

From: [Matthew Paruolo](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: ESCOG - JPA - Public Comment - April 9, 2021
Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 8:28:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Morning Supervisors and Council Members,

Within the last two weeks I have participated in several inter-agency coordinating meetings including the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (SORC), the regional Dispersed Camping Summit spearheaded by Mono County, and the regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP). The high level of cooperation among agencies and NGOs at these meetings is incredible and inspiring. There were several common themes shared by these collaboratives centered around providing better (and virtual) visitor information services; mitigating the impacts of “van-life” and dispersed camping; the need for more and better information on how to volunteer and recreate responsibly, and the need to provide consistent and accurate information across jurisdictions in real time.

I would just like to acknowledge the work of the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative and in particular, the outcomes of the Visitor Connection working group. The Visitor Connection Working Group was comprised of 28 representatives from regional organizations that worked through several of these complicated issues. The working group convened a series of workshops over 14 months to identify the components of a communications program to articulate a unified voice for the Eastern Sierra rooted in sustainable recreation and stewardship. One desired recommendation of this tract includes building and maintaining a dedicated webpage that visitors can direct to upon their arrival, or in planning their trip to the Eastern Sierra from their place of origin. Much of this information exists on different agency and NGO managed websites, but not in one central and easy to find location. I would like to make the Council aware of the SRTI Visitor Connection Package and recommend the Council consider the benefits of creating a central web-based resource that addresses these common needs. The Visitor Connection Package and outcomes of the Visitor Connection Working Group can be found here:

https://gallery.mltpa.org/704_02_VCP_Collated_FINAL_210222_WEB.pdf

Thank you very much for your time.

Very Respectfully,
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