

May 19, 2020
Regular Meeting

Item # 7a
(Regular Agenda)

CAO

Additional Documents:

**COVID-19 Update – Written Public
Comments Submitted and Read into
Record by Clerk**

BRIDGEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 541 Bridgeport, CA 93517 (760) 932-7500 www.bridgeportcalifornia.com

Mono County Board of Supervisors,

The Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce urges you to please move forward with the writing of a letter to DFW to open fishing ASAP, a letter to the State to move into extended stage 2 and the ability to open private campgrounds. This action should also include the encouragement and direction given to federal campgrounds to allow for opening.

Bridgeport as a community needs tourism to survive. We have already experienced a month without our usual tourism and our businesses are suffering. Our business community is ready for tourism and ready to follow state and local guidelines that come with these openings.

Bridgeport and the North County have not seen the Covid19 cases that other places in the county have. Most of our community members get medical services from Nevada and not from the Mammoth hospital which could reduce the impact on our local hospital.

Nevada is just one state that is open and wanting to come and we want to be able to welcome them. Please move forward without delay on opening up our communities.

Sincerely,

Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce

Shannon Kendall

From: Mark Waller <markwaller7@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Shannon Kendall
Subject: Mono county

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As someone who have lived and visited the area over the past 50 years it's time to open the county up. Businesses need tourism to remain alive. If the USFS can open campgrounds in San Diego, Riverside and LA I urge you to vote to get reopened. Recommend the campsites only allow 6 people in a site to avoid overcrowding. That is in the rules that have not been enforced.
Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kimberly Sturm <mkgsturm@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:39 AM
To: Scheereen Dedman <sdedman@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Camping!

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Why can't they open camping in stages? Open it to trailer and motorhomes for a couple of week. No open bathrooms or amenities! Then open to tents at a later time. Bathroom are closed in space where it can be spread. It can be spread through diaherra. I know I will be using my bathroom in my trailer 100% of the time. I know that it is clean and germ free. Please open camping!

Kim Sturm

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Silver Maple Inn <info@silvermapleinn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:51 AM
To: Scheereen Dedman <sdedman@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Special meeting 05/19/20

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a long time resident of Bridgeport (32 years), I am writing to ask you to stop delaying our response to the Governor regarding our readiness to proceed through phase 2. The Board has postponed, procrastinated and delayed any action on this matter. There always seems to be some excuse for your lack of action. As of this morning, 53 of 58 counties have been approved to move further through Phase 2, Mono County has not, since we have not requested our variance yet. What are you waiting for? The perfect opportunity? For the state to come to you? Chairman Corless previously stated she needed "input from Inyo County" before making a decision, well, they have SHOWN you their strategy, as has Alpine County. Our neighbors are moving forward with clear plans for THEIR counties, doing what is best for THEIR counties. It's time for our Board of Supervisors to step up and do what is best for Mono County. Send the variance request, send the request to Fish and Game to open fishing season prior to Memorial Day weekend now! Hundreds of businesses, employees and residents are counting on you to not only represent us, but to stand up for us. We need strong, determined leadership during this crisis, it's time to stop the delays and providing excuses for inaction.

Thank you,
Roxanne Foley

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

SIERRA SUNDANCE, INC.

Ph 760.932.1199
375 Aspen Lane | Bridgeport, CA 93517
erinn1881@hotmail.com

May 19, 2020

Dear "Supervisor" Pickleball—

I am still addressing you, due to the fact that you are the high princess over knowing what is "best" for Mono County, and the peasants are just too stupid. But I am not too stupid to know that Alpine has their fishing open, and Inyo has more businesses open and are looking towards campgrounds. What happened to the excuse "all three counties are moving together"? I can't wait to hear the excuse in this meeting.... I'm on the edge of my zoom.

The small businesses in Mono County are going broke, we cannot sustain this path another two weeks, while you are too afraid to push forward. All of the Supervisors are supposed to be leaders in our communities and you are failing us. Let our businesses open, open fishing, and let the tyranny end. #WearenotMammoth!!

Sincerely,

Erinn Wells
CEO – Sierra Sundance, Inc.
DBA – Walker River Lodge
Silver Maple Inn
The Cain House



May 15, 2020

Board of Supervisors,

Well, where do I even begin? As you are well aware, most of Mono County has been closed down to business for quite some time now. At this point it is difficult to know how many businesses in Mono County will even be able to survive the closures you have forced them into.

Every day I field dozens of calls from people who want to come to Mono County to recreate, when I have to tell them about all the business that are closed in the area many of them comment that they will just have to go elsewhere. Every one of these people represent income that is now being spent in other areas instead of Mono County.

The citizens of Mono County are looking for our leaders to lead, not follow. There is no need to follow Inyo County, we are not Inyo County and your constituents are not from Inyo County they are from Mono County. I implore you to start thinking of your constituents right here in Mono County, the ones whom you are bankrupting every day you make them stay closed. Every day and every week you delay making a decision to let Mono County re-open you are hurting the people you represent.

As of right now the 2020 fishing season opener has been postponed until June 1, I'm asking you to re-consider this date and get in touch with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to have them open the season for Memorial weekend. In Northern Mono County Memorial Weekend represents the second or third biggest weekend of the year, to lose this weekend of business, business that will likely go somewhere else, will likely put a financial hardship on many businesses that they may not be able to recover from.

Without having the benefit of much of a winter season, Northern Mono businesses have a very short window of opportunity to make a living. The month we've already lost of our busy season will probably represent at least a 20% decrease in most businesses annual income. Every day that we are not allowed to fully open is one more days worth of income that is forever lost.

There are many counties in California that are opening up, many of them rural counties that rely on tourism. It's time for Mono County to re-open so we can once again start earning a living.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**James E. Reid
Owner – Ken's Sporting Goods**

No. Mono Chamber of Commerce

115281 US Highway 395
Topaz, Ca. 96133
(775) 691-6536

May 16, 2020

Mono County Board of Supervisors
74 School Street Annex
Suite 1
Bridgeport, Ca. 93517

Dear Supervisors:

The Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce would like to strongly urge you to use whatever means available to you to expedite the reopening of commerce in Northern Mono County.

While we can appreciate the past necessity to curtail business and adhere to the stay-at-home state orders, we believe that with proper safeguards and common-sense, businesses can reopen in this portion of Mono County. We only have had one confirmed case and no hospitalizations. The residents and businesses in this part of Mono County bank, shop and seek medical services in Nevada which has already sped up the reopening process. We do not use the hospital in Mammoth, as hospital services are much closer in Nevada. There would be no impact to Mammoth Hospital by opening the north.

Unlike other areas of the county, we do not have a year-round tourist season. We only have ONE economic season, during summer and fall, in which to garner income to help us survive. We CAN NOT adopt a "wait a little longer" attitude. We are small, family run businesses who have to rely on our summer tourism in order to survive the entire year. To delay the reopening of business in Northern Mono County, puts our small community's businesses at risk of not being financially able to return in the coming months.

We must be concerned equally with the ECONOMIC health of our county, state and the country. With every day that passes, we are sinking farther into an abyss from which there is not enough "borrowed" money to save us.

We do not under estimate the nature of Covid-19. We, of course, do not want to see a surge in COVID statistics in our county. But what we have also observed is an everchanging goal which must be reached to reopen business and resume some fashion of normal life. We have flattened the curve and slowed the number of cases. This relieved the pressure on medical services which was the original goal to start reopening.

Now we see new unrealistic statistics based on percentage of cases per capita in ALL of the county to move forward. We too would all like to see no new cases. However, we all are smart enough to realize that we haven't defeated the common cold or even which flu virus we will encounter this season. But just like a doctor must consider all symptoms of the patient, the economic health of this county has to be considered part of the treatment. We can't make the cure more dangerous than the disease.

To illustrate this point we are making: We understand the pain that New York City is going through and a shutdown is appropriate. But expecting a smaller population area, let's say Montana, to remain closed while New York heals is not appropriate. One only needs to reverse the roles: Would New York remain closed if the problem was centered in Montana? Of course not!

In closing, we implore you to put the economic health of this portion of Mono County on a level playing field with other areas of most of the country. The success slowing the spread of this virus has been accomplished by the cooperation, dedication, and painful resolve by the county's citizenry. We are now pleading for the same cooperation, dedication, and resolve from this Board to slow the economic disease which is destroying Northern Mono County.

Sincerely,

Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce

Hunewill Land and Livestock Company
1110 Hunewill Ranch Road
Bridgeport, CA 93517
Phone: (760) 932-7710

Subject matter: A variance for Guest Ranching and an opening date of June 1, 2020.

To: The Mono County Board of Supervisors

Hunewill Ranch is a working cattle and guest ranch located in the Bridgeport Valley and surrounding mountains. A large part of our income is derived from our seasonally operated Guest Ranch. It is imperative for the survival of our business that we open immediately for guest vacations.

The vacation experience that we offer lends itself to keeping our guests and staff safely distanced and outside much of the time. Clients are isolated by family grouping. Our 25 rooms are in well spaced "duplex" cabins. The dining room has been reconfigured for one way passage of guests with tables and chairs spaced out at one third capacity and opportunities to dine outside. Horseback riding naturally lends itself to plenty of social distance.

The length of a guest's stay is from four to seven days. They eat, sleep, and ride on the ranch and once they arrive they rarely leave the ranch premises.

We believe there is not a category for guest ranches in the California and Mono County COVID Plan and are asking to have an allowance for the unique circumstances and attributes of a Guest Ranch. We will be practicing safe cleaning, masking up, social distancing, and have installed many plexiglass guards so that our staff and guests will have a safe experience.

We are petitioning to open on June 1, 2020.

Thank you for considering our request,

The Hunewill Family

Please allow us to open up on June 1. We are spending/have spent thousands of dollars to attain the materials necessary to implement the rules and guidelines shared with us on the Inyo County COVID-19 response webpage. We have communicated the new policies and procedures with our employees, and have built more time into our payroll in order to follow these policies. I plan to sign the attestation form as soon as our touchless hand sanitizing stations arrive (they are the last thing we are waiting on). I am writing to implore you to NOT push our open dates back again as we are investing a decent amount of money in preparation to open safely June 1.

I personally know many people who say they will open up on June 1 no matter what. Please allow all of us to open in a safe and responsible way – otherwise those who decide to open with or without approval will be flooded with people – let's spread those people out over several venues, because they are going to come one way or another (we know because we've been turning 2-6 people away PER DAY from staying with us).

Thank you for your time.

Ashley Blocker, Laurence Blocker, Eric Rose, & Susan Rose

Owners at Eastside Guesthouse & Bivy

Dear Board Members,

I have been reading a lot about small town hospitals having to close and/or reduce staff due to financial losses. As a result of canceled hospital services due to Covid 19 pandemic, has Mammoth Hospital loss of revenues from non-essential surgeries, ER visits etc created any financial issues?

Kristen Spain

Mr. Stump

My name is Ken Hoffman, I am now residing in the Bridgeport area and I run a seasonal business, fishing guide here in Mono County. I respect the role that the county supervisors have and the hard decisions that you sometimes have to make.

I though I might take a moment of your time to share a bit about me, my business, as well as my thoughts about moving forward with reopening Mono County.

I have from the end of April through the end of October to make a living.

This continued back and forth of "maybe soon" or "the Governor said..... just be patient" is killing my business and depleting my potential client base and season.

I have already lost clients to the Western Sierra counties who are allowing fishing, allowing guiding and from what I understand short term rentals. Now I see Alpine County opened fishing yesterday, and I heard Inyo County will do the same this coming week, joining a majority of rural California counties who have recognized they will not exist without tourism.

We are all losing here in Mono County, which as you all well know exists because of tourism. The tourists will find other places and might not come back.

The "cure" is far worse for Mono County than the virus. Numbers will continue to go up as more testing is done. Same is happening everywhere. However, if what I read was correct, even this latest "batch" of those who tested positive in Mono County did not require medical attention or hospitalization. From following the Mono County Health web site we, as a county, are as prepared as we can be to reopen. Safety measures are in place. Let us also remember that for those who don't feel they are prepared or are still concerned, they don't have to open.

I see several counties throughout California reopening their businesses, shops, restaurants, motels, outdoor recreation, etc. with some guidance and restrictions. I am asking that you now act and get Mono County reopened as well.

We are all adults, we can social distance, wear masks, use common sense about sanitizing, wearing of gloves, masks, washing our hands, etc.

The time is now, not in a few weeks, months or when a cure is found. Let's take the next step, like other counties, who like Mono are rural with limited medical resources, but are ready to or have already reopened.

Mr. Stump, I'm asking that you be one of the supervisors that understands we cannot stay in this state of limbo any longer and see the wisdom with opening fishing as well as lifting the short term rental restrictions before Memorial Day weekend.

Thank you for your time.
Ken Hoffman
KH1841@aol.com

Good morning, Mono County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you Mammoth Lakes Hospital and Staff, Dr. Boo, Mono County, Mono County Sheriff, Town of Mammoth Lakes, ML Fire District and ML Police for your cooperation and execution disseminating novel coronavirus information to all our communities on a continuing basis. When we face an unknown crisis like this pandemic, knowledge and guidance is extremely critical and you provided it. We are indeed fortunate and grateful to have public officials and medical staff who gave and are giving vital help and resources to us all.

Our entire community stepped up to the plate: some of us worked at the food bank, some of us sewed and delivered necessary masks, scrub shoes and hats to our hospital while others gave money to help pay rental costs. We came together. Let's continue to distance, mask and stay safe while we find a path towards the future.

Again, thanks to each and every one of you,

Sharon and Malcolm Clark

My name is Vicki Boswell and my husband Bruce and I have been visiting June Lake annually with our extended family for fishing and fun each Father's Day weekend for 35 years. I have been keeping an eye

on Mono County's re-opening plans and I've read the letter sent to the governor asking for a variance in order to re-open on June 1.

While I completely appreciate that Mono County has a small population and the area relies heavily on tourism, I just want you to be extremely mindful of the safety precautions that must be put in place and vigorously enforced in order to re-open safely.

Many of the tourists that come to the area are from LA County. As you know, this county currently has the highest incidence of COVID-19 cases (37,996 out of the state's total of 80,430 per this site: <https://update.covid19.ca.gov/>). The cases are likely much higher since California has been lagging with testing. According to the New York Times California Today update dated May 18, "while California now conducts more than 30,000 tests per day — compared with a few hundred a little more than a month ago — only 26 of every 1,000 Californians have been tested, ranking the state 26th in the nation." Scientists also say that the coronavirus can be transmitted via persons who are asymptomatic.

In other words, without a treatment or a vaccine, we will all continue to be at risk for a very long time to come, hence the absolute necessity of managing and enforcing all safety precautions that the various health authorities have identified. I am concerned for the small local population in Mono County and its ability to handle an increase in coronavirus cases as more people from other areas visit.

I realize the whole world is struggling with these decisions. I wish you all the very best in this process.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Vicki Boswell

7399 Seafarer Place

Carlsbad CA 92011

God morning Supervisors,

I would like to put in a request to put out a letter to DWP to open Crowley to boating by memorial weekend if possible?

Thank you,

Ron Day

If fishing opener starts June 1st, how does the town plan on accommodating these people if campgrounds are closed. I agree that short term lodging should remain unavailable, and knowing that, why open fishing season in the sierras? Thankyou

Asked to remain anonymous

Benny Romero <romero2555@ymail.com>

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Hi Shannon

I had sent the following information yesterday so that you could provide this information to the Board. I did not have your correct email address. Hopefully you can still provide it to the Board for today's meeting. It is information that Dr. Dunlap from Carson City has compiled. I am providing this information because it can be good information that can positively affect outdoor weddings like my venue. The last page on this compilation is of special interest to all of us.

Thank you

Benny Romero

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [John McLain](#)

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:41 AM

To: [Benny Romero \(romero2555@ymail.com\)](#)

Subject: FW: DUNLAP COVID-19 UPDATE

About time for an update.

CURRENT COMMUNITY STATUS

Quad Counties (Carson, Douglas, Storey, Lyon) – Same. Average 2 or 3 new cases daily. Couple in the hospital. Still only 1 death.

Washoe County – Same. Average about 25 new cases daily. About 50 hospitalized every day (disbursed among the 4 hospitals in the Reno area).

Comment: These numbers have not changed in the past 5 weeks. They will stay the same for as long as we continue doing what we're doing now (i.e., we are at an equilibrium between our social efforts and the spread of the virus). This is the most our current strategies will attain.

Take home message: We can't lower the number of cases or eradicate this virus doing what we are doing now. Clearly, the containment and mitigation strategies being employed currently are NOT going to solve this. The "Curve" is as flat as it's going to get and has been so for at least a month in our neck of the woods.

TESTING

Acute testing if you think you're sick is now being done through the Carson City Health Department. Call their hotline at (775) 283-4789. They will direct you to a test site.

Testing of asymptomatic individuals is being done by the health department on a limited basis. You will need to call (775) 283-4789. They will put you on a wait list as they are trying to screen people from a variety of locations.

Antibody testing can be done through one of the commercial labs (LabCorp or Quest) with an order from me. My office will be getting the finger stick antibody tests in about a week. (I'll give you more details when they are available).

FORESEEABLE REALITY

The pandemic ends when the coronavirus is counteracted. This occurs when we either have immunity or a treatment. Immunity will be achieved either through a vaccine or herd immunity. We're hopeful for a vaccine but history isn't kind in this regard. To date, we've never been able to get a successful vaccine for an RNA virus (Coronavirus is an RNA virus) for a variety of reasons. We'll keep our fingers crossed. Herd immunity with this virus will require about 60% of the population having immunity. Currently, we are probably at about 3-5% in our community and at the rate we're going (2 or 3 new cases daily) this won't be achieved for many years unless we open up society. Regarding treatment, there have been some promising preliminary results with Remdesivir but it's an IV drug and has only been used in a hospital setting (pretty sick folks). Most of the reports on hydroxychloroquine/azithromycin have been promising but we still don't have any definitive data (think good clinical trial) and I'm not even sure outpatient testing is happening. There are a variety of other treatments being tested but we've heard nothing definitive thus far. Reality is that we're going to be living with coronavirus for a long, long time unless something changes. Sorry to sound so bleak but unless we change what we're doing we're only prolonging the inevitable (herd immunity). The idea of containment is just not going to cut it for this virus.

SELF PROTECTION

Given that this virus isn't going anywhere soon, I want to review how to protect yourselves as effectively as possible. First, a couple basics:

Viruses transmit from person to person by 3 mechanism:

1. Respiratory droplets (cough, sneeze, spit, etc). These are large droplets that fall to the ground under the influence of gravity, usually within about a meter or two.
2. Aerosol droplets (tiny droplets that float on our breath and float in the air). These can drift through the air at great distances for quite a long period of time.
3. Fomites (surfaces that can carry the virus which you then touch and subsequently infect yourself)

The primary mode of transmission of this particular virus has been a blind spot for us. However, reviewing all the literature has shed some light on this. It is becoming very apparent that the VAST MAJORITY of transmission with this virus is through infected respiratory droplets (not aerosol droplets or infected surfaces). Therefore, you need to be educated about the characteristics of respiratory droplets in order to protect yourselves as much as possible. Respiratory droplets come out of us when we cough, sneeze, laugh, shout, breath heavily, talk loudly, cheer, sing, etc. Respiratory droplets are heavy and fall to the ground within several feet. They get blown away in moving air (like outdoors). Contracting the virus requires you to be in the "respiratory droplet zone" of an infected person and to get enough of the virus in you to cause an infection.

We're basically talking about extended, close-range, face-to-face contact, typically in crowded, socially animated, indoor places (poor air movement). Every major spreading event has taken place in this type of setting -- Meat packing facilities where workers need to yell at each other up close to be heard over

the machinery, funerals where people are packed together crying, hugging & talking over the crowd, sporting events where people are shouting & cheering, crowded bars/parties/concerts/business conferences where people have to talk loudly up close to be heard, nursing homes where aids have to be up close with residents to be heard or help move them, houses of worship where people are singing in close proximity to one another, sporting activities where participants are in each other's faces breathing heavily, medical settings where caregivers have to get right in the faces of patients, elevators and subways where people often have to stand face-to-face for an extended period, households with a sick person getting care from family members, etc., etc., etc. You get the idea.

There's another concept that's important to understand. It's the concept of "Infectious Dose". That's the amount of virus you need to get inside you in order for you to become infected. Simply getting SOME virus in you isn't typically enough to cause an infection. You need to get an adequate amount (at least an Infectious Dose). We don't know precisely what the Infectious Dose for coronavirus is but we know that's it's more than just a little. That 's why we're not seeing spread via mechanisms like aerosol or fomites. You just don't get enough of a dose via those routes to get you infected. This is why we're not seeing continuous outbreaks from people touching groceries, Amazon packages, etc. And it's why we're not seeing contagion from walking by an infected person or simply being in a room with an infected person for a short time. You just can't get enough of a dose this way. Don't get confused by seeing reports that the virus was "detectable in the air vents!" or "can live on surfaces for 3 days!" or any other sensational headlines. These things are fascinating but they are not relevant to you for the reasons I just outlined. If they were, we'd all have had this already, have herd immunity and be done with it.

Interestingly, there have NOT been any major outbreaks linked to things like airplanes, buses, trains, movie theaters, hair dressers, university classrooms, stores, restaurants or cubicle based offices with coronavirus. Why? They all share one thing in common – quiet breathing. It turns out that very few respiratory droplets are expelled during quiet breathing and coronavirus doesn't spread well via the aerosol route. Respiratory droplets are primarily expelled during loud talking, laughing, shouting, cheering, singing, sobbing, coughing and sneezing, but not with quiet breathing and only minimally with quiet talking. Furthermore, respiratory droplets can be blocked with the use of a face mask (aerosols cannot) so we can overcome this if desired. There's no significant evidence that restricting these activities is contributing any benefit whatsoever to the spread of coronavirus.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

We obviously can't stay in our homes infinitely awaiting a cure or immunity (nor should we).

So what should you do to protect yourselves given that the vast majority of infections come from respiratory droplets? Obviously, avoid breathing in an infected person's respiratory droplets! Don't confuse this with avoiding going out of your house. Although staying isolated may be effective, it's not healthy for either you or our country. The following are things you can do to protect yourselves using science and knowledge rather than paranoia, sensational headlines and cable news soundbites.

1. Avoid being in close proximity to a sick person for any period of time (and by all means, STAY AWAY FROM PEOPLE IF YOU FEEL SICK AT ALL!)
2. Avoid situations where people are up in each other's faces, especially with laughing, shouting, cheering, sobbing, greeting, singing, talking loudly, etc. If you must (probably for work purposes), only an N95 mask (properly fitted) will protect you.

3. If everyone wore a face mask while in crowded indoor spaces (think airplanes, movie theaters, grocery stores, etc.), it would cut down on the respiratory droplets to a significant degree and markedly limit (or eliminate) the risk in these settings.
4. Do things outdoors. Transmission outdoors is much more difficult. The air currents blow the droplets away and minimize your opportunity to get an Infectious Dose (it's actually almost impossible unless you're right in someone's face in these situations).
5. Stay out of people's faces. (i.e., keep your social distancing).

(This leaves a lot of things that are okay to do safely when you sit and think about it!)

It's still important to wash your hands and avoid touching your face but it probably doesn't have a lot of influence on coronavirus transmission specifically. However, it can help you to avoid infecting yourself in general and it's just a good health habit overall.

We are all going to have to continue our lives but we want to do it in the safest way possible. When we apply our knowledge of the situation, there are definitely things we should avoid but plenty (if not most) things we can resume safely using a little common sense and some basic scientific knowledge. Use your knowledge to keep yourselves safe while living your best lives.

Stay well and let me know if you have questions.
I'll keep you posted on updates as we move along.

Best Regards,
Dr. Dunlap

May 19, 2020
Regular Meeting

Item # 11a

(Regular Agenda)

Community Development

**Written Public Comments
submitted and read into record for:
Scheduling of the Tioga Inn Specific
Plan Amendment #3 Project During
COVID-19 Restrictions**

⏪ Reply all ∨ 🗑 Delete 🚫 Junk 🚫 Block ⋮

May 19, 2020 Board of Supervisors Agenda Item 11.A. Scheduling of the Tioga Inn Specific Plan Amendment #3 Project During COVID-19 Restrictions

BM

[Bartshe Miller <bartshe@monolake.org>](mailto:bartshe@monolake.org)

Tue 5/19/2020 1:01 PM

👍 ↶ ⏪ → ⋮

Shannon Kendall; Scheereen Dedman; Bob Gardner; Fred Stump; Jennifer Kreitz; John Peters ∨

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors,

I am requesting that you please defer the Tioga Inn Specific Plan Amendment #3 hearing until a future date when the public will have some capacity to participate physically, in-person.

The Tioga Inn project proposes a scale of development without precedent in the Lee Vining and Mono Basin community. A public hearing where people can interact as live human beings and have dynamic clarification and commentary is very much desired. This hearing will lead to a decision that physically, economically, and socially alters the direction of Lee Vining's and Mono Lake's future. The finer details of the Tioga Inn project matter very much, and while County staff did an exemplary job enabling public comment during the recent Planning Commission meeting on this project, there was disconnection, frustration, and a loss of nuance in the Zoom-bounded process.

There is no substitute for face-to-face communication when critical decision-making is on the table that determines the future of a community, even if those faces must be partially covered due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bartshe Miller
Eastern Sierra Policy Director, Mono Lake Committee

Bartshé Miller, Eastern Sierra Policy Director
Mono Lake Committee
(760) 647-6595 | (760) 647-6386 x121
Hwy 395 at Third Street, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541
www.monolake.org | www.monobasinresearch.org

From: Duncan King <nosmog@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:56 PM

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

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT BOS meeting 5/19 REGULAR AGENDA - AFTERNOON 11 A. Scheduling of the Tioga Inn Specific Plan Amendment #3 Project During COVID-19 Restrictions

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Duncan King in Mono City

Supervisors -

It is on record that the Board of Supervisors would hold the hearing on the Tioga Inn Specific Plan amendment in public at the Lee Vining Community Center.

This was a pre-Covid statement and obviously needs amending in the current situation, however the public was reassured by this statement and for the chance to make real live representations to the Board.

In today's fluid situation it seems possible that within a month or so, state and county restrictions may be lifted to allow some form of real live meeting in Lee Vining, if not in the Community Center, then maybe across the road in Hess Park where much more space is available for social distancing.

Last year when the Lee Vining Community Center was hosting the Springs firefighters, the Mono Basin RPAC very successfully used the Solar Pavilion in Hess Park to host their monthly meeting. An audio visual system is available.

This overall project is at 27 years and counting. An extra couple of weeks to ensure full participation would seem worthwhile.

With all the public concern in this project an open meeting is vital, and delaying until a date at the end of June seems to be very reasonable if we can meet in public.

Thank you,

Duncan King