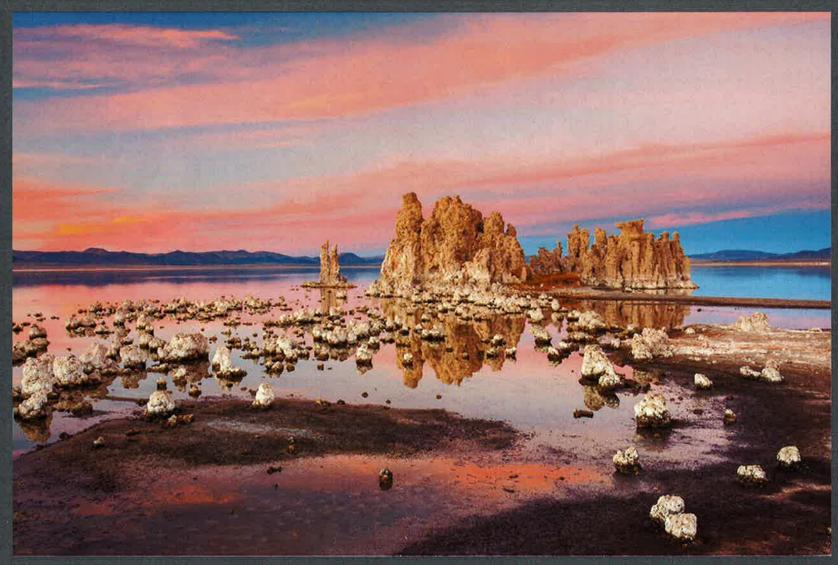
August 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Item #9a CAO

Mono Lake
Update





2016 Mono Lake update

Geoff McQuilkin Executive Director geoff@monolake.org (760) 647-6595















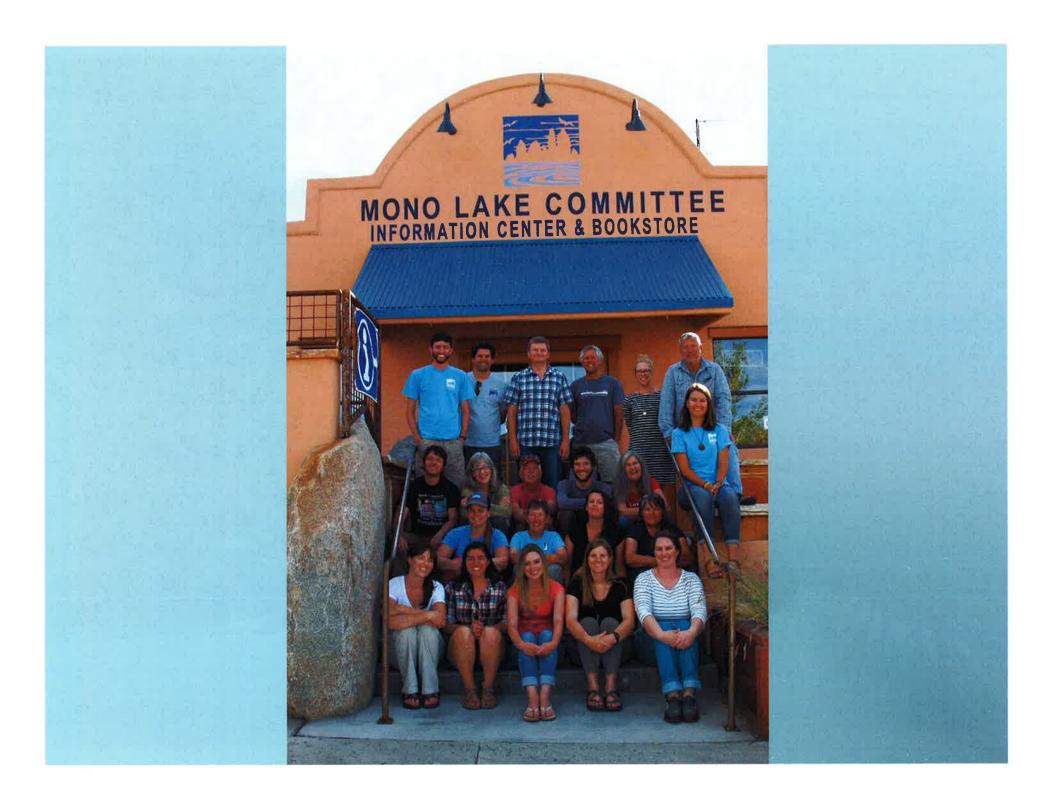


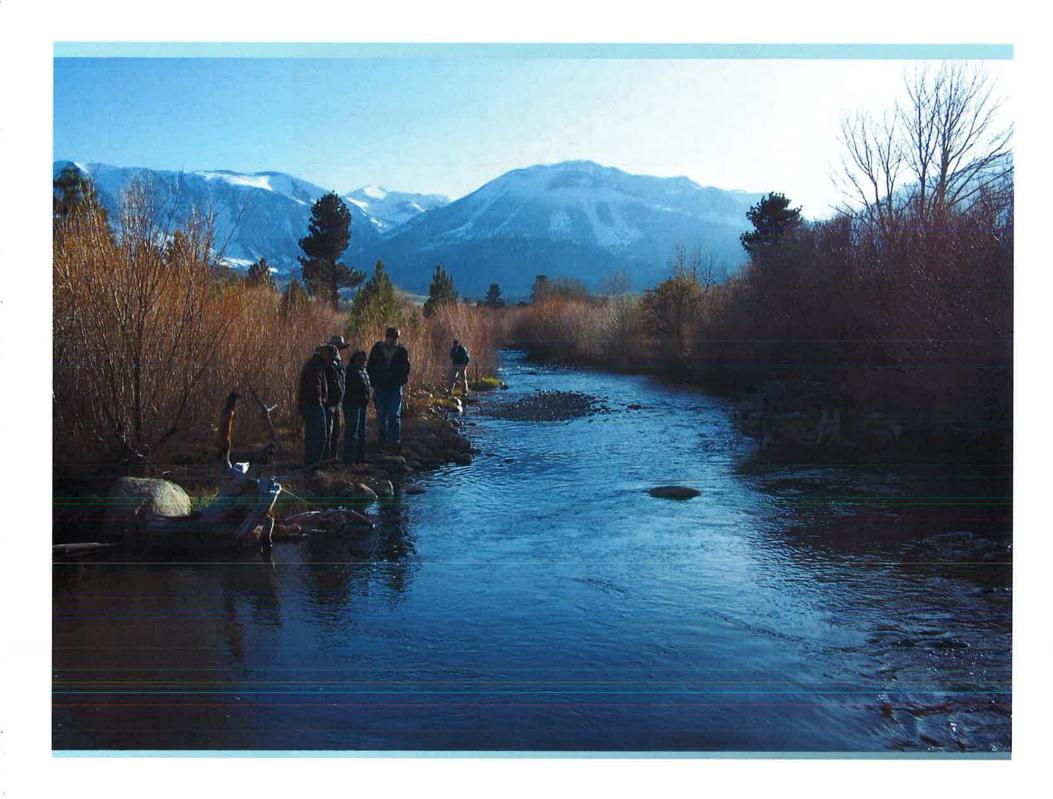






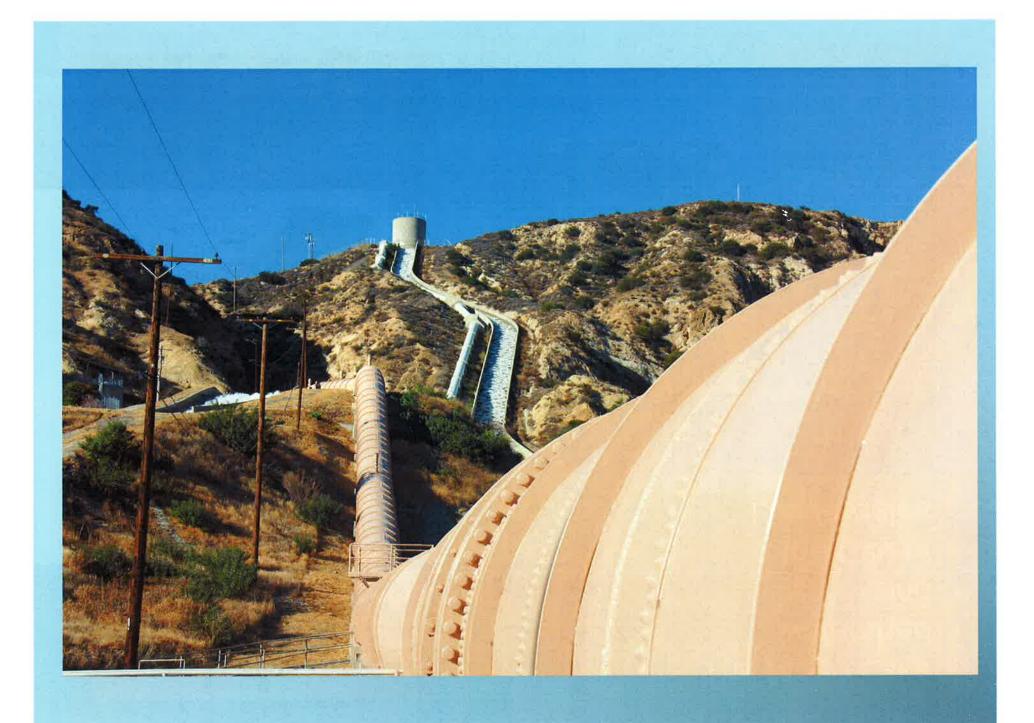














Redding

1962

The Mono Lake watershed and the City of Los Angeles





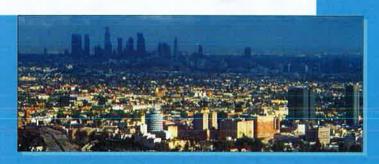
1968



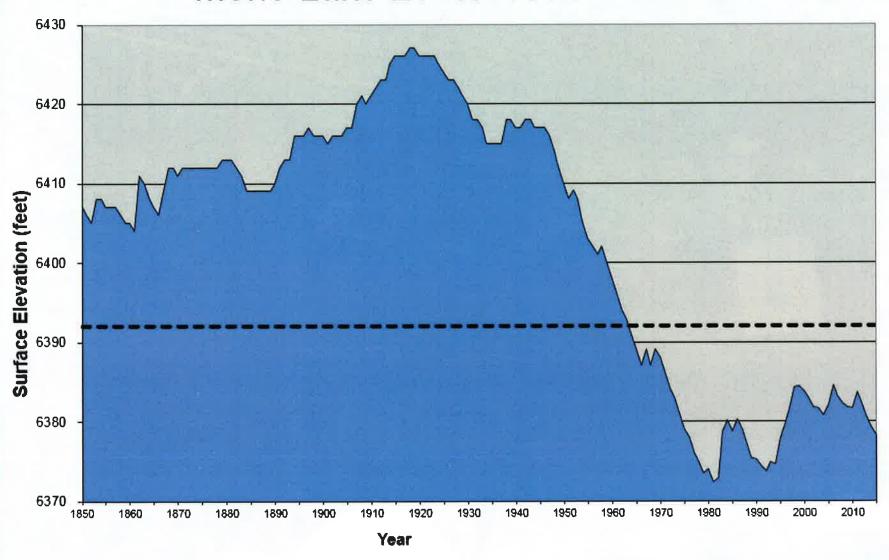
1995







Mono Lake Level: 1850-Present

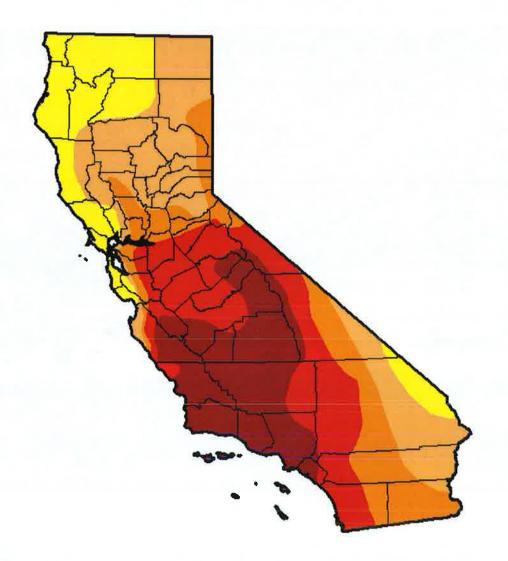






us, braugerakanar California

U.S. Drought Monitor California



August 9, 2016

(Released Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Сиптепт	0.00	100.00	83.59	59.02	42.80	21.04
Last Week 8/2/2016	0.00	100.00	83.59	59.02	42.80	21.04
3 Months Ago 540/2016	4.27	95.73	89.68	72.72	47.92	21.04
Start of Calendar Year 12/28/2015	0.00	100.00	97.33	87.55	69.07	44.84
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.36	71.08	46.00
One Year Ago 9/11/2015	0.14	99.86	97.35	92.36	71.08	46.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnomally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Tinker CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP









http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/







Los Angeles Times



PEOPLE WALK on the exposed lake hed at Mono Lake, whose tributaries supply water to the city of Los

An ominous level

Mono Lake crisis threatens wildlife, L.A.'s water supply

BY LOUIS HAHAGUR

MONO LAKE, Calif. — As this drought-stricken body of sail water recedes, the repercussions mount: its first water level in Mono Lake full just two more rest. exposed alkaline finis are giving rise to dust storms. A diversion of water to L.A. must be halled haven for endangered migrating birds has become more vulnerable to predators. And I os Angeles' ability to divert snowmelt from the region -- which it has done for seven decades - could be cut off

In recent months, the Department of Water and Power has reduced its take from Mono's tributaries by more than two-thirds. Still, the Emulion-year-old lake is within two feet of the level that state officials say throat ens the alpine ecosystem at the base of the eastern Sier ra Nevada.
Unless the region gets a significant amount of rain by 4.3%

the next official water level reading in April, Mono may fair to 6,577 feet in elevation, unggening a frait to any in-versions. The California State Water Resources Control Board established the limit in 1994 to resolve a dispute between environmentalists and the city 350 miles south

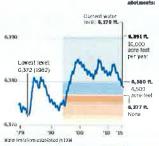
Of particular concern is further exposure of a land bridge that coyoles could cross to access the secondtargest California gull colony | See Mono Lake, Al2|



California drought report card latitues convidroughtreporteard and cataronnia, as

Less water for L.A.?

Mong Lake's water level governs how much L.A. can take



Source: LA Department of Water and Hower Mono Lake Commissee

lam sony, the Boston bomber tells his victims

Dzhokhar Tiamacy's first statement comes. at formal sentencing.

BY RECREAD A. THERARD

HOWYON - IN action ituation accept—with his blend bound and body shirt-ing—the man who ap-peared cold and emolecolosis Chronghout his trial for troubung the Stoness Marathos two years ago shod to lederal court. We meader and appropried for detimat-ing one of two explosives at the bistoric race.

Denoknar Teermee, B. street nervously in a countries packed with survives, parers, lawyers and the federed today who would about the coates surpouts assumed tim to death. He repeated byoked his Muslim fait strike forting withing. "I am acry for the lives I have taken yet the lives I have taken yet, and the the ter-fible damage I have doon. Irroporatio through "He across." There is any lie across. "There is any lie across." The across. "There is any

Engineering doubts, let there he no course I did do it along with my brokher." Of the boundarys, he shall 'I am

guilty? The words of education and regret, the first he has ullived publicly. Addresed the powerful buildings of acetral dozen vicilitie and resitives of the dead gath-ered in the courtrion. Sam-of in the day, in of them some still angry into eaffering others must be judge on and forgive — sold the judge less the April 25, 2025, bomelings but foreste stopped agent their lives.

isser's Maximent as loads quate "A simple, believable applings would have been



BOMBING CHAIR PARK

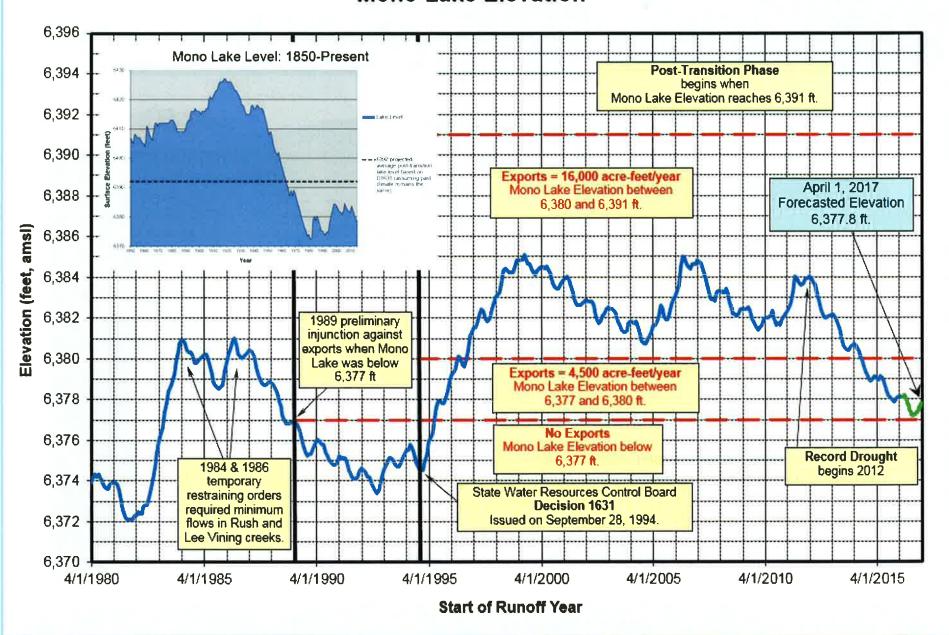
My Jozz Hunn

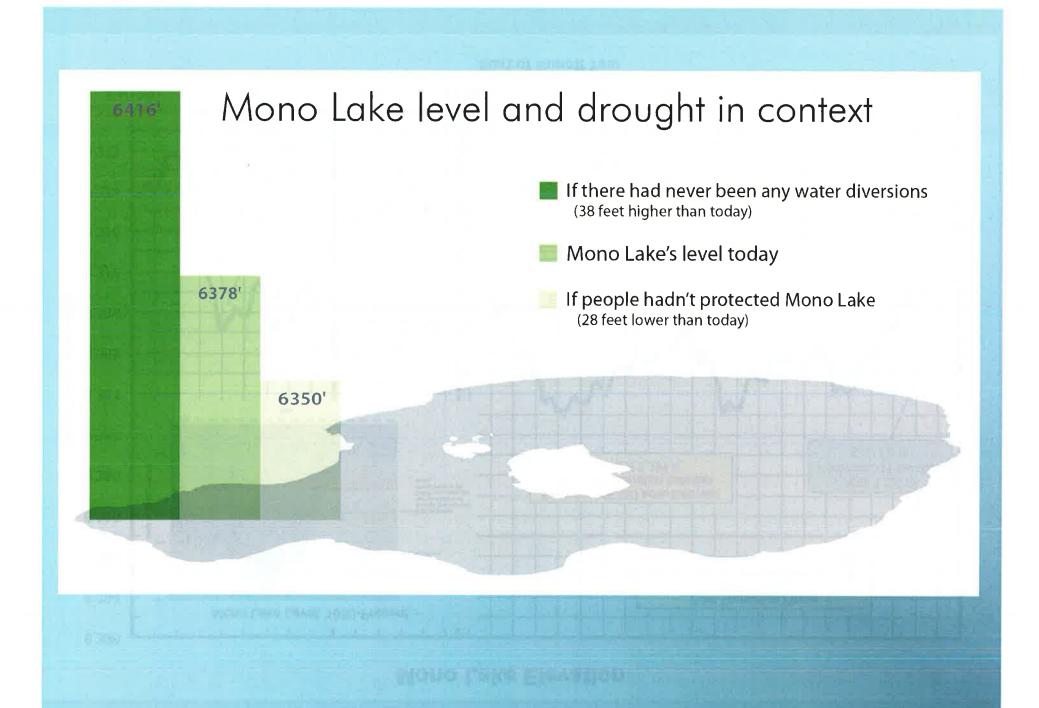
County sheriff's deputies size constitled Webseship of breating a negocutted may

the only must bours before re utting guilty vertical Ayata and Pernando Luvia-no and former Sgt. Eric Gonzaież, wimaubervised ibe in The Basault in a text message to a colleague.

America seeks

Mono Lake Elevation







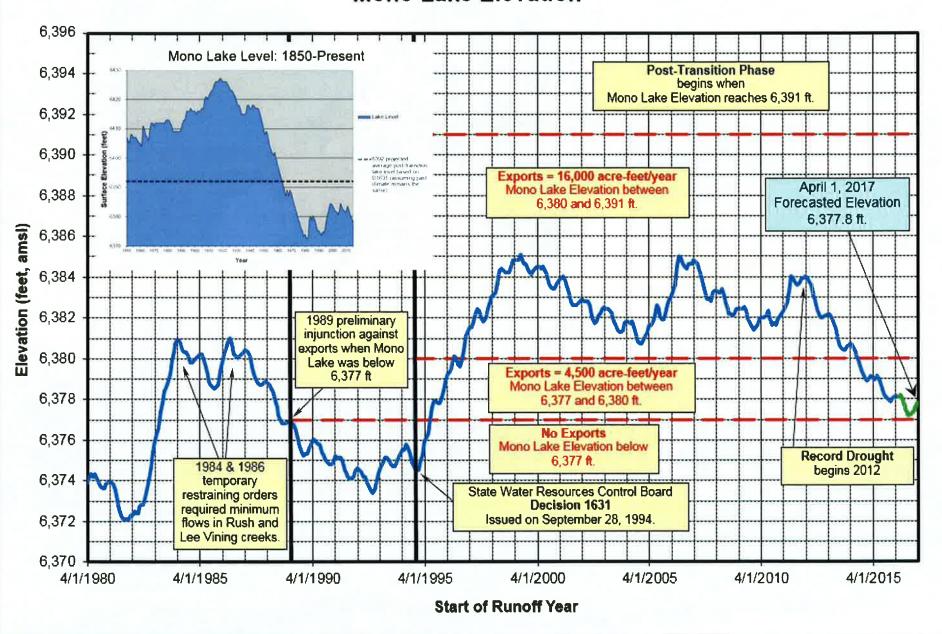
California State Water Resources Control Board

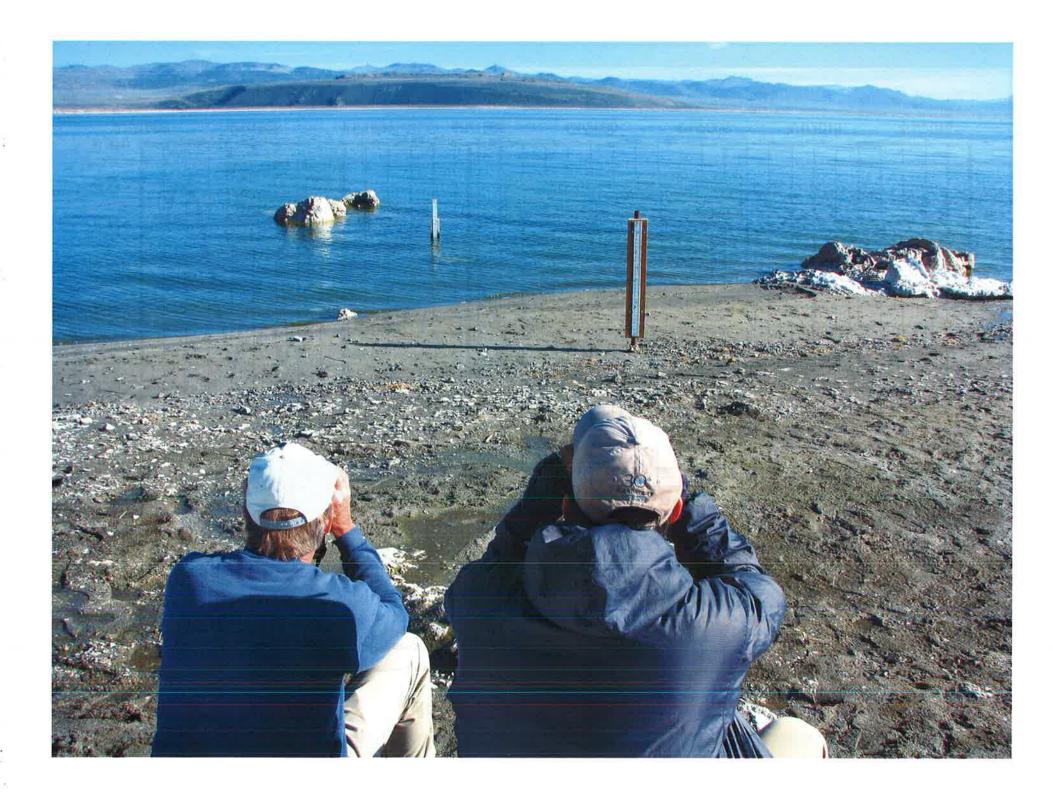
Provisions of license authorizing Los Angeles to divert Mono Basin streams

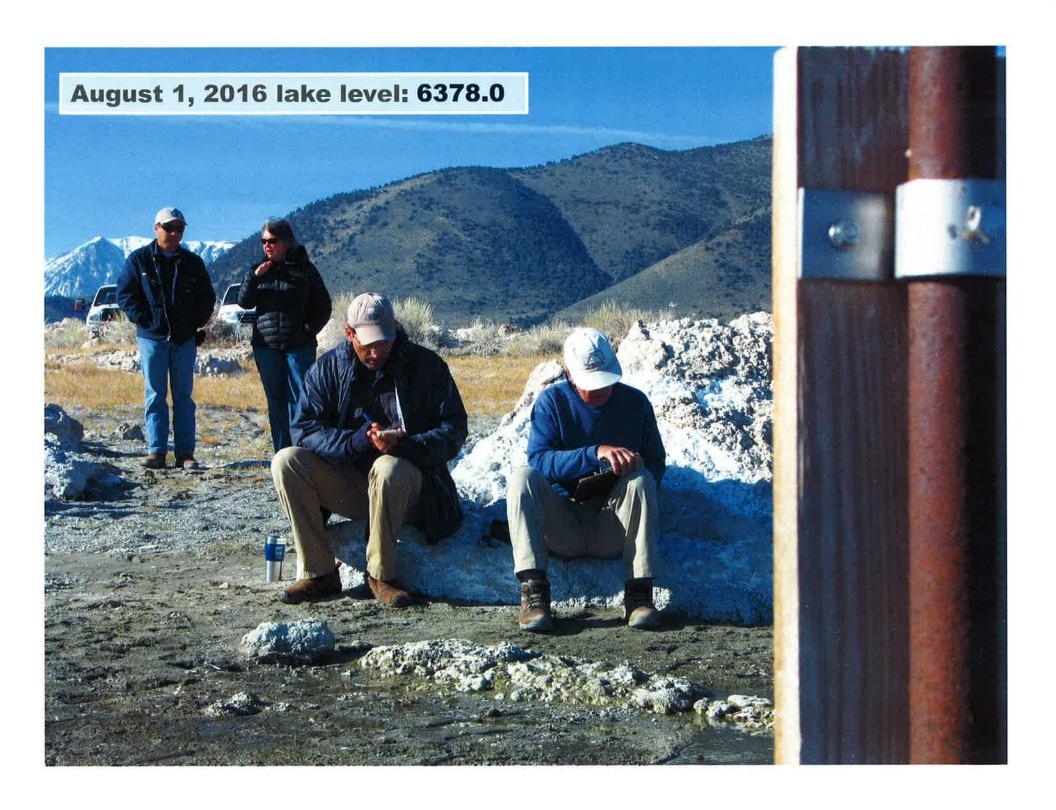
Exports are directly linked to lake level

Mono Lake level measured on April 1	Allowed LADWP water exports
Above 6,391 feet	All streamflow in excess of minimum instream flow requirements
Between 6,380 and 6,391	16,000 acre feet
Between 6,377 and 6,380	4,500 acre feet
Below 6,377	0 acre feet
Forecast to fall below 6,377 April 1 – March 31	0 acre feet

Mono Lake Elevation



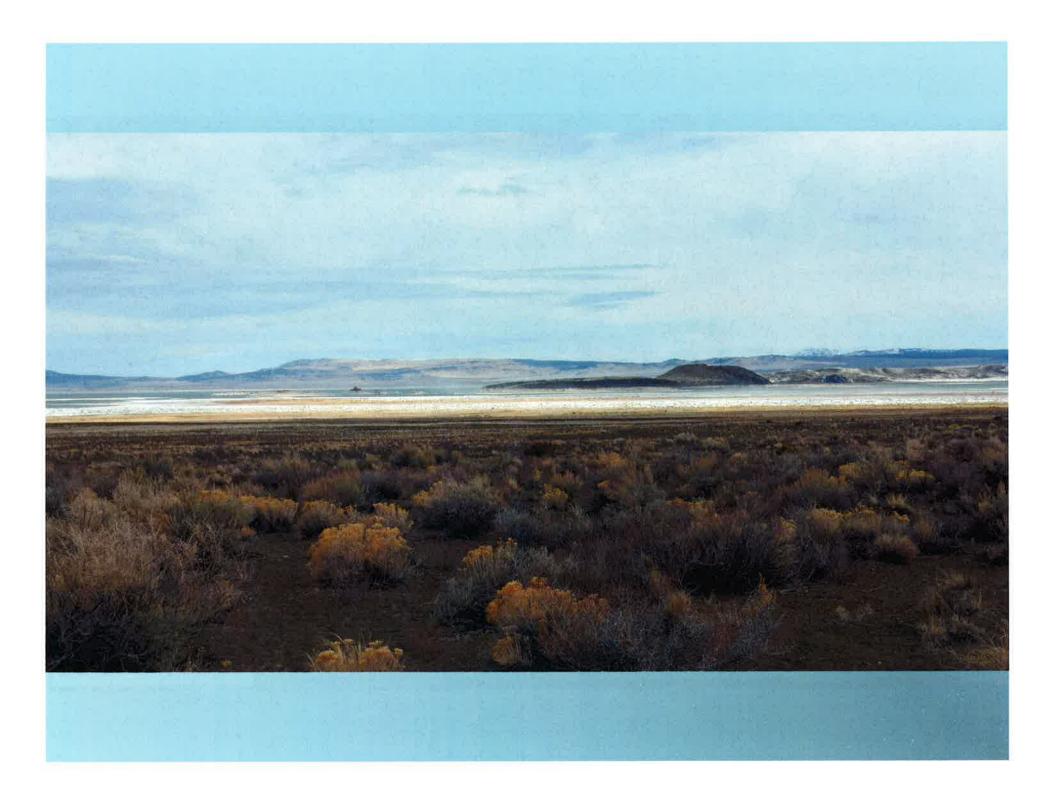




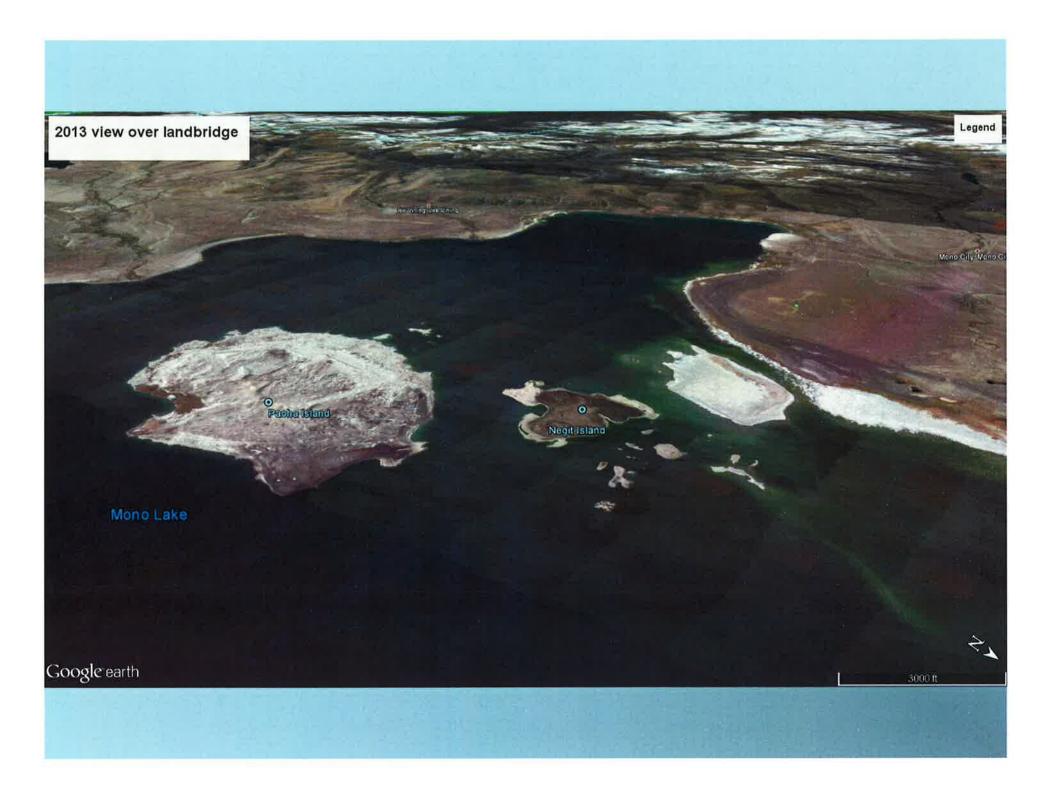
Los Angeles Water Exports from the Mono Basin

since State Water Board Decision 1631

Year	LADWP annual water export
1995 - 2012	16,000 acre feet
2013	16,000 acre feet
2014	16,000 acre feet
2015	4,500 acre feet
2016	4,500 acre feet
2017	If drought continues: 0







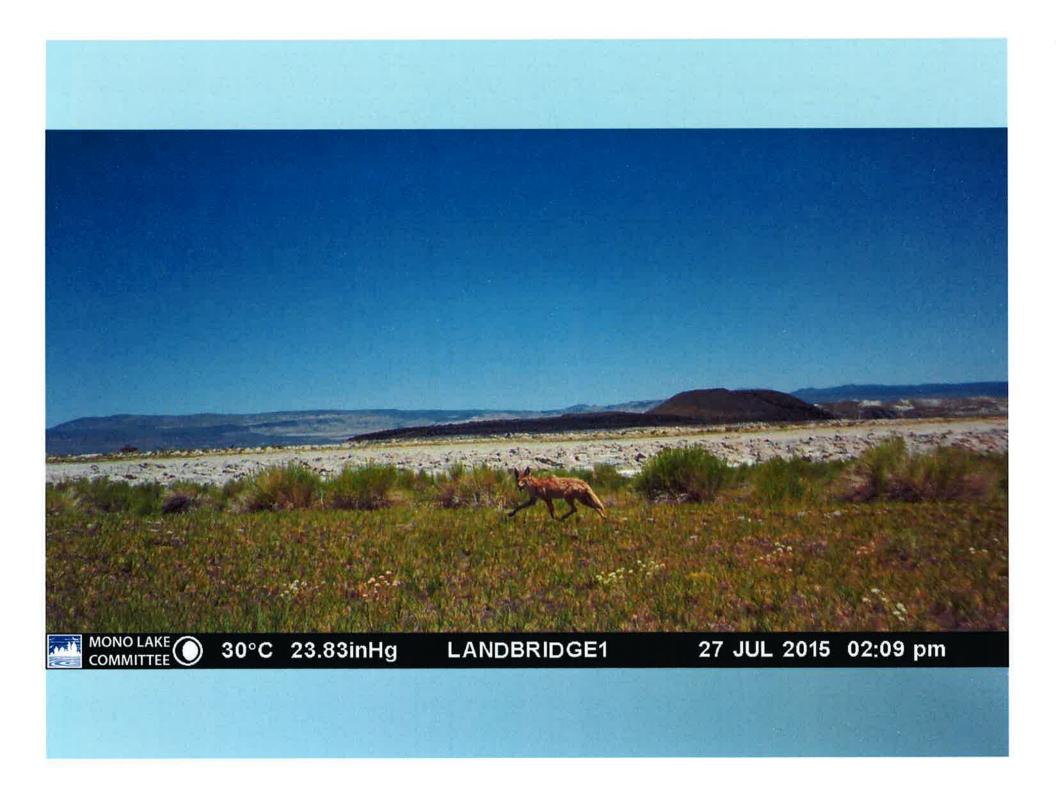




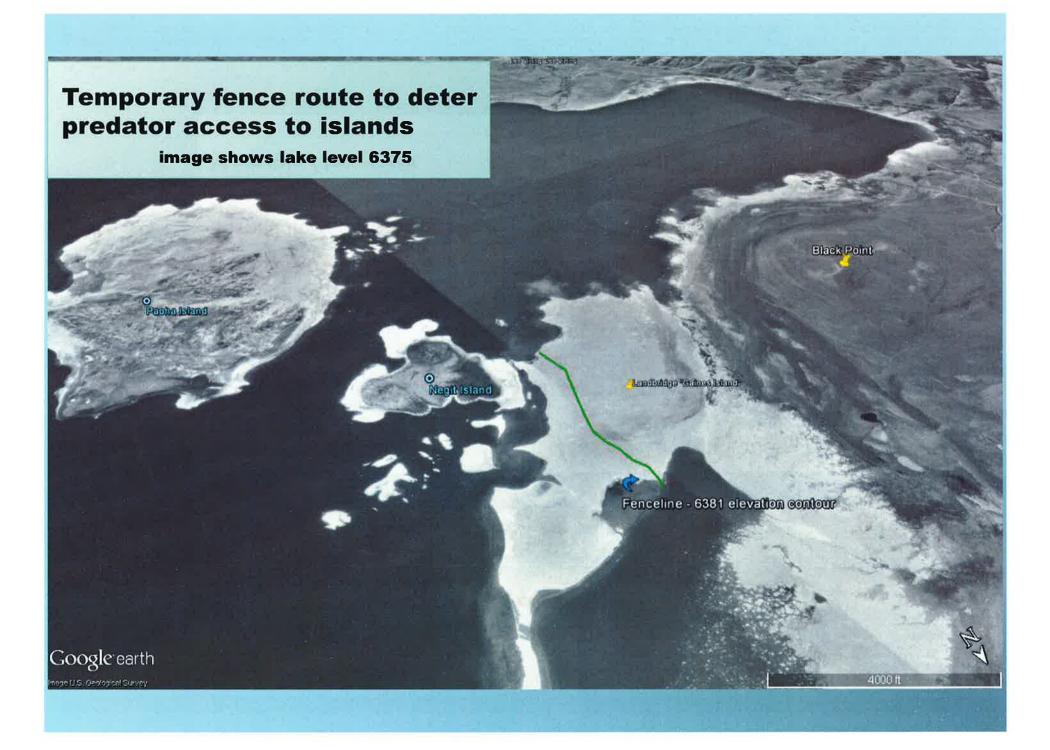








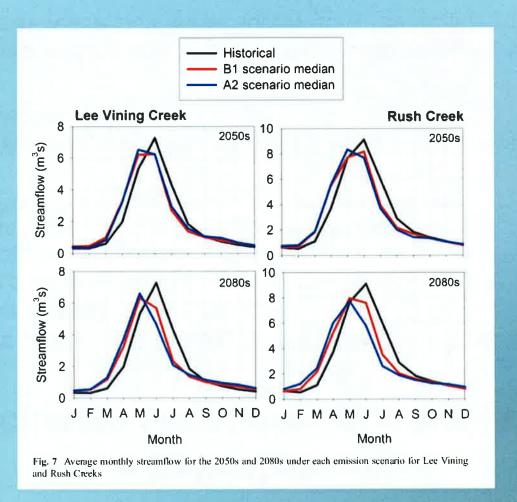




Long term Mono Lake and tributary stream climate concerns

Key factors	Concerns
Warmer temperatures	Increased lake evaporation
	Change in snowmelt timing
	Reduced streamflow
Reduced east-of-Sierra precipitation	Change to Mono Lake water balance
Change in Sierra precipitation	Largest contributor to lake inflow
More rain / less snow	Stream impacts; fewer lake consequences

Future warmer temperatures shift timing of snowmelt



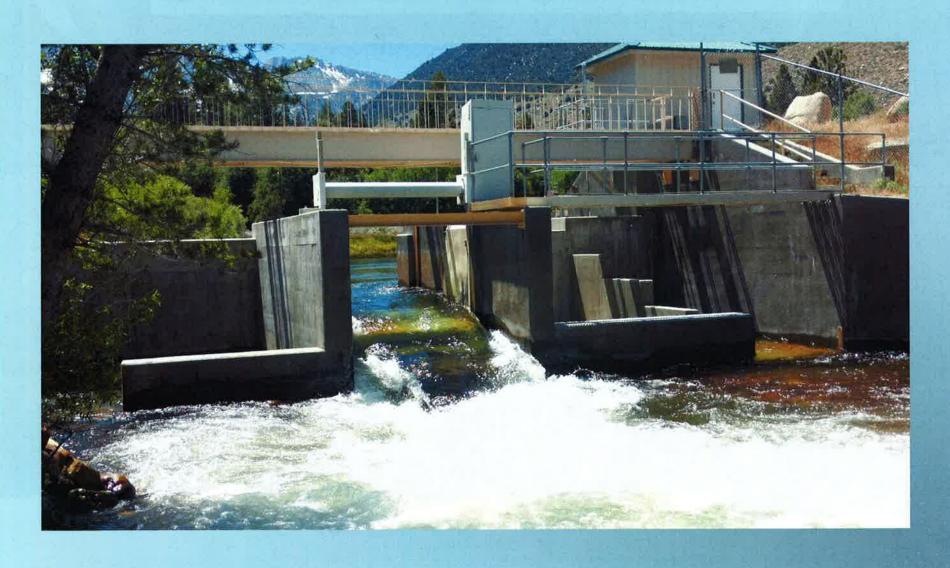
Effects of projected climate change on the hydrology in the Mono Lake Basin, California Darren L. Ficklin & Iris T. Stewart & Edwin P. Maurer

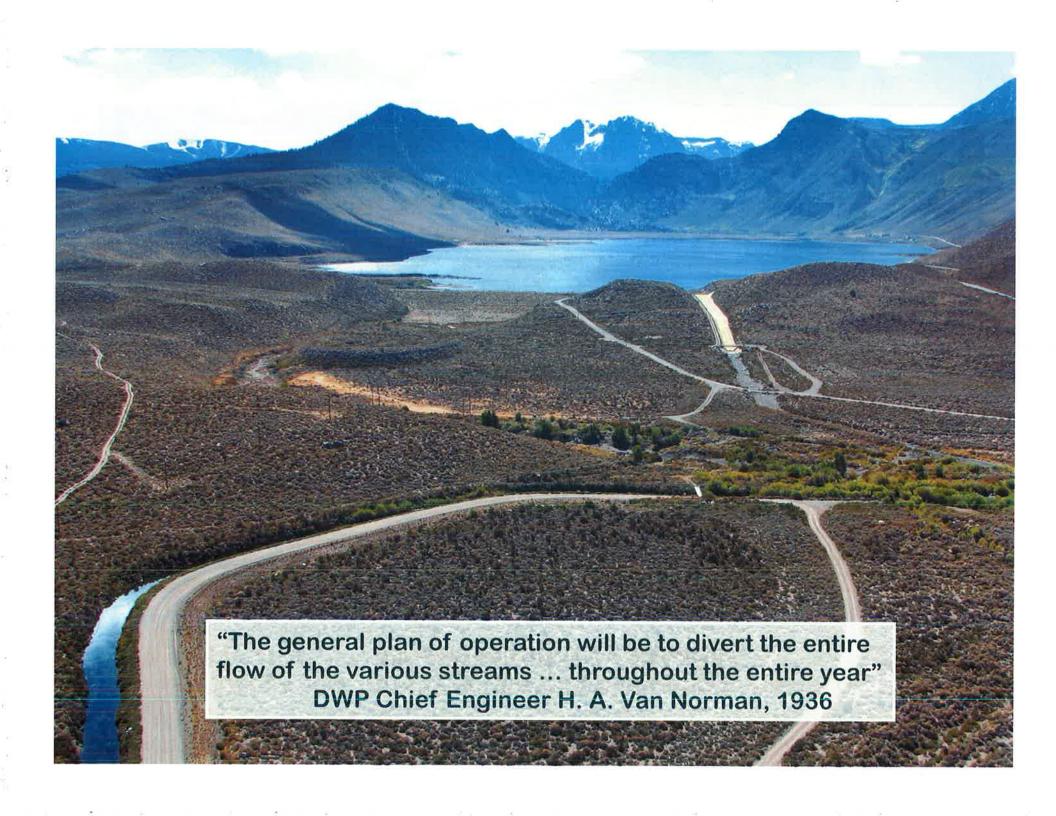
Mono Lake Committee climate adaptation strategies

(highlights)

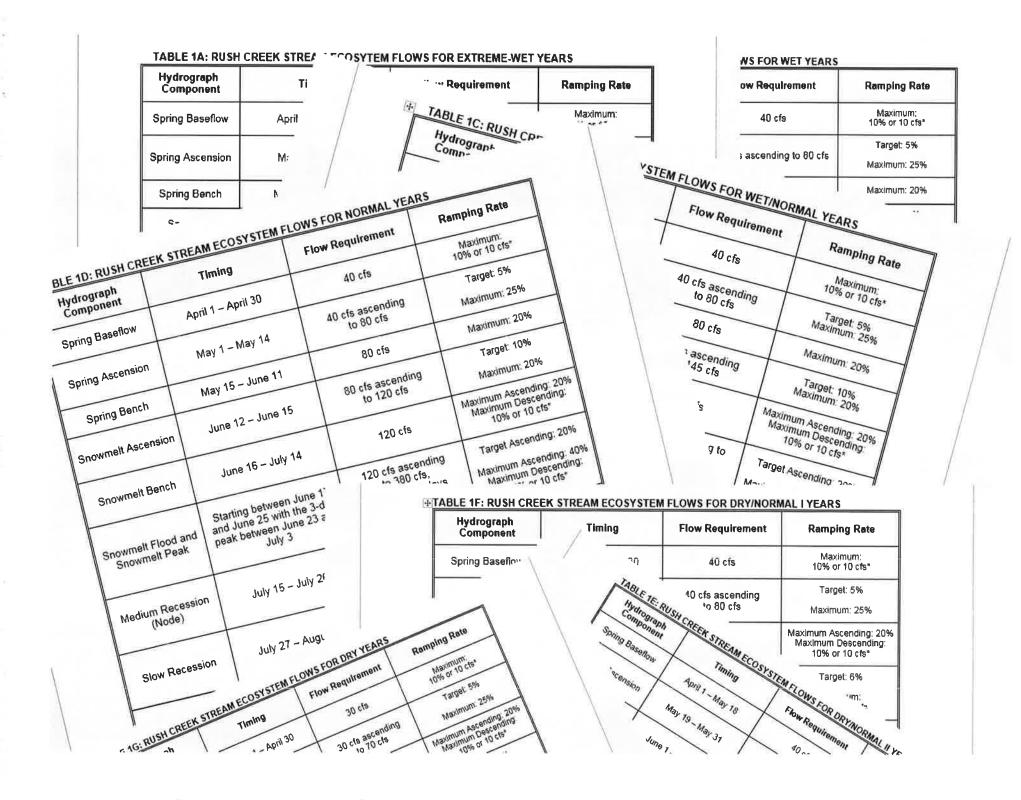
- Secure support and funding for management actions to mitigate climate change impacts
 - MLC steering role with the Sierra Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Partnership "a public-private, cross-sector partnership working to promote climate adaptation and mitigation strategies across the Sierra Nevada region"
- State Water Board to look at why management level not achieved in 2020
- Continue working with Los Angeles to achieve the city's goal to increase local water supply from 15% to 50% by 2035
- Create management framework that allows adaptation

Aqueduct infrastructure that can operate flexibly to restore tributary streams









Benefits of the new streamflows

A comparison of Rush Creek flows under the current and new streamflow rules

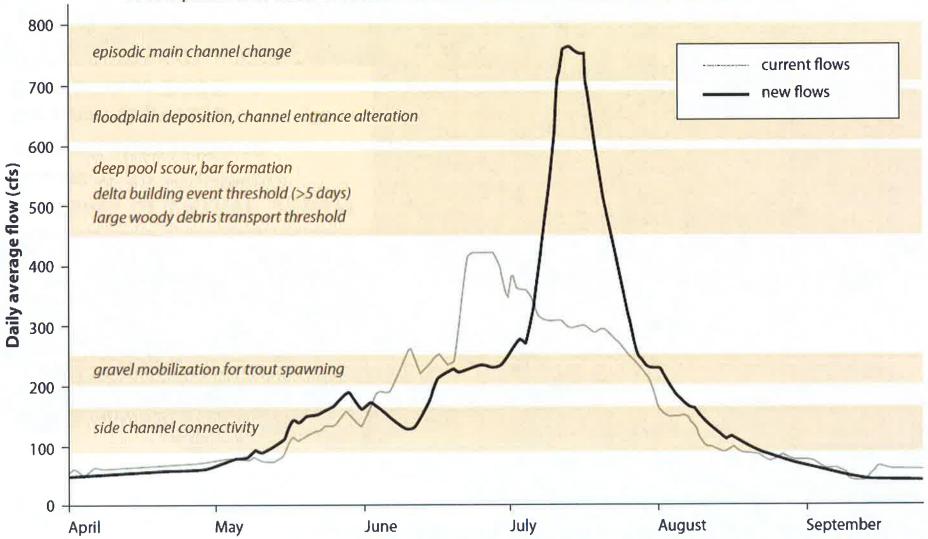
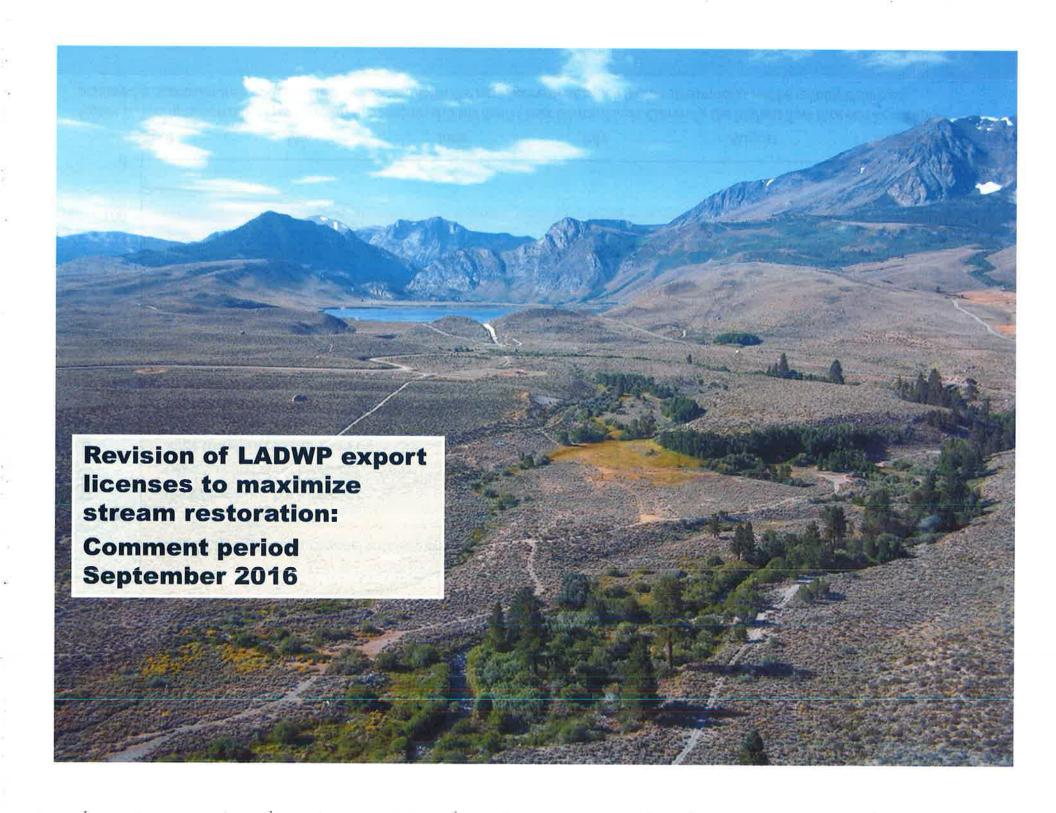
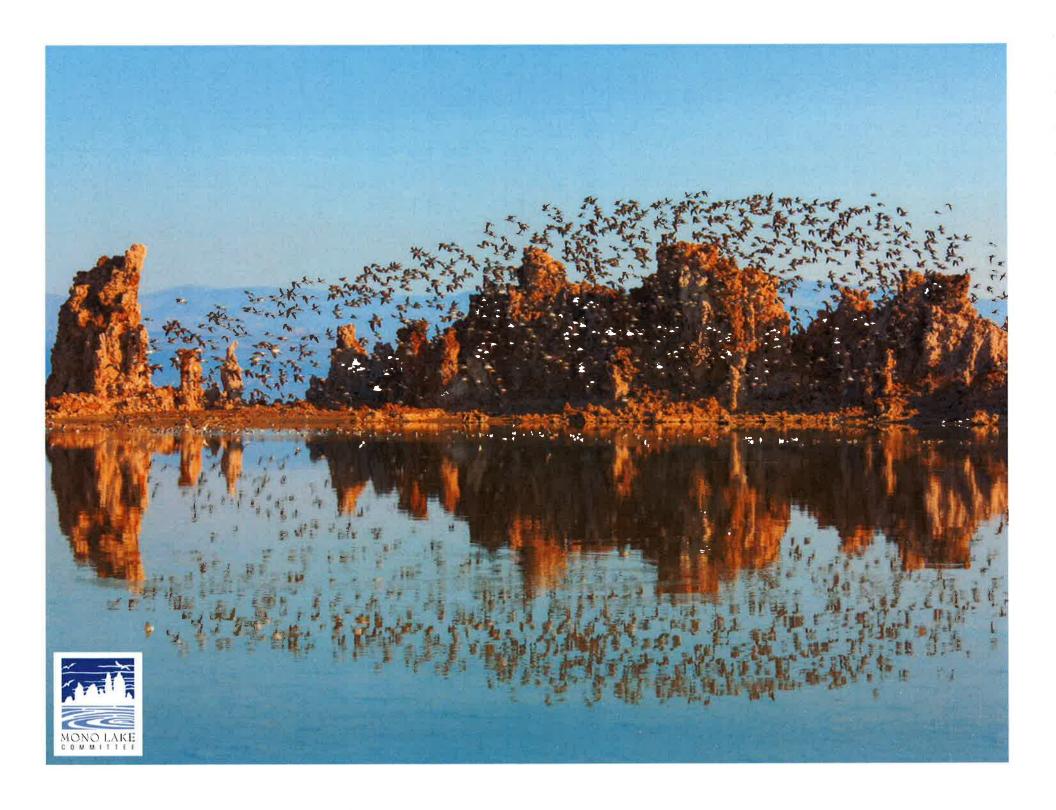


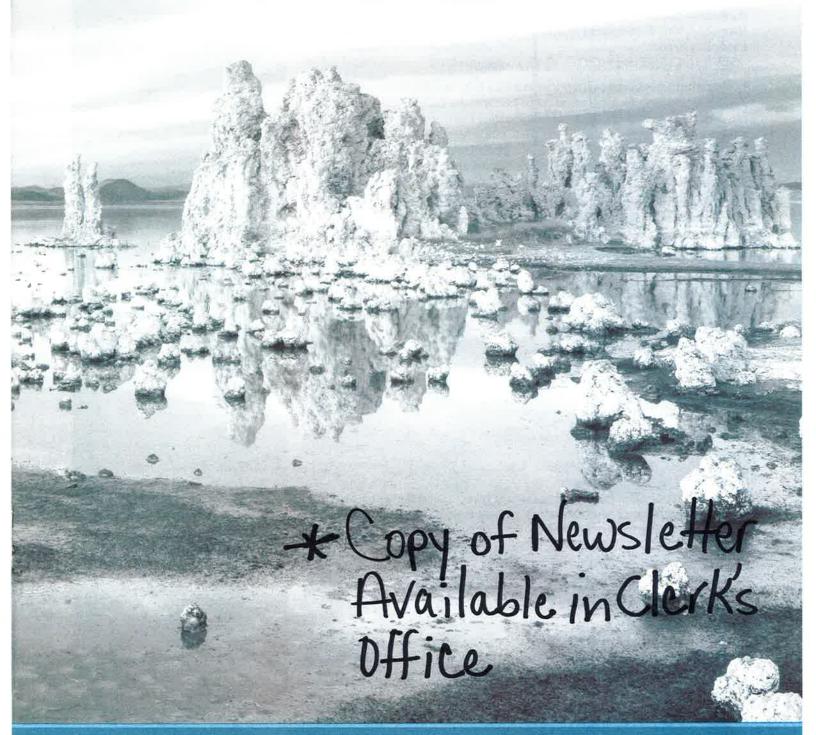
Figure 2: A comparison of wet year streamflows required in the Rush Creek bottomlands. Currently, the highest flow that can be reliably achieved is approximately 400 cubic feet per second. With the new Agreement, much higher streamflows will be reliably delivered.







Summer 2016



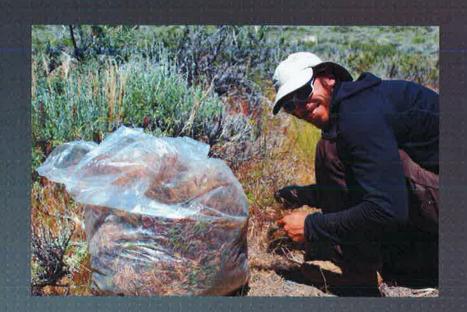
August 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Item #9b EDD/CDD Friends of the Inyo/ **Trail Maintenance Project Report**



Stewardship for our communities, visitors, and world-class recreation

2016 Trails Maintenance

- \$4,099 of volunteer time on two public stewardship days
- 150 hours of professional trail maintenance
- Trails from June Lake to Twin Lakes



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER DAYS

Mono Basin

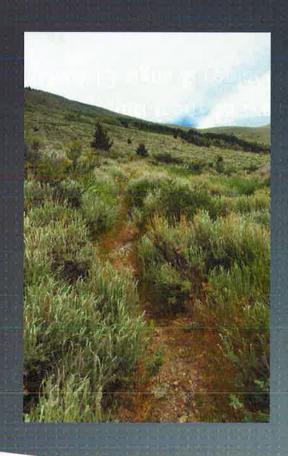
- ▶ Brushed and rocked ¾ miles of trail
- Cleared brush and delineated parking and day use area
- Removed two fallen trees from restroom

June Lake

- Maintained five miles of trails
- Removed graffiti from 15 trees
- Refinished 13 signs & replaced broken posts
- Removed thousands of invasive plants

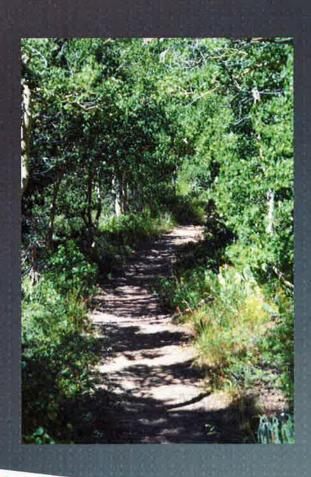


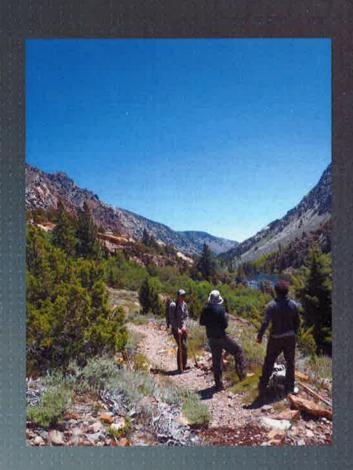
PARKER BENCHTRAIL



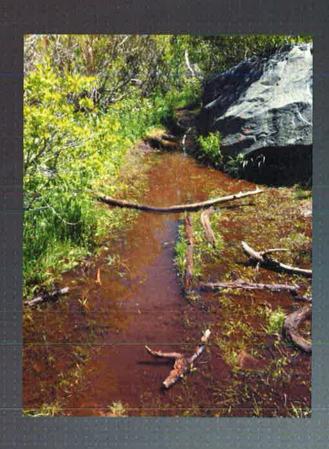


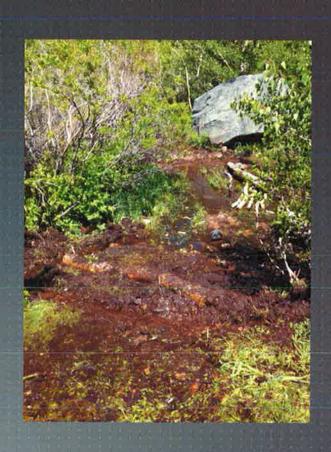
LUNDY CANYON



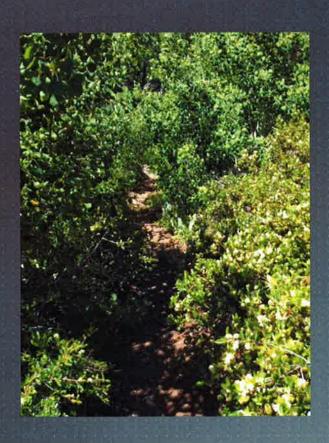


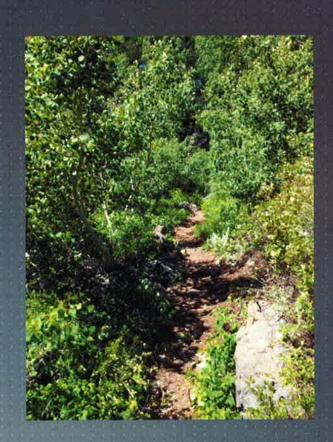
LUNDY CANYON



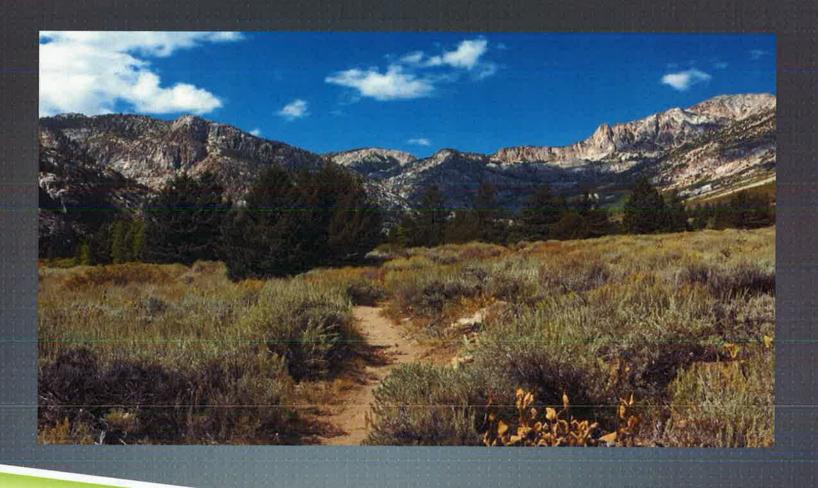


GREEN CREEK





TWIN LAKES



GREEN ORFF

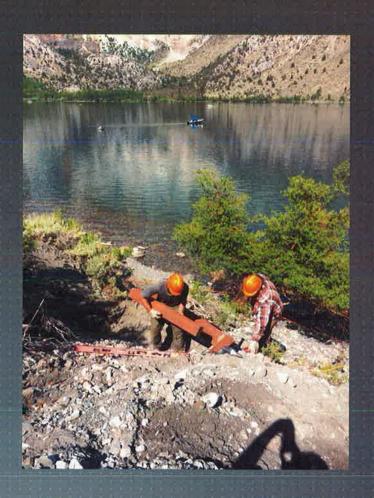
OTHER PROJECTS IN MONO COUNTY

- Mammoth Lakes Trail System Trails
- Restoration Projects along Deadman & Glass Creeks
- John Muir Wilderness Trail Work
- Round Fire Scar National Public Lands Day Planting

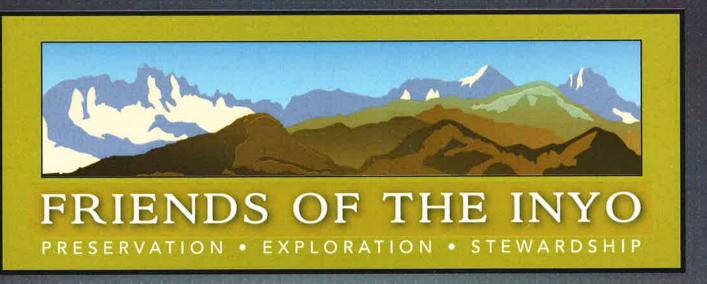


Plans & potential work

- ► Tom's Place -Lower Rock Creek
- ▶ June Lake Trails Day
- Mono Basin Clean Up
- Wayfinding Improvements
- North County Motorized Trails
- ► Community Trails Projects
- Ongoing maintenance and repair throughout Mono County



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TRAILS AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



August 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Item #9c **EDD Economic** Development/ **Tourism** Presentation



Mono County Economic Development

Tourism & Economic Development

Mono County Board of Supervisors August 16, 2016



Mono County Partnerships and Boards



- FLICS
- Visit California
- Brand USA
- CalTravel
- CALED Ambassador
- Fisheries Commission
- Economic Development, Tourism & Film Commission
- Eastern Sierra Fishing Coalition
- YARTS ACC
- Yosemite Transportation Marketing Group
- Yosemite Gateway Partners
- IAVC Lone Pine

Mono County Economic Development, Tourism & Film Commissioners

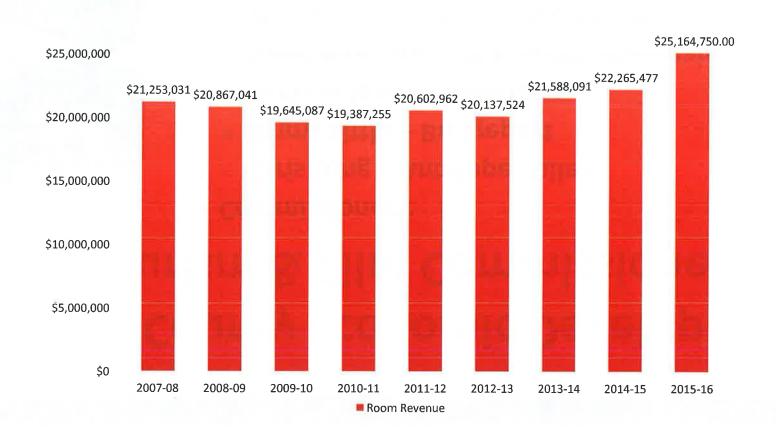


- Commissioners:
 - Chris Long Antelope Valley
 - Jimmy Little Bridgeport
 - Andrew Jones June Lake
 - Steve Morrison Mammoth Mountain
 - Michael Vanderhurst Visit Mammoth
 - Jennifer Roeser South County
 - Geoff McQuilkin Mono Basin

TOT by Year

Room Revenue

\$30,000,000





Tourism Marketing Funding

Mono County TOT currently 12%

Mono County Tourism receives 1/12

FY 15-16 = \$216,000

FY 16-17 = \$251,000





MonoCounty.org

- Traffic up 14.90%
- 74.6% of users have never been to the site before
- New pages on Wildflowers
- Fishing and fishing reports are still the most viewed pages

457,518 Page Views This Year!



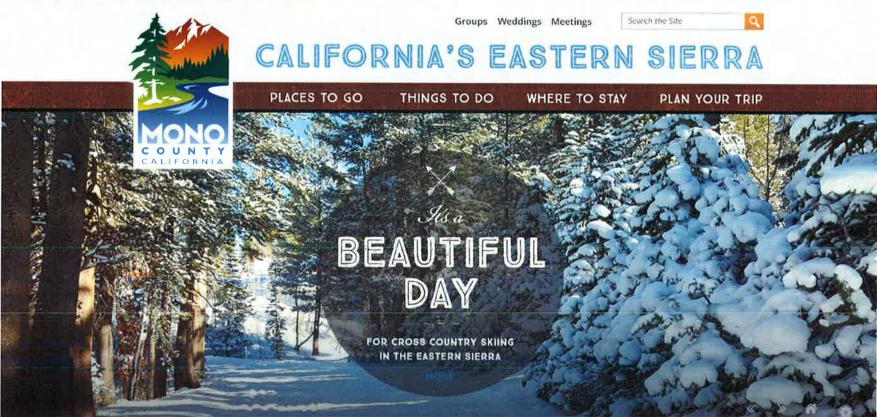
Booking.com in 2015

- 238 Bookings
- 478 Booked room nights
- \$2,159.68 in commission back to the County



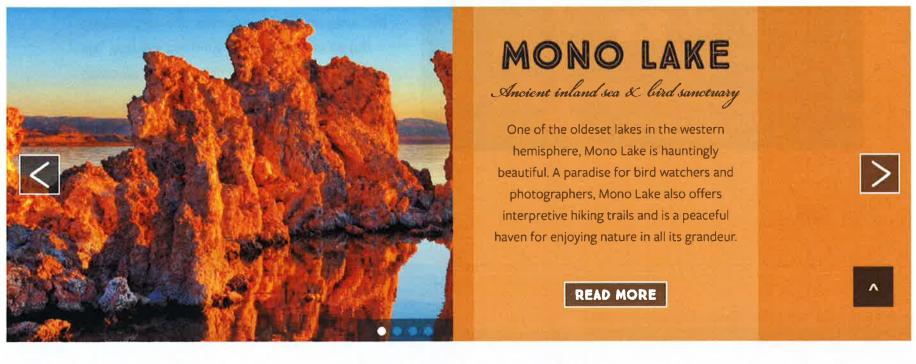








EXPLORE MONO COUNTY









Welcome to MONO COUNTY

Discover the Mono County, California way of life. Witness the pure natural wonder of the Eastern Sierra in Yosemite National Park and Mono Lake. Explore outdoor recreation at Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain. Mono County's scenic beauty is meant for living. Where else can you see the historical Bodie Ghost Town, famous Crowley Lake and Bridgeport all within one day on legendary Highway 395? Come find your spot in natural wonder, whatever your passion.



You Tube

75 SECONDS OF MONO COUNTY

We hope you enjoy this short video which tries to capture the essence of Mono County in just over a minute...





Social Media

Mono County Facebook: 111,000 Fans!

- Visit Mammoth 43,451
- Visit Bishop 9,212
- Inyo County 1,271
- Reno Tahoe 56,663
- Tahoe North 98,461
- Visit Sacramento 47,709
- Mammoth Mountain 278,302

Page			Total Page Likes	From Last Week	Posts This Week	Engagement This Week
1	Ca dream _{lis}	Visit California	1.4m	▲0.3%	71	12.6K
2	L.A.	Los Angeles – discoverL	1,1m	0%	15	4.8K
3		San Francisco The Offi	590.6K	▲0.1%	28	7.4K
4	*	Canada Keep Exploring	412K	▲0.3%	14	9.5K
5	Linns	Visit Santa Barbara	213.4K 🖷	▲0.2%	4	4.3K 8
YOU 6	HONO	Mono County Tourism	111.3K	▲ 0.4%	10	41.9K

Social Media

- Instagram 8,176 Followers
- Twitter 2,048 Followers
- YouTube 62,633 Views
- Pinterest 269 Followers

Other Social Tools:

- Snapchat
- Facebook live
- Instagram Stories



monocountytourism

Following

Mono County - Eastern Sierra Scenic #hwy395, #TiogaPass to #Yosemite NP, #BodieGhostTown, #MonoLake, tons of outdoor rec & quintessential mountain towns #MonoCounty #EasternSierra MonoCounty.org

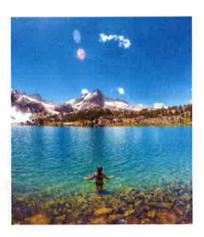
368 posts

8,176 followers

320 following









Social Media

Mono County VLOG: 9 videos with 562,811 Views!

Snowmobiling on Sonora Pass Posted by Mono County Tourism - California's Eastern ... 59,161 Views

Social Media influencers



1

tiffpenguin Mammoth Lakes...

Following

7,342 likes

115

tiffpenguin coastin' through the week #mongolife (2)

\#humanpoweredadventures | pc: @jonathanbasiago with my edit

view all 149 comments

errincasa Duuuuuuude I never met anyone growing up who rode mongo & • budddddiesssss

tiffpenguin oh whattt! you're already rad in my book 🐯 @errincasa

errincasa @tiffpenguin haha if you can rock mongo it looks so much cooler!!

tiffpenguin hey we didn't ask to be cool, these things just kinda happen Z gerrincasa

errincasa @tiffpenguin born this way II



tiffpenguin 🏰 derrincasa

Newsletter

Monthly newsletter to 21,597 emails

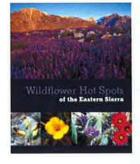
Open Rate is 5% above industry average



Wildtlowers Will 'WOW' You This Year!

Get ready! We are expecting the wildflowers this spring and summer to be absolutely fantastic. Plan your trip now to get the best lodging rates or campsite. Here's a few helpful tips for when you get

Wildflower Hot Spots of the Eastern Sierra includes maps, flower information, viewing tips, and more from Fossil Falls to the Bodie Hills. It is available as a <u>PDF online</u>, but we recommend donating \$2 for your own copy at an ESIA Discovery Store located in visitor centers throughout the Eastern Sierra (Lone Pine, Bishop,



Mammoth Lakes, Lee Vining, Bridgeport).

And mark your calendar to join Friends of the Inyo on Tune 11th for "Breakfast with a Botanist" -

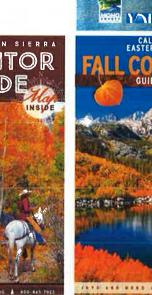




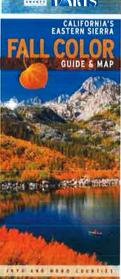
Visitor Guide & Collateral

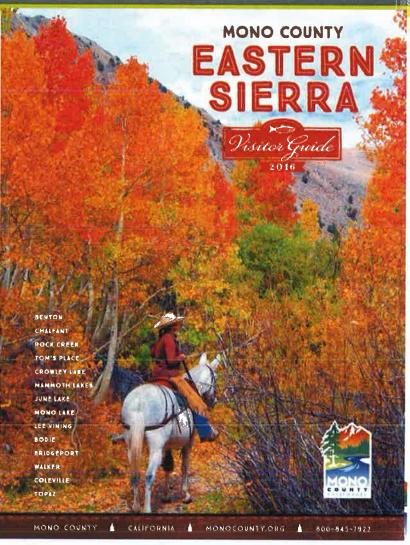
- 2016 Visitor Guide
 - Expanded by 16 pages
 - 100% Ad supported
- •Fall Color Guide & Map
- Yosemite East
- Mono & Inyo Motor Touring Guide
- Events Calendar
- Mono County Map Guide











Tradeshows

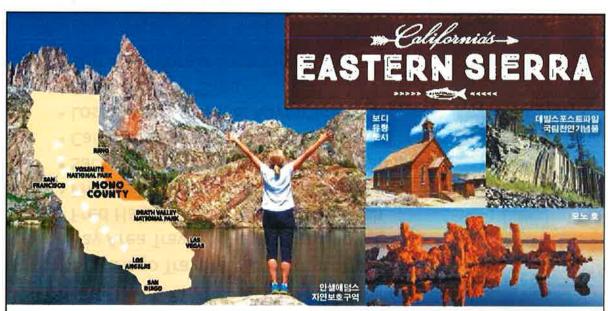
9 Tradeshows totaling 2.5 million visitors:

- San Diego Travel & Adventure Show
- Bay Area Travel & Adventure Show
- Fred Hall Fishing Show Long Beach
- Fred Hall Fishing Show San Diego
- Sacramento International Sportsman Expo
- California State Fair
- Los Angeles Travel & Adventure Show
- Reno Outdoor Expo
- •Film in California Locations Show



Almost 3,000 new leads!







자연의 아름다움은 전 세계 어디에서나 통합니다. 장관을 이루는 요세미티 동쪽 입구에 위치 한 모노 카운티에 오신 것을 환영합니다. 모노 카운티에서는 모노 호의 독특한 석회암층, 진정 한 보디 유령 도시, 데빌스포스트파일, 길게 펼쳐진 등산 트레일, 세계 최상급 송어 낚시, 아름다운 단풍 등 다양한 것들을 보고 줄길 수 있습니다. 국가지청 경관도로인 미국의 고속도로 365가 연중무휴로 운영됩니다. 요세미티를 가르는 티오가 패스 로드/120번도로(Tioga Pass Road/SR





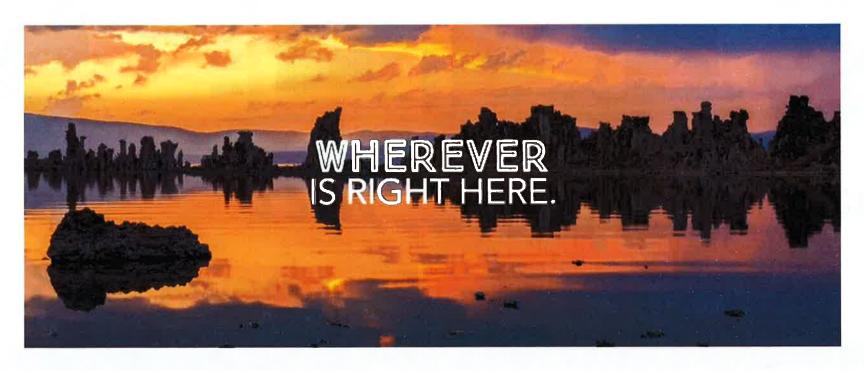
Advertising

- Western Outdoor News
- California Sportsman
- Sierra Fisherman
- Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide
- California Visitor Guide
- Visit California International Guide
- Adventure Outdoor
- Locations International Magazine



Television Advertising

Promotional Video – Winter Ad – Fall Colors - Fishing





Public Relations

55

PIECES OF COVERAGE:

1.25M

ESTIMATED COVERAGE VIEWS:

525K

SOCIAL SHARES:

4.72M

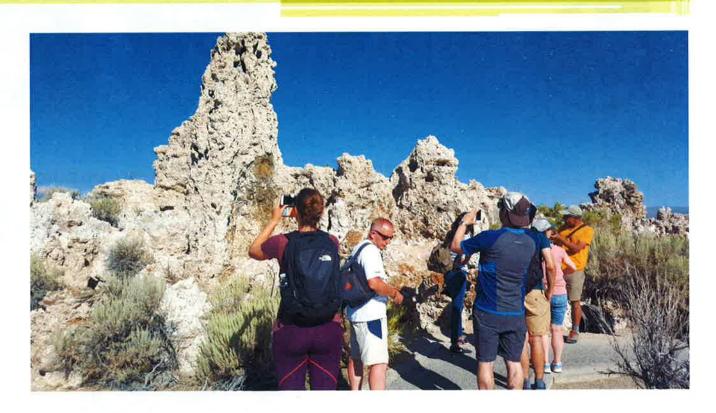
CIRCULATION:



Fam Trips

Media / Travel Professionals:

- United Kingdom
- France
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Italian
- Lonely Planet
- Instagrammers
- Germany
- Society of American Travel Writers (SATW)
- High Sierra Visit California Visit Mammoth



Tourism Partners



DiscoverAmerica.com















Visit California 3rd Thursday

California

find yourself here





Community Event Marketing Fund

- \$3,000 Kite Festival in Antelope Valley
- \$3,000 Birding in our Valley
- \$3,271.45 Bridgeport Fish Fest
- \$2,500 Bridgeport Trout Tournament
- \$2,500 Bridgeport Founder's Day
- \$1,017.55 Bird Chautauqua
- \$3,000- June Lake Jam fest
- \$500 Graniteman Challenge
- \$2,000 Eastern Sierra Art Festival
- \$2,000 Mammoth Gran Fondo
- \$2,000 Mammoth Lakes Event and Wedding Expo
- **\$2,000** Oktoberfest

Total \$26,789





Historical Societies Grant Fund

- \$870 Mono County Historical Society
- \$1,377 Mono Basin Historical Society
- \$1,377 June Lake Loop Historical Society
- \$1,376 Sothern Mono Historical Society
- \$1,000 Historic Benton Hot Springs

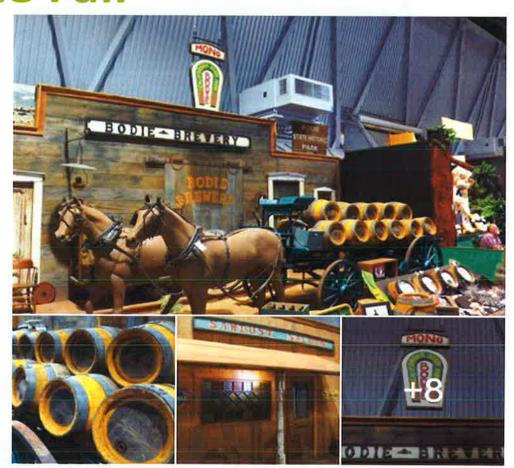
Total \$6,000





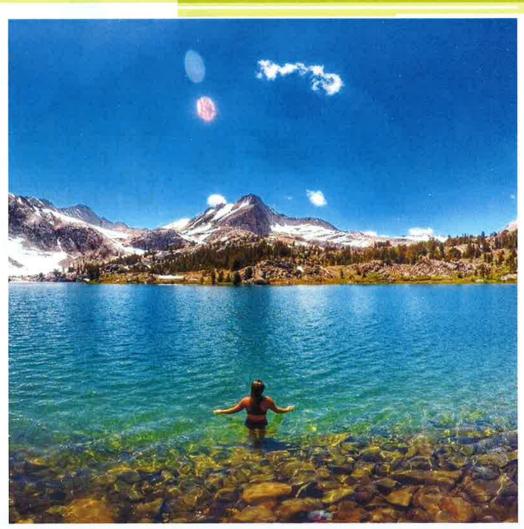
California State Fair

- Won "Best Design" & Silver Award
- Featured Bodie Brewery and our own local breweries:
 Mammoth Brewing Co., Blacked Doubt and June Lake Brewing



Tourism Goal

To continue to drive overnight and day visits to Mono County to increase TOT and visitor spending in Mono County.



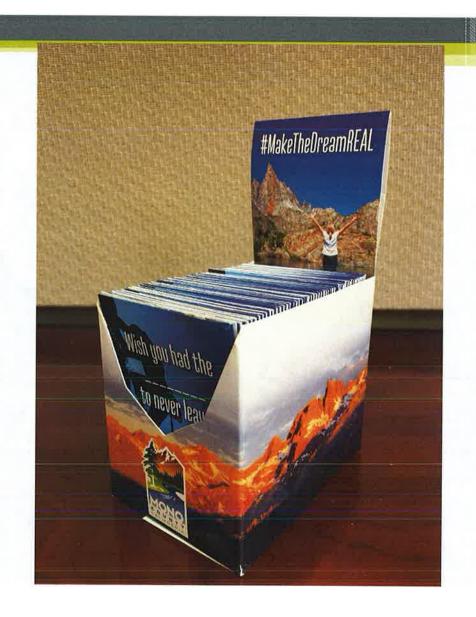


What is Economic Development

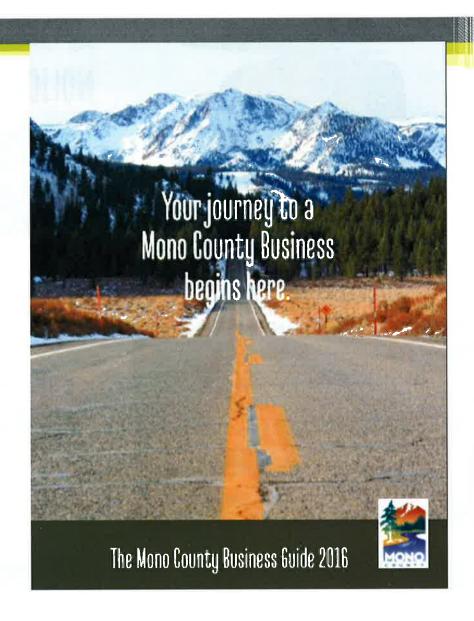
- Economic Development is the creation of wealth through which community benefits are created.
- Strategic Plan Promote strong and diverse economy



- Work with existing visitor base to attract new business and jobs
- People who already love and visit the Eastern Sierra
- Low hanging fruit planting the seed



- Mono County Business Guide 2016
- Establish Inventory of commercial space and developable land
- Collaboration with Community Development/Planning on new business inquiries
- Continue to work with IT to leverage D395 opportunities



New Business in Mono County



HIGH SIERRA SNOWCAT & YURT

Mono Lake Produce



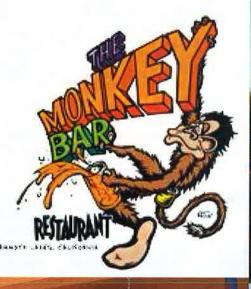






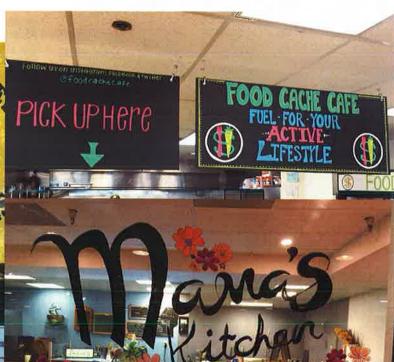












Business Retention and Expansion

- Primary focus of our strategic plan
 - Based on input from the Board, RPAC, and Small Business Survey
- 70-80% of new jobs created come from existing businesses
- New businesses investigate current business success and climate before relocating
- Comprehensive BR&E survey with Mammoth Lakes Chamber

Business Retention and Expansion

- Business Purchases
 - Jolly Kone
 - High Sierra Bakery
 - Big Rock Resort
 - June Lake Motel
 - Edelweiss Lodge



Business Retention and Expansion

- Current Business Resources
 - Economic Development Website
 - Free Business and Technical Assistance
 - Peak Performance Program
 - Workshops and Webinars Training and development
 - Workforce Services WIA funded programs
 - Mono County Office of Education
 - Business support SBA, Governor's office of Economic Development,
 USDA, SBDC
 - Access to capital support
 - Current job listings
 - Business workshops

State of the County



STATE OF THE COUNTY

WHEN FRIDAY - JUNE 3, 2016 - 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

WHERE MOUNTAINSIDE CONFERENCE CENTER

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Main Lodge, 3rd floor 1 Minaret Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

MUST RSVP: LGransg/mono.ca.gov / 760-924-1738



Join us to hear California industry experts share insights on key tourism and economic development trends that impact our region; how to prepare for the rapidly growing Chincon travel market, followed by specialized breakesst sessions. Refreshments and

DREAM BIG: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA

Leona Rood - Fice President, International Marketing for Visit California



Years leads the international marketing team and oversees bra advertising, cooperative marketing, digital content, travel trade and public relations indicatives for Vaic California 13 target international marketine China. United Kingdoon, Canada, Mesko, Amerialia, Resul, Japan, Germany, France, South Rocea, Italy, Scandinavia and Iedia.

CHINA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Charlie Gu - Director, China Lanuary Advisors



Xiaofeng "Charile" Gu is a communications strategist, advising luxury brands, retalls and travel destinations on attracting, engaging and retaining Chinese consumers. He possesses a deep understanding of the Chinese culture and assisted Visit California in Isanching a series of "China Ready" seminars for tourism-related bus

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

Gurban Sahota - Provident & CEO, California Association for Local Econo Development (CALED)



Gurbax and her tram believe in the importance of developing meaningful partnerships in order to create and austain bealthy, wealthy communicies. Gurbax will be joined by Michelle Stephens. CALED Program Manager.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BIG HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESS (table and GO-Biz Programs)

Josee Torces - Deputy Director/Small Business Adultor, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-BIZ)

Kelly Bearden - Director, Small Business Development Center, GSU Bakersfield

SOCIAL MEDIA: TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Jeff Sturpson - Ecusanic Development Manager, Mene County

THE BUSINESS VALUE OF BROADBAND; WHY CONNECTIVITY IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR BOTTOM LINE Nate Greenberg - Director of Information Technology, Mone County

Ambassador



Thank you!



August 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Item #13a Community Development

Draft Comment Ltr. on the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision & Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Mono County Community Development Department

PO Box 347 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 760,924,1800, fax 924,1801 commdev@mono.ca.gov PO Box 8 Bridgeport, CA 93517 760,932,5420, fax 932,5431 www.monocounty.ca.gov

August 16, 2016

To: The Honorable Mono County Board of Supervisors

From: Wendy Sugimura, Associate Analyst

Scott Burns, Director

RE: Checklist of Missing Information / Discussion Points for Inyo National Forest Plan Comments

Administrative Edits:

- 1. Paragraph in introduction referencing Strategic Plan, General Plan, impacts to County, reliance on recreation and tourism, connection of residents to forest, etc. Add relevant General Plan citations from community planning areas (see attached letter from the Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee; provide similar set of citations for other communities as well).
- 2. Attachment #2, comments from the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative/Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, is currently missing and will be added.
- Wilderness:
 - a. Describe the wilderness character and attributes of recommended additions.
 - b. Ensure map set is clearly labeled.
- 4. Wild & Scenic Rivers:
 - Describe wild & scenic river character and attributes of recommended reaches.

Potential Additions/Edits Needing Board Direction:

- 1. Any additions based on Planning Commission feedback.
- 2. Wild & Scenic Rivers:
 - a. Draft letter recommends addition of the lower reaches of Rush, Parker and Walker creeks. The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) recommends all reaches of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks, and lower reaches of Mill Creek. Should the County include all creeks per MLC input?
- 3. Recreation Classes: Discuss "zoning" of recreation classes across the landscape and provide specific recommended changes.
- 4. Recreation Places & Special Management Areas
 - a. Provide input/edits on the names of Recreation Places and geographic boundaries/descriptions.
 - b. Identify Recreation Places (or smaller areas of these places) that warrant special management. As a starting point, current Restricted Use Areas in/adjacent to Mono County include: Rock Creek, McGee Creek, Convict Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Reds Meadow Valley, June Lakes Loop, Lee Vining Canyon, Lundy Canyon, Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and any research area.

Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee

PO Box 347 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 760,924,1800 phone, 924,1801 fax commdev@mono.ca.gov www.monocounty.ca.gov/RPAC

August 22, 2016

Mono County Supervisors PO Box 715 Bridgeport, CA 93517

Dear Supervisors:

Subject: Mono Basin RPAC comments on the draft Inyo Forest Plan

The Mono Basin Regional Advisory Committee would like to provide comments to help shape the development of Mono County's comments on the draft Inyo Forest Plan. As a gateway community to Yosemite National Park and visitor destination for Mono Lake, the community of Lee Vining has a vested interest in the outcome of the Inyo Forest planning process. Many of our visitors and residents recreate on forest lands and so the long-term health and viability of recreational opportunities is important to our economic sustainability.

To assist the County in developing comments to the Inyo National Forest we would like to share specific sections of the Mono Basin Community Plan: *Visioning to Action* (May 9, 2012). The plan is the result of a two-year visioning process and consensus-based final plan that guides planning efforts in the Mono Basin. See http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/rpac-mono-basin/page/mono-basin-community-plan for complete text.

Comments from the Mono Basin Community Plan: Visioning to Action

Mono Basin Vision:

Recreation opportunities and access that highlight our exceptional outdoor venues. We value responsible recreation use and access to protect and enjoy our natural environment.

A healthy natural environment with clean air and water, scenic grandeur, dark night skies, pristine wilderness and open space. We protect and cherish the natural character of the land by minimizing the intrusiveness of structures, protecting our natural assets, and being environmentally responsible. (p. 13)

<u>Issues/Opportunities/Constraints section</u>: 7. Federal resource management agencies and LADWP own and manage much of the land in the Mono Basin. Residents expressed conflicting sentiments about protecting the natural environment and sensitive habitats versus the ability to use, access and enjoy the land without overly restrictive regulations and/or fees. The challenge is to work with other agencies and within regulations to ensure the ability to use and enjoy the land while protecting its health. (p. 15)

Goal 1. Maintain the spectacular natural values of the Mono Basin and rural, small-town character of communities by managing growth, ensuring high-quality aesthetics, and providing for community development needs to enhance the quality of life for residents.

<u>Objective A section</u> – Provide for the orderly growth of Lee Vining in a manner that retains the smalltown character by directing future development to occur in and adjacent to Lee Vining.

Policy 2: Where infill and rehabilitation is not viable, obtain lands adjacent to the existing community for the orderly expansion of Lee Vining.

Action 2.1: Work with appropriate agencies to provide for developable lands adjacent to Lee Vining. The Landownership Adjustment Project Final Report should be referenced for opportunities, policies, and procedures. (p. 17)

<u>Objective C section</u> – Encourage building types and architectural design compatible with the scenic and natural attributes of the Mono Basin.

Policy 6: Recognize that the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan contains separate Scenic Area Guidelines that may impact development, and encourage developers within this area to consult with the Inyo National Forest in the planning phase. (p. 19)

<u>Objective D section</u> - Maintain, protect and enhance the natural, historical and recreational attributes of the Mono Basin.

Policy 1: Coordinate with public agencies and other land-management organizations, such as the BLM, USFS, LADWP, CDFG, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to understand local policies and engage locals in the management of their lands.

Action 1.1: Request resource agencies present information to and work with the Mono Basin RPAC and the community as public resource management issues arise. (p. 19)

Policy 3: Support recreational activities and the ability to use and enjoy the land while also protecting the natural environment.

Action 3.1: Identify recreation activity and access priorities, and work toward implementation. (p. 20)

Action 3.2: Coordinate with land management and transportation agencies such as BLM, Caltrans, ESTA, YARTS, USFS, and LADWP to ensure adequate access and responsible use. (p.20)

Action 3.3: Ensure new development does not impede, and preferentially enhances, existing recreation access and activities. (p. 20)

Goal 2: Grow a sustainable local economy with diverse job opportunities that offers year-round employment and wages that reflect the cost of living in the area.

Objective B section – Enhance and support the existing tourism-related economy.

Policy 2: Capitalize on local and nearby attractions such as Yosemite National Park, Bodie State Historic Park, Mono Basin Scenic Area, and the Tufa State Reserve by promoting Lee Vining as a centralized recreation hub.

Action 2.2: Support local recreational uses and visitor accommodations, such as existing campgrounds, hotels/motels, and RV parks. (p. 25)

Action 2.3: Collaborate with other agencies to provide 24-hour, year-round visitor sanitation facilities; e.g., public restrooms and sanitation facilities at popular recreation staging areas. (p. 25)

Policy 4: Diversify and promote recreation opportunities during the shoulder seasons and winter.

Action 4.1: Identify and implement potential shoulder season and winter opportunities, such as ice climbing. (p. 26)

Action 4.2: Work with applicable entities to increase access and activities. (p. 26)

Conclusion

The Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee is grateful for the opportunity to share relevant components of our Mono Basin Community Plan to help inform your comments on the draft Inyo Forest Plan. Please notify us for additional opportunities to assist in the development of the plan or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul McFarland Chair, Mono Basin RPAC



August 16, 2016

Mr. Larry Johnston, District #1 Supervisor Mr. Fred Stump, District #2 Supervisor Mr. Tim Alpers, District #3 Supervisor Mr. Tim Fesko, District #4 Supervisor Mr. Byng Hunt, District #5 Supervisor Mono County Board of Supervisors P.O. Box 715 Bridgeport, CA 93517

Honorable Supervisors:

I want to thank you for your unswerving dedication and commitment to Mono County and its residents. It is a real pleasure to attend the BOS meetings and witness your careful and thoughtful deliberation of County issues. This considered deliberation is no less evident in the Inyo Forest Management Plan Revision and for this I am very grateful.

I want to add my support to the following issues addressed in the Plan Revision:

- Alternative B with Wilderness Additions: I endorse Alternative B and the inclusion of the wilderness areas as articulated by the Sierra Club: (1) Deadman Canyon; (2) Deep Springs North; (3) Piper Mountain Addition 1; (4) Piper Mountain Addition 2; (5) Soldier Canyon; (6) Inyo Mountain Wilderness Addition; (7) South Sierra Addition East 1; (8) White Mountain Addition East; (9) White Mountain Addition West; (10) Dexter Canyon; (11) Excelsior; (12) Glass Mountain; and (13) Ansel Adams Addition. Current generations enjoy past generations' bequeathment of wilderness and National Park areas. It is incumbent upon us to pay these gifts forward.
- **2. Funding:** Request that Congress better fund the USFS, specifically the INF, in order to support and manage the dramatic and profound increase in visitor use of this magnificent area.
- 3. Fire Management: I ask for the Board to give this issue very careful consideration because Mono County's air quality, quality-of-life, public health and welfare, and tourism industry rest on this issue both locally and geographically. If the EPA's Proposed Rule change for the Clean Air Act Regional Haze Rule is passed, Mono County will be profoundly affected by a dramatic increase in smoke pollution from forest restoration both within and without the County. Please take a strong stand in favor of air quality and public health and welfare.

- 4. Ecological Integrity: I believe it is beyond the scope of human intelligence and science to designate ourselves as the architects of ecological integrity. This is an issue that must be dealt with slowly, respectfully, and allow nature to be the lead. Americans are already reaping the results of previous forest management agendas and these have proven far from supportive of ecological integrity. Please be the voice of caution and patience regarding forest restoration. Support Wildland-Urban Interface safety management but allow for nature's longer rhythms to arise and manifest. Mechanical thinning and prescriptive burning may not be the best management agenda.
- 5. Sustainable Recreation and Designated Areas: Mono County and the Inyo National Forest are already experiencing the profound, and in many cases, negative impacts of increased visitors' attention and use of our magnificent landscape. As current residents and stewards of this landscape, we must grapple with, and try to balance, the issue of sustainable recreation with the sustainable health of the natural landscape. There cannot be unbridled augmentation of tourism without careful deliberation of mechanisms to protect nature from overuse. These should include: (1) More funding by the federal government for the USFS; (2) Inclusion of the above mentioned Wilderness Areas; (3) More law enforcement for both the front and back country; (4) Restoration of infrastructure and implementation of new infrastructure in the form of human waste and trash management; and (5) Restriction of off-highway vehicle use and the creation of new roads.
- **6. Wild and Scenic Rivers:** I endorse the Sierra Club's list of Mono County waterways to this designation: Dexter Canyon and Wet Canyons, S. Fork Birch Creek, O'Harrel Canyon Creek and the lower reaches of restored Mono Lake tributaries Rush, Parker, and Walker. I would also request that the Board add Lower Rock Creek to this list. This waterway is of extreme beauty and under extreme human use pressure currently as has been graphically demonstrated by the recent Rock Creek Fire.

I support the Board's request for an extension to the comment period. Our public lands use and management require very careful, thoughtful deliberation. So much is at stake, nature's integrity, air quality, water quality, and future generations' quality-of-life. Thank you for acknowledging and carefully weighing these big issues.

Liz O'Sullivan