



Community Development

Planning Commission - At its meeting November 14th, based upon recommendation by Analyst/Compliance Officer Nick Criss, the Mono County Planning Commission authorized Cross Country Ski Trails at June Lake's Double Eagle Resort to continue operations. The decision was based upon successful operations and compliance last winter.

Commissioners Scott Bush, Chris I. Lizza, Mary Pipersky, Dan Roberts and Rodger B. Thompson also approved recommending to the Mono Supervisors a General Plan Amendment to establish a Transient Rental Overlay District for four adjacent properties at June Lake. Action was based upon a presentation by Associate Planner Courtney Weiche, and may ultimately allow overnight rental of single-family residences.

Local Transportation Commission (LTC) - Following staff presentation by Principal Planner Gerry Le Francois and action by the LTC Nov. 15, Chair Larry Johnston signed copies of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among San Bernardino, Kern, Inyo and Mono counties. This MOU updates the 1999 version, which has been instrumental in funding highway projects in Kern and Inyo counties that have dramatically improved safety and access to Mono County. Mono County is represented on LTC by commissioners Tim Fesko, Fred Stump and Johnston.

Mono Basin RPAC (Regional Planning Advisory Committee) - Based upon prior working sessions with Associate Planner Heather deBethizy, the Mono Basin RPAC concluded its review of area plan transportation policies at its meeting Nov. 13. Thanks to the RPAC members for their efforts in this policy update process.

Green (energy-efficient) project building fees - Building Official Tom Perry presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 12th a review of fees for green project building permits. The Board expressed interest in encouraging green projects and at future meetings will consider related policies and a variety of incentives such as fee reductions.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1800

County Administrator's Office

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area/Mono County Liaison Committee Re-established – On November 11th, after five plus years since last meeting, Chairman Byng Hunt and 3rd District Supervisor Tim Alpers met with MMSA CEO Rusty Gregory and Ron Cohen to renew the regular meeting process between the County and the County's largest employer. The meetings are part of a Board requested effort to improve communication, find opportunities for working together and better partner on those issues of mutual concern.

These meetings will occur every other month and will allow both entities to share information on an ongoing basis. Ron Cohen will be contact at staff level and I will be connecting with him in-between meetings to increase dialogue.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Mono Basin RPAC continues to discuss the Mono City Emergency Road – Scott Burns and I attended the Mono Basin RPAC where the group received a number of updates and requests for feedback. Scott provided updates and request the groups to send feedback in on:

- An overview on the draft Regional Transportation Plan;
- The Communication Chapter policies; and,
- Mono Basin policies.

There was an additional discussion of the BLM Environmental Assessment for the Mono City Emergency Road and the County's next steps in working to provide an emergency fire road by working with BLM before the fire season.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Mammoth Lakes Police-Community Hispanic Advisory Committee – I had the opportunity to attend the MLPCHAC Meeting on November 15th. There were presentations and discussions on :

AB 4 – Notifications to ICE following arrests – Sheriff Ralph “OB” Obenberger

AB 60 – Drivers Licenses for Undocumented Residents – Hector Gonzalez

MLPD On-Line Reporting System – Officer Dave Hansen

Affordable Care Act – Francie Avitia

Wild Iris – Susi Bains

Great presentations to the approximately 50 people in attendance. Sheriff Obenberger and Francine Avitia both provided information on issues of concern. Francine presented a excellent overview of the Affordable Care Act and OB explained how the new changes in state law will impact ICE holds at the County Jail.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

Economic Development staff attends the CSU Bakersfield Small Business Development Center “Access to Capital for Small Business” conference in Bakersfield - Great information was presented, including workshops on Crowdfunding Loans and Crowdfunding Equity options, Micro Loans, USDA Rural Loans, and the two most widely-used SBA lending programs (SBA 504 and SBA 7a).

The Mono County Tourism & Film Commission is meeting Wednesday, November 20th at the Lee Vining Community Center. Several applications from local non-profits for the Community Event Marketing grant program will be reviewed at this meeting.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife has announced that the West Walker River has been designated for winter fishing, from the confluence with the Little Walker River (Hwy. 395 Bridge at mile marker 96), north to the inlet of Topaz Lake, from November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Winter fishing regulations apply: Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used for catch and release only, zero daily bag and possession limit. Supervisor Fesko provided this

information at the Board meeting on November 12th and Economic Development is working to further spread the word.

The Economic Development Department's Public Relations consultant met the **Visit California** sales representative for Mexico at the Los Angeles Media Event and secured editorial coverage for Mono Lake in one of the key newspapers in Mexico, El Universal. The daily has a travel supplement, distribution of 180,000 nationally.

Local Doctors highlight Mono's Commitment to others in Philippines – Economic Development sends their shout out to welcome home the Mammoth Medical Mission, one of the very first medical teams to arrive in the Philippines immediately after the typhoon disaster. Mammoth Hospital's Dr. Michael Karch led the team of 16 Mammoth-based surgeons, doctors and medical support volunteers, where the group performed approximately 60 surgeries per day in very difficult conditions.

More information: [http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102546510206-815/MMM+Philippine+Mission+\(2\).pdf](http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102546510206-815/MMM+Philippine+Mission+(2).pdf)

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

Public Health

Emerging tobacco products gaining popularity among youth - Increases in e-cigarette and hookah use show need for increased monitoring and prevention. Though they are illegal for kids under 18 to purchase, emerging tobacco products such as e-cigarettes and hookah cigarettes are quickly gaining popularity among middle- and high-school students, according to a report in this week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Local schools concur. Chris Powell, Mammoth High School principal reports that several students have been found to be using these products on campus. Because they resemble fancy pens and do not burn, it is a challenge to monitor. School administration reports that schools in southern California are burdened with the problem to an even greater extent.

E Cigarettes have flavors, nicotine and other chemicals suspended in glycerin and propylene glycol. The cigarette emits vapor in much the same way as an asthma inhaler. According to UCSF, even though it is claimed to assist in tobacco cessation, research studies show that the quit rate from tobacco is no greater than for nicotine patches or gum.

In recent presentations to middle and high school parent organizations, Nancy Mahannah, of the Mono County Health Department noted that marketing of these devices resembles ads for cigarettes from the 1950's – popularity, beauty, social acceptance, less harm. Both Eastern Sierra Unified and Mammoth School Districts have incorporated the products into their tobacco policy, stating that the devices will be considered drug delivery devices when found on campus.

Electronic cigarettes, hookahs, cigars and certain other new types of tobacco products are not currently subject to FDA regulation, though that is in the plan. Mono and Inyo County Health Officer, Rick Johnson, is concerned about tobacco use increasing among youth, "We have worked for 20 years and our smoking rates have declined, lung cancer and heart disease have declined. How instead of smoking,

it is ‘vaping’. The tobacco industry is like an amoeba, it keeps morphing its deadly products for financial gain.”

CONTACT: Nancy Mahannah, (760) 924-4621

Thursday, November 21st is the Great American Smokeout - In 1976, the CA division of the American Cancer Society got nearly 1 million smokers to quit for a day. That California event marked the first Great American Smokeout, and the Society took the program nationwide in 1977. The Health Department is running a media campaign on [three](#) local radio stations and in newspapers to provide quit tips and encouragement for smokers to quit for a day. Please remind your MediCal clients who smoke that, until the end of the year, they can get one month of free patches just by calling 800-NO-BUTTS. Quit kits can be picked up at the Health Dept. “If you can’t breathe, nothing else matters.” – American Lung Association

Contact: Nancy Mahannah, (760) 924-4621

Public Works

New Ambulance acquired for Paramedics Program – Pictured here is the new ambulance for Medic 7 in Bridgeport. This new vehicle replaced an older one. The older ambulance has been sent to White Mountain Fire, which will be used to improve service to their area.



CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5440



Annex II Boiler Installation Complete – The Facilities staff was able to complete an emergency installation of a complete boiler system which included an in-line hot water system prior to the frigid winter weather arriving. As indicated by the photos the labyrinth of pipes, tanks, valves, and wiring should illustrate how complex this install was. Kudos should go out to Jason Davenport as well as Jesse Hale who were juggling the solar system installations as well as a myriad of other issues while completing this project.

Contact: Joe Blanchard, (760) 932-5443

Rock Creek Road improvements hold potential to cause delays - Major reconstruction activities will be taking place on Rock Creek Road for the duration of the 2014 and 2015 seasons. While the road will remain open to traffic throughout the project, visitors may experience delays of up to 30 minutes.

Additionally, at certain times, the road may need to be closed for longer periods of time, Monday through Friday. These closures will be planned approximately 2 weeks in advance of the closure.

The Forest Service and County will have information on their websites as the project impacts the community and travelers. In addition, the Forest Service is drafting a letter to residents to also provide advance notice. Construction will be suspended for Memorial Day weekend, the Independence Day holiday, and Labor Day weekend in order to minimize delays.

CONTACT: Garrett Higerd, (760) 932-5457

Sheriff's Office

1. The Sheriff's Office is addressing short staffing issues in both Custody and Patrol.
 - a. PSO Stephanie McCauley turned in her resignation effective this week as she was offered a deputy sheriff opportunity with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office. She will begin her academy training this Monday. We wish Stephanie well and loved having her work for us these past several years. We had just finished a background on a PSO applicant who advised us this week that he will be backing out of the hiring process due to being offered a deputy sheriff position with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. So this will leave us still (2) PSO positions vacant. We will be contacting several PSO applicants (one that resides in Mammoth and the other Coleville) we still have on a hiring list and will begin backgrounds on them immediately when we determine if they are still interested in working for the Sheriff's Office.
 - b. The Sheriff's Office has two deputy sheriff applicants in the background process. The first is just about finished and we will plan on him starting on Dec. 9th. The second has just started his paperwork so he would be probably not hired before January. After these two hires, we will still have (1) Deputy Sheriff position vacant (which is due to the Madrid issue still pending and that spot currently frozen).



2. Sheriff Ralph "OB" Obenberger and some Sheriff's Department staff attended the Veterans Day flag raising ceremony on Monday, which was well attended.

3. **Sheriff Obenberger and staff will be attending the Hispanic Outreach Meeting in Mammoth Lakes Friday**

night. The Sheriff will be presenting information on AB4 which is sometimes called the "Trust Act". This bill which takes effect Jan. 1st, deals with how ICE holds (immigration holds) will be now be handled by the Department.

4. **AB109 updated numbers:** We currently have a total of 31 inmates, with 25% of those serving long term sentences. Along with that our total female inmate population is above normal as we have 8 total.

CONTACT: Sheriff Ralph "OB" Obenberger, 760- 932-7549



REMINDER! -- New home for Mono County Search and Rescue to be dedicated on November 23rd! - On Saturday, November 23rd, 2013, the SAR Team would like to extend a welcome invitation to all of their generous donors, and all the members of the Mono County communities, to join them in their building dedication and open house from 11:00am to 3:00pm at 1315 Meridian Blvd in Mammoth Lakes.

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