



## **EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)**

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### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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**Friday, August 9, 2019**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Bishop City Council Chambers  
301 West Line Street  
Bishop, California**

#### **Board Members**

Mono County Supervisor  
Stacy Corless – Vice 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 –Chair

Inyo County Supervisor  
Dan Totheroh

City of Bishop Councilmember  
Jim Ellis

City of Bishop Councilmember  
Karen Schwartz

#### **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 760-965-3603. 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.

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Jeff Griffiths called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Karen Schwartz.

## **3. Roll Call**

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

- 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.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler announced the multi-day affordable housing design workshop for The Parcel project August 20<sup>th</sup> – August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Mammoth and invited the members of the Board to attend.

## **5. Approve the Minutes of June 14, 2019**

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member John Wentworth, seconded by Board Member Dan Totheroh, and carried by a 6-0 voice vote to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2019 Board Meeting.

## **6. Status and action regarding amended Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as a separate Legal Entity from its Member Agencies**

Chair Jeff Griffiths requested that a special meeting be held in September when all of the ESCOG Board Members would be available for this discussion.

Board Member John Wentworth suggested a special meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> in Mammoth Lakes, after the ESTA meeting.

Chair Griffiths reported that the Bishop City Council took up approval of the Joint Powers of Authority Agreement. Mr. Griffiths said there had been questions and concerns brought up by a member of the Bishop City Council which were being reviewed the member agencies' legal counsels to see if they could be incorporated into the agreement.

Board Member Karen Schwartz recommended that the City Administrators, City Managers and some of the legal team attend the special meeting to avoid any miscommunication between them and ESCOG.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

CONSENSUS: It was agreed upon to schedule a special meeting of the ESCOG in Mammoth Lakes, Suite Z on September 13, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

## **7. Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)**

Board Member John Wentworth gave an update on the ESSRP. Mr. Wentworth reported that he went to Alpine County and gave a presentation regarding the ESSRP and said that they were very enthusiastic to join the ESSRP. He discussed the process involved for them to join and said Bishop and Inyo County can do the same if desired. Mr. Wentworth also said that a grant application had been submitted to the National Park Service for the Recreation Trails and Conservation Systems Grant which would involve the six national parks units in the region. He said that the decision about the grant would be made in late August or September and said that the funds would be handled internally within the Park Service not given directly to the applicant.

Chair Jeff Griffiths reported that Inyo County was ready to engage the Forest Service and said there had been an initial meeting with United States Forest Service and representatives from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

Board Member Karen Schwartz asked if Mammoth Lakes had a staff person dedicated to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant.

### **SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:**

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Dan Holler reported that the Town had accepted the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant. Mr. Holler stated that different components of the grant would be managed by several subcontractors and described the proposed process.

Chair Jeff Griffiths explained how the SNC Grant would work and the types of projects that could be funded with it.

Board Member John Wentworth outlined financial details of the SNC Grant. He presented the PowerPoint presentation regarding the purpose, history and future of the ESSRP that he had presented to Alpine County. Mr. Wentworth offered that the members of the Board could use this presentation to present information about the ESSRP to their constituents.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

**8. Update on the Town of Mammoth Lakes Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism and Recreation Grant**

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item #7.

Chair Griffiths called a recess at 9:29 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:37 a.m.

**9. Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport**

Inyo County Chief Administrative Officer Clint Quilter gave an update on the Bishop Airport improvement bids that were out, and said they were given a 10% increase on their grant with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Quilter said they were commencing design on the runway rehabilitation for their long runway which is expected to take place next summer. He reported that environmental studies had been started.

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

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler gave an update on the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Mr. Holler reported that the segmented circle project would start next week. He said that the environmental assessments had been initiated for the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) work and that the updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP) had started. He also said that they were anticipating a visit from the FAA in late September.

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

**10. Update and discussion on General Aviation and Commercial Air Service plans for Mammoth Yosemite and Bishop Airports**

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) Executive Director John Urdi discussed the history of the air subsidy program, and gave an update on current air service plans. Mr. Urdi said that MLT was looking for a partnership with Bishop Airport to achieve reliable and consistent air service as well as the ability to land larger planes. He discussed how the TBID worked and the benefits it provided. He talked about the commercial airlines that currently fly into the Mammoth Yosemite Airport in addition to charter service provided by JetSuiteX and how the contracts for air subsidies work between Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, MLT and the airlines.

Mr. Urdi spoke about expanding their marketing efforts to new markets in the future. He gave information related to TBID funds being used to market and subsidize air service outside of Mammoth Lakes and reported that the MLT had been given an opinion letter from Attorney Michael Colantuono regarding TBID funds being used for air subsidy in Bishop stating that it was an option to do so. He mentioned that the MLT Board voted to continue to attempt to get an Attorney General opinion letter regarding the use of TBID funds at Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport. Mr. Urdi discussed rental car options available in Bishop and Mammoth and spoke of efforts to increase services in both locations. He asked if the ESCOG would be able to request an opinion letter to the Attorney General on MLT's behalf.

#### **SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Quilter stated that a county would have to request the Attorney General letter, and that demonstration of unsettled law would be required in order for the County to send the letter to the Attorney General. He said the County Board of Supervisors would then make the final decision as to whether or not they would proceed with the request. He also stated that Inyo County would not bear the risk of a negative Attorney General's opinion letter alone.

There was discussion between Mr. Urdi, Mr. Quilter and members of the Board.

### **11. Board and Council Reports**

Board Member Dan Totheroh reported that he attended a sustainable ground water meeting regarding the State determining whether Inyo County would remain a medium priority or go to a low priority. He said if they were moved to a low priority they would not have to take any action; if they were moved to a medium priority they would need to get a plan in place. He reported that the Board decided not to discuss this matter until the State made a decision, although most of the Board Members were ready to get started on a plan regardless.

Board Member Jim Ellis said there had been some strategic planning meetings within his Council regarding grant funding from Caltrans and Proposition 68 to look at housing options such as mixed-use zones and their downtown area, and how to best utilize it. Mr. Ellis said that they had put out RFPs for consulting companies to help them see the bigger picture. He said they were looking at some possible trail work to make Bishop more of a destination. He reported that they were also trying to revise and improve signage, commercial versus residential zoning and design standards. He also said that Bishop's park planning update was in progress.

Board Member Lynda Salcido reported that the focus in Mammoth Lakes was on The Parcel and getting ideas for housing on smaller pieces of land. Ms. Salcido said that The Parcel planning session coming up August 20 - August 23 would be important to move forward. She said that the sidewalk in Mammoth along Main Street was almost finished and looking great. She said the other side of the street would be completed next year. She also noted that the Lakes Basin was impacted with tourists.

Board Member Karen Schwartz reported that Bishop had finalized their purchase agreement for the Silver Peaks project, which was for the development of 72 affordable housing units. Ms. Schwartz said that now it was up to Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) Housing and Planning Director Larry Emerson to find the GAP funding from purchasing the land to getting the money to start the development.

Chair Jeff Griffiths also discussed the Silver Peaks project and various funding options that were available. Mr. Griffiths said Inyo County was working with Inyo Mono Veterans Services, VFW, IMACA, and the City of Bishop to develop approximately 16-18 Veterans' housing units and a Veterans' Services complex across the street from the Silver Peaks project. He reported that the County's consolidated office building was breaking ground soon.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

## **12. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

September 13<sup>th</sup> special meeting:

- Status and action regarding amended Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as a separate Legal Entity from its Member Agencies.

October 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting:

- Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP).
- Update on the Town of Mammoth Lakes Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism and Recreation Grant.
- Update regarding Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport.
- Update and discussion on General Aviation and Commercial Air Service plans for Mammoth Yosemite and Bishop Airports.
- Discussion of issues regarding regional emergency dispatch issues.
- Update from Mono County Information Technology Director Nate Greenberg regarding the close out of the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) Advisory Council.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 to a special meeting on Friday, September 13, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Mammoth Lakes.