



## Agricultural Commissioner's Office

### ***FINAL REMINDER!!***

Thank you to Ag. Commish *Nate Reade* for the following notice.

**NOTICE OF REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS**  
**Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)**  
Informational Update

#### **BISHOP**

**January 28, 2015**

9:00 a.m. to noon

Tallman Pavilion, Tri County Fair Grounds

Sierra Street & Coates Street

Bishop, CA 93514

**RSVP** - Due to limited space in the meeting rooms, please RSVP if you plan to attend by email to DWQ-GRAP@waterboards.ca.gov and include your name, affiliation, email address and meeting(s) that you will attend. For each location, if the meeting is full, we will schedule a second meeting in the afternoon (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) on that same day.

**SUMMARY** - The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is exploring a range of options to enhance environmental benefits from grazing, protect beneficial uses of surface and groundwater, and address water quality impacts potentially related to livestock grazing in California. This Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) aims to facilitate efficiency and statewide consistency in developing and implementing strategies to meet these goals, while at the same time accounting for regional differences in hydrology, topography, climate and land use. The GRAP process will consider a wide range of alternatives to ensure that grazing has minimal negative impacts on water quality. A cornerstone of the GRAP will be thoughtful consideration of the costs of compliance to the regulated grazing community. The participation of interested stakeholders throughout the development of GRAP is necessary to its success. As an initial step, the Water Boards engaged stakeholder groups in Focus Listening Sessions (FLS) to solicit comments early in this process, before beginning to develop GRAP (No new regulatory approach has been developed.) The FLSs were the first of many opportunities for stakeholder participation. The purpose of the Regional Stakeholder Meetings is to share with stakeholders the comments from the FLSs and gather thoughts, suggestions or other feedback from the community on the FLSs comments and on GRAP.

**MEETING AGENDA AND OTHER INFORMATION** - The agenda and other meeting materials will be posted to the GRAP website below at least ten days prior to the meeting date. In the event of a change or cancellation due to weather, notice will be posted at the earliest practical time at the GRAP website below. For more information, please contact Water Board staff: Esther Tracy at (916) 341-5908 [esther.tracy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:esther.tracy@waterboards.ca.gov), Cindy Wise at (530) 542-5408 [cwise@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cwise@waterboards.ca.gov) or Ben Letton at (530) 224-4129 [bleton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:bleton@waterboards.ca.gov).

CONTACT: Nate Reade, [nreade@inyocounty.us](mailto:nreade@inyocounty.us)

## Animal Control

***Kudos to Animal Control Officer Pelichowski*** – The following is the text of an email from a happy member of the public:

*"Hi guys— I'm writing to tell you about my interaction with Elizabeth Pelichowski a couple weeks ago.*

*I was passing the shelter on the way to the hot springs, and decided to just pull in and ask the first person I saw about beavers. Well, it turns out that your office has pretty much zero to do with beavers, so I was basically hijacking her day to ask a bunch of dumb questions. And she answered them all. Fully.*

*With utmost patience, professionalism, and a smile. It was a very pleasant few minutes, and I left impressed. This gal is a class act and deserves a raise.*

*And I appreciate all the work you do on behalf of the critters among us. Thanks!*

--

*Kevin Swift  
Head Beaver, Swift Water Design  
530-416-1907"*

CONTACT: Angelle Nolan, (760) 932-5582

**Bridgeport Animal Shelter hosting Open House! - WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE GRAND RE-OPENING of THE BRIDGEPORT ANIMAL SHELTER on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 10:30-4:00!**

Come on down and meet Sage Lovelace our shelter attendant. Coffee, punch, cookies and maybe your new best friend.

CONTACT: Angelle Nolan, (760) 932-5582



## **Board of Supervisors**

**California State Association of Counties looking for Board members to be active on policy committees**  
- Vito Chiesa, CSAC President sent the following encouraging Board members to get involved with helping CSAC develop policy that supports county works. Getting Involved in CSAC Policy Committees

“The Voice of California Counties is loud and strong in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. But our voice is only as strong as those who participate. Our Association is successful through the participation of you, our members. CSAC needs to reflect the diversity of California, our counties and our membership. That can only happen through participation.

There are several ways you can be involved in CSAC, as outlined below. Participation is not limited to your county’s representative on the CSAC Board of Directors; any county supervisor can participate in, or just follow, a CSAC policy committee. These committees meet a few times each year in person or via conference call. The actual number of meetings for each committee depends on the complexity and importance of the issues counties are facing in that particular policy area.

To join any of these committees, you can start by clicking here: <http://www.counties.org/post/get-involved-csac>

### **CSAC Policy Committee Meetings**

CSAC has five policy committees that analyze and recommend positions to the Association's Executive Committee and Board of Directors that are consistent with the established County Platform. These committees are:

**Administration of Justice** -- Responsible for a broad array of justice-related issues that includes juvenile justice; probation; courts; local law enforcement; adult and juvenile detention; public records, privacy and open meetings; grand juries; and all county functions connected to the civil and criminal justice systems. The committee has primary responsibility for the development of policies relating to the administration and financing of the various county programs under its purview.

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources** -- Responsible for developing and reviewing policy on environmental and resource issues that affect county operations and local economies. This wide range of issues includes: agriculture, air quality, water, forestry, mining, endangered species, disasters, energy, parks and recreation, public lands, coastal resources, fish and game, regulatory streamlining, solid waste and hazardous waste.

**Government Finance & Operations** -- Responsible for recommending policy in all matters relating to finance, general government operations and employee relations. Under that broad umbrella, the committee deals with such issues as taxation, redevelopment, debt financing, retirement systems, workers' compensation and mandates.

**Health & Human Services** -- The Health and Human Services Committee has responsibility for the development of policies and proposals relating to: aging and long term care, alcohol and drug programs, mental health, the Medically Indigent Services Program, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (Cal Works) program, foster care, child welfare services, adult protective services, the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, the General Assistance program and the homeless.

**Housing, Land Use & Transportation** -- Reviews state budget items, ballot resolutions, and state/federal legislative proposals in these three important interrelated areas. Major areas of policy development and review include, transportation/infrastructure planning and funding, public works contract regional government decision-making proposals, housing policies, airport land use commissions, authority of state agencies.

To begin participating any of these committees, [click here](#).

For more information about CSAC policy committees, feel free to contact CSAC staff:

CONTACT: Matt Cate, Executive Director, 916-327-7500, ext. 506; [mcate@counties.org](mailto:mcate@counties.org)

CSAC Executive Director comments on Governor's Budget proposal - As the new year begins, CSAC Executive Director Matt Cate takes a look at Governor Brown's proposed 2015-16 State Budget, and its positive impacts on California Counties:

<http://youtu.be/AzSw1Cb9NrA>

More detailed information on the proposed budget can be found in CSAC's [Budget Action Bulletin](#).

**CONTACT:** David Liebler, Deputy Director of Public Affairs & Member Services, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) (916) 327-7500 Ext 530

### **County Service Area. Number 1:**

**Create Your Own Wrap Bracelet Class offered through County Service Area One:** Instructor: Kim McCarthy has provided the following info on a great class being offered by CSA 1. In addition, attached to the Board Update is the CSA's schedule. You will learn to create your own stone wrap bracelet using leather or suede, beads and a button to create a one to 3 wrap bracelet.

Supplies needed: One button with two holes or a loop to tie leather or suede onto 56" of material used, and enough 4mm beads (or up to 6 mm for a larger bracelet) for as many wraps as you like, a needle and thread. The thread can be colored or not, but must be thin enough to go through your beads 3 times.

You can find all the supplies online: Stone beads: Jasper, amethyst, lapis, aquamarine...You can also use Czech crystal beads. Round beads work the best, do not use oval it distorts the shape.

[www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com)

\*All supplies may also be purchased at class for \$20.

**For more information on materials needed, please contact Kim at 760-935-4587**

Saturday January 24  
1:00-4:00 pm  
Crowley Lake Community Center

**\*Pre-registration required**

For information and to pre-register, contact Isabel at 760-935-4089 or [isbxoxo@gmail.com](mailto:isbxoxo@gmail.com)



***The CSA 1 is offering this class to the public.*** Anyone can attend but those residents living in the district can attend free of charge. If you live northwest of the Geothermal Plant and South of Sunny Slopes or Tom's Place then you reside outside of the district and will be required to pay a nominal fee of \$5 per class.

\*Additional fees may apply if purchasing supplies.

[www.monocounty.ca.gov/csa1](http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/csa1)

[www.facebook.com/CrowleyLakeNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/CrowleyLakeNeighborhood)

**CONTACT:** Isabel Connolly, (760) 935-4089

### **Community Development**

**LTC:** At Monday's meeting, **Megan Mahaffey** and **Leslie Chapman** were commended on the annual audit, **Garrett Higerd** received Commission support for an early allocation of funds for the Convict Lake Road Rehabilitation, and **Gerry Le Francois** provided an update on the Regional Transportation Plan. Caltrans staff reviewed processes for imposing SR 108 truck restrictions and discussed US 6 Chalfant

intersection process for speed reduction and improvements. In collaboration with Caltrans, **Wendy Sugimura** provided a thorough and well-received report on Bridgeport Main Street performance measures, with the Commission concluding the project appears to be meeting planning goals and working well, noting that fewer accidents have occurred since the project.

**Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative:** Analyst **Brent Calloway** attended Wednesday's ESRC meeting in Bishop where the public process for drafting a recreation alternative for Inyo Forest staff consideration during the upcoming Forest Plan Update was concluded. The draft alternative will be reviewed at upcoming meetings of the Collaborative Planning Team and the Board of Supervisors.

**Bridgeport RPAC:** Items discussed Thursday with staff **Wendy Sugimura** included the Marine Corps' Communication Tower project, combined-use roads (e.g., allowing OHV use on certain segments of County roads), efforts to upgrade broadband service by accessing D395, and Main Street design, including a banner/arch across the highway and pedestrian-scale lights.

**Sage-Grouse:** Mono County is hosting the website for the upcoming Bi-State Pinyon-Juniper Expansion Forum in Minden, NV on February 25-26. **Wendy Sugimura** and **Brent Calloway** have been participating in Local Area Working Group discussions to develop and plan this event. Please check out:

<http://monocounty.ca.gov/community-development/page/pinyon-juniper-expansion-forum> for more information.

CONTACT: Scott Burns, (760) 924-1807

## **County Administrator's Office**

**Woodstove Replacement program well underway** – The Board approved and Great Basin Air District grant funded woodstove replacement program is well underway. Below is a quick update from program administrator Lisa Isaacs!

As of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015: Highlights include:

- Total MCWRP funds: \$193,936
- 40 installs completed w/ finalized permits to date
- \$66,000 invoiced to date (for 40 installs)
- 99 installs approved to date (incl. 40 already invoiced)
- \$174,000 committed for installs approved to date (incl. \$66K already invoiced)

CONTACT, Lisa Isaacs, [ljm.isaacs@gmail.com](mailto:ljm.isaacs@gmail.com)

**SCE Provides new protocol for reporting out street lights- Thank you to Deborah Hess for providing the following information from SCE:** To report any streetlight outages, please visit the SCE Outage Center on SCE.com and submit your request in the **"Report a Street Light Outage"** page. You may also call 1-800-655-4555 and speak with a Customer Service Specialist who will be pleased to assist you. You may also review the Street Light Outage guide for details on how to complete your outage report on the SCE Outage Center.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me and I will be happy to help you.

CONTACT: Deborah Hess, Region Manager, SCE (760) 924-4811 - Pax 13011

**Winter Recreation on the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts Update -**

The Inyo National Forest provides the following information to help visitors pursue winter recreation activities on their national forests safely and responsibly.

**Maps:** The Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Inyo National Forest have produced a new and free *Eastern Sierra Winter Recreation Map*. Pick up your copy at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, obtain it online or download to your mobile device using the *Avenza* map app ([www.pdf-maps.com](http://www.pdf-maps.com)). A waterproof version of the map can be purchased at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.



**Know Before You Go:** Winter recreationists must plan their adventure considering the current conditions, the weather forecast, the terrain and geography that will be traveled, and the equipment needs of their party. Even when visiting one of the maintained ski resorts, planning ahead and knowing what to expect will make your winter visit safer much more enjoyable.

Anyone who may be traveling in potential avalanche terrain is encouraged to seek education and training resources; travel with a shovel, beacon, and probe; and have the knowledge required to use these tools. Visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center website for the most recent information on snowpack and conditions [www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org).

**Play with Your Pet Responsibly:** Forest regulations require that all dogs travel on a leash in all developed recreation sites, including ALL groomed trails. Within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, all dogs must be on a leash. Dogs are prohibited on groomed trails in the Mammoth Lakes Basin and are required to be on leash if traveling through the Lakes Basin off groomed trails. Leaving pet waste behind on a groomed trail or in a developed recreation area is littering. Please pick up after your dog and throw it away in the trash. By doing so, you'll help improve water quality and make everyone else's recreation experience more enjoyable.

**Nordic Opportunities:** Visitors can pursue Nordic recreation in several locations. The Shady Rest Nordic Trails are open, but grooming will not resume until there is additional snowfall. All Nordic users should access the trail system by parking at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and using the trail portal in the Welcome Center Plaza. The Forest Service asks that Nordic users refrain from parking at Shady Rest Park; the park is a primary snowmobile staging area and parking is limited.

At this time, the Obsidian Dome trails do not have enough snow to allow for grooming, but are open and in use by skiers and snowshoers. Grooming will begin after the next significant snowfall.

The *Miracle Mile* from Mammoth Inn to Minaret Vista is open and groomed. Parking at the Main Lodge is limited and visitors are encouraged to ride the bus from town.

Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center is open and offering rentals, lessons, and tours to its patrons. All users of the groomed trail system at Tamarack must possess of a valid ski pass. To access the Mammoth Lakes Basin without a pass, users must travel on the un-groomed roads and trails on the forest.

**Snowmobiling:** The Inyo National Forest is waiting for additional snow accumulations to begin grooming the California Department of Parks and Recreation funded snowmobile trail system. With a shallow, low density snowpack, snowmobilers should use caution and refrain from traveling in areas where snow depths are minimal or vegetation or soil may be damaged. Snowmobile users are responsible for knowing all regulations and understanding closure area boundaries. The Eastern Sierra Recreation Map is a helpful tool and all snowmobilers are encouraged to obtain and read a copy in advance of their snowmobile outing.

**Snowplay and other Winter Activities:** The only designated snowplay area on the Inyo National Forest is Woolly's Tube Park on Hwy 203 above the North Village en route to Main Lodge. More information can be obtained at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com). There are several areas on the national forest where visitors find it convenient and fun to play in the snow, although these sites are not maintained for these activities. Additional information is available at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at [www.mammothtrails.org](http://www.mammothtrails.org).

**Snow bikes or "fat tire bicycles"** and all vehicles with wheels are prohibited from using groomed trails. Those wanting to ride bicycles on the snow may do so on any trail or road that is not maintained for Nordic skiing or snowmobiles and where bicycle riding is not otherwise prohibited. The Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center is an excellent resource for winter recreation information, maps, and guidebooks. The center is open daily from 8 am to 5 pm and can be reached at 760-924-5500. The Inyo National Forest and Mammoth Lakes Trail System websites are also excellent sources of information. Visit [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo) and [www.mammothtrails.org](http://www.mammothtrails.org).

CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, Public Affairs Specialist, Inyo National Forest, (760) 873-2427 (office) -- 760-920-2347 (cell)

**Reconstruction of Rock Creek Road Continues in 2015 *Plan for Delays and Parking Restrictions*** - Major reconstruction on the Rock Creek Road will continue in the summer of 2015. Work on this project began last year.

Mono County requested the funding and the work is being completed on Mono County roads. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has contracted and will oversee the project that will improve the road, widen it, and provide a bicycle lane along a nine-mile stretch between the Rock Creek Pack Station and Crowley Lake Drive.

The Rock Creek Road provides access to wilderness trailheads for the Little Lakes Valley, Mono Pass, and others. The area is noted for its exceptional scenery. Several campgrounds and resorts with cabins along the road are part of the recreational attraction as is fishing and horseback riding. The road itself is used by cyclists because of its challenge and its beauty.

Weather dependent, the work is anticipated to start the end of April. This year, re-building of bridges is planned. Additionally, the reconstruction will continue along the lower part of the project (from the Rock Creek Pack Station to the lower end of the construction near Tom's Place). The project will be completed with the final paving along the length of the construction area.

While the road will remain open to traffic throughout the project, visitors may experience delays of up to 30 minutes. In addition, there will be one week when there will four-hour delays twice per day while

they are working on the bridges. This is anticipated to occur sometime in May. Longer closures will be planned approximately three weeks in advance so that recreationalists can plan their visit. Parking will be extremely limited within the construction zone, including trailhead parking areas for the Hilton Lake trailhead. Please carpool if possible. When roadside parking, ensure that your vehicle is entirely off pavement.

Construction will be suspended for Memorial Day weekend, the Independence Day holiday, and Labor Day weekend in order to minimize delays.

CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, Public Affairs Specialist, Inyo National Forest, (760) 873-2427 or (760) 920-2347 (cell)

***The Strategic Plan moving forward!*** – Thank you to the Steering committee members who met on the 8<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the draft for the presentation on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

Next step will be discussion at then Board meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> as we keep moving the refinement of the draft forward!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



**Community Food meeting coming up on January 20<sup>th</sup> – The following is from Erin Hamilton at IMACA:**

“Thank you to everyone who confirmed they will join the upcoming Community Food Group meeting, covering Inyo and Mono Counties. Due to the number of responses so far we have selected a time and date, see below.

We hope that those who have not yet confirmed a time can make it to the meeting, or that you will be able to dial in via a GoTo Meeting conference line we will arrange prior. I will send out another update in the next several days with call details, location and an updated agenda.

If this is the first time you are getting this email/invite please scroll down for more information, or feel free to contact me with questions.

Thank you again for your support, we look forward to seeing you soon!

#### **The Eastern Sierra Food System Network Meeting**

**Date:** January 20, 2015, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Town of Mammoth Lakes Meeting Room, Suite Z  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA

*(Minaret Shopping Center, 2nd Floor above VONS, Old Mammoth Road - for further directions please contact Erin: [215.900.3587](tel:215.900.3587))*

**Conferencing will be available:**



You will need to download GoTo Meeting, [here](#). This is if you want to share something from your computer screen, or if we share any key documents. For audio only dial the 1800 number below.

1- <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/812918941>

2- Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) - a headset is recommended.

3- Or, call in using your telephone: +1 (213) 493-0015 / (toll-free): 1 866 899 4679

Access Code: 812-918-941 / Meeting ID: 812-918-941

**Background:** For those of you who are new to this effort we are a developing network of stakeholders who are working to define and undertake the work needed to improve our Eastern Sierra Regional Food System. This will be the third public meeting to be held since March 2013. The work has been sponsored by IMACA since 2014 through a Community Food Project grant from USDA and funding from Mono County. At this next meeting, we hope to better define the organizational framework for continuing this effort and a process for moving forward. We encourage participants to bring their ideas about what this group should be, what we do, and how working together could help further your goals and projects. This cycle of grant funding ends February 15, 2015, so this meeting will wrap-up that phase of the project.

#### Agenda:

**1. Introductions around the room:** Brief introductions; please give your affiliation and list the food-related projects you're working on  
(All: 9-9:20 a.m.)

**2. Summary of information gathered so far for the report:** including list data gaps needed to help wrap-up this phase  
(Erin: 9:20-9:30 a.m.)

**3. Update on other local food projects:** as well as new opportunities for local food system development and handout: examples of models of other organizations  
(Ilene Mandelbaum: 9:30-9:40 a.m.)

#### 4. Break into smaller groups to discuss:

a. What do we want to accomplish?

-Review draft Mission Statement (see attached) and collect feedback / Share your vision (9:40-9:55 a.m.)

b. What do we call ourselves and how do we communicate?

-Are we going to be a Food System "Network," "Initiative," "Coalition", "Partnership", "Food Policy Council", "Food Cluster", "501(c)3", etc.

-What should be the framework and strategies for further collaboration, such as a "home" organization, steering committee, topic committees, blogs or Facebook site for communication? (9:55-10:10 a.m.)

c. Discuss individual projects

- Interest and objectives for collaboration in more detail/talk about your project in more detail (10:10-10:20 a.m.)

**5. Report back summaries of discussion groups:** is there developing consensus in any areas?  
(10:20-10:35 a.m.)

**6. Pick areas that you'd like to volunteer:** we need your help to organize and conduct further research, identify point persons  
(10:35-10:50 a.m.)

7. **Next steps:** who will take on leadership roles / next meeting?  
(10:50-11:00 a.m.)

CONTACT: Erin Hamilton, (215) 900-3587

## Economic Development

**State of the County Event** – Many thanks to the Supervisors, department heads, and staff who made a special effort to attend and show support for the successful inaugural event on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Both Board Chair **Tim Fesko** and CAO **Jim Leddy** did an excellent job setting the tone and making everyone, including the presenters, feel welcome.

We have not yet amalgamated the sign-in sheets, but estimate that about **170 people** from Mono and Inyo counties attended in total. It was a full house and we received some very positive feedback overall. We are very appreciative of our speakers who came from various parts of the state to share their insights and expertise so enthusiastically with us: Caroline Beteta and Lynn Carpenter from Visit California in Sacramento, Laszlo Horvath from Active Media in the Bay area, and Jeff Lucas from Community Development Services in Lake County.

Special thanks to county staff **Jenny Senior**, **Kathy Peterson**, and **Jay Sloane** for their help at the entrance with nametags and registration. Huge thanks also to **Greg Newbry** who devoted a tremendous amount of energy, thought and time to the audio-visual set-up, and to Jeff Simpson for the marketing and promotion... which obviously worked! Lee Vining residents, Linda and Dave Dore did a beautiful job catering; Colin Farrell with On Point Productions recorded the presentations so that we will be able to provide a video on our Youtube channel for folks who were not able to attend. Kathleen Rudder and site manager Adrian did a tremendous job getting the Event Center space ready, including last minute dry-walling the day before! The event's success was truly a team effort. Thank you, thank you to all who lent a hand.

**Trade Shows** – The fishing and travel trade show season has begun and we are excited to have the opportunity for face-to-face interaction with potential visitors and those who have been here but who want to know more for their next visit! Jeff Simpson attended the International Sportsman's Expo in Sacramento with wonderful volunteers, Pam Hamic and Chris Long from Walker/Coleville. The show seemed somewhat less busy than in previous years and we will re-evaluate our location with the show organizer. Next up are the Travel & Adventure Shows in Santa Clara, (Feb. 7-8), San Diego, (Feb. 14-15)

Welcome  
**STATE OF  
THE COUNTY**

**SIERRA EVENT CENTER  
SECOND FLOOR**



and Los Angeles (Feb. 21-22). We are part of the Yosemite Pavilion at these shows, a great team effort among our Yosemite Gateway Partners. We are also attending Visit California's annual tourism summit "Outlook" on Feb. 23-24 so will be on the road much of next month.

**New Hire** – We are thrilled to announce that the full-time position of Economic Development Assistant has been filled by **Elizabeth Grans** who comes to us from the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center where she was Visitor Services Manager with Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association. Prior to that Liz worked for Mammoth Mountain and for Mammoth Brewing Company as well as in event planning for a large conference facility in Rockford, Illinois -- a town that overcame many challenges on its path to successful economic revitalization. Her enthusiasm and people-person skills will be obvious the minute you meet her. Please join us in welcoming Liz to the county.

**PR** – A great travel blog about June Mountain, Mono Lake and Bodie, entitled "Eastern Sierra Ski Safari": <http://blog.sfgate.com/ski/2015/01/05/eastern-sierra-ski-safari-slope-dope-ventures-off-the-beaten-path-for-the-new-year/>

**Visitor Guides and Calendars** – Our new 2015 Mono County Visitor Guide and Scenic Event Calendars arrived over the Christmas holiday and are in circulation. Sincere appreciation to local advertisers for their support of the Visitor Guide! If anyone would like copies, please give Jeff a call at 760-924-4634 or drop by the office.

**Mono County Tourism & Film Commission** – The next MCTFC meeting will be held on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am here in Mammoth Lakes. Community Event Marketing Fund grant applications will be reviewed.

**Mono County Fisheries Commission** – The regular meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> in June Lake was very productive. Representatives from Desert Springs traveled from Oregon to be on hand to discuss fish stocking issues. The next meeting is Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am at the June Lake Community Center.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743



## Public Health

**Happy New Year from EMS.** The last year definitely went out with a bang response wise. The Paramedics and EMTs responded to 21 calls on Boxing Day (Dec 26) alone, which makes for a very busy system. Mammoth Mountain has had a definite impact upon the emergency response system since their opening last year, with our agency having 312 calls that have been mountain related since November 9, 2014.

Year-end stats for the agency are in, with Mono County EMS responding to a total of 1,685 calls requesting emergency medical service in 2014. Our agency also responded with local fire departments to render assistance a total of 187 times.

EMS also started to expand several services last year. We are now an American Heart Association Training Site, and are able to handle all necessary documentation and card issuance locally. We trained close to 200 county residents and professionals in the first six months of the program, and look forward to significantly broadening this service throughout the entire county in 2015. Our plans are to expand our instructor base further, which was increased to 8 in 2014. We will also be bringing Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support instruction in house this year, which are two classes necessary to help Paramedics retain and advance their knowledge and skills in these areas.

The agency will also be making a presentation to the Board in early 2015 explaining our development and strategy of an AED program for the county. This program has received solid support from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, who has placed 8 AEDs in service as of this date.

We look forward to serving the residents and visitors of the county in 2015, and bringing training and education to the many professionals that call Mono County home. Have a Great Year!

Rob DeForrest, EMS Manager, and all 30 Paramedics and EMTs.

**Mono County Health Department and Behavioral Health are working together on an ad campaign to increase awareness about free HIV and STD testing** at the Health Department in Mammoth Lakes or Bridgeport. The first ad will run in The Sheet on Friday, January 30 (see attached). Do you know your status? Call for an appointment today!

Contact: Sandra Pearce, (760) 924-1818

**E-Cig education effort underway** - The Public Health Dept. celebrated the end of the year by implementing an electronic cigarette media campaign on KMMT targeting young adults. A second media campaign targeted second home owners and local condo and apartment dwellers with ads in both Mammoth Times and The Sheet. January 1<sup>st</sup> brings the implementation of the smoke free property policy for IMACA's low income housing, Glass Mountain Apartments. Also, the Mammoth Lakes Housing policy (smoke free units, balconies and 20 foot from buildings) goes into effect. New CA law also makes foster homes smoke free at all times. (This program is funded by a tax on tobacco products; no County general funds are used for this program.)



CONTACT: Nancy Mahannah, (760) 924-4621

## Social Services



**Foster Parent Orientation Meeting, Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 5:30pm - 7:00pm Lee Vining Community Center** - Many prospective foster parents are interested in becoming a parent, but can't commit to providing long term care or adoption. That's okay! Mono County *still* needs foster parents

who can care for a child short-term, on an emergency only basis, as well as those who can provide long-term care. Children come into foster care when their birth families are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons. We provide support and training for you to be a successful foster parent. Please call or email if you have any questions, and please HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

CONTACT: Marlo Preis, (760) 924-1793 or [mpreis@mono.ca.gov](mailto:mpreis@mono.ca.gov) to RSVP

**Open Enrollment Continues through February 15, 2015** - Open Enrollment is the ONE TIME during the year when most Californians who need insurance cannot be denied by a health plan and when millions can get subsidized health insurance for the upcoming year. (Individuals who have limited income may enroll in Medi-Cal year-round.)

The new [Covered California website](#) offers interactive shopping tools that allow individuals to pick a plan that is right for them. Consumers can shop and compare their options based on their age, where they live, their household income and number of people in their household. These factors determine their premium and amount of any subsidy they may receive.

### **Is there a penalty if I don't have insurance?**

You will have to pay a penalty when you file your taxes if you don't have health insurance or an exemption. In 2015, the penalty will be 2 percent of your yearly household income or \$325 per adult (and \$162.50 per child under 18), whichever is higher.

Call or stop by our offices for more information and help with enrollment.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, (760) 924-1763

