



## Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) - Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 15, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members Present: Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Members Absent: Board Member Karen Schwartz

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Bob Gardner called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. in the Council Chamber, at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA.

##### 1.1 Request to approve Supervisor Salcido's Remote Participation in the June 15, 2023 ESCOG Meeting Pursuant to AB 2449

Moved by Board Member Stephen Muchovej  
Seconded by Board Member John Wentworth

Approve Supervisor Lynda Salcido's Remote Participation in the June 15, 2023 ESCOG Meeting Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2449.

For (5): Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (2): Chair Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Karen Schwartz

Carried (6 to 0)

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Bob Gardner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments given at this time.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth  
Seconded by Board Member Chris Bubser

Approve the Consent Agenda.

For (6): Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (2): Chair Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Karen Schwartz

Carried (6 to 0)

4.1 **Approve the minutes of the April 21, 2023 Special Meeting**

4.2 **Approve Modification of Amendment USFS Collection Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the United State Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service Inyo National Forest**

5. **POLICY MATTERS**

5.1 **Receive a Presentation from Patricia Robertson, Executive Director, Mammoth Lakes Housing**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Mammoth Lake Housing (MLH) Executive Director Patricia Robertson announced that the MLH Board of Directors had recently approved a name change from MLH to Eastern Sierra Community Housing (ESCH), and outlined the information in the Eastern Sierra Community Housing Regional Opportunities PowerPoint presentation.

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

Board Member Stephen Muchovej left the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

The Board went into recess at 10:13 a.m.

**5.2 Receive a Presentation from Neil Peacock, Supervising Transportation Planner, Caltrans, Regarding Submitting a Reconnecting Communities/Highways to Boulevards grant via the ESCOG**

The Board reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Caltrans District 9 Supervising Transportation Planner Neil Peacock discussed the Reconnecting Communities: Highway to Boulevards (RC:H2B) Pilot Program which would be launched by Caltrans and requested that the ESCOG serve as the lead applicant with Caltrans District 9 as a co-applicant for a RC:H2B grant. Mr. Peacock introduced Caltrans Active Transportation Specialist Andrew **Bissould (SP?)** and Regional Funding Specialist Catherine Carr and reported that they would be available to assist Executive Director Elaine Kabala with the proposal.

Staff was given direction to work with Mr. Peacock and his team to develop a concept proposal and budget and to present that to the Board for consideration at the August meeting.

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

**5.3 Receive an Update Regarding the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) from Stacy Corless, Government and Community Affairs Director, Sierra Business Council**

Sierra Business Council (SBC) Government and Community Affairs Director Stacy Corless Sierra Business Council introduced Eastside Coordinator Magnolia Barra, and gave an update on the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) program. Ms. Corless requested that the ESCOG provide formal comments in support of the CERF program, and spoke about the High Road Transition Collaborative (HRTC).

Ms. Barra provided an update on the efforts that she and Executive Director Elaine Kabala had collaborated on to date related to CERF, and discussed the upcoming work they would focus on.

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

Board Member John Wentworth left the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

**5.4 Ratify Agreement with the Sierra Business Council for the Purpose of the Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF)**

This item was taken out of order.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Legal Counsel John-Carl Vallejo and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth  
Seconded by Board Member Trina Orrill

Approve an Agreement between the Sierra Business Council and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments for consulting services for the California Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) as presented.

For (6): Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (2): Chair Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Karen Schwartz

Carried (6 to 0)

**5.5 Approve Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ESCOG Budget**

This item was taken out of order.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Chair Jeff Griffiths joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Board Member Stephen Muchovej requested that a discussion be added to a future meeting to determine equitable contributions from each member agency.

Mono County Finance Director Janet Dutcher discussed the purpose and importance of continued member contributions even though there were excess funds in the budget.

**SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) Executive Director Patricia Robertson discussed the importance of today's conversation around the budget, and

the difference between general funds and grant funds and how they could be used.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Legal Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Ms. Dutcher and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth  
Seconded by Board Member Trina Orrill

Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ESCOG Budget as presented.

For (7): Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (1): Board Member Karen Schwartz

Carried (7 to 0)

**5.6 Approve Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding and Authorize the Chair to Sign**

This item was taken out of order.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

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

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth  
Seconded by Vice Chair Bob Gardner

Authorize the Chair to Sign the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

For (7): Chair Jeff Griffiths, Vice Chair Bob Gardner, Board Member Trina Orrill, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Chris Bubser, and Board Member Stephen Muchovej

Absent (1): Board Member Karen Schwartz

Carried (7 to 0)

**5.7 Update from Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong**

Eastern Sierra Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the ESCOG Broadband Update PowerPoint Presentation.

There was discussion between Mr. Armstrong and members of the Board.

**5.8 Executive Director Update Report**

Executive Director Elaine Kabala provided an update on the following: Sustainable Recreation Ecosystem Management Program (SREMP) work, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) grant funding changes, the Towns to Trails program, the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning (BIRPI) project, and Comprehensive the Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

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

**6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS**

Chair Jeff Griffiths reported that the Towns to Trails kick off was successful, and said that the Bishop Rodeo was fantastic.

Board Member Trina Orrill said that she would attend the rodeo tonight after the North Round Valley Bridge officially opened.

Board Member Chris Bubser reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Council approved the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) last night for a five year term.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

**7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

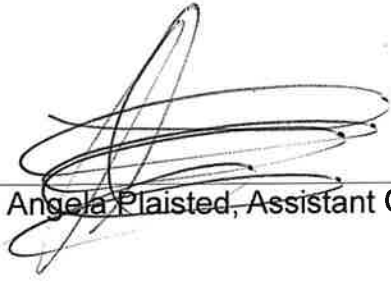
Board Member Chris Bubser requested a discussion regarding the ESCOG drafting a letter in opposition to Senate Bill 584 (SB 584).

Vice Chair Bob Gardner requested that an item for additional discussion about the budget be added to a future agenda.

There was discussion between Executive Director Elaine Kabala, Legal Counsel John-Carl Vallejo and members of the Board.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and horizontal strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk