



MEDIA ADVISORY

MONO COUNTY, *California's Eastern Sierra*

P.O. Box 696 · Bridgeport, CA 93517
Phone (760) 932-5410 · Fax (760) 932-5411

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 13, 2013

Contact: Jim Leddy – County Administrative Officer
(760) 932-5410 - jleddy@mono.ca.gov

Mono County Presses State for Overdue Funds

Board approves invoice for over \$645,000 in past due Property Tax In Lieu Funds

Mono County, Calif. – On Tuesday, November 12th the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved an invoice to the State of California for past due amounts, penalties and interest dating back to 2002-2003. This invoice is regarding delinquent California Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) properties and is in the amount of \$645,544.32, with \$195,000 potentially going to the County General Fund should the State pay the overdue amount.

Mono County Board of Supervisors Chair Byng Hunt commented, “Mono County joins 35 other California Counties with past due amounts owed in an awareness campaign lead by Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). Receipt of this past due money would help Mono County address important and necessary fiscal needs.”

The Board has written a letter to Governor Brown, requesting that he include in the 2014-2015 State Budget payment of delinquent monies owned to Mono County, as well as the resumption of annual PILT payments as required by law. Fish and Game Code Section 1504 specifies that when income is derived directly from real property acquired and operated by the State as wildlife management areas, the DFW shall pay annually to the count in which the property is located an amount equal to the county taxes levied upon the property at the time the title was transferred to the State. These PILT payments are intended to offset adverse impacts to the county property revenues that result when the State acquires private property for wildlife management areas.

For more information you may contact the Mono County Finance Director, Leslie Chapman at (760) 932-5490.

###

Mono County offers a rural setting with the most spectacular landscapes in the state. Situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the California/Nevada border, Mono County has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of this land is contained in the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests. As a result, Mono County is home to vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and adventure.

The county is home to, and named after Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake. Also located in the county is the historic gold rush town of Bodie, which during its heyday in the late 1800's was home to as many as 7,000 people, and is today maintained as a State Historic Park for the public to come and enjoy. The county seat is proudly located in Bridgeport.

Scenic Highway 395 weaves its way north-south through the heart of the county, effectively dividing the steep mountains to the west from the vast desert valley to the east. As it provides access to Yosemite National Park via Lee Vining, it passes beneath towering peaks, and past broad desert expanses.