

County Administrator's Office

Animal Control Staff Interviews being held August 9th – Angelle Nolan, William Clayton and I interviewed a number of candidates for currently open and budgeted positions in Animal Control on Friday August 9th. There were good candidates for both the open Animal Control Officer position and the Animal Shelter Attendant. We have begun background on both.

Kudos to Angelle and the staff at Animal Control for their efforts through the busy season of summer.

Toured the Jail – A big “Thank you” to OB and Lt. Booher for the tour of the jail. Especially for letting me out when we were done. It is a well run facility and it was nice to see where our challenges will be as Realignment impacts inmate population.

Introduction and Shared Services Conversation with Douglas County Administrator – Had the chance to talk via phone with Stephen Mokrohisky, CAO of Douglas County, Nevada about opportunities to partner to provide better services for northern Mono County. He and I will be querying departments and looking for some mutually beneficial services which could enhance both counties. Hopefully more to follow. Any ideas will be brought to the Board once we have had a chance to do due diligence.

Congressman Paul Cook to visit Bridgeport - Congressman Paul Cook will be coming through Bridgeport on Wednesday September 4th. He plans on being in Bridgeport from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is scheduling time with our Board members.

If we have any federal issues we should provide to our Board members, please send to the CAO by August 30th so we can organize it.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510 or Stacie Klemm (760) 932-5408

Attended the Inyo-Mono Grand Jurors Orientation – Mono County Superior Court Executive Officer Hector Gonzalez invited Sheriff Obenberger, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph and I to meet the new 2013-2014 Grand Jurors of Inyo and Mono County. It was a good opportunity to connect with community volunteers who will be reviewing many different aspects of county operations and responding to any community concerns. It is an engaged group and we look forward to their work in the coming year.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Budget Workshops start August 13th – Next week will be a busy one as we have three days of Board meetings. Tuesday thru Thursday will have a combination of the Regular Board meeting, Budget workshops and the Assessor's Interview Special meeting. All of the Budget information is available online at:

<http://monocounty.ca.gov/auditor/page/2013-14-budget-workshop>

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510 or Leslie Chapman, (760) 932-5494

Economic Development

Broadband/Internet Access page to the Mono County Economic Development site – Thanks to Ethan James, this new page provides several resources for potential relocating and existing businesses, residents, and visitors on the status of Digital 395, Internet Service Provider (ISP) County contacts, and internet access locations/wi-fi hot spot locations in each community.

Ethan will also be adding links and information on broadband/internet/computer training resources available to the community on both this page and the small business resources page. Please send any suggestions or feedback regarding the page in order to provide all resources possible through the page.

Broadband/Internet Access Page link:

<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/economic/page/broadbandinternet-access>

CONTACT: Dan Lyster, (760) 924-1705 or Ethan James (760) 924-1738

Information Technology

Summit County, Utah, Information technology staff to visit Mono County - IT Director and GIS Manager from Summit County, Utah are going to be coming to Mammoth Lakes on August 22nd. They are interested in talking to Mono County IT about how Mono County handles cadastral mapping using GIS, specifically Esri's products.

By way of background, Mono County has been featured in several publications over the past couple years regarding our system. As an Early Adopter site for Esri, Mono County was recently featured in one of their publications regarding cadastral mapping.

It is a welcome compliment to have somebody travel nine hours to visit our county and see what our team has developed. If anyone is interested in participating or meeting them, it would be a welcome participation.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819

Public Health

Air Quality and Smoke Issue Update – Dr, Richard Johnson met with Ted Shade, Jon Bucknell, and Duane Ono at Great Basin Unified Air Quality Control District (GBUAQCD) regarding the air quality and smoke issues to review the events of the past weeks.

The first health advisory was triggered on Monday, July 29th in Mammoth and Southern Mono County by a single hourly reading of about 400 ug PM10. That level has been the trigger for a health alert historically. Although, virtually all of the Great Basin District's staff experience has been with dust from the Owens Lake and not smoke. This reading is one of the highest readings anyone of them can recall or find documentation of locally.

The public and healthcare providers had begun to call early in the week of July 22nd for information, and there was a void in information available from government sources. Dr. Johnson sent out a press release, referring to the Health Advisory, and amplifying the human health effects and appropriate response on the part of the public. That has been posted on the INCI web site:

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/article/3552/19545/>

Dr. Johnson has talked to KIBS, KMMT, the Mammoth Times, and the Sheet, in response to the press release.

All official guidelines point to human effect at a level of 100, and in Mammoth, all healthcare providers questioned noted that they had seen an increase in respiratory complaints in both visitors and locals, and they would appreciate some guidance in what to say to patients. Dr. Johnson requested the development of some procedures for public information at a much lower level and earlier with smoke events, as there was perception of a void and delay in response.

The following has been developed:

1. **Great Basin District will continue to be the agency which issues health advisories** - It was agreed that a Stage 1 Health Advisory would happen at a PM level of 100 instead of 400. The level of 400 came from the Owens and Mono Lake experiences. The main difference - dust from the lakes is mostly larger particles of 10 ug, whereas smoke is mostly <2.5 ug.

A Stage 2 Alert would be issued at a level of 200 ug. The significance is that sensitive persons begin to see effects at 100, and the general public at 200, thus the picking of these triggers.

The issuing of alerts is policy, not statute, and it was agreed that since The Great Basin staff has the monitoring equipment, they would continue to do what they have been doing, but with a dramatic lowering of the thresholds.

Further, it was agreed closure of events, e.g. soccer camps, schools, etc., would not happen until sustained levels of >400, which are extremely unlikely, and have never been seen here. Lower than that will be up to individual person and parent and organization discretion, e.g., the parent of a child who has come up from LA to have their child with asthma attend the international soccer camp only held once a year, etc. (a real scenario this week!)

2. **Dr. Johnson would respond by issuing specific guidance to the healthcare providers, the public, and the media, regarding action items for the public to take.**

The 3 questions to answer:

- i. What is the current situation?
- ii. What should I do?
- iii. Where do I go for more information?

Dr. Johnson will do this through his Mono-Grams. He will always refer people to the GB Web site for the hour by hour charts so they can see what the current situation is, and advise them to seek the counsel of their healthcare provider with any symptoms.

3. Great Basin District staff agreed to improve their website. Currently, the Health Advisory goes to a document about the Owens Lake. They will adjust the charts on the website, add the 2 stages, and differentiate between dust and smoke. They will also start being in contact with the weather service to provide some limited forecasting on smoke predictions for say 3 days out.
4. They will consider adding monitoring stations in the Crowley Lake area, and on Mammoth Mountain.

The meeting was very cordial, and achieved the goal of improving our response to smoke events, lowered the threshold to address the gaps in current response to smoke, and can speak with one voice with a consistent message.

CONTACT: Richard O. Johnson, (760) 914-0496 or Hillary Bayliss, (760)

Mono County seeks Public Health Accreditation - One of the “hot” topics in Public Health now is Public Health Accreditation. Public Health Accreditation is designed to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality Public Health departments. There are seven steps to accreditation, with each individual step being quite robust and time intensive.

Mono County is currently in the pre-application stage. Within the pre-application stage, there are several pre-requisites. Mono County Public Health has initiated the detailed webinar orientation series; attended an accreditation workshop; and is investigating the required community health assessment, community health improvement plan, and the strategic plan.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is supporting the implementation of a national voluntary accreditation program for local, state, territorial, and tribal health departments. The new Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), a nonprofit 501(c)3 entity, has been established to serve as the independent accrediting body. PHAB led the development and testing activities, with significant participation from local, tribal, state and national leaders and launched the national accreditation program September 14, 2011.

The Benefits of Accreditation include the recognition that a health department is meeting national standards for ensuring essential public health services are provided in the community and includes:

- **Strengthening Delivery of Public Health Services and Programs** - Engaging in accreditation catalyzes quality and performance improvement within all public health programs and can help health departments be better prepared to proactively respond to emerging and reemerging health challenges.
- **Improving Public Health Departments and Public Health Infrastructure** - The accreditation assessment process provides valuable, measurable feedback to health departments on their strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Increasing Accountability and Credibility** - An intended benefit of Public Health Accreditation is momentum toward greater accountability and enhanced credibility to stakeholders, partners, and communities.

This can be a great process for improving performance and service delivery so stay tuned.

CONTACT: Hillary Bayliss, (760) 924-1835

Social Services

Affordable Care Act roll out in California begins – Mono County Social Services has begun to receive updates from the California agency, Covered California, which is responsible for aspects of the implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act. Covered California was charged with creating a new health insurance marketplace in which individuals and small businesses can get access to affordable health insurance plans.

The two most recent notifications are regarding: 1) certification of insurance agents to help consumers find private health insurance, and; 2) on the insurance carriers and rates for small-group plans.

Covered California is accepting online preregistration from licensed insurance agents interested in receiving training and certification to help educate and enroll millions of consumers in affordable health insurance plans. Only licensed insurance agents that are trained and certified by Covered California will be able to sell Covered California health insurance plans in the marketplace.

Preregistration allows Covered California to prequalify licensed agents for training and to identify locations best suited to meet the training needs for the agent community. Covered California Certified Insurance Agents will form a statewide network of trained and knowledgeable professionals to work personally with consumers and small businesses, helping them successfully obtain health care coverage.

Preregistration for licensed agents is available online at:

www.healthexchange.ca.gov/Pages/agents.aspx.

For additional information, agents are encouraged to review the information posted on the California Health Benefit Exchange website at www.healthexchange.ca.gov or call (877) 453-9198.

Covered California also has announced the launch of the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP). According to Covered California while rates vary by region, Covered California SHOP premiums are generally comparable to 2013 small-group market rates and, in some cases, can save small businesses money on their premiums.

California businesses with 50 or fewer employees will now be able to choose from competitively priced, quality health insurance plans similar to those usually only available to larger employers. This will allow the state's vital small-business sector to use health coverage as leverage for recruiting and retention, while keeping employees healthy and more productive.

Covered California has selected the following health plans to participate in SHOP:

- Blue Shield of California
- Chinese Community Health Plan
- Health Net
- Kaiser Permanente
- Sharp Health Plan
- Western Health Advantage

Small businesses are not required to enroll in Covered California's SHOP, and there is no penalty for not participating or not providing health insurance to their employees. However, Covered California SHOP health plans will offer expanded choices, online tools for convenient shopping and enrollment, and streamlined invoicing.

The plans, a mix of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) and Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs), will be sold through licensed agents who are trained and certified by Covered California. Covered California looks forward to making this choice available to California's 500,000 small businesses, which employ more than 4.5 million workers.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the new market work for California's consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. For more information on Covered California, please visit www.CoveredCA.com.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, (760) 924-1763

Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office conducted interviews for Court Screener this past week and unfortunately most of the applicants did not impress the interview team. Interviews also underway for a Deputy Sheriff position. The SO has one opening for Deputy currently.

The Sheriff's Office is still working on obtaining bids for the Orbacom replacement by the end of August.

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