

County Counsel
Marshall Rudolph

Assistant County Counsel
Stacey Simon

Deputy County Counsels
John-Carl Vallejo
Christian Milovich

**OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNSEL**

Mono County
South County Offices
P.O. BOX 2415

MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA 93546

Telephone
760-924-1700
Facsimile
760-924-1701

Legal Assistant
Jennifer Senior

TO: Mono Basin RPAC

FROM: Marshall Rudolph

DATE: April 29, 2014

RE: Conservation Easement; RPAC comments and recommendation regarding the 75-acre aquaculture area on Conway Ranch

Thank you for your detailed memo to the Board of Supervisors dated April 28, 2014, providing the RPAC's comments and recommendations for the Conway Ranch Conservation Easement as it relates to the 75-acre aquaculture area. As you may know, the County has an internal "working group" for the easement project consisting of two members of the Board of Supervisors - Tim Alpers and Byng Hunt - and two members of County staff - Tony Dublino (previously Dan Lyster) and myself. On behalf of that working group, let me express our sincere appreciation for the considerable time and effort that your RPAC and its subcommittee spent on this matter.

As you are aware, the development of Conway Ranch is a matter of great concern to many residents of the Mono Basin, as well as many Mono County residents, stakeholders and agencies outside of the Mono Basin. Crafting a conservation easement that incorporates all these interests has proven to be a challenging balancing act. The working group and the Eastern Sierra Land Trust have carefully considered your comments and recommendations in creating a draft of the Conservation Easement, and you will find many of your recommendations included. We believe the draft represents an honest and thorough attempt at striking a balance of the numerous interests.

The draft easement, draft management plan, and an executive summary of those documents, will soon be provided to your RPAC and to the entire Board of Supervisors, the Fisheries Commission, the general public, and also to funding entities such as State Parks, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Caltrans. The draft documents can then be revised if necessary based on any feedback received, which may influence issues that are among the RPAC's recommendations. A final version of those documents should then be ready for consideration and possible approval by the Board

of Supervisors and the Eastern Sierra Land Trust in June, consistent with the July 1st deadline specified by the Caltrans MOU.

Again, thank you for your recommendations and continuing interest in this project.

cc: Tim Alpers
Byng Hunt
Tony Dublino
Eastern Sierra Land Trust