

May 21, 2020
Special Meeting

Item # 2a

Covid-19 Coronavirus Update

PowerPoint Presentation

Written Public Comments

Letters



**Progress on the
Path Forward**

**MONO
COUNTY
COVID-19
UPDATE**

MAY 21, 2020

Mono County; Town of Mammoth Lakes and Partners Continues Community First Emphasis

1. Approved renter and commercial tenant eviction protections;

2. Secured hotel rooms to use for housing for quarantine/isolation, essential workers, homeless, and stranded travelers;

3. Supported community food security efforts – Through EOC, Mono County, MLT, IMACA, and other local non-profits;

4. Funded rental assistance program, to be augmented through Mono County and donations – Administrated by Mammoth Lakes Housing;

5. Town and Mono County funding PPE for emergency service workers and prepared community support teams and for medical surge; and

6. Provided direction and support for businesses moving forward under Statewide “Resiliency Roadmap” Early Stage 2(Curbside pick-up; Golfing, Tennis, etc.)

**Prepared to help
Businesses
Transition to and
move Through
Expanded 'Stage 2'**

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER FILED ATTESTATION FOR CDPH REVIEW ON MAY 19, 2020 FOR EXPANDED STAGE 2 – APPROVED MAY 20, 2020;

2. Unified Command – Public Health, Town, County and EOC Support prepared business opening guidance, PPE delivery and online tool to assist with business self attesting of readiness;

3. Town issued interim modifications to zoning regulations for retail and restaurant operations;

4. Issued clarifications on short term rental activity –i.e. clarified exemption for 2nd homeowners, County under State Order; and

5. Preparing for opening more public spaces – Gus Hess, Mono Lake County Park, Walker, Bridgeport and Chalfant– Mitigation measures to be followed.

Maintaining Business Success in Expanded 'Stage 2'

1. Public Health presence and efforts to Maintain positive metrics
Distance – Cover – Wash – Be Kind

2. Assist in Successful – Healthful – Business Openings. Exceed
Customer Expectations

3. Prepare for local and visitors recreational experiences – Work
with Private, Local & Federal Partners

4. Partners in “opening” recreation – Fishing, Boating, Camping,
Hike/Bike, Off Road, etc. to maintain successful metrics


5. Creative Celebrations.

**BUSINESS SUPPORT
PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

**NEXT STEP IN
COMMUNITY FIRST
INVESTMENT**

**Many Smaller Businesses are/will
Struggle:**

- Define Public Purpose – Jobs, No-blight, Tax Base, Brick & Mortar, Keep in Business
- Define criteria – “small business”; Key Need; Set time frame; Success Expectation;
- Micro-Grant/Loan Program - up to \$10,000
- Town Seed Funding - Amount TBD
- Council Direction to Proceed



➤ **Continue Support Actions to Support Businesses as They Open**

- **Mono County COVID-19 Business Guidance**
- **Creating a Self-Certification on-line Portal**
- **Provide PPE**

➤ **Partner with Local, Private & Federal Partners**

➤ **Implement Business Support Program(s)**

➤ **Continuing to monitor ever changing State Guidance**

MONO COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

MAY 21, 2020



**Thank You
Questions**

**TOWN
COUNCIL
COVID-19
UPDATE**

MAY 21, 2020

Good day to you all,
I applaud that you are listening to your constituents and moving forward.

I would ask that you move forward, today, send the letter to CDFW to open fishing NOW, not June 1st. At that point we are starting on the right track to catch up with the rest of California counties.

I also commend the board and Dr. Boo for getting us to Stage 2. Mono County is ready. The hospital /medical staff are ready. The businesses, for the most part, are ready now or will be very shortly.

I know these are uncertain times. It would be nice to let others make choices, see the results and then decide.

I respectfully remind you, you were elected to lead, not follow. Other California and neighboring states rural counties are now doing that.

Courage can be defined as being scared because of the unknown but moving forward anyway, not blindly - but with a plan.

Mono County has a plan, you've been planning for weeks to get to the eventual goal..... that being tourism back. I believe in these plans. We need to catch up with the rest of California counties.

We have better information on Covid today than before. We know some will get it, some may need medical care, very few will need advanced medical care and even fewer may die. We KNOW this now.

Lift the short term rental restrictions and help get the campgrounds open! Not in a few weeks or a month but days.

Tourism is what we survive and thrive on. Let's give them safe places to stay. Show the tourists we know what we are doing, 50 percent capacity, social distancing, good hygiene practices, PPE when required.

I know this is "stage 3 items" but look around at other counties, they are progressing or are already there. We need to go forward, fast but in the safe manner Dr. Boo and his staff have outlined.

I have faith that you will make the right decisions to get us where we need to be, sooner than later, as the leaders you are showing us you are, not the followers.

Lastly, to those opposed of moving forward. That is their choice. They can stay home, but we too, have a right to operate our businesses and exercise our freedoms as well, albeit in the manner Dr. Boo and all of you have put into a very safe and thoughtful plan.

Respectfully,
Ken Hoffman
Bridgeport Resident & Business owner

West Construction

I am not sure if you are accepting questions or just public comment for the board meeting that is happening today in bridgeport. But here is what i want to know

My family and I have been coming to Bridgeport specifically Twin Lakes for over 40 years to camp and fish. This year when planning our trip we were told that no campgrounds are open and fishing is closed. We did not want to break our tradition so we decided to come up and find a camp site outside of the campgrounds. Much to our surprise we arrived and saw camping happening at campgrounds up

there. So our question is, are campgrounds open? If not, who is checking that camping is not happening? Can we camp anywhere we would like to go that isn't locked? The lack of information, clarification, and contradictions that is coming out is confusing and frustrating for us who want to come and visit.

Thank you

John,

Howard and I would first like to thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of your constituents and the beautiful area we are privileged to call home. We have been listening to some of your board meetings and also the town hall that you hosted. We are in total agreement that because of the seasonal nature of almost all of the businesses in your district they do not have the ability to sustain themselves economically for much longer and face losing, in some instances, generational businesses. I read the Attestation variance that Mono County submitted and was certainly grateful that the guidelines were revised so that Mono County's variance application was accepted. I did not see where the uniqueness of the importance of considering the seasonal reality that businesses only have a limited amount of time to sustain themselves was included. They are in the type of business that already has to adjust to unpredictable weather, etc from year to year and now when the total shutdown created by this pandemic is added to the long list of challenges they face as small (tiny) business owners there is no ability to absorb this substantial loss.

I am wondering if there has been any discussion in regard to opening short term rentals in a phased approach based on size of operation. A small motel or lodge being in the same category as the Westin in Mammoth is more than unrealistic. You were gracious enough to visit our ranch in Long Valley and the fact that we have one cabin that we rent to guests that have been coming year in and year out, many of them for generations as guests of Arcularius Ranch and Alper's Owens River Ranch demonstrates why the one size fits all approach doesn't work. The guests know the area, they love it and treat it as their home away from home. We rent to a maximum of 6 people and they can social distance across 560 acres. You spoke of the Hunewill Ranch at one of your meetings, and they are another perfect example. Their guests are their "seasonal family" and that is true of so many other Mono County businesses.

I think it would be possible to acquire information from the County Treasurer as to the occupancy capacity of each of the short term rental businesses and pursue the concept if there is a way of opening the smaller ones first. This will follow the state guidelines of opening slowly and also provide the opportunity to track best practices and then open the larger ones as the County demonstrates that the adopted practices are working. This approach might also enhance the ability of having short term rentals being moved from Phase 3 to Phase 2 and possibly create an opportunity to have some sort of variance in Phase 2 to include campgrounds and smaller sized short-term rental businesses. The concept of renting at a maximum level of 50% creates a real challenge for businesses that have very few rentals to begin with. I know there are certainly pros and cons to this suggestion, but these kinds of daunting challenges need reasoned options that have the best interests of all as their basis. The businesses that will have to open a little later will benefit in the long run if it means that the guidelines are working and preventing all of us from having to shut down again.

We realize that we are not voters in your district but we are property tax payers as well as TOT payers and we have always respected the consideration that you have given us as ranch owners as well as having one short term rental that is treasured by loyal and grateful guests.

We, the people, will persevere through these unimaginable challenges because of our belief in self-determination. Please let us know if we can be of any help and thank you again for your dedicated service. This critical time in our history demands leadership and we appreciate yours.

Sincerely,
Linda (and Howard) Arcularius

Since you chose to keep the county closed for another 6 weeks, what is your economic recovery plan for the county and over 1/2 of the businesses that will go bankrupt due to this shutdown?

Respectively,

Janet Shipley



Jennifer Kreitz ~ District One Fred Stump ~ District Two Bob Gardner ~ District Three
John Peters ~ District Four Stacy Corless ~ District Five

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO

P.O. BOX 715, BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517

(760) 932-5533 • FAX (760) 932-5531

Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board

May 21, 2020

Clarence Martin
Manager of Aqueduct Operations
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
300 Mandich Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Opening of Crowley Lake (Long Valley Reservoir) for Recreational Uses.

Dear Mr. Martin,

On behalf of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for working to keep the public safe during the California Governor's "Stay Home" orders and preemptively closing recreational and fishing areas in and around Crowley Lake.

On May 20, 2020 Mono County received variance attestation approval from the California Department of Public Health to move into the Governor's Phase Two, Stage Two Resilience Roadmap. As a result, on May 21, 2020 the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved a letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requesting to open the Mono County fishing season on May 22, 2020. We do not know how quickly CDFW will be able to act on this request and are currently awaiting their response.

We are writing to inform you of the Board of Supervisors actions and to respectfully request the reopening of Crowley Lake (Long Valley Reservoir) including for recreational boating and fishing purposes. Though we recognize that it may prove too difficult, we are hoping that the opening of Crowley Lake would occur simultaneously with the opening of fishing season by CDFW. We also recognize that LADWP lands surrounding Crowley Lake are used by the public for activities such as dispersed camping. The Board expresses no input regarding the management of those lands, and recognizes the complexities involved.

Although the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order remains in effect throughout the state, and non-essential travel is still prohibited, we feel we are now in a position – sanctioned by the State – to move forward with the reopening of recreational areas for use by persons not in violation of the State's and Los Angeles' Stay-at-Home orders, including Mono County residents. The need for additional outdoor recreation opportunities for health and wellness to those currently in Mono County has become increasingly apparent.

Please let us know if we can take any further action to expedite this request. Thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration of our situation.

Respectfully,

Stacy Corless, Chair, Mono County Board of Supervisors

CC Via Email: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Andreas Borgeas
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
California Fish and Game Commission
California Department of Natural Resources
California Department of Public Health
Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Town of Mammoth Lakes Council
City of Bishop Council
Karen E. Mouritsen, California State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Stafford Lehr – Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nora Rasure, Regional Forester Region 4, United States Forest Service
Randy Moore, Regional Forest Region 5, United States Forest Service
Mono County Emergency Operations Center
Mono County Interim CAO Bob Lawton
Crowley Lake Fish Camp



Jennifer Kreitz ~ District One Fred Stump ~ District Two Bob Gardner ~ District Three
John Peters ~ District Four Stacy Corless ~ District Five

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Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board

May 21, 2020

Director Charlton H. Bonham
State of California – Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
1416 Ninth Street, Room 125
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Reopening of the Mono County Regular Fishing Season

Dear Mr. Bonham,

On behalf of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for working with us to postpone the Mono County Fishing Season. Your favorable and prompt response helped to minimize visitor traffic at a time when our County was unable to support any surge in population. We are now writing to request that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reopen the trout fishing season in Mono County on Friday, May 22, 2020.

On May 20, 2020 Mono County received variance attestation approval from the California Department of Public Health to move into the Governor's Phase Two, Stage Two Resilience Roadmap. As a result, on May 21, 2020 the Mono County Board of Supervisors discussed reopening of the fishing season immediately, as well as the potential impacts on public health and safety of local residents, communities and visitors. Although the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order remains in effect throughout the state, and non-essential travel is still prohibited, we feel we are now in a position – sanctioned by the state – to move forward with the opening of the fishing season. The need for additional outdoor recreation opportunities for health and wellness to those currently in Mono County has become increasingly apparent, and fishing will create that opportunity.

Please let us know if we can take any further action to expedite this request. Thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration of our situation.

Respectfully,

Stacy Corless, Chair, Mono County Board of Supervisors

CC Via Email: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Andreas Borgeas
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
California Fish and Game Commission
California Department of Natural Resources

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