

Protectors of Tule Springs

517 S. 9th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101



PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS PHOTO RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 24, 2018

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NV Energy Donation Kickstarts “Monumental Mammoth” Sculpture Project *Girl Scout’s Design Project Recycles Material from Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument*

LAS VEGAS – NV Energy has donated \$10,000 to the Protectors of Tule Springs, a nonprofit organization that supports the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. The donation will kickstart the design and production of a large mammoth sculpture to be located near the National Monument in North Las Vegas. NV Energy presented a check to the Protectors at their membership meeting on Tuesday night.

Seventeen-year-old Senior Scout Tahoe Mack had the idea to create a massive sculpture using metals that have been collected during clean-up efforts of the National Monument. The life-sized sculpture of a Columbian Mammoth, one of the many ice age animals that roamed in this area during the Pleistocene Epoch, will stand approximately 16 feet tall. She is using this project as her [Girl Scout Gold Award](#) project, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. To bring her vision to fruition, Tahoe has partnered with two local professional artists, [Luis Varelo-Rico](#) and [Joel Spencer](#), to design and build the sculpture.

“When I had the idea for this project, I was told I was too young to take on something this mammoth. It’s a dream come true to see it coming together, and I’m honored to work with a great team of mentors,” said Girl Scout Tahoe Mack. “Working with councilman Cherchio has been an invaluable lesson about working with local government to achieve results. NV Energy’s generosity in kick-starting the effort to raise private funding for the sculpture is key to the project’s success. I’m learning so much, but most importantly the power of teamwork!”

In partnership with the City of North Las Vegas and KBSSOR, the developer of the Villages at Tule Springs master planned community, the sculpture will be located on city land adjacent to the Monument, at a location that will eventually be a trailhead through the fossil beds.

“We are really excited about this project and very grateful to NV Energy for this generous donation and their ongoing partnership,” said Protectors president Jill DeStefano. “Student education and community involvement is a big part of our mission, so to have a local Girl Scout create something so important, and so beautiful, for our National Monument is just really amazing.”

NV Energy's donation kicks off a fundraising effort to fully fund this project. The sculpture will cost approximately \$100,000 to fully design, produce and install. To learn more or to donate to this project, please visit www.protectorsoftulesprings.org.

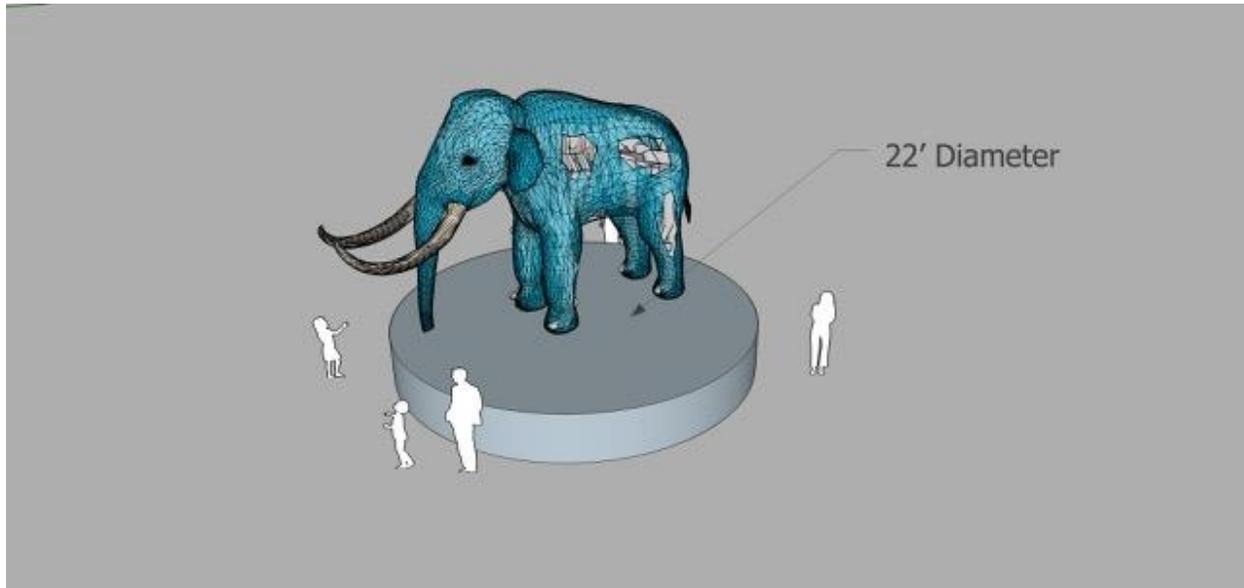
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At their membership meeting Tuesday night, Vice President of Government and Community Relations Judy Stokey presented a check from NV Energy for \$10,000 to the Protectors of Tule Springs for the Monumental Mammoth sculpture project. Pictured left to right: Protectors of Tule Springs Board Member Sherri Grotheer, Girl Scout Tahoe Mack, Judy Stokey, North Las Vegas City Councilman Richard Cherchio.

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Artist's rendering of the Monumental Mammoth sculpture to be constructed from metals collected during cleanup efforts at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.

About Protectors of Tule Springs

Protectors of Tule Springs is a 501(c)(3) based in Las Vegas. In 2006, a small group of North Las Vegas residents joined together to raise awareness of the need to protect important fossil deposits against planned urban development. Together, along with community supporters, they helped spur legislation to create the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. The mission of the Protectors of Tule Springs is to increase public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, through aid to the National Park Service and support of programs for the interpretation and protection of Monument resources. For more information about the Protectors of Tule Springs, visit protectorsoftulesprings.org.