



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

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### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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**Friday, October 11, 2019**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber**

**437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z**

**Mammoth Lakes, CA**

\*Vice Chair Stacy Corless will attend via teleconference from the Olympic Village Lodge located at 1901 Chamonix Place, Olympic Village, CA 96146.

#### **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 8:41 a.m.

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Member Lynda Salcido led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **3. Roll Call**

Chair Jeff Griffiths, Board Members Bob Gardner, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth, Dan Tothoroh and Karen Schwartz were present. Vice Chair Stacy Corless participated via teleconference. Board Member Jim Ellis was 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.

There were no comments given at this time.

## **5. Approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2019 regular meeting and September 13, 2019 special meeting.**

It was moved by Board Member Karen Schwartz, seconded by Board Member Bob Gardner and carried by a 7-0 roll call vote to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2019 regular meeting and the September 13, 2019 special meeting.

## **6. Approval of the amended Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as a separate Legal Entity from its Member Agencies and approval of the joint staff report.**

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler presented the previous draft JPA Agreement, the revised draft JPA Agreement, and the draft joint staff report and asked the Board if there were any additional amendments to be made to the agreement or staff report before they were ready to be presented to the member agencies.

There was consensus by the Board to add the following language to the joint staff report:

Members of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments have long recognized that intergovernmental collaboration is critical for the well-being and success of our region. There has not been a formal means through which the four member agencies could work together. Members of the ESCOG unanimously agree that formation of a Joint Powers Authority among the four agencies will create a much-needed vehicle for intergovernmental collaboration.

There was discussion between Mr. Holler, Inyo County Chief Administrative Office Clint Quilter and members of the Board.

It was moved by Board Member Bob Gardner, seconded by Board Member Dan Totheroh, and carried by a 7-0 roll call vote to approve the amended copy of the Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as a separate Legal Entity from its Member Agencies as presented and the joint staff report as amended.

**7. Update on the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP), including Innovative Finance for National Forests.**

Board Member John Wentworth announced that Inyo County voted to join the ESSRP. Mr. Wentworth gave an update on the ESSRP. He discussed the nation-wide Pay For Success program which utilizes funds from private investors. He said the Forest Service was interested in the program, however, they could not apply for the funding directly and were looking for a partner to be the applicant. He said it was possibly something the ESCOG could partner with if they were a JPA.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

**8. Update on the Prop68/Sierra Nevada Conservancy's "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism" Grant, administered by the Town of Mammoth Lakes on behalf of the regional partners**

Mr. Wentworth announced that part two of the kickoff workshop for the grant would be on October 17 in Bishop and gave an update on the grant and the effects of climate change in the region.

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

**9. Update on Air Service and the Mammoth Yosemite Airport and Bishop Airport.**

This item was taken out of order.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler gave an update on the Mammoth Yosemite Airport and said that Air Service plans for this winter were basically the same as last year with regard to flights, and that the winter season will start sometime in early December. Mr. Holler said that he had attended a meeting with representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and San Francisco and Los Angeles regional airport districts. Mr. Holler said that he would work with Chief Administrative Officer Clint Quilter to request a meeting with the subcommittee of the ESCOG in November to discuss air subsidies.

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

Board Member Lynda Salcido left the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

## **10. Board and Council Reports**

Board Member Dan Totheroh reported that he attended a meeting regarding the Owens Valley Sustainable Groundwater Group and said there was complete concurrence at the meeting that the group should move ahead to make sure that they were sustainable independent of whether the State changes their rating priority from the existing medium to low.

Board Member Bob Gardner said that Mono County approved two housing projects: a one unit condo in June Lake that they were working on with Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) and the Davison house location in Mammoth Lakes which would allow for five to six units of affordable housing. Mr. Gardner said that ground was broken in June Lake for an additional five units of workforce housing. He also reported that the new Mono County Civic Center office building in Mammoth should be completed in February or March 2020.

Board Member John Wentworth spoke about The Parcel workshop success on October 9. Mr. Wentworth said that he and Board Member Lynda Salcido would participate in a visioning workshop with Mammoth Resorts and the Alterra Mountain Company. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the email list for the Sustainable Recreation Tourism Initiative. Mr. Wentworth said that he would try attend the California Economic Summit and discussed the Regions Rise Together program. He said that he attended the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area ribbon cutting ceremony.

Board Member Karen Schwartz reported that the City of Bishop appointed Robin Picken as Interim City Administrator. Ms. Schwartz announced that the Chocolate Art Walk in Bishop would take place on October 19.

Chair Griffiths announced that the National Park Service would celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Death Valley National Park this month and said that Inyo County recently celebrated the creation of the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area. Mr. Griffiths gave an update on the Bishop Airport, the Silver Peaks and Veterans Housing projects and the consolidated Inyo County office building project. He said that the City of Bishop was discussing mixed use zoning and spoke about the emergency dispatch regional study. Mr. Griffiths announced that he was appointed to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Homelessness Action Task Force and said that the purpose of the task force was to represent rural areas and local homeless issues.

Vice Chair Corless said that Mono County had voted to designate the second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day and would celebrate it on October 14, 2019. Ms. Corless discussed negative impact of the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

**11. Call for Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Report back and discussion from member agencies to determine if JPA was passed – action item

Update on the Prop 68/Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s “Sustainable Recreation and Tourism” Grant, administered by the Town of Mammoth Lakes on behalf of the regional partners

Update on housing activities from all member agencies

Update on impacts related to Public Safety Power Shutoff events

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in Bishop.