



Community Development

Geothermal court decision – Mammoth Pacific’s geothermal power plant near the 395/203 junction was the first of its kind in 1984. In 2012, current operator Ormat proposed a replacement project to update the facility. Following extensive environmental, planning and reclamation review, permits approved by the Planning Commission and upheld by the Mono Supervisors on administrative appeal were challenged by an outside labor group on various claims, apparently employing “greenmail” tactics.

The Mono County Superior Court recently resolved the case in favor of Ormat and Mono County. Special thanks to Stacey Simon and the defense team of Barton Lounsbury and Antonio Rossman of Rossman & Moore, LLP, and Ormat’s counsel James Reed of Liebersbach, Mohun, Carney and Reed for their successful defense, and Courtney Weiche, Gerry Le Francois, CD Ritter, Cedar Barager, Nick Criss and Dan Lyster for their supporting efforts.

June Lake CAC – At Tuesday’s meeting, Supervisor Tim Alpers provided an update on BOS topics, including Conway Ranch fishery efforts and progress on Hwy 395 monument signs with local advocates Alice Suszynski and Dorothy Burdette. Carl Williams updated the CAC on June Mountain operations; Debra Schwiezer and Leeann Murphy provided an update on the Inyo Forest Plan; and Gerry Le Francois conducted a workshop on June Lake transportation policies.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

County Administrator’s Office

Mono Trip to DC yields promising start to resources for largest issue facing County – Sage Grouse listing – Supervisor Tim Fesko and CAO Jim Leddy met with 8 different federal offices and will be presenting a report to the Board in the coming weeks on the follow up that will help Mono County in its efforts to access federal funding to prevent the impacts of a Sage Grouse listing. These meetings were needed first steps and they were received by the legislators and their staffs with high interest. Offices that were met with include:

Congressman Paul Cook
Congressman Buck McKeon
Congressman Steve Horsford
Senator Dean Heller
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Harry Reid
Undersecretary of Interior Bob Tanney

Mono’s targeted effort will yield results and reflects the needed advocacy to ensure the federal government supports our efforts.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Coffee with the CAO Returns Reminder! – Thank you to the ten employees who showed up for Coffee with the CAO in Mammoth on Friday March 7th. We had a nice informal conversation and will continue to hold the meetings on the first Friday of every month at the Sierra Center for south county.

This month, the Bridgeport Coffee will be on March 13th at 8:00am at Memorial Hall where anyone can stop by and discuss any pressing issues.

Starting in April we will keep these on the first Thursday and Friday (north county for first Thursday and first Friday in south county).

I am also available to meet to discuss any issues facing our County, so if you cannot make the new monthly meeting or want to meet one on one, call, email, text or reach out by whatever means possible.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Strategic Planning Steering Committee March 6th at Lee Vining – The March 6th meeting of the Strategic Planning Steering committee had 19 people from across different departments attend. We were joined by Laree Keily and Beth Dadko who have joined us to begin finalizing the process for the all employee effort.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 13th at 4:00pm to 6:30pm and we will be deciding on the final version of the all employee launch! Please attend if you can and encourage others to as well.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

PIO Core meeting provides cross agency training – Thank you to Jennifer Hansen for her leadership in the Public Information Officers CORE training which I attended this week. The meeting had representatives from governments and large employers to discuss better preparing for communication in emergency situations.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Unified Command Meeting has robust turn out – over 40 people attended to receive update on drought conditions, seismic activity and roads situations. Thank you to Sgt. Beard for leading the meeting.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

NACo reviews trip to Washington, DC - Please take a few minutes to watch this video message from CSAC Executive Director Matt Cate. <http://youtu.be/wqYemrEeWFo>

He discusses CSAC's participation in the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington DC and some of the issues CSAC's Officers, Members and Staff discussed with Members of Congress and their staffs.



CONTACT: Gregg Fishman, California State Association of Counties, (916) 327-7500 ext. 516

The Consulate General of Canada in California has asked CSAC to pass this information along to you regarding a March 11th event in Sacramento. They believe the sessions, particularly the one on water, would be of interest to county officials. This water session spotlights Canadian programs that encourage water conservation and new technologies in water management. This is an opportunity to discuss innovative ideas and best practices in water conservation and management, and see what might be relevant for California. For more information, click on the links below:

Water Panel: <https://canadadaywaterpanel.eventbrite.com>

Business Panel: <https://canadadaybusinesspanel.eventbrite.com>

Reception: <https://canadadayreception.eventbrite.com>

CONTACT: **Nicole Graham**, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Service, Consulate General of Canada (415) 568-4354

Economic Development

Please join us in welcoming our new Economic Development/Tourism Assistant, Elizabeth Erdelyi, who was recently hired to fill a limited term contract position within our department. Elizabeth's family spent many summer vacations in Mono County, particularly in the June Lake area; she has extensive background working with the National Park Service including Denali, Rocky Mountain, and Sequoia Canyon. Even in a few days of her being here, it is clear her contribution to the department's Economic Development and Tourism efforts will be a significant and positive one!

Room Revenues and Transient Occupancy Tax figures for Quarter 2 (Oct./Nov./Dec. 2013) have come in at \$2,853,198 and \$342,383, respectively, making this the best-performing Quarter 2 in the past 6 years! This is a significant success given that Q2 was a challenging time period which included the Federal Government shut-down and the closure of Tioga Pass Road.

Mono County Tourism is exhibiting at the Fred Hall Fishing Show in Long Beach this week, the largest fishing show in California. Attendance is expected to be strong. Next week, Alicia Vennos will be representing the High Sierra Visitors Council at a Visit California Media Event in New York, with over 100 qualified travel writers and editors attending.

Tourism's March E-Newsletter was emailed today to a visitor database of over 16,800. To sign up for the monthly E-Newsletter, please go to MonoCounty.org. A news submission was also provided to Yosemite Gateway Partners for their spring newsletter.

CALENDAR ALERT: Two great fund-raising events coming up are the annual **St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner** at the June Lake Community Center, March 17 at 6pm – just \$5 per person; and the **Cow Pasture Golf Tournament** in Coleville on Saturday, April 5 - come see how good a golfer you are in the rough! Tee-off is at 9am and an advance RSVP is mandatory by contacting 530-495-2822.

Recent media coverage for Mono County was in US Frontline, a prominent Japanese publication based in Southern California:

<http://www.usfl.com/ee/data/2014/0220/index.html>.

AAA's Westways Magazine will be featuring the Eastern Sierra and US Hwy. 395 in an article about "Classic California Road Trips," June edition. Circulation: 4,050,000 in SoCal.

The Mono County Tourism & Film Commission meeting was held in June Lake on Feb. 25. Next meeting is March 25 in Walker. We sincerely appreciate the tremendous volunteer efforts, insights, and contributions of our Tourism & Film Commissioners – Jimmy Little, Andrew Jones, Christine Long, Bill Banta, Jennifer Roeser, Steve Morrison and Michael Vanderhurst.

Filming interest in Mono County continues to be steady with potential for a Japanese commercial, a vodka commercial, an ABC television series segment (on hold awaiting financial review), and an independent film in Bodie. As well, the location manager for a 6-month reality series, entitled "Utopia," will be scouting Mono County next week for 5 acres of remote private land with a water feature.

Please contact Jeff Simpson for more details at 760-924-4634, jsimpson@mono.ca.gov.

Staff submitted a preliminary grant application to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division for consideration during the 2013/14 grant cycle. If successful, the funding will allow the updating, reprinting, promotion and distribution of the popular "Motor Touring in the Eastern Sierra" guide for Mono County. The public review and comment period for these grants began March 4, 2014, and ends Monday, April 7, 2014 at ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov.

Staff assisted Community Development and County Counsel in the research and preparation of a thorough and targeted draft response to the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Draft Economic Impact Analysis for the Critical Habitat Designation for Three Sierra Nevada California Amphibians. The draft comments are the result of great county teamwork, and Alicia Vennos would like to acknowledge the extensive research and bulk of the work done by Stacey Simon and Wendy Sugimura on this important project. The draft comments will be presented to the Board on March 11.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

Probation:

Mono County Probation, as part of their preparation for an upcoming probation strategic planning session and implantation of integrated management, hosted three days of leadership and team effectiveness and invited all county employees. Collaborative partners and all probation staff

February 20, 2014 U.S.

NEWS 南カリフォルニア&アリゾナ 「お花見&桜祭り」ガイド

桜の名所が多い南カリフォルニアとアリゾナ。早いところでは2月中旬から咲き始める。花見ができる場所や、各地で行われる伝統行事を紹介する。

- Arizona Matsuri (アリゾナ州フェニックス) 2月29日 (土) & 29日 (日) 10am-5 pm. ダウンタウンのHeritage & Science Parkで、舞臺劇、お花見イベント、餅つき、餅屋、タムネの演奏、日本舞、ピアーサーン、音楽祭など、入場無料。 azmatsuri.org
- Cherry Blossoms Family Picnic Day (カリフォルニア) 3月1日 (土) & 2日 (日) 9am-5 pm. South Coast Botanic Gardenで、フットボールやバスケットボールなど、さまざまなスポーツ、入場料1番りドル、シニアと学生は半額、14歳以下は無料、4歳以下は無料、園内のトランニア(有料5ドル)あり。 www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org
- San Diego Cherry Blossom Festival (サンディエゴ) 3月1日 (土) 10am-4 pm. Japanese Friendship Gardenで、日本舞、道、ピアーサーン、日本文化紹介など、入場料一般8ドル、シニア5ドル、学生3ドル。 www.njsg.org
- Schabrum Park Cherry Blossom Festival (コーランドハイランド) 3月8日 (土) 10am-4pm. Schabrum Regional Parkで、3歳以下の幼児は無料、2歳以下は無料、入場料(歳により3-6ドル)。 www.schabrumregionalpark.com
- City of Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival (トランス) 3月15日 (日) 11am-4 pm. Columbia Parkで、ランチウィック、工芸、夏祭、パフォーマンスなど、入場無料。 www.facebook.com/TorranceCherryBlossom
- Lake Balboa (ワシントン) フェスティバルは今年、湖を囲む長さ2000本の桜が美しい。 www.topsites.com

NEWS アメリカで祝う、ひな祭り ロサンゼルス&ポートランド

- ロサンゼルス 3月4日 (日) 1pm. ダウンタウン・リトル東京の日本文化センターで、お花見、ひな祭りなど、予約 (213-428-2725) した方が早い。参加費10ドル。 jacco.org/hinomatsuri.php
- ポートランド (オレゴン) 2月29日 (土) - 3月1日 (日). The Portland Japanese Gardenで、The Matsuri, the Doll Festival) を開催、入場料一般8.50ドル、シニア学生7.75ドル、17歳以下7.75ドル、5歳以下無料。 japanesegarden.com

NEWS 満月の夜、雪の上を滑るツアー イースタン・シエラ、モノ郡

ロサンゼルス北315マイル、サンフランシスコ南280マイルにあるイースタン・シエラのモノ郡では、今年も雪が舞い、マンモス・マウンテンを滑るツアーが開催される。満月の夜、スノーシュー・カールディックスキーを滑り、ガイドの案内で、雪の上を滑る。

●参加費: 65ドル (装備、ホトリックとガイド込み) ●予約: 760-834-2442 (ext. 0)

●詳細: www.tamarackodge.com/Ski_Center/Tours_Lessons

●予約: 800-846-7922 www.MonoCounty.org

NEWS サッカー、世界遺産、ロックバンド... LA日系コミュニティ各種イベント

●日本の世界遺産写真展 日本にある17か所のユネスコ世界遺産の美しさを伝える。3月10日(日)から3月22日(日)まで、2階ホールで開催。 www.jfsc.org/oc-ac/ehhbb-haritage.html

●詳細: 800-846-7922

●詳細: www.jfsc.org/oc-ac/ehhbb-haritage.html

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attended. Team performance, leadership and coaching in change environments were discussed with lively activities conducted. Identifying performance enhancements for teams enables employees to improve performance as well as assist their team members.

CONTACT: Karin Humiston, (760) 932-5570

Public Health

Flu Winding Down - It appears that we are in the last few weeks of the 2013-14 flu season, as activity continues to decrease nationwide.

That is good news, considering how severe this season has been compared to last year. So far, there have been 302 confirmed flu deaths in California, including 6 children. By this time last year, there were 34 deaths, with a total of 106 for the whole season. These severe outcomes remind us that flu can be a very serious disease for anyone.

Locally, we have not had any recent hospitalizations, and the numbers of positive flu tests and persons seen with flu-like illness is approaching baseline levels.

The 2009 H1N1 "swine flu" continues to be the most common strain. This is significant, because it causes severe disease and death among a population not usually considered at highest risk. More than 60% of hospitalizations have been in persons age 18-64. Younger adults and children, especially those with chronic medical conditions were hit hardest. Others, such as pregnant females, those morbidly obese, and American Indians, were also hit hard.

It is unfortunate that this group of younger adults, especially those who are otherwise healthy, are less likely to get vaccinated. Although the rates for those >65 and children are usually over 60%, only about 34% of this group of individuals is vaccinated.

If you have not been vaccinated, you can still do so. Even more important is to make a decision now to get vaccinated when flu vaccine becomes available next fall. The strains for the vaccine have already been selected, and production is underway. There is talk of a possible new vaccine patch becoming available in addition to the shot and nasal spray. Stay tuned for more details!

As the flu winds down, there are still many sick in our communities with other bugs, such as norovirus and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). The usual precautions apply:

- Stay home, and keep your kids home, when you/they are sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your cough
- Seek medical care if you are sicker than usual or have chronic medical conditions

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



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Sheriff's Office

1. Jennifer Hansen held her quarterly meeting of the PIO Core Group for both Mono and Inyo Counties on Wednesday. We had multiple attendees and Jennifer put them through a simulated crisis scenario(s) to facilitate open discussion about "what if's". Jennifer received a very positive comment by one of the attendees stating: *"Great meeting yesterday. Mono County is very lucky to have you and your skill set. I think we all learned something from your scenarios yesterday."*
2. Sheriff Obenberger and staff met with Mineral County, Nevada, Sheriff Stewart Handte and his undersheriff, discussing topics such as budgets, staffing, radio communications, CAD systems, and much more.
3. Jail Staff discovered the jail building (D-Block area) had developed a hole in the outer stucco near the roof line. This allowed snow/rain water to penetrate the exterior of the building, causing damage to the interior of D-Block. **Thanks to the great Public Works staff** who have already fabricated a piece of sheet metal to divert the water away from building. They are working with jail staff to dry out the interior of the building's wall itself which could take some time. None of this however is hindering the ability to house our jail population.
4. Deputy Nino Hernandez, our School Resource Deputy, is again working with the local schools as the Sheriff's Office, and possibly the CHP office, will be participating in several fundraising basketball games against both Coleville High School and Lee Vining High School students. The games are tentatively set for [Saturday March 29th](#) @ 5:00pm (Coleville) and [Saturday April 5th](#) @ TBD (Lee Vining). We invite everyone to come see the games and support the local students.
5. Sgt. Beard held his quarterly Unified Command meeting for various first responders, county, town and state agencies, along with others groups. We had a very nice showing with apart 40 attendees (very nice attendance by State OES). No significant issues are at hand at this time.

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