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## **Economic Development Meetings planned in Yerington and Smith**

*First two community meeting kick off a series that will continue in January 2008*

RENO, Nev. – Two community meetings will provide a forum for input into potential, future economic development and diversification strategies for Mason Valley and Smith Valley. The meetings will be hosted and facilitated by representatives of the Nevada Small Business Development Center (NSBDC), part of the University of Nevada, Reno.

The first meeting will be in Yerington on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m., in the Yerington Elementary School on Oregon Street, in the Multi-Purpose Room. The second meeting will be in Smith on Monday, Dec. 10, 7-9 p.m., in the Smith Valley Library on Day Lane.

“These meetings will provide a forum for residents to discuss the future economic vision for their community. That input will become the basis for a set of economic development strategies,” said Dick Bartholet, NSBDC director of research development. “We’ve been actively involved with economic development in many Nevada communities. To be successful, these strategies must be customized to the community or region and must reflect citizen input.”

NSBDC is developing the economic development and diversification studies as part of the Walker Basin Project, a research-guided project to sustain the Basin’s economy, ecosystem and lake. This federally funded project involves collaborative environmental and economic research conducted by researchers with the Desert Research Institute and the University of Nevada, Reno.

“Our purpose in meeting with the communities is to gain perspective as to what type of economic development would be most acceptable to offset the potential impacts of the Walker Basin Project,” said John Snyder, a Yerington resident working on the NSBDC initiative. “The future solutions and strategies must come from those that call the communities home in order for them to succeed.”

Five more community meetings will be scheduled in January and February. For those unable to attend the December meetings in Yerington and Smith, an additional meeting will be scheduled in each community. Meetings will also be scheduled for Bridgeport, Walker and Hawthorne.

For more information about the Walker Basin Project, visit [www.nevada.edu/walker/](http://www.nevada.edu/walker/).

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