



Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Stacey Corless to hold Offices hours - Starting on Monday, February 2nd from 10am-12pm. The newest member of the Board will be hosting oipen office hours at Sierra Center Mall. Come on by the CAO Conference Room at the Sierra center mall, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 309.

Supervisor Corless will also be having office hours on Monday, February 9th from 10:00am -12:00pm.

CONTACT: Supervisor Stacey Corless, (760) 920-0190.

Community Development

Collaborative Planning Team – At Thursday’s quarterly meeting, **Supervisor Alpers** presented a historical overview of the CPT and its formation process in the 1990s, including a motivational pep talk for current team members.

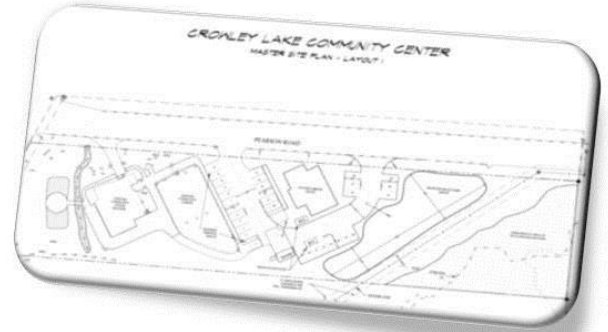


In **Chairman Fesko’s** absence, **Supervisor Corless** presided at the meeting, which included analyst **Wendy Sugimura** providing a coordinated multi-agency report on sage grouse preservation initiatives. Deanna Dulen presented an update on Devils Postpile General Management Plan; Doug Power reported on Mountain Warfare Training Center’s communication infrastructure upgrade project; Justin Fuller discussed Cal Fire’s efforts to help area residents create defensible space around homes; and John Wentworth and Danna Stroud described the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative group’s recreation strategy for consideration during the Inyo Forest Plan update.

IRWMP – The Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management group met Wednesday for its regular meeting. A variety of administrative and local water topics were reviewed, including a preview of a comprehensive project database and the looming fourth year of severe drought. Much of the discussion focused on the group’s uncertain future and need to secure sustainable funding for administrative operations. Thanks to analyst **Brent Calloway** for representing Mono County at the meeting.

Sage Grouse – Mono County is hosting the website for the upcoming Bi-State Pinyon-Juniper Expansion Forum on Feb. 25-26 at Minden, NV. Analysts **Wendy Sugimura** and **Brent Calloway** have been participating in Local Area Working Group discussions to develop and plan this event. Please see <http://monocounty.ca.gov/community-development/page/pinyon-juniper-expansion-forum> for more information.

Crowley Skate Park – On Thursday, County Service Area #1 met with County staff to review site plan alternatives for a proposed skate park on the Crowley Lake Community Center parcel. Public Works’ Vianey White facilitated the meeting with CSA#1, Supervisor Stump, Community Development’s Courtney Weiche, Triad/Holmes Engineering, a representative of the Crowley Lake library, and County Service Area #1 in the funding.



The process included wetland studies and a master site plan reflecting existing facilities, such as the new community garden, the proposed skate park and contemplated future projects, such as a library. The preferred alternative will be incorporated into a Community Center Use Permit update and supporting environmental document, as previously authorized by the Board of Supervisors. Project consideration by the Planning Commission and County’s Project Review Committee is expected this spring.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

County Administrator’s Office

CSAC partners with rural County to invest in education for leadership - Since its inception in 2009, the CSAC Institute for Excellence in County Government has become one of the premier continuing education programs for county officials in the country. Impressed with the quality of courses, Nevada County has taken the extra step of formally incorporating the Institute into the county’s continuing education policies.

To learn more about the Nevada County’s program and how it is benefiting senior staff and elected officials, please watch this short video: <http://youtu.be/FVB3gOW6OY>

To read a blog posting about Nevada County’s involvement, [click here](#).

For more information on the Institute, go to www.csacinstitute.org, or contact Bill Chiat, Institute Dean, at bchiat@counties.org.

CONTACT: **David Liebler**, Deputy Director of Public Affairs & Member Services, 916) 327-7500

Mono County’s first ever Strategic Planning Framework Heads to the RPACS – Thank you to everyone on staff (which is ALL of you) who helped bring forward the Strategic Planning Framework. This unprecedented effort now will start the process of being circulated out through many public committees the County has to garner public feedback.



We are going on the Road to hear from our public starting with RPACS. Please feel free to come on by the following RPAC meetings:

Antelope Valley	February 5 th and March 5
Mono Basin	February 11 th
Bridgeport	February 19 th and March 19
Long Valley	February 25 th
Chalfant	March 2 nd
Benton	March 16 th
June Lake	March 3 rd

Thank you all very much for being a part of history and building our future!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

+ The California Competes Tax Credit is an income tax credit available to businesses that want to come to California or stay and grow in California – especially Mono County! A total of \$151.1 million in tax credits is available for the 14-15 fiscal year. One more round (out of three) of applications will be accepted for the remaining \$31.1 million, plus any unallocated amounts from the previous two application periods. Applications are due between March 9th and April 6th, 2015. Each of the next two fiscal years (15-16, 17-18) will have \$200 million available in tax credits. For more information on the Tax Credit or to apply for funds visit:

<http://www.business.ca.gov/Programs/CaliforniaCompetesTaxCredit.aspx>

+ On Tuesday, the Tourism and Film Commission awarded \$24,500 in funding to fourteen Mono County events through the Community Event Marketing Fund reimbursement program. The program was created to help non-profit groups bolster their event marketing efforts outside of Mono County and the Eastern Sierra, with the goal of increasing visitation and overnight stays in Mono County. Here's a list of the grant recipients:

ANTELOPE VALLEY	
Size Doesn't Matter Fishing Derby	\$2,000.00
Hiking the Valley and Fall Colors	\$2,000.00
BRIDGEPORT	
Bodie Bowl	\$2,000.00
<i>1st Annual Bridgeport Valley Outdoor Fall Festival</i> (Event name may change)	\$3,000.00
LEE VINING	
Eastern Sierra Pioneer, Music, and History Festival	\$4,000.00
JUNE LAKE	
Inspired by Nature: A Writer's Retreat	\$1,000.00
Autumn Beer Festival	\$1,000.00
June Lake Winter Festival & Triple Threat Tri 2016	\$3,000.00
Fred Hall 2015 Tradeshow - LA	\$1,000.00
MAMMOTH LAKES	
Mammoth Lakes Annual Event & Wedding Expo	\$2,000.00
Sierra Summer Festival	\$1,500.00
Mammoth Rock n Rye	\$2,000.00

+ A very successful Mono County Tourism Facebook post received almost a quarter of a million views! This picture of Paul Gonzales with his 21.6 pound German Brown Trout was also picked up in Western Outdoor News! The post received 225,088 views, 4,652 likes, 1,266 shares and 386 comments. Follow us by liking our page at www.facebook.com/visiteasternsierra

 Mono County Tourism - California's Eastern Sierra
 Posted by Jeff Simpson 191 · November 14, 2014 · Edited

Fishing legend Paul Gonzalas strikes again! A 21.6 German Brown caught and released today along the June Lake Loop! What a beautiful fish! — with Krysten Blan and 4 others at June Lake Loop.



225,088 people reached Boost Post

Like · Comment · Share · Tag Photos 4,852 388 1,288 Shares

+ The San Francisco Gate just published this article on the on a winter drive to Mono Lake: <http://www.sfgate.com/travel/article/Take-a-winter-dive-into-Mono-Lake-area-6034407.php>

+ Economic Development staff, along with Health Department and Community Development staff, met with local organizers pursuing the development of a stronger local food system network in the Eastern Sierra. Although the collaboration and planning are new and at a very early stage, the ideas and enthusiasm for the movement are not, and we are excited to see how the planning progresses with this new group.

+ The Mono County Fisheries Commission will be meeting next week, February 4th in the June Lake Community Center at 10am. An full agenda is attached.

CONTACT:
 Liz Grans,
 (760) 924-1738



FLY TO MONO COUNTY!

NONSTOP FLIGHTS FROM
 LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO
 SAN DIEGO • LAS VEGAS • DENVER

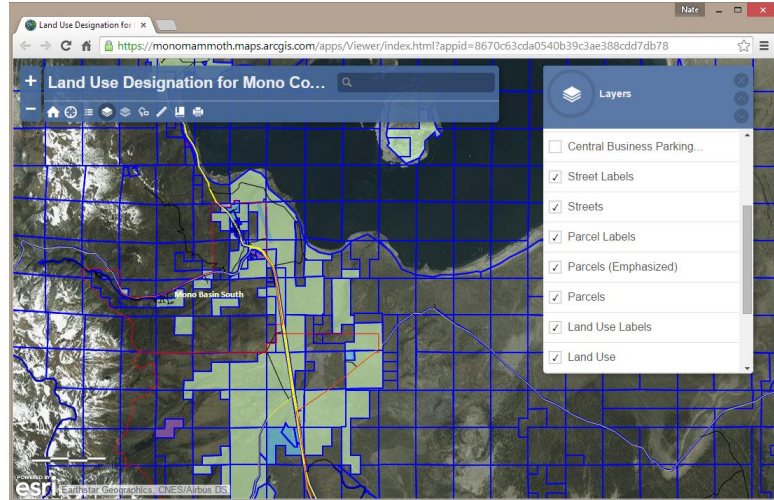
Book now



Information Technology

New Land Use Designation web application online -

Joel Hickok from the Information Technology Department recently collaborated with Brent Calloway from Community Development to put together a web application focused on providing Land Use Designations, Development Credits, and other relevant information relating to development and planning. The application can be viewed at



<https://monomammoth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=8670c63cda0540b39c3ae388cdd7db78>

CONTACT: **Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819**

Probation

Congratulations to Jazmin Pugo-Sosa who was awarded a Distinguished Service Award from CPOC in December. She was recognized for her outstanding service and commitment in the field of Probation.

She is awesome!

CONTACT: **Karin Humiston, (760) 932-5570**



Public Health

E-Cigarettes growing issue of concern for efforts to reduce tobacco related illness --For over 20 years, the State of California has led the nation in anti-tobacco efforts, but the emergence of electronic cigarettes (e-Cigarette) may undo decades of public health efforts to reduce tobacco use in California. Thankfully, many Mono County stores have resisted the urge to contribute to this e-cigarette phenomena.

In a September, 2014, the Mono County Health Department surveyed 19 markets in unincorporated Mono County. 17 (89%) sold tobacco, and only 3 stores sold e-cigarettes. In Mammoth Lakes, 9 out of 12 stores sold tobacco and 4 sold e-cigarettes. However, recent trends are troubling: The percent of stores selling electronic cigarettes rose from 21% to 39%, an increase of 18% over the past year. The percent of stores selling flavored tobacco products also increased from 48% to 58%.

In all stores, e-cigarettes were the least sold of tobacco-related products. "I looked into electronic cigarettes; it is an expensive endeavor to get in to," stated a Mammoth store owner. Another reported, "Kids have come in asking for 'vapes' [E-cigarettes]."

Flavors offered make e-cigarettes attractive to kids. A University of California San Diego study showed there were 288 e-cigarette brands available online in 2012. By January 2014, there were 466 brands

with 7764 unique flavors, such as bubble gum, Captain Crunch, gummy bear and cotton candy. The top e-cigarette brands are owned by tobacco companies. Their products are promoted through TV ads and other media popular with young people.

While some e-cigarette manufacturers claim e-cigarettes emit a “harmless water vapor,” e-cigarettes emit small particles that can hurt the lungs of the user and those nearby. Essentially, they are an electronic delivery system for nicotine – a ticket to nicotine addiction and death. California experienced a five-fold increase in the number of calls to poison control centers involving e-cigarette liquid exposures in children aged five and under between 2012 and 2013. At this point, e-cigarette products are completely unregulated, causing a considerable variation in the product and its liquid; many of the products are made in China.

Local regulation does not deal with the product, but deals with access and exposure. A California state law prohibits sales to minors. A 2014 Mammoth Lakes ordinance includes electronic cigarettes in the Town ‘No Smoking’ policy. Other businesses, such as Mammoth Mountain and Mammoth Hospital, Mammoth Lakes Housing and IMACA low income housing also include electronic cigarettes in their smoke free policies. A bill just introduced into the California legislature would add e-cigarettes to the list of tobacco products regulated in the state, which already forbids smoking in workplaces, restaurants, bars and other places. It would also ramp up penalties for selling e-cigarettes, which come in such flavors as bubble gum and chocolate, to minors. California would be the fourth U.S. state to treat them like regular cigarettes, and the 23rd to regulate e-cigarettes in some way. In California, the most populous U.S. state, 122 cities and counties have banned the use of e-cigarettes in certain public places.



E-cigarette proponents claim they help people quit regular cigarettes. However, research shows that smokers begin to use both regular cigarettes and e-cigarettes. If e-cigarettes are really meant to help people stop smoking, why are they being marketed to our kids who are not smoking – yet?

To quit with the help of medication, the California Department of Public Health recommends that existing over-the-counter nicotine replacement products be used. Their Smoker’s Helpline quit tobacco counseling can be accessed at 800-NO-BUTTS.

CONTACT: Nancy Mahannah, (760) 924-4621

Playground Project moves forward as Inclusive effort for community - Excerpts from the current Executive Summary: Shane’s Inspiration Inclusive Playground Project “TOGETHER WE ARE ABLE” is the motto for Southern California based Shane’s Inspiration, which helps to build Inclusive Playgrounds worldwide. They design the playgrounds through community input from pediatricians, parents, therapists, architects, children, and planners. Inclusive playgrounds make a fundamental statement about how communities value meaningful play experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Since we

live in one of Nature’s Playgrounds, our residents and Wounded Warrior visitors would be able to enjoy more quality time with other children and their families.

Please join us to express your support for this project to Mammoth Lakes Recreation @ <http://mammothlakesrecreation.org>

CONTACT: Diann Bitzberger, (760) 924-1841

JANUARY IS RADON AWARENESS MONTH - The Public Health Department is running a month long radio and print media campaign to encourage home testing for radon. The flier is attached to the Board Update. Stay safe and help others understand the radon issues!

CONTACT: Louis Molina, (760) 924-1865

Sheriff

SAR Helps Hiker! - On the evening of Sunday, January 25, 2015, at approximately 10:00pm, the Mono County Sheriff’s Office received a call regarding a hiker with an ankle injury in the White Mountains.

A male hiker, age 19, from Dyer, NV, was hiking in the backcountry of the White Mountains when he injured his ankle jumping off some rocks along the trail, during a camping trip to Crooked Creek. Upon attempting to walk, he was unable to put weight on his ankle and requested assistance to exit the backcountry in the morning.

On the morning of Monday, January 26, 2015, at approximately 6:00am, the Mono County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was dispatched to aid the injured hiker. SAR Team members responded to the Crooked Creek area. The area was partially covered with snow drifts. With the use of the Mono County Sheriff’s Office Ranger, the SAR Team was able to cross the mixed dirt and snow covered terrain. With the aid of an aircraft associated with Deep Springs College, teams located the injured hiker. He was evaluated by an EMT and safely transported out of the backcountry.



CONTACT: Jennifer M. Hansen, (760) 932-7549, ext. 112

Social Services

New Social Worker - Rose Martin was selected for the position of Social Worker I for the Mono County Department of Social Services. Rose started with the Department over a year ago as a Vocational Trainee. She has decided to keep us - we are thrilled to have her as our newest Social Worker! ***Congratulations Rose!***



**RADON -
TEST. FIX. SAVE A LIFE.**

- Radon is a radioactive gas found in nearly all soils.
- Radon may migrate from the ground and enter into your home.
- You cannot see, smell or taste radon gas.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.
- A simple test can tell you if your home is safe -

YOUR HOME CAN BE FIXED

Radon testing is recommended for all Mono County homes.
Pick up a **FREE** home radon test at the Mono County Health Dept.
Call 760-924-1830

Special Projects Fund- The Mono County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is now accepting funding proposals for projects that support activities, resources and programs that encourage safe, healthy and resilient families.



County Children's Trust Fund (CCTF) and the CAPC Special Projects Fund total \$9,770. The CAPC will review and vote on proposals at their next meeting, March 9, 2015. For an application, more information and to submit a proposal, please contact Didi Tergesen, Program Specialist at the Mono County Office of Education: dtergesen@monocoe.org or [\(760\) 934-0031](tel:7609340031).

Application is attached. Proposal deadline is Thursday, February 26, 2015.

CONTACT: Didi Tergesen, Program Specialist, (760) 934-0031



Moises is Back! -- Antelope Valley Senior Center Staff and patrons are ecstatic to have beloved Senior Center cook **Moises Cornejo** back in the kitchen.



All healed up and ready to be of service, Moises is excited to be back doing what he loves.

Welcome back, Moises!
(back row, white shirt and cap)

Interested in Being a Legislative



Advocate for Local Older Adults? -- If you are age sixty (60) or over, reside in Inyo or Mono County, and are registered to vote, consider applying to be elected to the California Senior Legislature (CSL)! The CSL is comprised of dedicated community volunteers representing all 58 counties in the State. Their primary mission is to gather ideas for model legislation for consideration at the State and Federal levels. CSL members craft these ideas into formal proposals, prioritize and present them to the Legislature or Congress, and advocate for laws that improve the quality of life for aging Californians.

Senior Senators and Senior Assembly Members voluntarily represent their counties throughout California as members of the California Senior Legislature. The next legislative session of the CSL is in late October 2015 in Sacramento.

To receive an application packet, contact Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) at (760) 873-3305, or pick up a packet at one of these locations:

- Antelope Valley Senior Center, 399 Mule Deer Road in Walker

- Social Services Offices in Mammoth at 452 Old Mammoth Rd or in Bridgeport at 85 Emigrant Street
- 163 May Street in Bishop, Ca 93514

The filing deadline for completed packets is no later than Thursday, April 30, 2015 at noon. I will arrange for Richard Cervantes, our representative to the California Senior Legislature (Senate), to address the Mono County Board of Supervisors in March to discuss his experiences and help Mono County recruit a new member to the legislature!

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763

Disaster Preparedness Education - It is the American Red Cross mission to help communities prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters. A disaster can strike at any moment; the Red Cross wants to show you and your family how to be ready.



As part of their support services they will be coming to **Mono County in March** to provide preparedness education programs for our North County communities. The courses they will be offering are:

Prepare U – Bridgeport Indian Colony, Bridgeport, March 6th, 3:00 – 4:00: People should take three actions to prepare for emergencies – get a kit, make a plan and be informed. You'll learn the importance of having an emergency preparedness kit, making a family disaster plan and knowing the types of disasters in your community and the resources available in an emergency.

Senior Prepare U – Antelope Senior Center, Walker, March 6th, 12:00 – 1:00: Designed to help seniors prepare for emergencies, regardless of their physical limitations, this presentation teaches participants how to make an emergency preparedness kit, create a family disaster plan, shelter in place and respond to direction from authorities.

Pillowcase Project (Ages 5-12) – TENTATIVE Antelope Elementary School, Coleville, March 6th, 10:00 – 11:00: The pillowcase project is a psychosocial support program developed to ease fears about emergencies and the evacuations that often accompany them. Children decorate and personalize their own Disney pillowcase and learn ways to pack them with their favorite items from home for easy transport.

In addition to the preparedness education Red Cross will be offering training in Mammoth Lakes.

Adult CPR and First Aid – Department of Social Services, Mammoth Lakes, March 9th, 9:00 – 3:00:

Participants will learn how to recognize and treat adults suffering from breathing and cardiac emergencies, life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injuries.

For more information on these trainings please see the attached flyers.

CONTACT: Cathy Young, Emergency Shelter Coordinator, (760) 924-1780



National Eligibility Worker Conference

Dept. of Social Services staffers Armando Alvarez, Yvon Guzman-Rangel, Kaylan Johnson, and Jay Sloane are attending the 26th Annual National Eligibility Worker Training Conference in San Diego this week. The California State Chapter of the National Eligibility Workers Association is a professional and educational organization with the role of establishing standards of ethical conduct for Eligibility professionals in California. This organization represents the combined professional judgments of all its members. A report on the conference and photos will follow!

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, 760-924-1789

Penalties for Not Having Health Insurance – Covered California announced that it is stepping up messaging about the rising penalties for not having health insurance, encouraging Californians without coverage to explore their options and sign up to avoid a big bill at tax time next year. The penalty, known as the “shared responsibility payment,” takes effect for 2014, and many who were uninsured will see an impact when they prepare their taxes due in April. However, the penalty rises substantially for 2015, meaning it’s important that all uninsured Californians know this and take steps now — before open enrollment ends — to avoid significant penalties when they prepare their 2015 taxes due next year. In 2016, the shared responsibility payment for those without health insurance rises even more.



2015 Open Enrollment ends **February 15, 2015**. Enroll by this date and coverage can begin as soon as March 1. After this date, you can enroll in or change plans for 2015 only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Check out the attached Open Enrollment Fact Sheet for more information.

As always, feel free to call or stop by the Department of Social Services for help with your questions and/or to enroll.

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, 760/924-1789

FEBRUARY 5 MONO OUTREACH

The Veteran Service MONO Outreach Program will be observed Thursday, FEBRUARY 5th. Please contact 873-7850 to schedule your appointment by Wednesday, FEBRUARY 4th.



FEBRUARY 9-12 OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed due to training. For immediate VA assistance, contact 1-800-827-1000.

FEBRUARY 19 MONO OUTREACH

The Veteran Service MONO Outreach Program will be observed Thursday, FEBRUARY 19th. Please contact 873-7850 to schedule your appointment and outreach location by Wednesday, FEBRUARY 18th.

CONTACT: Yvette Mason, 760/873-7850