

DRAFT

March 4, 2021

Mono County Board of Supervisors  
c/o Clerk of the Board  
Shannon Kendall  
PO Box 715  
Bridgeport, CA. 93517

Dear Supervisors,

As Chair of the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), I am writing to express the support of the CAC for the project to install an EV (electric vehicle) charging station at Gull Lake Park. I am also requesting that the project be placed on the agenda for either your March 9 or 16 meeting; this letter can serve as documentation for that agenda item.

There is no EV charger in June Lake at this time. Although EVs currently are a small percentage of all light vehicles on the road, the number will begin increasing rapidly. Not only has the State of California adopted a 2035 target to end internal combustion vehicle sales in California, General Motors too has set 2035 as the date for its transition to fully electric vehicle production and sales. Moreover, the Mono County Regional Transportation Plan has identified developing and implementing an electrical vehicle charging plan as objectives (Objectives 4.D.4 and 4.D.5). Our June Lake project will serve both an immediate need to support visitors with EVs who want to visit or stay in June Lake. But it will also “prime the pump” in getting additional visitors to June Lake, and show to the local community that EV chargers are both viable and needed in the long term.

This project has been in process for several months, and is now to the point where it can be implemented. A member of the CAC, Bob Marks, came to the CAC in December to propose the idea. There was enthusiastic support for him to proceed, and the CAC established an “EV Charging Station Subcommittee;” the CAC has been informed and consulted about project since then. CAC member Sarah Holston joined the subcommittee upon its creation, and CAC member Dave Rosky too has been involved. The project team has been in touch with our neighbors in Lee Vining to see how they got an EV charger installed at Hess Park; they have talked with the June Lake Loop Chamber of Commerce, which expressed support (and several business owners said they would begin looking into installing chargers); they have had numerous conversations with Supervisor Bob Gardner; and they have begun arranging for the June Lake Women’s Club to act as the fiscal agent for the project. Most importantly they have been in regular contact with Joe Blanchard, Mono County Director of Facilities. Working with Mr. Blanchard, the team has narrowed the list of potential locations to Gull Lake Park, and within the park to a site near the public restrooms, and have developed an implementation plan.

The project now is conceptualized in two phases: Phase 1 will install an EV charger near the public restrooms and be hooked up to the existing electrical service at the restrooms; hopefully this phase will be completed this summer, as detailed below. Phase 2 will start by examining the feasibility of installing solar panels on the roof of the restrooms to power both the EV charger and the restroom heaters (the latter of which the County is now funding). That project may take 1-3 additional years to plan and implement. At this time, we are asking for your support for Phase 1 only.

The Gull Lake project follows in the path of the project at Hess Park (they truly are “pioneers!”), with one notable difference (discussed below). And like the Hess Park project, the support and investment needed from Mono County will be minimal but essential.

Phase 1 of the project is to install a public-access Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) in Gull Lake Park near the public restrooms. This will be a Level 2 EVCS that requires two 240 volt lines run on a 40 Amp circuit. This will meet the need of most EV and hybrid plug-in vehicles. The specific unit (as used in Lee Vining) is a ClipperCreek HCS-D40R “ruggedized” 32 Amp Dual Charging Station. The electricity would be provided free to the user, and initially paid for by donations, and then provided by solar panels installed on the restroom roof.

How will this project be financed?

On behalf of the project, Bob Marks has secured a donation from Adopt A Charger for the charging station (MSRP of \$2377), plus a cash contribution of \$1500 to cover the estimated cost of electricity used by the charger for three years. The actual electrical usage will be monitored by a Sense Energy Monitor (\$300); a donor for that has been identified. Should additional funding for the electricity be needed before the solar array is installed, the project team will seek sponsorships from local businesses and civic organizations. As was the case with the Hess Park project, the county will do the electrical hook up, the siting and installation of the charger plus needed curbs and/or bollards, and the planning, striping, and signing of the area for parking. Raising funds for all other incidental expenses (e.g. for the signage explaining the use and funding of the project) will be the responsibility of the project team. An MOU with the county will specify these responsibilities and obligations.

One additional difference between this project and the one at Hess Park is that there likely will be a need for an enclosure of some kind that will protect the charger from the elements, in particular snow. Of the various models being considered, a promising one is installed in Gunnison Colorado (which has similar snow conditions as ours). The design and construction of this enclosure (which likely will cost \$1500 or so) will be covered by donations of time, money, and materials.

Finally, the project team will need to work out an MOU with county legal staff, likely on the model proposed for the Hess Park project.

On behalf of the June Lake CAC, I thank you for your time and consideration, and look forward to your support for this project.

Sincerely,

Julie Brown  
Chair, June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee