appropriate, with each RDA pursuing the same target sector(s), as appropriate (i.e. based upon geographic location).	In Progress
<b>3</b>	<b>Connect workforce to jobs.</b>	Initiate quarterly meetings with educational, training, workforce, and related stakeholders to improve intra-county coordination and communication.	Complete
<b>4</b>	<b>Promote regional collaboration and other partnerships.</b>	Establish formal cooperative agreements between NCREDA and up to three other RDAs within the State and/or membership in other RDAs to leverage marketing efforts coordinate business recruitment activities, and promote synergistic Target Sector business development opportunities.	In Progress
<b>5</b>	<b>Use redevelopment programs to promote sustainable growth.</b>	Redevelop three to five properties in Nye County.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Expand business development, retention, and growth.</b>	Develop criteria for Catalyst Fund Applications for local approval before forwarding to the State (i.e. number of jobs, contribution to tax base, etc.).	In Progress
		Create a revolving loan fund program in cooperation with Nye County, an appropriately qualified non-profit, or a licensed financial institution.	Complete
		Establish criteria for issuing small, low-cost, low-interest loans to businesses.	Complete
		Establish business incubators to accommodate new business in Pahrump and Tonopah.	
		Sponsor periodic business development training and counseling session in the Nye County.	On-going
<b>7</b>	<b>Attract new businesses and industry.</b>	Complete the Amargosa Science and Technology Park at Lathrop Wells in Amargosa Valley.	In Progress



		Coordinate with GOED Industry Specialists and other RDAs to review and align marketing and branding approaches with similar initiatives within Nevada.	On-going
		Identify and select appropriate marketing and branding approaches (by geographic location, target sector industry, community, etc.).	In Progress
		Assist the Community of Beatty to adaptively reuse the Barrack Bullfrog site for new industry.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Increase opportunities for locally managed economic incentives.</b>	Develop and submit a Bill Draft Request to provide authority within strictly defined boundaries, to Counties on a State-wide basis for the provision of incentives to new and existing businesses.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Understand and expand international opportunities.</b>	Obtain approval for an EB-5 Regional Center and associated investment in Nye County.	



## 5 Performance Measures

The Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority has been and will continue to measure the progress made toward achieving the CEDS prioritized projects by tracking the following metrics.

### A. Number of jobs created after implementation of the CEDS (September 2012)

- Overall job growth
- Job growth by sector

### B. Number and types of investment undertaken in the region

- Foreign direct investment (by sector)
- Number of Nye County leads applying for the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development Catalyst Fund incentives
- Funding leveraged for economic development
- New funding identified to support economic development
- Grants and loans applications (number, nature, and amount applied for)
- Grants and loans secured (number, nature, amount awarded, and amount expended)

### C. Number of jobs retained in the region

- Wages and salaries (tracked by sector through DETR)
- Unemployment rate
- Nye County share (employment and revenue) of sector by percentage in Nevada

### D. Amount of private sector investment in the region after implementation of the CEDS

- Business expansion (tracked by sector)
- New businesses (tracked by sector)
- Business recruitment (tracked by sector)
- Acreage identified for development/new business
- Acreage developed

### E. Changes in the economic environment of the region

- Identification, implementation, and evaluation of mechanisms/methods used for business retention/expansion, promoting new businesses, and recruiting businesses
- Number of MOAs/MOUs signed or other evidence of cooperation with State and regional economic development entities to promote regionalization (tracked by sector)
- Identification, implementation, and evaluation of cooperative efforts with State and regional economic development entities to promote sector regionalization
- High School graduation rate contrasted with the graduation rate prior to implementation of CEDS
- Workforce training programs available to unemployed/underemployed within Nye County (number and nature by sector)



- Number of participants successfully completing/graduating from workforce training programs in Nye County
- Number/percentage of workforce training program participants employed in County/State exports generated (sector, nature, and quantity)

Table 11 was developed in coordination with the GOED to establish specific metrics that the County intends to accomplish over the next three years.

**Table 11. Strategy and Metrics**

Strategy	Metric	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	
		Goals	Goals	Goals	
<b>NCREDA Organization and Strategy</b>	<b>Near-Term Milestones</b>				
	Formation of the Board of Directors for NCREDA	X			
	Legal incorporation of NCREDA	X			
	Adoption of NCREDA by-laws	X			
	Selection of an Executive Director for NCREDA	X			
	Adoption and execution of the newly revised CEDS by NCREDA	X			
	Recruitment of new NCREDA members from Nye County economic development stakeholders	20	10	10	
	Completing inter-local agreements with local government and other organizational NCREDA members	6	3	3	
	Identification of funding mechanisms to establish organizational infrastructure and implement NCREDA initiatives	\$273,736	\$275,000	\$275,000	
Establishment of an initial operating budget for NCREDA	X				
<b>Marketing, Branding, Recruitment</b>	<b>Near-Term Milestones</b>				
	Identification and selection of appropriate marketing and branding approaches (by geographic location, target sector industry, community, etc.)	X			
	Coordination with GOED Industry Specialists and other RDAs to review and align marketing and branding approaches with similar initiatives within Nevada	X			
	Increased number of prospective businesses attracted to the NCREDA region (either through GOED or NCREDA leads)		5	10	
	Number of businesses from targeted industries/sectors moving into the region from other states or countries		1	3	



	Increased percentage of employment of Nye County workers in the targeted industries/sectors moving into the region		5%	10%
<b>Business Development, Retention and Growth</b>	<b>Near-Term Milestones</b>			
	Creating a revolving loan fund program in cooperation with Nye County, an appropriately qualified non-profit, or a licensed financial institution	Sept 2013- NCREDA Received \$30,000 grant to develop an RLF	\$15,000	\$20,000
	Establishing criteria for issuing small, low-cost, low-interest loans to businesses	X		
	Developing criteria for Catalyst Fund Applications and identify candidate businesses for local approval before forwarding to the State (i.e. number of jobs, contribution to tax base, etc.)	2	2	2
	<b>Expected Long-Term Outcomes</b>			
	Number of existing businesses realizing expansion opportunities through access to the revolving loan program		3	5
	Number of new business start-ups within Nye County		3	5
	Number of small loans to new business start-ups or existing small businesses within the NCREDA region through the revolving loan fund		3	5
	<b>Sector Development</b>	<b>Near-Term Milestones</b>		
Number of memberships and/or cooperative agreements, as appropriate, with each RDA pursuing the same target sector(s), as appropriate (i.e. based upon geographic location)		3		
Documented a list of potential industrial park locations and other infrastructure necessary to attract and retain target sector industries		X		
<b>Expected Long-Term Outcomes</b>				
Number of new infrastructure projects to support target sector business and industry			1	2
Number of prospective businesses attracted to the NCREDA region			3	5
Number of existing businesses from key Target Sectors (as established in the CEDS) recruited to Nye County			1	2
Number of new businesses established in Nye County related to the key target sectors identified in the CEDS			1	2



<b>Connect Workforce to Jobs</b>	<b>Near-Term Milestones</b>			
	Meet with educational, training, workforce, and related stakeholders to improve intra-county coordination and communication	4	4	4
	<b>Expected Long-Term Outcomes</b>			
	Number of new, locally available job training programs that are better-aligned with the skill sets needed by local employers and in-coming key Target Sector businesses		1	1
	Reduction in unemployment rate in Nye County		5%	10%
	Increase in high school graduation rates		3%	5%
<b>International Opportunities</b>	<b>Expected Long-Term Outcomes</b>			
	Approval for an EB-5 Regional Center and associated investment in Nye County		X	
	Identification of the countries in which Nye County business and industry currently maintains business relationships for purposes of developing future, targeted marketing campaigns in those countries (with assistance from and in coordination with GOED and the U.S. Department of Commerce	X	X	X
<b>Regional Collaboration and Other Partnerships</b>	<b>Near-Term Milestones</b>			
	Number of formal cooperative agreements between NCREDA and other RDAs within the State and/or membership in other RDAs to leverage marketing efforts, coordinate business recruitment activities, and promote synergistic Target Sector business development opportunities	3		
<b>Redevelopment</b>	<b>Expected Long-Term Outcomes</b>			
	Redevelopment of private properties in Nye County that assist in accomplishing the goals and objectives established in the County's CEDS		2	2
	Percentage increase in property values/lease rates at properties participating in the NCREDA and Nye County redevelopment initiatives		3%	5%
	Increased tax revenues associated with NCREDA and Nye County redevelopment initiatives		1%	2%



## **6 Prioritized list of economic development projects – Strategy for 2012 into 2013**

In 2012, the following six projects were selected based on economic need, expected completion, and anticipated benefits. Projects not completed in 2012 will roll over as the 2013 list of priority projects for Nye County.

### **6.1 Priority 1 – Pahrump Industrial Park Feasibility Study and Development:**

A site for a potential industrial park in the Pahrump area has been identified to address one of the primary weaknesses and opportunities identified by the Pahrump Community Committee. The site is located at the western end of town in front of the Spring Mountain Motorsports Ranch along State Route 160, Pahrump's main thoroughfare. The property is privately owned and is adjacent to public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Nye County plans to assess the feasibility of developing an industrial park at the site. In order to initiate the development of an industrial park in Pahrump, the following tasks will be undertaken:

- Enter into a “buy option” agreement with the property owner prior to completing a feasibility study.
- Secure funding to conduct a feasibility study of the proposed site for an industrial park in Pahrump.
- Conduct a feasibility study on the viability of constructing an industrial park at the proposed location, which shall at a minimum include a business, marketing, and recruitment plan if the site meets a general feasibility threshold.

***This project will move onto the Nye County list of prioritized projects for 2013***

### **6.2 Priority 2 – Tonopah Water System Project**

Tonopah Public Utilities is upgrading its water transmission system to mitigate arsenic levels and enhance infrastructure. A preliminary engineering report was prepared detailing the phases and associated costs of the project. Additionally, the environmental assessment for the infrastructure rights of way is complete except for preparation of a cultural survey. Tonopah Public Utilities has secured more than \$7,000,000 in grant and loan funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and loan funding through the State Revolving Fund. Additional funding is needed to complete the installation of new piping to the Town of Tonopah to support economic development and to upgrade infrastructure at the Tonopah Airport to allow existing business expansion and new business development at the airport industrial park. Next steps include:

- Securing funding to complete the remainder of the project.



- Completing an engineering design for the next phase(s).
- Completing the pipeline survey.
- Preparing the geotechnical report.
- Contracting a qualified construction contractor to complete the next phase(s).

**Update:** The Town of Tonopah and Tonopah Public Utilities has developed two new wells 4.5-5 miles from the existing well field and new piping along the existing right-of-way. There is approximately 19 miles of transmission line. The new 14-inch pipe will address the current bottlenecks in the system. Phase 1 of the water project is complete; the Town is in compliance with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and safe drinking water standards. The Town received funding from the State Revolving Loan Fund and USDA Rural Development to replace the remainder of the transmission line (Phase 2) which will be completed by Spring 2014.

The Town has plans to update the sewer collection lines. The Town has completed an effluent project, which will be in operation by the end of 2013.

### **6.3 Priority 3 – Nye County Small Business Revolving Loan Fund**

Nye County intends to establish a revolving loan fund to enable local businesses to provide products and services to government agencies and prime contractors operating in Nye County without the businesses facing financial hardships due to the length of time required by the contracting entity to pay invoices. Nye County became aware of the problem faced by small businesses providing services for the SolarReserve project in Tonopah. The Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor stipulated payment may take up to 90 days following receipt of an invoice. Many small businesses cannot withstand the length of time associated with the outstanding payments. The establishment of the revolving loan program will provide these businesses with a buffer between the invoicing and payment period, allowing them to expand their clientele. The following tasks are proposed in order to establish the revolving loan fund:

- Identify a licensed financial institution or qualified non-profit to oversee the revolving loan program.
- Develop the County management structure to oversee the revolving loan program.
- Secure \$500,000 to initiate the revolving loan fund.
- Establish criteria to qualify for the loan program.
- Establish loan conditions, such as the repayment structure.

**Update:** The Nye County Regional Economic Development Authority applied for and received from the USDA Rural Development Nevada office a \$30,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to



establish a Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. NCREDA matched the Rural Business Enterprise Grant with \$21,900 of in-kind contribution.

Small businesses in Nye County that are developing a business enterprise are eligible to apply for the funds. Revolving Loan Funds will be loaned out to eligible small businesses, paid back, and then cycled back out in the future, extending regional opportunity for business development. NCREDA has identified staff to oversee the revolving loan program, secured \$30,000 to initiate the revolving loan fund, established the criteria to qualify for the loan program, and established loan conditions.

Nye County and NCREDA will continue to increase the RLF program capital by applying for other grants to be used for the purpose of assisting businesses.

#### **6.4 Priority 4 – Feasibility Assessment for Nye County Industrial Park Locations**

Many of the Community Committees identified the lack of industrial parks or designated business development areas within their communities as obstacles to economic development. Nye County intends to study optimal locations for developing business and industrial parks throughout the County and the viability of their successful development.

***This project will move onto the Nye County list of prioritized projects for 2013***

#### **6.5 Priority 5 – Beatty Airport Water Infrastructure Project**

The water infrastructure system in Beatty will be expanded to include the Beatty Airport in the service area. Expanding water service to the airport will enable expansion of airport operations to accommodate fuel services, fire control, and a pilot's lounge. Water service at the Beatty Airport will allow construction of additional hangars and associated commercial/industrial operations at the property.

***This project will move onto the Nye County list of prioritized projects for 2013***

#### **6.6 Priority 6 – Round Mountain Water and Power Infrastructure Project**

The goal of the Round Mountain Community Committee is to attract industries other than mining to sustain the community should existing mining operations reduce scope or cease altogether. The Community Committee determined water and power infrastructure expansion was key to attracting new industries to the area. In order to develop necessary infrastructure, public and private resources need to be identified and secured.

***This project will move onto the Nye County list of prioritized projects for 2013***

