

BRIDGEPORT RPAC CHP OFFICE ISSUE (Revised April 12, 2017)

STEPS RECOMMENDED:

1. Prepare a draft of the letter to be signed by the BOS, to request the Inland Division Chief Bill Dance to recommend to the CHP Commissioner, (Joe Farrow), that the Bridgeport area office be replaced ASAP by a new facility located in Bridgeport.
2. Discuss the proposed letter with:
 - a) Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce – Lynda Pemberton
 - b) Mono County Sheriff – Ingrid Braun
 - c) CHP Bridgeport commander – Lt. Jeff Holt (or successor)
 - d) Bridgeport RPAC
3. Request BOS to approve and send the letter

DRAFT OF LETTER:

Dear Chief Dance:

As you are aware, Mono County has been interested for many years in working with the California Highway Patrol in an effort to replace the Bridgeport Area California Highway Patrol (CHP) facility. Letters to and from Commissioner Farrow in 2013 and 2014, as well as local site surveys by the CHP Facilities Division, have not led to a decision to confirm a site and authorize construction.

The Board of Supervisors of Mono County supports the recommendation of our local community that a new facility should be located in the Bridgeport Valley for the following reasons:

- Bridgeport is situated in the geographical center of Mono County.
- The Mono County Sheriff is located in Bridgeport.
- The Mono County Jail facility is located in Bridgeport. (Approval of funding for a new up-to-date jail facility to be built in Bridgeport may be received as early as June 2017).
- The Mono County courts are located in Bridgeport.
- The Historic Mono County courthouse that provides offices for the Mono County District Attorney and chambers for the Mono County Board of Supervisors, as well as courtrooms is located in Bridgeport.
- Two Caltrans facilities are located in the Bridgeport area.

We sincerely believe that the public safety of Mono County is best served by retaining the CHP Bridgeport Area facility in Bridgeport. The collaboration of all local law enforcement is an important part of achieving safe highways and safe communities. The convenience of a central location for our jail and court is helpful for the efficiency of law enforcement operations and is cost effective as well.

Lt. Jeff Holt, commander of the Bridgeport Area CHP facility, as well as past commanders, has recommended that the best operational location for the CHP is Bridgeport. Highway 395 is the lifeblood of Mono County that connects all private and public activities. The California Highway Patrol is the vital insurer of safety and lifesaving services we rely on daily on Highway 395.

We believe that locating a new CHP facility elsewhere in Mono County would be bad for the safety of Mono County residents and visitors. Competent and effective law enforcement, quality schools and reliable healthcare are all important components of a communities continuing economic development.

Before CHP officers were allowed to live out-of-state they were committed members of our local communities. That is no longer the case. We would like for Mono County and the CHP to work together to attempt to reverse this unfortunate situation.

Please contact Wendy Sugimura, Community Development Analyst, with any questions at 760.924.1814, or wsugimura@mono.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Stacy Corless, Chair

Cc: Lt. Jeff Holt, CHP Bridgeport Area Commander (until May 2, 2017)
Sgt. William Boyes, CHP Bridgeport Area Commander Designee
Senator Tom Berryhill
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
Sheriff Ingrid Braun
Alison Cooney, CHP Facilities Commander
Bridgeport Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce