



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

### Minutes of Special Meeting

July 8, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members Present: Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, Board Member Lynda Salcido

Members Absent: Board Member Karen Schwartz, Board Member Stacy Corless

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

Chair John Wentworth called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. in the Council Chamber at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z. Members of the Board attended the meeting via videoconference.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County of Inyo Director of Information Services Scott Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments given at this time.

#### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Board Member Lynda Salcido  
Seconded by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Approve Consent Agenda.

For (5): Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Abstain (1): Chair John Wentworth

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stacy Corless

Carried (5 to 0)

- 4.1 **Approve a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Regarding the Need for Continued Virtual Meetings to Protect Public Health – AB 361**
- 4.2 **Approve Letter of Support for Application #1424 "Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) Support"**

5. **POLICY MATTERS**

- 5.1 **Adoption of a Resolution to Re-establish the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium and Direction to Submit an Application for Funding to the California Advanced Services Fund Consortia Grant Account**

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

**SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:**

County of Inyo Director of Information Services Scott Armstrong spoke about the hiring procedure for a Regional Broadband Coordinator for the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium if the Consortium were to be re-established.

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

Moved by Board Member Bob Gardner

Seconded by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

1) Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Approving a Program of Work for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Related to the Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium; 2) Direct the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments/Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium to apply for broadband consortia funding allocated under the California Advanced Services Fund, and 3) Authorize the Chair to Sign the California Advanced Services Fund application package on behalf of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments/Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stacy Corless

Carried (6 to 0)

**5.2 Approval of a Collective Partnership Agreement Letter to Participate in the California Community Economic Resiliency Fund Process**

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 Bob Gardner

Seconded by Board Member Jim Ellis

Approve the California Community Economic Resiliency Fund (CERF) Collective Partnership Agreement Letter and authorize staff to submit it to the Sierra Business Council (SBC).

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stacy Corless

Carried (6 to 0)

**5.3 Discussion and Direction to Submit a Proposal Application for the Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaborative Program**

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 Jeff Griffiths

Seconded by Board Member Bob Gardner

Authorize staff to submit a Proposal Application for the Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaborative Program.

For (6): Chair John Wentworth, Vice Chair Dan Totheroh, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Jim Ellis, and Board Member Lynda Salcido

Absent (2): Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Stacy Corless

Carried (6 to 0)

## 6. **BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS**

Board Member Lynda Salcido reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council had approved the Limelight Hotel moving forward, approved the agreement between TOML and the Mammoth Lakes Foundation (MLF) to move ahead with the Town assuming control of the theater to assist with it starting to operate again, and approved an agreement for land planning to develop a childcare center, dog park, and possibly an area for snow storage.

Chair John Wentworth said that the Mono County partners would need to check in on the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) conversation and get something in place with the MMSA Base Lodge Redevelopment to get money for housing. Chair Wentworth said The Parcel project was moving forward and that the 4th of July parade was a success.

Board Member Jim Ellis reported that a representative from Frontier presented at a recent Bishop City Council meeting to explain what they were doing in the Bishop area to improve broadband service. Mr. Ellis discussed the need for Bishop to participate in the IMBC in addition to the Frontier improvements. He spoke about the recent League of California Cities meeting in Mammoth and said that he was impressed by the model of The Parcel project that had been presented and said he would like additional information about it.

Ms. Salcido reported that Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) had recently purchased the Sierra Lodge and would convert it into thirty-six 36 units for employee housing.

Vice Chair Dan Totheroh said that he was excited about the Frontier project in Bishop and said that it would exclude the Sierra Foothill Communities.

Board Member Bob Gardner reported that the Mono County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS) approved a temporary continuation of cannabis delivery in Mono County, and suggested that there be a regionwide review of all the cannabis policies across the four jurisdiction to see what each agency was doing.

Mr. Gardner said that the MCBOS had approved a moratorium on Short Term Rentals (STRs) and said staff was looking at ways to provide exemptions, for example, if someone were to build two workforce housing units, they could receive approval for a STR in the County, not in the Town. He said that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) decision regarding Keep Long Valley Green had been reversed, and announced that there would be a Children's Summit in Mono County on July 13th, and said that a Children's Well-being dashboard had been created on the Mono County website and said that he would like to expand similar programs throughout the region.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths said that the Children's Summit sounded great and requested additional information from Mr. Gardner about how it was set up. Mr. Griffiths reported that Inyo County had lost several childcare slots over the past six months to a year leaving few options for parents to place their children and said through First 5 they were focusing on developing and retaining childcare slots. He expanded on the details of what Frontier had offered with regard to broadband service in the greater Bishop, greater Big Pine and greater Lone Pine areas and reported that they were currently hanging fiber wires for the project and said that Suddenlink had asked for a meeting with the County the day after Frontier had presented and wanted to work with them. Mr. Griffiths said that Inyo County put in rules for the property tax appeal process and suggested that a regional appeal board between Inyo and Mono Counties with a more citizen based model would be more appropriate rather than having the Board of Supervisors sit as the Assessment Appeal Board.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

## **7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was discussion between Executive Director Elaine Kabala and members of the Board.

The next regular meeting of the ESCOG will include a Resolution for Economic Development, representation from the local City Administrative Officers (CAOs) regarding staffing and to ensure that the ESCOG has capacity for the CERF and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) programs.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.



Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk