



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Ball, *Public Information Officer*
LBall@rtcwashoe.com | Office: 775-335-1916 or Cell: 619-955-0750

or

Secondary Contact: Michael Moreno, *Public Affairs Manager*
MMoreno@rtcwashoe.com | Office: 775-335-1869 or Cell: 775-771-6453

**USDA to Begin Ongoing Bird Dispersal Measures for Airport Safety
at RTC SouthEast Connector Project Site**

Media photo, video and interview opportunity:

When: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Where: Meet SouthEast Connector construction office on Clear Water Way to be escorted onto the project site. See attached map.

Media RSVP: Please email lbball@rtcwashoe.com if you plan to attend.

Who: Cameron Green, USDA Wildlife Specialist and Garth Oksol, RTC SouthEast Connector Project Manager

Reno, Nevada (January 16, 2018) – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is planning to non-lethally disperse birds away from the SouthEast Connector project site wetlands area, near the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Due to the winter migration, there has been an uptick in the number of birds, specifically gulls, flying between Virginia Lake and the SouthEast Connector project site, near the wetlands. The gulls fly through the Reno-Tahoe International Airport airfields and pose a safety threat to humans and aircraft.

To encourage the gulls to move away from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, the USDA will use noise-making devices, such as fireworks and pyrotechnics.

Vegetation has been planted at the SouthEast Connector project site to help mitigate this issue. Once the vegetation grows in, the area will cease to be an attractive location for gulls, and further mitigation will likely be unnecessary.

Residents in the Hidden Valley area will likely hear these banging and whistling sounds periodically during daytime hours until the birds relocate. This process is expected to begin immediately and is anticipated to continue periodically through late spring.

The SouthEast Connector Project is anticipated to be complete in early summer of 2018. For project updates, visit SouthEastConnector.com to sign up for stakeholder email notifications, or follow RTC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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About RTC: *The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada serves the citizens of Reno, Sparks and unincorporated areas of Washoe County. As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region, the RTC provides leadership in planning and implements quality transportation systems to meet the community's present and future transportation needs. For more information about RTC projects visit rtcwashoe.com and sign up for email updates using MyRTC or call (775) 348-0400. Follow RTC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).*

**Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County
1105 Terminal Way | Reno, NV 89502**

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