



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

**Tuesday, March 30, 2010**

## Mojave Max Emerges Local Desert Tortoise Proclaims Spring Weather

Mojave Max, the famous Southern Nevada desert tortoise, officially emerged from his burrow at 9:23 a.m. today, a week earlier than last year but later than most cases over the last decade.

Mojave Max is a live desert tortoise. Like other Southern Nevada reptiles, he enters a burrow to brumate (the reptilian form of hibernation) every winter and emerges every spring.

Mojave Max's emergence marks the beginning of spring-like weather in Southern Nevada. Warmer temperatures, longer daylight hours and an internal clock are factors known to contribute to his emergence every year.

As part of the 11th annual Mojave Max Emergence Contest, students have been studying Mojave Desert weather, temperatures, and conditions to scientifically estimate when they believed Mojave Max would first emerge from his burrow in 2010. They entered their guesses online at [www.mojavemax.com](http://www.mojavemax.com). Last year, Mojave Max emerged from his burrow on April 7 and, the year before that, on April 14, the latest that Mojave Max has come out of its burrow. The earliest that he has emerged was Feb. 14 in 2005.

The entries are being tabulated and the official winner will be announced soon. The winning student will receive prizes including a year-long pass to federally managed fee areas and a laptop computer. The winner's entire class will receive a field trip to Mojave Max's habitat, Mojave Max Olympic-style medals and T-shirts, while the winner's teacher will also receive a laptop computer.

Questions about the Mojave Max program should be directed to Christina Gibson with Clark County's Desert Conservation Program at (702) 455-2860. Questions about the live Mojave Max should be directed to Amelia Savage with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management at (702) 515-5350. More information about Mojave Max is available at [www.mojavemax.com](http://www.mojavemax.com) and [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com).

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 15<sup>th</sup>-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 40 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7<sup>th</sup>-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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The Clark County Commission

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Susan Brager, Vice-Chair ■ Larry Brown ■ Tom Collins ■ Chris Giunchigliani ■ Steve Sisolak ■ Lawrence Weekly / Virginia Valentine, County Manager