

From: Shannon Glenn <smg93546@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Response to Monitoring List

Hello,

I am a 9-year resident of Mammoth Lakes and I would like to share a very brief and specific opinion and reaction to Mono County being placed on the state monitoring list due to an increase in covid-19 cases.

The spike in covid-19 cases in Mono Co. is in direct correlation with increase tourism to our area. I understand the nuances of being a resort and the possible collapse of our economy. That being said, this isn't just about restaurants! Being on this list prevents our children from returning to school or daycare in person. Encouraging and allowing tourism to high capacity during this time, puts \$\$\$ before health and education. The capacity and size of our town does not provide a safe way for large volumes of visitors, mostly from social (covid hotspot), to be here without increasing the spread of the virus. If we do not put an immediate referendum on town occupancy, our numbers will continue to rise and our outlook for the winter season increasingly grim. Let's think long term!!! This county has worked hard and committed a great deal of funds to improving health and education for those who live. Please, let's not undo this progress to make money this summer.

From: Matthew Williams <thelittlematt@me.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:18 PM

To: Stacy Corless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: Letter to Mono County

Dear Mono County,

This is no longer just about Corona Virus. (Even though cases are through the roof in our area when comparing any recent results to the results before The 4th of July (consider incubation time of 2-14days). 59 ARE NEW POSITIVE CASES AS I AM WRITING THIS SINCE 07/06/2020. There are only 107 positive cases currently. The first reported positive case was 03/21/2020 (125 days ago). That's more than 50% of our cases in not even 3 weeks. AND 53(~50%) NEW CASES IN THE LAST 10 DAYS) The LA Times did us a favor calling Mammoth a "COVID-19 Hotspot". Our community and our forest are really taking the brute force of all these people coming up to visit. I understand we need business and the tourists bring that, but at what cost to our home? I am a service industry employee in Mammoth that is currently seeing ~100-150 people per day if not more. So many people have been wonderful and kind to us, but the amount of disrespect we have received this summer is so largely increased from other years. Lots of people coming up to visit don't have any respect for the land or the people in our community. Just look at how a car was able to park on the backside of Hoseshoe Lake in Mammoth and spend the night there... shouldn't even be possible if someone had been patrolling. Take a drive out to shady rest and see how much trash and little white human waste teepees are just left around. How many people are camping inside town limits illegally? Take a drive out to Sherwin Creek or Shady Rest and you will see. I have seen countless amounts of illegal campfires in plain sight. No one was approached, fined, or even looked at. Not a Ranger to be seen anywhere. So sad to see that our Forest Service is not doing anything about these people disrespecting the land. Are there reasons that they are not enforcing the most important rules that protect our forest and community? (Also I know about the Iris fire, but that was after everything above, so it's not an excuse) As I write this I hear a group of families playing in the pool of my complex. Better yet, they checked into their Vacation Rental no longer than 5 hours after the group before them has left. I want to stay open and stay working, I really do. I enjoy my job and being able to go about my life more normally, but at this point it is getting way too dangerous for our community. I know this is just one voice crying to save our town, but many feel it.

Matt Williams

thelittlematt@me.com

From: Chase Williams <cwilly006@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:12:18 PM

To: bsauser@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov <bsauser@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>;

Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>; lsalcido@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

<lsalcido@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>; jwentworth@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

<jwentworth@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>; choff@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

<choff@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>; kstapp@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

<kstapp@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov>

Subject: Concerned Citizen

Hello All,

First off I wanted to acknowledge how tough times are and how we here in Mono County are experiencing unprecedented difficulties because of the pandemic. I wanted to send an e-mail as I know I and many others in town feel that there has been a complete lack of leadership here in Mammoth Lakes and Mono County in general. This summer we have seen an extreme influx of people to the point where it is even busier than past summers. This is extremely disturbing given the fact that we are in a global pandemic. As locals we have been doing the best we can to deal with this but we are tired and we are fed up with the current state of the town. Problems ranging from illegal camping, illegal fires, crowded trails and lakes, overworked labor pool, businesses having to continually adapt to the pandemic, along with many other problems. In the past 2 weeks we have seen cases start to skyrocket and multiple businesses having to close because of the virus. Managers, business owners, employees and residents in town are beat down and broken with no end in sight. What are you guys doing to address these problems because they aren't going to magically get better on their own. It has been made quite apparent that the only thing that matters in this area is money and tourism while there is a complete lack of regard for the people on the front lines running the town. I know this is a very unique situation but soon we will see our hospitals fill up and we are going to be in a much worse situation that will be even harder to deal with. The people you represent need to see some real leadership and start to address the problems we have of overcrowding. I know everyone wants to make their money this summer but at what cost to the town, environment and people are we ok with this? I really hope to see these issues start to get addressed in upcoming meetings as I can say right now I do not have faith in the future of this town and county.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen

From: Michelle Quirsfeld <mrquirsfeld@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:09 AM

To: Stacy Corless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>; Bob Gardner <bgardner@mono.ca.gov>; Jennifer Kreitz <jkreitz@mono.ca.gov>; Fred Stump <fstump@mono.ca.gov>; John Peters <jpeters@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: COVID Concerns

Dear Mono County Supervisors,

As a resident of Mammoth Lakes, I am very concerned about what is going on here. I understand the need to support our businesses that support local tourism. However, by allowing an uncontrolled influx of visitors, we have essentially forced our local schools to stay closed to in seat instruction.

As you know, our infection rate is high and continues to surge. I would like to see a limit on lodging (campsites too). I understand that by limiting campsites, this could lead to more of an issue for dispersed camping. I don't see enough regulation anywhere and it's scary and disheartening (I know this is not a fault of our own).

The fire department has been busier than ever putting out campfires. People are not following the rules, so we need to do better. I am concerned that if we keep up on this trend, something catastrophic could happen.

I don't have the answers. I appreciate all that you have done on the messaging to 'stay safe to stay open.' More needs to be done before a more official shut down comes our way.

I would like to see a focus on our local kids. By bringing the infection rates down, possibly by limiting visitation, we could get them back in seat.

Thank you,
Michelle Quirsfeld

From: Darcy Ellis <dellis@inyocounty.us>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:03 AM

To: Dan Totheroh <dtotheroh@inyocounty.us>; Jeff Griffiths <jgriffiths@inyocounty.us>; Mark Tillemans <mtillemans@inyocounty.us>; Matt Kingsley <mkingsley@inyocounty.us>; Rick Pucci <supervisor.pucci@gmail.com>

Cc: Clint Quilter <cquilter@inyocounty.us>; Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: Constituent Concern

Gentlemen,

Yesterday afternoon a resident named Trudy called to express concern about Forest Service restrooms being closed at locations that are being overwhelmed by visitors (Convict Lake and June Lake, for example). She believes this is creating a public health hazard because now people are defecating and urinating all over the place. She hopes the Board can urge the USFS to reconsider this.

She didn't want to leave her full name or number.

I am cc'ing the Mono County Clerk so that she can share with her Board as well.

Darcy

From: jennifer tubbs <luvyourmoto@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:48 PM

To: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: Unacceptable amount of tourist traffic infecting our local population

The amount of tourists in this town is absolutely unacceptable and unfair to our year round town residents! You all keep focusing on the restaurant sectors as the problem. But the real problem is the amount of unnecessary tourists invading our towns and infecting our residents and trashing our sacred lands.

According to the state guidelines all rentals are supposed to be minimized In order to prevent Covid infection. Instead our towns and counties are seeing unprecedented occupancy rates. I have lived in mammoth for 46 years and have never ever seen this many people in town. This is unacceptable amidst a global pandemic. Something has to be done to stop this unacceptable amount of tourist traffic. They are literally infecting our base population the people who keep this town running. And they are literally trashing our forests and towns. Nightly rentals need to be stopped or severely cut down. There is nobody regulating the nightly rental businesses and that is clearly apparent !!!! Stop putting our locals lives at risk for the greedy nightly rental business!!!

From: Lynne Greer <lgreer395@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:29 AM
To: Stacy Corless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>
Cc: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Crowds

I have been at June Lake Junction for 20 years. I have tried tirelessly to get some help from the Forest Service, state, and county to work together in the facilitation of needs of visitors to our area. I have always said, it does not matter your choice of recreation, all people need water, trash receptacles, bathrooms, and gas.

Mono County has been promoting this area through your tourism department for years and successfully I might add. Bishop chamber has done the same. Not to mention the impact of social media.

We are a tourist destination, and always have been. I grew up here, my parents owned a resort so I have basically been watching recreationists and vacationers my whole life. It is disheartening to see people so disrespectful of our lands and private property. We will never change the behavior of people.

The impact of the lands is great and I know that you are under tremendous pressure to close this area in order to protect. These are public lands and you can't lock people out. We are defined as a tourist destination and I don't see it changing. So please, start listening to your businesses that have the boots on the ground serving these visitors.

The loud crowd of close it to all but locals is selfish and the locals do not own this public land. I do not know the solution, however, I have offered to match dumpster to dumpster. I have asked the state, county and FS to match me. Same for porta potties. I have been picking up campsters trash for a very long time and human waste behind my store in my yard. This is not new. Yes, Covid has brought everything to a whole new level.

I don't know about other businesses as I can only speak for myself, but I could use a little encouragement on doing the best we can to be safe and be open. We don't need people telling on us and there is not enough enforcement on the planet to control all this. I cannot work any more or any harder than I already am. It is very discouraging to not even be able to get a hold of anyone at the Forest Service who is responsible for land management. They are broke and do not have staff.

I would like to see the Sustainable Recreation and tourism initiative put that money to use on building bathrooms and trash containers. We know what we need, we don't need to collaborate and have meetings.

Look forward to being a part of the solution because of where I sit. On the corner of 395. Please come visit.

Lynne Greer
June Lake Junction

From: p bear <pbeartoo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Overcrowding at area resorts

To Mono County Supervisors,

I moved to Mammoth in 1977. 43 yrs ago. My daughter was raised in June lake and I now live in Bishop. I am APPALLED at what is going on in the eastern Sierras. What is going on now did not happen overnight, I've been watching the onslaught of tourists for about the last 5yrs. You promote, promote, promote, but what are you doing about enforcing regulations, laws and limiting the amount of people who are DESTROYING our wilderness. I see it everywhere and I saw it before this summer. This summer has been a disaster, the icing on the cake, but we certainly have been working up to this. This can't go on like this. The summer of 2018 put my daughter and her husband over the edge. The daughter who was born here, grew up here and lived in mammoth. Worked for over 10 yrs as a patroller on mammoth mountain. Had her blasting license, she loved it here. When they could not go do anything on their days off because too many people (like paddle boarding up at lakes basin, have a nice relaxing day off; yea right) they packed up and bought a house in another state and moved. She was SICK of tourists and that was in 2018. GET RID OF ML TOURISM AND BRING STEVE SEARLES BACK. Mammoth needs Steve, we don't need to be spending money on disrespectful, ungrateful, idiots who are destroying our beautiful back yard.

Anyway, it's happening in Bishop and Inyo county too. But, living in Bishop you see all the people driving through our town. I don't even go out on Sundays because of all the traffic. I don't think many locals do!!

Thank you for your time,
Panda Kilminster

From: Corinne Brown <Corinne@designbdg.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Letter from Corinne Brown

Dear Supervisors,

I am sending a letter I wrote to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council, as Stacey has requested that community members share some thoughts with solutions. My topic is how the MLT could be better utilized to help with current problems, in light of their recent \$5.8 million dollar appropriation. I also strongly believe that camping privileges need to be reduced county wide. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Warm Regards,

Corinne Brown, ASID

Principal  Brown Design Group

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July 27, 2020

I Set out to offer my opinion to the Town Council Members after reading Byng Hunts letter to the Sheet. His letter struck me as refreshing, whereas before the Covid era it may have sounded NIMBYish. Right now, it seems that opinions and ideas are important input for the Council, which is having to shoulder so much responsibility for guiding us through this nightmare. Let me say THANK YOU and that I am deeply grateful to all of you. This is not a letter of complaint. This is one more opinion to set upon your scales and weigh.

It is interesting to me that my thought about the recent MLT budget appropriation is not original. I see in The Sheet that Ted Carlton has already jumped on the decision. The Council has asked MLT for a promise of more destination management/Covid outreach. I am glad to hear that, and I hope that it will be more than a promise. It would make sense that an existing entity, that is well endowed, organized, has strong leadership and good data collection is poised to take on some of the responsibility overload that the Council has been shouldering. There may be a contract to provide certain services, but, like everything else in our world, it is doubtlessly no longer relevant. It is irrefutable that the world, including our corner of it, has changed and will never be the same. The current condition is one that will likely persist for at least the next year, probably for the full four years of the contract. People will come here precisely because Mammoth is IN the U.S. and IN California and the likelihood of travel more far afield has been reduced, both by the threat of disease and the decline of the airline industry that is on the horizon. People will come. It is HOW they will be organized when they get here that is important.

I am sure that the lodging industry, which also involves so many other industries in our town, does not want to be diminished. If the MLT has truly strong data, there should be a way to regulate the percentages of allowable visitation, based on what the Covid dictates are. Where I believe we need to find regulation immediately is in terms of outdoor visitation, such as camping which has been a very hot topic with locals as we see the land around us trampled and destroyed. Could the amount of camping legally available be reduced? Can the Town mandate such a thing within Covid compliance. I realize there are limitations with the Federal government, but is there any chance of negotiation? There seems to be no enforcement of even what rules do exist. I could see the MLT taking this on. This would be an immediate salve to the local population and while it is sad to take away the wilderness experience from visitors, the fact is that the type of visitation they represent does not contribute to the local economy in the same way as if those people were using lodging facilities. The MLR says it would take \$50,000 to get an army of people to clean up and offer a presence. That amount hardly seems a problem in light of the \$5.8 million that the MLT has, with no need to advertise to bring people here, not to mention that the "army" would create local jobs. Which brings me to my confusion



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over having MLR and MLT. Is there overlap? I think their respective missions need to be redefined, which sounds simple, but I am sure it is not. However, these are drastic times and require more drastic measures.

The other bugaboo to our local economy is the Air B&B phenomena. While it has affected workforce housing and been a topic of great concern over the last several years, it is now a bigger problem because it is more difficult to regulate and keep us in Covid compliance. There are so many of these rentals that are being done illegally. Couldn't the MLT take charge of this? I realize we do not want to be known as a punitive community but taking enforcement out of the hands of the MLPD or Forest Service may seem less offensive, if the MLT is given the power to enforce and fine. And then there is Steve Searles. I see more value to his services than ever, given our rampant outdoor problems. Could he work under the auspices of the MLT? This is out of the box and probably there are legal issues and many things that I am unaware of, but I am proposing that out of the box thinking is what we need. The MLT could be made more useful during the current over-run, since we do not need advertisement to bring people here. The MLT could be more powerful, with Town oversight, and help to re-educate visitors. A lot needs to be explained these days. I think it is far more damaging to have visitors come here and be disappointed because there is only chaos and degradation. I know we all want the best for our home. Thank you for being the ones to do the hard work.

Sincerely,

Corinne Brown

From: Judy Burgenbauch <jborgenbauch@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 1:53 PM

To: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>

Subject:

Dear Mono County Board of Supervisors, First off...thank you for your public service during this difficult time. I applaud you for stepping up to help our community. I am sending this email to share a few suggestions.

The people are definitely here!!! My worries about the virus are now being matched with my worries about the environment around our community. So many of our visitors have never been to Mammoth before or gone camping anywhere. I am asking that the Town shifts its focus from advertising for more tourists to instead focusing on teaching them how to act in the mountains. Yes, I have seen the ad in The Sheet and the "pledge" on Visit Mammoth page...but I do not think those instructions are clear and straight forward enough. ("Know before you go" ...pretty darn vague!)

These are my suggestions:

1) Create a few positions of Ambassadors for Mammoth Lakes. They could physically visit people dispersed camping behind Shady Rest, off the Loop Road, or anywhere else people are camping. Their job would be to educate our visitors since many of them will be returning year after year. Let's jump on it this year so maybe the impact will be less next year. Frame the conversation with, "We know you love Mammoth now that you have visited it. We'd love your help in protecting it for future generations."

2) Teach the campers how to "poop in the forest." I think many of them don't know that pooping in the forest and sticking a piece of toilet paper on top of it is NOT OKAY! (They wouldn't want me doing that in their back yards!) Have the ambassadors pass out small shovels with clear directions for burying poop 6 inches down. Put more porta-potties in heavily used areas so people would have the convenience of using them.

3) Trash is a HUGE problem. Put more dumpsters in heavily used areas. Make public where these dumpsters are, how to use them and the importance of keeping the lids closed to protect our wildlife. Be specific in your directions instead of "Respect our Wildlife."

4) Teach our visitors exactly where they are allowed to have fires (Campgrounds where they have to pay to stay.) and how to put the fires out...dead out! Fine people who are having campfires outside of established campgrounds.

5) Enforce illegal parking. People are parking anywhere they want! It doesn't take long for word to get out about where not to park when tickets are being given.

The tourists are here, so now it is time to educate them! Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Judy Burgenbauch

From: Sasha Radcliffe <sasharadcliffe@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 3:34 PM

To: Shannon Kendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>; clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Cc: arasmada@m5group.com; Stacy Corless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>

Subject: Open Letter to Governor Newsom regarding Mammoth Lakes and Mono County

Dear Mammoth Lakes Board of Supervisors and Town Council:

We would like to share with you a letter we sent to Governor Newsom via email and Facebook below. We hope that you take our points heavily into consideration.

Thank you,

Sasha Radcliffe De-Silva and Sarah McConnell,

Local Residents and Families of Mammoth Lakes.

Dear Governor Newsom,

The beautiful tourist destination town of Mammoth Lakes nestled in Mono County, CA is in dire need of your attention. Far larger counties in California have been given considerable attention, LA, OC, and larger surrounding counties, leaving Mono County and our little community to fend for ourselves with no leadership. We are a tourist destination, but we have minimal resources. Mammoth Lakes has a population of 8,076. Mammoth Lakes Hospital has 17 beds and only 4 ventilators. The Los Angeles Times recently published an article about the crippling rise in our COVID cases that were clustered in our local restaurants. Los Angeles County, Orange County and larger surrounding counties were restricted for the 4th of July, Mono County was not. In fact, it was encouraged by Sunset magazine and other sources as a destination for "social distancing 4th of July". Since the 4th of July our COVID numbers have tripled from 43 to 125 positive and climbing with 400 tests pending as of yesterday July 28. In the very same LA Times article the author offered intentionally misleading information designed to show a false sense of Mono County having a handle on the issue. The statement alluded to the ease in which our hospital is able to handle our surge in cases stating we have "at least 75% of ventilators are available." This is true. One of our four ventilators was in use at the time of this article. This is dangerously misleading, and certainly irresponsible journalism. We are not prepared to handle a surge of any nature and we desperately need a call to action. We are asking that if the decision is made to close LA County and surrounding counties please included Mono County as well.

Surges in COVID are forcing our small businesses to close, they are the heart and soul of our Community and we are concerned we will not make it through this without your intervention. Businesses that barely survived the first shut down will find it almost impossible to resurface without help. We are drowning in the sea of tourists that come more and more every day and deface our beautiful land. They are illegally camping, starting illegal campfires, which pose a danger to our National Forest and our town. In addition, entire families and groups are out of doors walking along the street, running along the trails, etc., where contact with someone is inevitable and not wearing any protection and there is no enforcement in this regard.

Our Town is lacking enforcement and leadership and local public officials Mono County Board of Supervisors refuse to help. We are asking for your help.

Please just look at our numbers, they are startling. We beg of you, if the decision is made to lock down LA, Orange and surrounding counties, please, close Mono County. Thank you for your leadership of our great state. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,

Sasha Radcliffe-De Silva and Sara McConnell