



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Friday, December 11, 2020

8:30 a.m.

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z
Mammoth Lakes, CA**

NOTE: This will be a Zoom meeting and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. It is strongly encouraged that you watch this meeting on the Town of Mammoth Lakes' (TOML) website at www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or on TOML's local government cable channel 18.

Public comments may be submitted to the TOML Assistant Clerk at clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov before and during the meeting.

Board Members

Mono County Supervisor
Stacy Corless – Chair

Mono County Supervisor
Bob Gardner

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
Lynda Salcido

Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember
John Wentworth

Inyo County Supervisor
Jeff Griffiths

Inyo County Supervisor
Dan Totheroh

City of Bishop Councilmember
Jim Ellis

City of Bishop Councilmember
Karen Schwartz – Vice Chair

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact the Clerk of the Board at 760-965-3615. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City of Bishop or Town of Mammoth Lakes to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (See 42 USCS 12132, 28CFR 35.130). NOTE: Comments for all agenda items are limited to a speaking time of three minutes.

ZOOM INFORMATION

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://monocounty.zoom.us/s/92421427651>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 ***To raise your hand press *9, To Unmute/Mute press *6**

Webinar ID: 924 2142 7651

International numbers available: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92421427651>

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Public Comment** – Notice to the Public: This time is set aside to receive public comment on matters not calendared on the agenda. When recognized by the Chair, please state your name and address for the record and please limit your comments to three minutes. Under California law the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board may briefly respond to comments or questions from members of the public. Therefore, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board will listen to all public comment but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting of the ESCOG JPA.**
6. **Introduction of Forest Supervisor Lesley Yen – *Chair Stacy Corless***
7. **Discussion with Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) Housing and Planning Director Larry Emerson and Eastern Sierra (CoC) Chair Susi Bains regarding regional homeless issues – *Councilmember Jeff Griffiths***
8. **Discussion regarding scheduling of presentations of the Sustainable Recreation Ecosystem Management Program Resolution to each Member Agency’s Board/Council – *Chair Stacy Corless***

9. **Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) and Brief Presentation on the Prop 68/Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s “Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative” Grant, administered by the Town of Mammoth Lakes on behalf of regional partners - *Councilmember John Wentworth***
 - a. **“Recreation Stakeholders” –**
 - i. 183 Project Ideas: Virtual Scoring Meetings
 - b. **“Climate Adaptation”**
 - i. “Vulnerability Assessment” + "Baseline Natural Capital Assessment”
 - c. **“Connection to the Eastern Sierra Visitor Audience”**
 - i. Carl Ribaudó
 - d. **"Projects and Funding"**
 - i. Partner Engagement for next year: 2021
 - e. **Discussion regarding regional forest management and dispersed camping issues.**
 - i. Presentation
10. **Discussion and approval of 2021 ESCOG JPA Meeting Schedule – *Elaine Kabala***
11. **Board Member/Agency Reports - *Chair Stacy Corless***
12. **Request for future agenda items - *Chair Stacy Corless***
13. **Adjournment - *Chair Stacy Corless***

The ESCOG will adjourn to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on February 12, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 16, 2020

8:30 a.m.

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z
Mammoth Lakes, CA**

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Karen Schwartz – Vice Chair

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler requested that some items on the agenda be taken out of order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Stacy Corless led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Chair Stacy Corless, Vice Chair Karen Schwartz and Board Members Bob Gardner, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth, Jeff Griffiths, Dan Totheroh and Jim Ellis were present via videoconference.

4. Public Comment

There was a public comment received via email from Mammoth Lakes Housing Executive Director Patricia Robertson with an update on the success of the Rental Assistance Payment program.

5. Approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2020 meeting of the ESCOG JPA.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Karen Schwartz, seconded by Board Member Bob Gardner, and carried by an 8– 0 roll call vote to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2020 meeting of the ESCOG JPA.

6. Discussion and possible action on Liability Insurance and Requested Quote.

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla reported that the purchase of an insurance policy did not require action by the Board due to the Mammoth Lakes purchasing policy which was also followed by the ESCOG. Ms. Chuchla said that the policy authorized Town Manager Dan Holler to purchase insurance on behalf of the ESCOG without a specific resolution from the Board. She outlined the information in the Special Liability Insurance Program (SIPL) insurance proposal and recommended that Cyber Liability be added to the policy for an additional cost of \$250-\$300 per year. Ms. Chuchla reported that Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala was not covered under the proposed policy and said that it was determined to be unnecessary to cover her at this time and noted that there was an indemnification provision in which Ms. Kabala promised to indemnify any harm that she as an independent contractor may cause.

Ms. Kabala said that she would look into securing her own insurance.

Mr. Holler requested that the members of the Board authorize him to move forward with the policy and reported that he would be the one to execute the agreement.

There was discussion between Ms. Chuchla, Mr. Holler and members of the Board.

CONSENSUS: There was consensus from the Board for Mr. Holler to execute the purchase of the Special Liability Insurance Program (SLIP) Insurance Proposal with the addition of Cyber Liability.

7. Updated Financial Report provided by Mono County Finance Director Janet Dutcher.

This item was taken out of order.

Mono County Finance Director Janet Dutcher outlined the information in the staff report and Financial Statements.

8. Discussion and possible action on report and recommendation from subcommittee on the hiring of Elaine Kabala as an Administrative Services Contractor for the ESCOG JPA following the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) process and recommend entry into a contract with Ms. Kabala for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

This item was taken out of order.

Board Member John Wentworth spoke about the steps that were taken in the recruitment process for an Administrative Services Contractor for the ESCOG.

Board Member Jim Ellis spoke about the recruitment process and thanked Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla for her assistance. Mr. Ellis said the interview with Elaine Kabala went well and reported that he was in favor of securing Ms. Kabala for the position.

Ms. Chuchla described the requested action for this agenda item and gave a description of the proposed contract between the ESCOG and Ms. Kabala.

Elaine Kabala introduced herself and said that she was grateful for the Board's consideration of her to fill the position and said that she looked forward to working with the Board.

There was discussion between Ms. Chuchla, Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Bob Gardner, seconded by Board Member John Wentworth, and carried by an 8-0 roll call vote to approve the Contract to hire Elaine Kabala as the Administrative Services Contractor for the ESCOG.

9. Discussion and adoption of Resolution to initiate ESCOG JPA Sustainable Recreation and Forest Management (SRFM) Program.

This item was taken out of order.

Board Member John Wentworth spoke about the State of California Shared Stewardship Agreement with the Forest Service, the Great American Outdoors Act which had been enacted by the Federal Government, the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) and the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI). Mr. Wentworth announced that efforts had started with regard to a planning grant for fuels work in Mammoth Lakes. He outlined the information in the resolution and thanked Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla and TOML Town Manager Dan Holler for their assistance preparing the resolution.

Board Member Bob Gardner spoke about the reason the ESCOG became a JPA and said that doing so enabled the ESCOG to pursue and receive grants for projects such as the SRFM Program. Mr. Gardner reported that each member agency must approve the Sustainable Recreation and Forest Management Program after the ESCOG had approved it in order to move forward.

Chair Stacy Corless suggested changing the name of the program to be broadened to include Wildfire Prevention or Natural Resource Management.

Plumas Project Manager Janet Hatfield introduced herself and spoke about the Eastern Sierra Climate and Community Resilience Project (ESCCRP) which she had been working on. Ms Hatfield said her focus was in the Mammoth Lakes area. She thanked the ESCOG for their interest and desire to assist with this program.

Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program Project Development Specialist Rick Kattelmann introduced himself and spoke about the ESCCRP. Mr. Kattelmann spoke in favor of the ESCOG's creation of the Sustainable Recreation and Forest Management Program. He discussed the Regional Capacity Program's focus on local communities and the unique needs of Mammoth Lakes and Alpine. Mr. Kattelmann recommended bundling small projects together into one application for better success with grant awards.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths requested additional details about the benefits of the SRFM Program to all of the member agencies not just the Mammoth Lakes area so the ESCOG Board Members would be well-equipped to relay that information to their individual agencies.

Mr. Gardner spoke about potential campground funding that would benefit the entire region via grants applied for through this program.

Mr. Wentworth spoke about the wide variety of projects that would be accessible to the region through the SRFM Program

Holly Alpert, Independent Contractor for the Eastern California Water Association and Grant Manager for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Grant through Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) introduced herself and spoke about the work that she had done with Mr. Kattlemann and Ms. Hatfield. She said that her group had been soliciting projects and were getting ready to prioritize the projects they had received. Ms. Alpert spoke about ecosystems management.

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla discussed amending the resolution per the recommendations received from the Board and including additional revisions from the authors of the resolution.

Board Member Jim Ellis recommended removing the word Forest and replacing it with Ecosystem in the title of the resolution.

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler spoke in favor of the resolution and mentioned that there were no financial commitment requirements from the member agencies or the ESCOG to pass the resolution. Mr. Holler stated that if there were costs in the future the ESCOG would need to approach the member agencies at that time.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member John Wentworth, seconded by Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and carried by a 8-0 roll call vote to approve the Resolution as written to initiate the ESCOG JPA Sustainable Recreation and Forest Management Program with a change to the title to include Ecosystem Management as a replacement for Forest Management and to direct the authors of the resolution to provide a definition of Ecosystem Management seeking input from members of the ESCOG as identified including Supervisors Jeff Griffiths and Bob Gardner, as well as input from Rick Kattlemann, Janet Hatfield and Holly Alpert and others who may have specific expertise in that matter.

Chair Corless spoke about a Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) project that would deal with forest biomass and develop pellet manufacturing.

There was discussion between Ms. Hatfield, Mr. Kattlemann, Ms. Alpert, Mr. Holler and members of the Board.

10. Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP).

This item was combined with Item number 11.

Board Member John Wentworth gave an update on recent ESSRP activities and the Proposition 68/Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI) Grant. Mr. Wentworth discussed the effects of the Creek Fire. He said that the Visitor Connection Working Group had met on October 15th and reported that there would be a proposal for a project for the Voice of the Eastern Sierra. Mr. Wentworth announced that the SRTI would continue to accept project requests through

October 31st and would start ranking them on November 19th. He also announced that Inyo National Forest Interim Forest Supervisor John Poncho Smith's last day was today and reported that Lesley Yen would start as the Forest Supervisor on October 26th. Mr. Wentworth reported that Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator (ESSRC) Matt Paruolo was now a Mono County employee not a Mammoth Lakes Recreation employee and reported that the next meeting of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership was scheduled to be held on November 2nd.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

11. Update and Brief Presentation on the Prop 68/Sierra Nevada Conservancy's "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative" Grant administered by the Town of Mammoth Lakes on behalf of regional partners.

This item was combined with Item #10

12. Discussion regarding new Grant Opportunities, including USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG).

This item was not discussed.

13. Board Member/Agency Reports

a. Update on Bishop Eastern Sierra Regional Airport (BIH) Air Service.

Inyo County County Administrative Officer (CAO) Clint Quilter gave an update on air service at BIH. Mr. Quilter reported that there would be an item on Inyo County's agenda on October 20th with regard to awarding the contract for a 100% no match grant they had received for a fire fighting vehicle. He said there would also be an item with a recommendation to the Board to approve a reorganization at the airport to include reclassification of an employee to the position Airport Manager and the addition of the Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) requirements to job descriptions for staff members, as well as hiring additional staff for commercial operations in the future. Mr. Quilter said that he anticipated the airport would be ready for air service July 2021.

b. Update on housing initiatives

Board Member Jeff Griffiths gave an update on the Silver Peaks project and the Veterans' Housing Complex. Mr. Griffiths reported that Eastern Sierra Disabled Sports would consider a collaboration of the Wounded Warrior Center with the Veterans' Housing Complex. He spoke about the homeless population in Bishop and reported that the Continuum of Care (CoC) had assisted with homeless issues and had received an award of \$1.7 M from Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for homeless services.

Board Member John Wentworth gave an update on The Parcel project in Mammoth Lakes and announced that there would be a Master Plan meeting in January.

Board Member Lynda Salcido spoke about The Parcel project.

Board Member Bob Gardner gave an update on the Tioga Inn project and reported that the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) had been approved, however, the Board had not approved the plan and had requested additional consultation on the project. Mr. Gardner spoke about the regional homeless issue and the need for solutions.

Board Member Karen Schwartz spoke about a church in Bishop that had allowed homeless community members to utilize their parking lot.

Chair Stacy Corless spoke in support of the plan for permanent supportive housing funded by the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Housing Program and the No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program to be included in the plans for The Parcel.

There was discussion among members of the Board

c. Other

Board Member Jeff Griffith spoke about the recent forest closures and partial re-openings in Inyo County.

Chair Stacy Corless voiced concerns related to dispersed camping in Mammoth.

Board Member Bob Gardner discussed the wilderness area closures in Mono County and the June Lake area. Mr. Gardner spoke about the influx of visitors in the region that had come to view fall colors. He requested a meeting to talk about the future of dispersed camping, fire restrictions, and fees.

Board Member Jim Ellis spoke about the creation of the Sierra Trash Eliminators (STE) group and the success and growth the group had achieved since its inception in July. Mr. Ellis announced the Eastside Facelift event planned for the weekend and said that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) had held a cleanup event the prior weekend. He invited members of the Board to join the STE.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

14. Request for future agenda items

Board Member Jeff Griffiths suggested inviting Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) Housing and Planning Director Larry Emerson and Eastern Sierra (CoC) Chair Susi Bains to the next ESCOG Board meeting to discuss regional homeless issues.

Chair Stacy Corless requested a future item to discuss regional forest management and dispersed camping issues.

Board Member John Wentworth requested that newly appointed Forest Supervisor Lesley Yen be invited to the December meeting to introduce herself to the ESCOG.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. to the next regular meeting on December 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

DRAFT



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

Subject: Discussion regarding scheduling of presentations of the Sustainable Recreation Ecosystem Management Program Resolution to each Member Agency's Board/Council

Prepared on: December 3, 2020

Attachments: **A) Sustainable Recreation Ecosystem Management Program Authorizing Resolution for Member Agencies**
B) January and February Member Agency Meetings

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

October 16, 2020, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments ("ESCOG") adopted Resolution 20-03, attached hereto as Exhibit A, creating and describing a program of work to be known as the "ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program" (SREMP). The SREMP Resolution authorizes the ESCOG JPA to undertake actions to support regional sustainable recreation projects, such as writing and accepting grants for region-wide projects.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

During the October 16, 2020 meeting, the ESCOG Board requested a future agenda item to discuss the timeline and scheduling of presenting the SREMP Resolution to each member agency, and determining ESCOG Board representation in support of the resolution at each member agency meeting.

For reference, the member agency meeting schedules for the month of January and February are as follows (please also refer to Attachment B January and February Member Agency Meetings):

Member Agency	January Meetings	February Meetings
Mono County Board of Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 5 • January 12 • January 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2 • February 9 • February 16
Inyo County Board of Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 5 • January 12 • January 19 • January 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2 • February 9 • February 16 • February 23
City of Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 11 • January 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 8 • February 22
Town of Mammoth Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 6 • January 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 3 • February 17

BUDGET IMPACTS:

There are no budget impacts associated with this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chucla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the ESCOG Board discuss the proposed schedule for presentation and approval of the SREMP member agency resolutions.

Attachment A

RESOLUTION NO. 20-__

RESOLUTION OF THE [INSERT MEMBER AGENCY NAME] TO AUTHORIZE THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO COMMENCE A PROGRAM OF WORK TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ESCOG: SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM”

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2020, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (“ESCOG”) adopted Resolution 20-03, attached hereto as Exhibit A, creating and describing a program of work to be known as the “ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program” (“SREMP”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement Establishing ESCOG, ESCOG must seek approval of its Member Agencies to undertake various activities, such as: accepting grants, funds, or other services from the state or federal government (section 3.01); identifying and applying for funding sources (section 2.02); and conducting region-wide functions (section 2.01).

WHEREAS, given that the SREMP, as described in Exhibit A, will likely involve activities that require authorization of the Member Agencies, ESCOG is therefore requesting that [INSERT MEMBER AGENCY NAME] empower ESCOG to undertake the SREMP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the [INSERT MEMBER AGENCY NAME] as follows

1. That the ESCOG is authorized to create, participate in, and carry out the SREMP, as it is described in Exhibit A.
2. That, in order to carry out the SREMP, the ESCOG is specifically empowered to apply for, pursue, and administer grants and other sources of revenue from state, federal, private, ESCOG member agency, and civic sources to finance projects; to retain contractors and hire staff; to make recommendations about project feasibility and implementation; to enter into long term contracts; to engage in any actions already authorized by the ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement including the securing of appropriate levels of insurance; and to take any other actions reasonably related to its pursuit of the SREMP, as it is described in Exhibit A.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____ 2020.

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk

Exhibit A

RESOLUTION NO. 20-03

**RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF WORK TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ESCOG:
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM”
AND TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM MEMBER AGENCIES FOR THIS WORK**

WHEREAS, the natural splendors and the natural resources of the Eastern Sierra are unique in the world, and the four member agencies of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments are committed stewards of her many wonders and are humbled to call this unique place home; and

WHEREAS, the natural splendors and the natural resources of the Eastern Sierra make possible sustainable recreation and sustainable tourism activities that are the foundation of the cultures and economies of the four member agencies of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, ecosystem management in the context of this resolution can be considered to be the deliberate management of forests and other vegetation assemblages to achieve desired benefits, such as reduced risk of wildfire, for the natural and human communities of the Eastern Sierra; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2018 and inspired by management planning efforts on the Inyo National Forest, Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Inyo National Forest and Intermountain Region, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, formalized a non-funded Challenge Cost-Share Agreement establishing the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership, a public-public partnership “...to cooperatively develop, plan, implement, maintain, and monitor programs and projects that are mutually beneficial to the parties and that enhance U.S. Forest Service and Cooperators' activities”; and

WHEREAS, the following Eastern Sierra jurisdictions have subsequently voted to join the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership: Alpine County, California on August 20, 2019; the City of Bishop, California on September 9, 2019; and Inyo County, California October 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2019, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Governing Board, an agency of the State of California, authorized \$618,750 of Proposition 68 funds for the “The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership: Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative.” The Governing Board’s action demonstrated a first of its kind and pioneering investment in California’s rural outdoor recreation economy and the natural resources that make it possible; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2019, the final Record of Decision for the Inyo National Forest Management Plan was signed, one of the first U.S. Forest Management Plans in the nation to be completed under the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, and informed by regional efforts such as the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative supported by the National Forest Foundation; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2019, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program awarded a grant to "...to convene, facilitate and report on a gathering of the superintendents of the above-identified NPS units (Death Valley National Park, Devils Postpile National Monument, Manzanar National Historic Site, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Yosemite National Park) and to determine their willingness, either as individual units or as a group, to join the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership and to work with local communities to benefit America's public-lands experience in Eastern California"; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) authorized \$179,300 in CCI funds for work in Mono, Inyo and Alpine Counties to develop a regional priority plan to improve ecosystem health and fire resiliency and build capacity and provide technical assistance consistent with recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan, of which the foremost regional priority project, the "Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project" is already underway; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020 and in recognition of the escalating hazard that wildfire poses to mountain communities and their associated economic dependence on recreational opportunities, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Governing Board, an agency of the State of California, authorized \$339,534 of Forest Health Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 funds for "The Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project", an early and pro-active planning effort encompassing approximately 55,000 acres on Inyo National Forest lands surrounding the Town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono and Madera counties that will foster stakeholder involvement, define project goals and objectives, identify long term needs for success at this scale, develop proposed actions, and build support for a landscape-scale planning and implementation project that will result in forest health and fuels reduction treatments across the project's 55,000-acre planning area, thereby prioritizing forest health as a fundamental component of sustainable recreation in the region; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2020, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the National Forest Foundation awarded \$150,000 for the "Inyo National Forest (California/Nevada) Campgrounds Business Plan" one of ten national awards to support the development of finance models as part of the "Innovative Finance for National Forests Grant Program" that seeks to leverage private sector capital to support resilience of the National Forest System and surrounding lands which, in collaboration with Quantified Ventures, will develop

a business plan that evaluates needs for campgrounds, identifies potential sources of funding through cost-sharing partnerships, and proposes finance options to address an estimated \$70 million funding gap for campground upgrades in California's recreation rich Eastern Sierra; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, which will "...establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes..." all of which are of interest to the Eastern Sierra; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2020, the State of California and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, entered into an "Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forests and Rangelands," citing multiple mutual benefits including specifically healthy forests and Sustainable Recreation that are interdependent interests of the Eastern Sierra, including: "...healthy forests will improve climate resilience and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, safeguard water quality and air quality, protect fish and wildlife habitat, enhance biological diversity, sequester carbon, improve recreational opportunities, and generate good jobs and economic opportunities"; and,

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2020, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments convened as a Joint Powers Authority for the first time and elected its officers including Stacy Corless of Mono County as Chair and Karen Schwartz of the City of Bishop as Vice Chair; and

WHEREAS, during the fire season of 2020, California and the Eastern Sierra endured an oppressive fire season of unprecedented severity exacerbated by climate change, during which, and according to CALFIRE, wildfires acres burned have more than doubled the previous State record of 1.7 million acres set in 2018 and contain therein three of the top five largest wildfires in State history, underscoring the reality that climate adaptation actions are needed now in order to steward healthy forests that provide irreplaceable ecosystem services and sustain the vibrant recreation economy of the Eastern Sierra; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the early months of calendar year 2021, a number of opportunities will come forward from the aforementioned efforts that may specifically benefit residents of the Eastern Sierra and their visitors and for which the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and its Joint Powers Authority were uniquely intended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as follows:

That a program to be known as the “ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program” be established and pursued by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments using its Joint Powers Authority.

That the ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program shall seek to integrate responsible Ecosystem Management, natural resources conservation, sustainable outdoor recreation, and economic development using the best available science and in such a way as to strengthen and inspire all communities in the Eastern Sierra in their pursuits of resilience and sustainability through the functional alignment of partner agencies in pursuit of identified projects.

That, in carrying out these activities, the ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program shall be empowered to apply for, pursue, and administer grants and other sources of revenue from state, federal, private, ESCOG member agency, and civic sources to finance projects; retain contractors and hire staff; make recommendations about project feasibility and implementation; enter into long term contracts; engage in any actions already authorized by the ESCOG Joint Powers Agreement including the securing of appropriate levels of insurance; and take any other actions reasonably related to its pursuit of the above mentioned activities, provided, however, that the ESCOG Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program shall not be authorized to incur debt that is not otherwise secured by the Program’s identified revenue.

That representatives of the four ESCOG jurisdictions return to their respective governing bodies to seek and secure support for the necessary approvals from each member agency for the ESCOG to pursue this important work.

That the legal counsel for the ESCOG work with member agency’s staff to draft appropriate agenda items to either approve or deny the ESCOG’s pursuit of this important program consistent with the authorities already retained by the ESCOG.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th day of October 2020.

ATTEST:



ANGELA PLAISTED, Clerk



STACY CORLESS, Chair

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF MONO)
TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES) ss.

I, ANGELA PLAISTED, Assistant Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, DO HEREBY CERTIFY under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2020-03 adopted by the Eastern Sierra Council of Government Joint Powers Authority at a meeting thereof held on the 16th day of October 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Chair Stacy Corless, Vice Chair Karen Schwartz and Board Members
 Bob Gardner, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth, Jeff Griffiths, Dan Totheroh
 and Jim Ellis

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

DISQUALIFICATION: None



ANGELA PLAISTED, Assistant Clerk

2021 JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Mono County Inyo County	6 TOML	7	8	9
10	11 Bishop	12 Mono County Inyo County	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Mono County Inyo County	20 TOML	21	22	23
24	25 Bishop	26 Inyo County	27	28	29	30
31						

2021 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Mono County Inyo County	3 TOML	4	5	6
7	8 Bishop	9 Mono County Inyo County	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Mono County Inyo County	17 TOML	18	19	20
21	22 Bishop	23 Inyo County	24	25	26	27
28						



Agenda Item #9

Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) and Brief Presentation on the Prop 68/Sierra Nevada Conservancy's "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative" Grant, administered by the Town of Mammoth Lakes on behalf of regional partners ESCOG Meeting

COVID-19: Winter Recreation in California's Eastern Sierra



- **Northern California:** Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity
- **Bay Area:** Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma
- **Greater Sacramento:** Alpine, Amador, Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba
- **San Joaquin Valley:** Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne
- **Southern California:** Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura

SAHO ICU bed % available as of December 6, 2020 for the 5 regions:

Northern California	26.5%
Bay Area	24.1%
Greater Sacramento	18.2%
San Joaquin Valley	6.6%
Southern California	10.3%

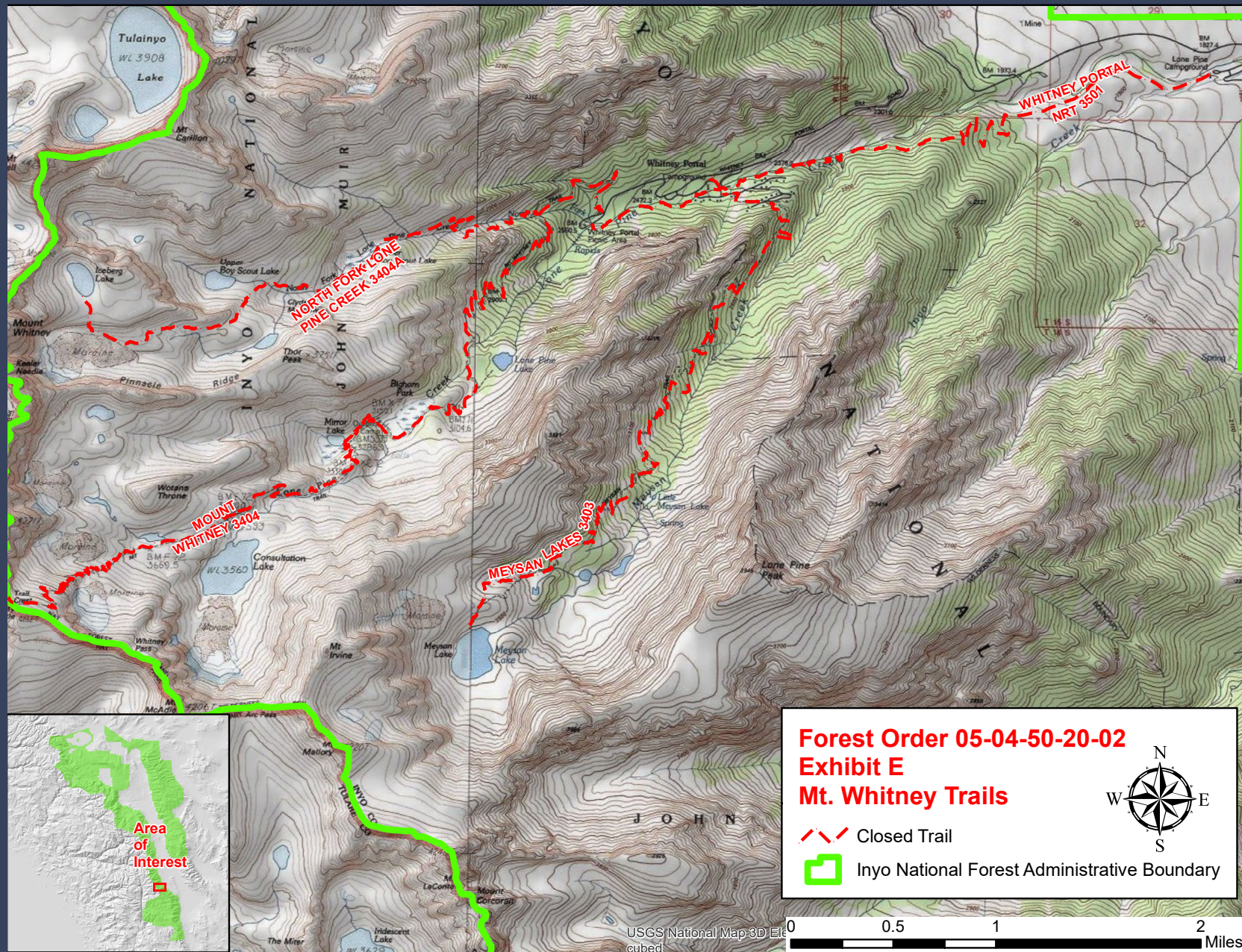
For regions under 15%, the Regional Stay Home Order goes into effect Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 11:59 PM.



California Stay at Home Order – *Reverse Alphabetical Order*

- **Mono County – Southern California Region**
 - *“Emergency Operations Center (EOC)” – As Available*
- **Mammoth Resorts – Mammoth Mountain, June Mountain**
 - *Update as available*
- **Inyo County – Southern California Region**
 - *“Emergency Operations Center (EOC)” – As Available*
- **Alpine County – Greater Sacramento Region**
 - *“Emergency Operations Center (EOC)” – As Available*
- **U.S. Forest Service**
 - *Direction from Region 5 and/or Region 4*

FLASHBACK: ESSRP Special Meeting - March 20, 2020



- **Review proposed “Inyo NF Closures” with Inyo NF Staff**
- **Regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)**
- **Messaging with a Regional Voice**

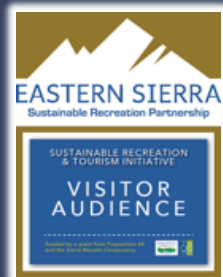
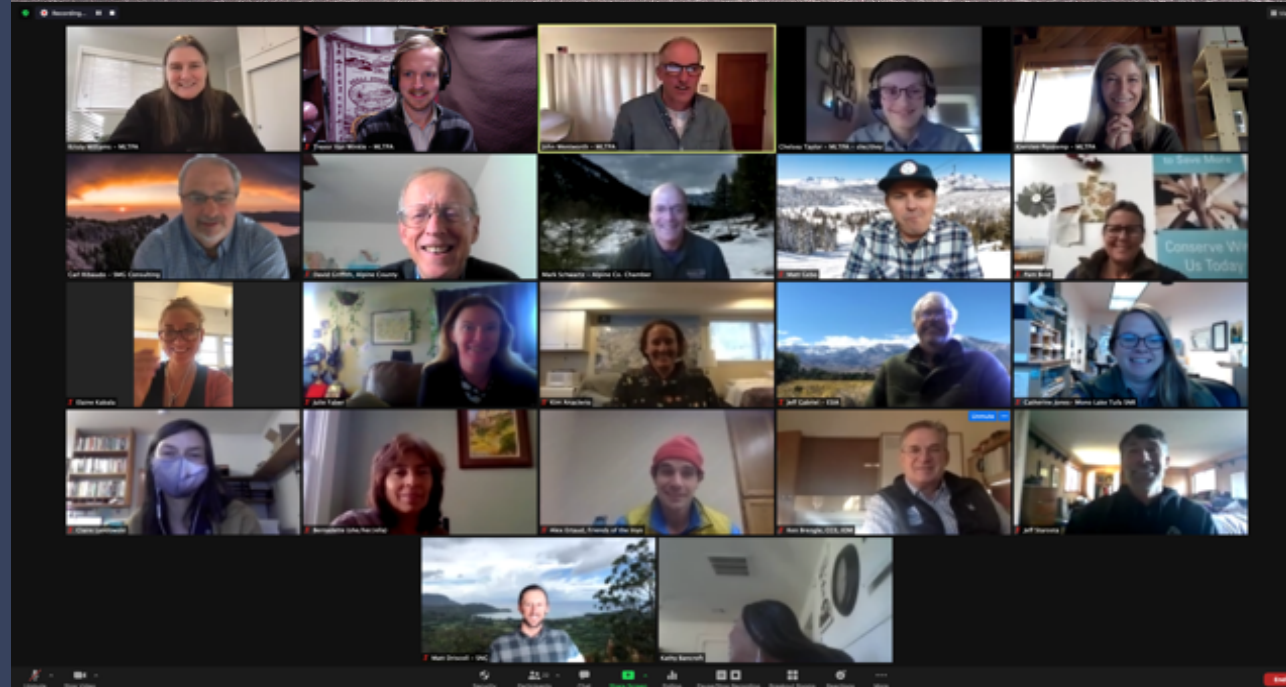
- **Review proposed “Inyo NF Closures” with Inyo NF Staff**
 - *These proposed closures would be in addition to “Developed Rec Site Closures” that are already in effect from Region 5*
- **Regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)**
 - *Mono County + Inyo County + Alpine County*
 - *Mono County Board of Supervisors and Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting this Wednesday for joint policy discussion*
- **Messaging with a Regional Voice**

FLASHBACK: ESSRP Special Meeting - March 20, 2020

Alabama Hills Stewardship Group
Alpine County
Alpine County Chamber
Bishop Climbers Coalition
City of Bishop
Bishop Visitor Bureau
Bishop Chamber of Commerce
Bureau of Land Management
California State Parks
Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra
Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps
Eastern Sierra Four Wheel Drive Club
Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association
Friends of the Inyo
High Sierra Energy Foundation
Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
Inyo County
Inyo National Forest
LA Department of Water & Power
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Mammoth Lakes Recreation
Mammoth Lakes Tourism
Mammoth Resorts (Mammoth Mountain)
Mono County
Mono Lake Committee
National Park Service
Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)
Town of Mammoth Lakes



FLASHBACK: ESSRP Special Meeting - March 20, 2020



Partner Updates – *Reverse Alphabetical Order*

- Town of Mammoth Lakes
- National Park Service
- Mono County
- LA DWP
- Inyo National Forest, USFS
- Inyo County
- HT National Forest, USFS
- City of Bishop
- CA State Parks
- CALTRANS
- BLM
- Alpine County



“Recreation Stakeholders” + “Projects and Funding”

- **Virtual Project Review Meeting #3 – Dec. 10, 2020 @ 5:30 PM**



“Climate Adaptation and Resilience Assessment”

- “Vulnerability Assessment” – Comments Submitted
- “Natural Capital Assessment – Baseline Assessment Ecosystem Services”
 - First Draft Estimate: \$43.6 to \$190.9 billion on an annual basis



“Visitor Connection Working Group”

- “Building A Voice for the Eastern Sierra: Visitor Connection Package”
- “Visitor Connection Program: Guiding Principles”

IFNF Grant Program



Quantified
Ventures



- “Master Campground Project List” – Analysis Underway
- 4 Month Project extension – Fall 2021



Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership
Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative

Virtual Project Review Meeting #3

December 10, 2020

Sociedad para la recreación sustentable de Eastern
Sierra

Iniciativa de turismo y recreación sustentable

Reunión de revisión del proyecto virtual n.º3

10 de noviembre de 2020



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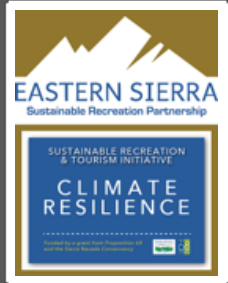


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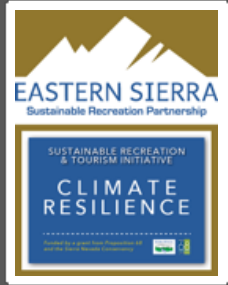


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**EASTERN
SIERRA**

**VISITOR
CONNECTION
PACKAGE**



Funding for this project has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California, under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and in support of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM should:

- Be **reliable, implementable** and **forward thinking**.
- Focus on stewardship education and the celebration of local culture.
- Utilize informed and collaborative decision-making.
- Employ a phased approach to develop tools and capacity.
- Leverage existing communication assets to engage visitors throughout their "sequence of encounter."
- Not compete with existing efforts in the region.

BRAINSTORM EXERCISE 2 RESULTS

MESSAGING THEMES FOR THE EASTERN SIERRA

RESPECT - APPRECIATION - STEWARDSHIP

ESCAPE - ADVENTURE - SURPRISE

MEMORY - TRADITION - CONNECTION

EXPANSIVE - DRAMATIC - TIMELESS

VISUALIZATION EXERCISE RESULTS

ALIGNING IMAGES WITH MESSAGING THEMES

Respect - Appreciation - Stewardship



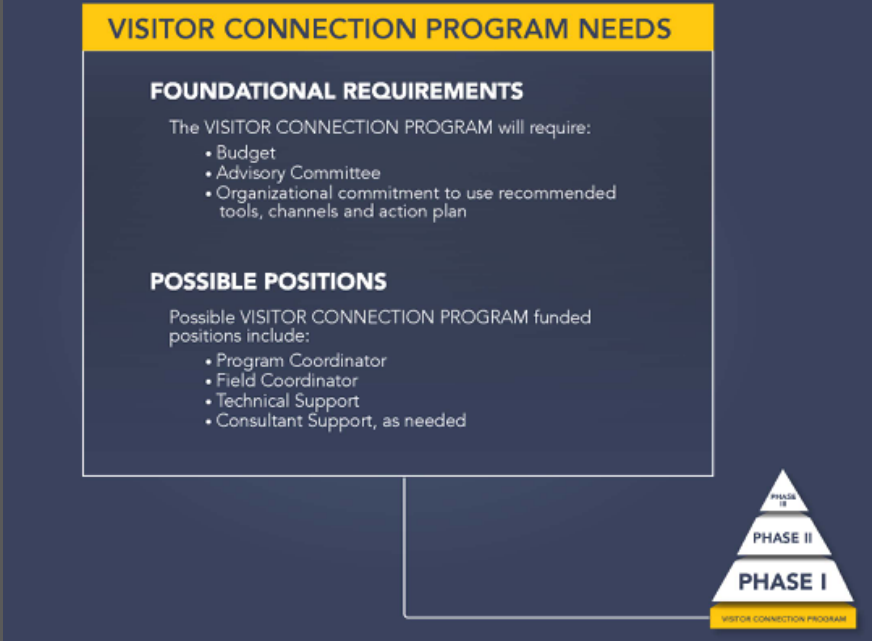
Escape - Adventure - Surprise



Memory - Tradition - Connection



Expansive - Dramatic - Timeless





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Convergence 2021: Building a Portfolio of Projects

Draft Dates for Partner Engagement (ESSRP Meetings 2021)

- January 4 – Regular ESSRP Meeting
- February 1 – “Introducing the Portfolio Approach”
- March 1 – “Visitor Connection Program”
- April 5 – “Climate Adaptation and Resilience Assessment”
- May 3 - “Projects and Funding”
- May / June – Finalize Portfolio + Public Outreach



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff
Subject: Discussion and approval of 2021 ESCOG JPA Meeting Schedule
Prepared on: December 2, 2020
Attachments: Draft ESCOG JPA 2021 Meeting Schedule

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (ESCOG JPA) meets on the second Friday of every other month. The meetings are in part scheduled on the second Friday to facilitate participation in Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Meetings, which also fall on the second Friday of the month following the regular ESCOG meeting.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

The proposed meeting schedule for 2021 is included below and also in Attachment A – ESCOG JPA meeting schedule. Please note that as long as the ESCOG JPA meetings continue to be held via Zoom, public access to the meetings in person will be available in the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber, no meetings will be held in the Bishop City Council Chamber while utilizing Zoom.

Friday, February 12	8:30 AM	Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber
Friday, April 9	8:30 AM	Bishop City Council Chamber*
Friday, June 11	8:30 AM	Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber
Friday, August 13	8:30 AM	Bishop City Council Chamber*
Friday, October 8	8:30 AM	Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber
Friday, December 10	8:30 AM	Bishop City Council Chamber*

BUDGET IMPACTS:

There are no budget impacts associated with this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chucla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the ESCOG Board discuss the proposed 2021 meeting schedule, make modifications as needed, and approve.

Attachment A



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS JPA
MEETING SCHEDULE – 2021**

Friday, February 12	8:30 AM	Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber
Friday, April 9	8:30 AM	Bishop City Council Chamber*
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