



Community Development Department

Frogs & Toads – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a regional meeting Wednesday on the proposed listing of mountain yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad as threatened and/or endangered species. The jam-packed meeting was held at the county courthouse, with teleconferencing to attendees at Mammoth Lakes. On Friday the USFWS released a draft economic analysis that is now under staff review. Thanks to Supervisor Johnston, Wendy Sugimura, Nathan Reade and Alicia Vennos for presenting comments at the regional meeting.

Paradise Revisited – Following a somewhat last-minute but well-attended Paradise community meeting Monday chaired by Supervisor Stump, and a public hearing conducted by the Mono County Planning Commission Thursday, a proposed revision to the Rock Creek Ranch Specific Plan at Paradise was recommended to the Mono Supervisors. Responding to local economic conditions, the 55-acre project originally approved for 60 lots included a significant density reduction to 23 lots and fewer environmental impacts. Thanks to County staff, including project planner Courtney Weiche, Garrett Higerd, Louis Molina and Stacey Simon, for their work on the project. Simon also reported on the Mammoth Pacific-1 appeal hearing Wednesday at Superior Court. Judge Eller heard testimony from Mono and Ormat legal staffs and appellant LIUNA. A decision is expected next month.

June Lake CAC – At Tuesday's June Lake CAC, Supervisor Tim Alpers laid out an aggressive proposal to take advantage of new community dynamics, such as the reopening of June Mountain and new ownership of the Rodeo Grounds property, to focus the June Lake Area Plan update. The CAC discussion touched upon signage, cycling and trails planning, timber thinning and June Mountain, and generally indicated support. Supervisor Alpers is following up with regular community coffees at Trout Town Joe. Principal Planner Gerry Le Francois reviewed issues related to transportation planning, and Associate Planner Courtney Weiche provided an update on local planning matters.

Mono Basin RPAC – A well-attended Wednesday meeting included an update on Conway Ranch matters. County Counsel Marshall Rudolph provided a comprehensive overview of past, present and possible future activities at Conway. Supervisor Alpers also provided an update on BOS matters, and Jeff Walters and planning staff reported on proposed Mono City access road issues and time frame.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, 760-924-1804

County Administrator's Office

Governor releases State Budget Proposal – As we address long term fiscal stability in Mono County and given our dependence on the state funding, along with this Board Update is the Governor's FY 2014-2015 proposal as well as the California State Association of Counties and Rural County Representatives of California review and analyses.

Mono County Departments are digesting this information to see how the Governor's proposal might impact services. As departments identify issues of concern, the County will advocate for changes in his proposal. The process for state budget development entails the Legislature reviewing through the various budget committees the Governor's proposal until May. In May, the Governor will release an

updated version of his Budget, called the May Revision, and then the Legislature will negotiate their version with the Governor for adoption by mid June.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Finance, Clerk of the Board and CAO start quarterly staff meetings – As an efforts to break down the walls between departments, we have started meeting among these three departments quarterly. We are working to bring together all employees from these departments and start looking for new ways to enhance services.

My thanks to Leslie Chapman and Lynda Roberts for bringing folks and moving forward we will keep this as a means to share ideas and find new efficiencies.

Departments are encouraged to look beyond their silos and build new models of service delivery.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Mono County Energy Task Force meets – Several department including Public Works, Community Development, the County Administrator’s office, Finance and Planning has been meeting to bring forward and coordinate the many different issues surrounding energy policy for the County.

On Monday, January 6th, the group met and discussed direction from the Board on moving forward with several efforts, including fuel use reduction targets, polarization of faculties, access to capital for private alternative energy investment and fee structures. The Board will receive a full report on February 4th.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Mammoth Community Water District discusses drought – At the January 9th, Mammoth Area of Governments meeting, Pat Hayes represented strategies to implement water conservation efforts due to the extraordinarily dry year. As of January 3rd, the snowpack is 24%. Although February and March are undetermined, this year coupled with last year’s 87% of normal year will have impacts moving forward.

The County will work with the water districts throughout the County to see what steps can be taken to move through an unfortunately too dry and warm of a winter.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Draft Economic Impact Analysis from US Fish and Wildlife released – The Board received the information from the Fish and Wildlife Service on January 10th. The documents are attached and will be analyzed by County staff.

According to the information provided; *“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft economic analysis (DEA) of its proposal to designate 1,831,820 acres of critical habitat in California for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad. The DEA is attached.*

The DEA estimates the costs associated with the designation of critical habitat to be \$630,000 to \$1.5 million over 17 years (2014 to 2030). With 97% of the proposed critical habitat designated on federal lands, the estimated costs of the designations are largely associated with federal agency consultations for actions on federal lands such as fish stocking, water operations, grazing, and recreation.

A news release is attached and copied below. Please visit:

http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/outreach/2013/12-27/outreach_newsroom_2013-12-27.htm

As previously announced, a public meeting is planned to be held in Fresno County on Monday, January 13, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fresno County Board of Supervisors Chambers; Hall of Records, Room 301; 2281 Tulare Street; Fresno, CA 93721. I've attached the draft agenda.

The Service will hold a public hearing on the proposed rules and draft economic analysis on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Sacramento Horsemen's Association; 3200 Longview Drive; Sacramento, CA 95821. The first hearing session will start at 1:00 p.m. with doors opening at 12:30. A second hearing session will start at 6:00 p.m. with doors opening at 5:30. Written and verbal testimony will be accepted at the public hearing.

CONTACT: Robert Moler, External Affairs - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
robert_moler@fws.gov, 916.414.6606

Probation

Probation success story highlights efforts for local youth in need – the following memo is illustrative of the work being done by the crew of the Mono County Probation Department. The memo demonstrates the professionalism and great work of Deputy Probation Officer Orlando Mejia and, more importantly, one youth's path from mistakes to success.

“TO: Karin Humiston, Chief Probation Officer
FROM: Orlando Mejia, Deputy Probation Officer

The minor committed several crimes and led law enforcement on a high speed pursuit. The minor was court ordered placement for his constant defiant and impulsivity behaviors. On September 18, 2012, the minor began group home placement at Rites of Passage. His progress was intermittent and was terminated from the program on July of 2013 when he absconded from the group home and stole a bottle of alcohol from a retail store.

The minor admitted that what did was foolish and irresponsible act. The minor was detained at the Inyo County Juvenile Detention Center for approximately two months. On September 5, 2013, the undersigned officer transported the minor to Silver State Academy in Yerington, Nevada. The minor was excited and motivated to begin the new program. Since being placed at Silver State Academy the minor has done extremely well. He has not received a single negative incident report as of the date of this report. He had participated on the football team as a nose guard and kicker, participated in the welding program, and earned his diploma. The minor turned eighteen years of age on December 24, 2013. Upon his eighteenth birthday it was voluntarily for the minor to stay in the group home. The minor voluntarily returned to Silver State Academy to earn his welding certification. The non-minor dependent will be successfully discharge from the placement on January 15, 2014.

Over the span of a year and a half in working with the minor, characteristics have appeared on the minor such as maturity, respect, responsibility, and strong work ethic. Additionally, the minor thinks about his near future. He has great support from his parents and they encourage him to pursue higher education. The minor conveyed that education is important and will make an attempt to pursue a college degree. The non-minor dependent expressed his interest in participating in the Assembly Bill (AB) 12 programming. He will move into the Mammoth Lakes college dormitories and begin the spring semester of 2014. The non-minor dependent will be the first AB 12 case in Mono County.”

CONTACT: Chief Karin Humiston, (760) 932-5570

Public Health

Weekend Flu Update - Last Friday, 3 days ago, I sent out a flu update talking about the rapid increase in flu activity around the country. 15 states were reporting high activity, and 25 states widespread activity. California was spared from both categories.

Over the weekend, more information about our local situation shows we are most likely on the cusp of a dramatic increase in local flu activity, probably due to travel by locals and visitors:

- The ED yesterday reported 3 positive rapid flu tests (2 were Type A), which almost doubles our seasonal total in one day. All staff caring for these patients have been exposed.
- A 19 month old ex-premie with chronic lung disease was hospitalized with pneumonia and hypoxia, with a positive rapid flu test (Type B). He is currently receiving Tamiflu in addition to antibiotics, bronchodilators, and oxygen.
- I completed surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in Sierra Park Pediatrics and Family Medicine through last Saturday. ILI is defined as cough and/or sore throat with documented fever >100 without other cause. The numbers are now double what they were before the holidays (about 300 visits per week, with a baseline of less than 1.5%, increasing now to 3.8% last week). None were older than 64 years of age – most were younger than 25 years of age. In addition, the numbers of persons seen with respiratory illness with a history of fever, but no documentation of a temp >100, is dramatically increased. I did not tabulate the numbers, but it was amazing to me to see how many of those with ILI, and especially chronic medical conditions, have NOT had a flu shot!
- School opened on Monday January 6th.

Given this current situation, I want to emphasize the importance of infection control within the healthcare facilities. Infection prevention and control for influenza is an essential part of clinical management for influenza patients, including prevention of healthcare-associated influenza. Cases of critically ill patients with healthcare-associated influenza have already been reported in the U.S. this season.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

I would ask that you consider implementing the following policies and procedures ASAP:

- All healthcare personnel should have received **influenza vaccination** this season. Those who are not vaccinated should be **wearing surgical masks**, as we have already ordered. Enforcement is essential!
- **Standard and droplet precautions** should be implemented for influenza patients.
- Influenza patients should be **isolated** in a single room or cohorted with other influenza patients if a single room is not available.
- For **aerosol-generating procedures**, healthcare personnel should use an **N95 respirator** or higher level of respiratory protection.
- Influenza prevention should be strengthened throughout the hospital, including the ED, Med-Surg, and ICU, with **active daily surveillance for healthcare-associated influenza** (new fevers and new respiratory symptoms in hospitalized patients).
- **Ill healthcare personnel should be excluded from work.**
- **Visitors should be screened** for illness. Visitors to patients in isolation for influenza should be **limited** to persons who are necessary for the patient's emotional well-being and care. Visitors who have been in contact with the patient before and during hospitalization are a possible source of influenza for other patients, visitors, and staff. Some hospitals do not permit young children to visit during influenza/RSV season.
- Take steps to ensure all persons with symptoms of a respiratory infection adhere to respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette, hand hygiene, and triage procedures throughout the duration of their visit, including providing facemasks to such persons. Note: **Anyone who sets foot into the facility who has a cough should immediately be masked!**

For more information on influenza infection control, see:

<http://tinyurl.com/3m6b7od> and <http://tinyurl.com/242awwf>

CONTACT: Dr. Richard O. Johnson, M.D., MPH, (760) 914-0496

Health Department Staff receives appreciation for Giving Tree - Carolyn Balliet expressed her appreciation for the dedication and commitment from the Health Department staff for their assistance with the Angel Giving Tree. Maria Gonzalez and Nancy Cruz Garcia were especially crucial in prioritizing higher need families and spent time after work to insure their children would receive appropriate gifts.



Maria and Nancy were the primary intake people on our celebration Saturday along with help from Nancy Mahannah, Lynda Salcido, our special Santa (Greg Newbry) and others assisting in distributing the gifts!

Thanks again to the Health Department staff for their support in this special project at Christmas time. You are all the greatest!

CONTACT: Lynda Salcido, (760) 924-1842

Sheriff's Office

1. Sheriff staff had a very productive meeting with the Mono County District Attorney's Office, California Highway Patrol as well as the Mountain Warfare Training Center staff relating to updating our current MOU on law enforcement services.
2. The Sheriff's Office is working on mid-year budget and the requested cuts. Sheriff is balancing need for consistent and effective public safety services for all residents with fiscal responsibility the County requires.
3. Sheriff Obenberger attended a presentation by Dr. Mike Karch relating to Mammoth Medical Missions humanitarian efforts in the Philippines. The presentation was extremely well attended by the public and dealt with various issues such as emergency preparedness, surviving disasters, etc. It was a good presentation to help bring additional information on how our Emergency Operations efforts can always learn from other situations.
4. The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) group met this week and continued to discuss issues relating to AB109 (Realignment). The Board will be receiving a presentation on Realignment in February.

CONTACT: Sheriff Ralph "OB" Obenberger, (760) 932-7549