

Short line railroad terminal opens in Fernley

NNBW staff

The Northern Nevada Development Authority on Wednesday announced Texas-based Blacklands Railroad has established a trans-loading and storage terminal at the Northern Nevada Railport & Logistics Center in Fernley.

The “Black Gold Rail Terminals: Northern Nevada” facility is located at 1000 Reno Highway and is served by both Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, offering five-day-a-week rail service.

According to NNDA, it’s the first short line railroad terminal to open in Northern Nevada, offering onsite access to rail for the purpose of trans-loading products from truck-to-rail and rail-to-truck to help companies cut transportation costs, along with the ability to track and trace railcars throughout the U.S.

“Because Reno-Sparks and the Sierra Region are both bisected by key rail and interstate highways, it has a federal ‘port

of entry’ designation,” Blacklands Railroad President Wayne Defebaugh said in a May 16 statement. “Establishing a Black Gold Rail Terminal in Fernley was a good fit as Northern Nevada’s logistics industry is quickly expanding to meet the multi-modal shipping and distribution needs of customers nationwide.”

Blacklands Railroad is reportedly investing \$1 million for additional railroad track and a locomotive to bolster the Fernley facility’s offerings.

According to NNDA, Class II and III small or mid-sized railroad companies — known as short lines — operate over a much shorter distance than larger, Class I national railroad networks.

According to the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, short lines operate 47,500 miles of track nationwide, much of it in rural areas to help keep smaller areas connected to the U.S. economy.

“The establishment of Black Gold Rail Terminals: Northern Nevada marks the 100th

company, since 2010, that we have assisted with expansion or relocation,” Robert Hooper, NNDA President/CEO, said in a statement. “Freight rail is integral to infrastructure, logistics and trade. The combination of Nevada’s rail network and more than 150 freight carriers offers cost-effective logistics for businesses, helping the Silver State attract new warehousing, distribution and manufacturing operations seeking a West Coast hub.”

Visit blacklandsrailroad.com to learn more about Blacklands Railroad, based in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

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— Wayne Defebaugh, Blacklands Railroad President

DEALS

From page A1

In return, GOED’s board headed by Gov. Brian Sandoval awarded the company a sales tax abatement for two years and 50 percent abatements on the modified business tax, personal and real property taxes worth a total of \$1.9 million.

Polaris Industries will establish a distribution center — the company’s first in the west — in Lyon County. Polaris, founded in 1954 in Minnesota, manufactures and markets a wide variety of all-terrain vehicles including snowmobiles, motorcycles and off road sport-utility vehicles. In return for tax abatements, the company will build a 500,000 square foot, \$47.6 million facility in Lyon County. The abatements awarded this week include sales tax for two years, half the business tax for four years and half the personal property tax for 10 years — worth a total of just more than \$1 million. The project will add 64 jobs over the coming two years and nearly 80 in five years as well as provide 300 jobs during construction.

The largest project on the list, however, is the deal to bring Sephora, an international chain of cosmetics stores, to Southern Nevada where the company is considering a 715,000 square foot distribution center. The total investment is projected at \$102.2 million for that project.

Ruling: Incline Village board violated law 15 times

By Geoff Dornan

gdornan@nevadaappeal.com

The Nevada Attorney General’s Office has issued an opinion charging the Incline Village General Improvement Board and Audit Committee violated the open meeting law 15 times between December 2016 and November 2017.

The violations under the open meeting law all involve the board

and committee’s failure to approve minutes from prior meetings within the statutory limit of 45 days after the meeting. Some of the approvals were more than 40 days beyond that deadline. The complaint was filed by Aaron Katz of Incline Village.

By law, minutes of public body meetings must be made available for public inspection within 30 days after the meeting and approved within 45 days.

The opinion by Senior Deputy AG John Michela states in most of those cases, the board held meetings within the timeframe but failed to consider minutes of prior meetings.

He granted the board exceptions in three other cases including one where a power outage canceled the meeting.

“Based on the findings of fact and legal standard and conclusions of law as set out above, the

OAG (Office of the Attorney General) finds the board and committee failed to approve minutes as required by (Nevada statute) 15 times,” the opinion states.

It added, however, there were no complaints the minutes were unavailable for public inspection or there were other violations.

It directs the IVGID board to put the opinion on the agenda for its next meeting and acknowledge the findings.

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