

Public Law 106-362
106th Congress

An Act

Oct. 27, 2000
[H.R. 1695]

To provide for the conveyance of certain Federal public lands in the Ivanpah Valley, Nevada, to Clark County, Nevada, for the development of an airport facility, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Ivanpah Valley
Airport Public
Lands Transfer
Act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act”.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF LANDS TO CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the land use planning requirements contained in sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712 and 1713), but subject to subsection (b) of this section and valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal public lands identified for disposition on the map entitled “Ivanpah Valley, Nevada-Airport Selections” numbered 01, and dated April 1999, for the purpose of developing an airport facility and related infrastructure. The Secretary shall keep such map on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and in the district office of the Bureau located in Las Vegas, Nevada.

(b) **CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary shall make no conveyance under subsection (a) until each of the following conditions are fulfilled:

(1) The County has conducted an airspace assessment, using the airspace management plan required by section 4(a), to identify any potential adverse effects on access to the Las Vegas Basin under visual flight rules that would result from the construction and operation of a commercial or primary airport, or both, on the land to be conveyed.

(2) The Federal Aviation Administration has made a certification under section 4(b).

(3) The County has entered into an agreement with the Secretary to retain ownership of Jean Airport, located at Jean, Nevada, and to maintain and operate such airport for general aviation purposes.

(c) **PAYMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As consideration for the conveyance of each parcel, the County shall pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the parcel.

(2) DEPOSIT IN SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—(A) The Secretary shall deposit the payments received under paragraph (1) into the special account described in section 4(e)(1)(C) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2345). Such funds may be expended only for the acquisition of private inholdings in the Mojave National Preserve and for the protection and management of the petroglyph resources in Clark County, Nevada. The second sentence of section 4(f) of such Act (112 Stat. 2346) shall not apply to interest earned on amounts deposited under this paragraph.

(B) The Secretary may not expend funds pursuant to this section until—

(i) the provisions of section 5 of this Act have been completed; and

(ii) a final Record of Decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) has been issued which permits development of an airport at the Ivanpah site.

(d) REVERSION AND REENTRY.—If, following completion of compliance with section 5 of this Act and in accordance with the findings made by the actions taken in compliance with such section, the Federal Aviation Administration and the County determine that an airport should not be constructed on the conveyed lands—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior shall immediately refund to the County all payments made to the United States for such lands under subsection (c); and

(2) upon such payment—

(A) all right, title, and interest in the lands conveyed to the County under this Act shall revert to the United States; and

(B) the Secretary may reenter such lands.

SEC. 3. MINERAL ENTRY FOR LANDS ELIGIBLE FOR CONVEYANCE.

The public lands referred to in section 2(a) are withdrawn from mineral entry under the Act of May 10, 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.; popularly known as the Mining Law of 1872) and the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

SEC. 4. ACTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary of Transportation shall, in consultation with the Secretary, prior to the conveyance of the land referred to in section 2(a), develop an airspace management plan for the Ivanpah Valley Airport that shall, to the maximum extent practicable and without adversely impacting safety considerations, restrict aircraft arrivals and departures over the Mojave Desert Preserve in California.

(b) CERTIFICATION OF ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall certify to the Secretary that the assessment made by the County under section 2(b)(1) is thorough and that alternatives have been developed to address each adverse effect identified in the assessment, including alternatives that ensure access to the Las Vegas Basin under visual flight rules at a level that is equal to or better than existing access.

SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 REQUIRED.

Prior to construction of an airport facility on lands conveyed under section 2, all actions required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to initial planning and construction shall be completed by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Interior as joint lead agencies. Any actions conducted in accordance with this section shall specifically address any impacts on the purposes for which the Mojave National Preserve was created.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

- (1) the term “County” means Clark County, Nevada; and
- (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

Approved October 27, 2000.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1695:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106-471 (Comm. on Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106-394 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 146 (2000): Mar. 9, considered and passed House.

Oct. 5, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 17, House concurred in Senate amendments.