

April 28, 2020
Special Meeting
Item # 2a

Covid-19 Update

Additional Documents:

Public Comment

Chief Frievalt's Presentation

Eric Edgerton – See PDF

Covid related:

I am writing to respectfully suggest that the Mono County Board of Supervisors allow short term visitors to the area (RV, Trailer, Cabin Rental, Motel Room) prior to the opening of fishing on June 1, 2020. Perhaps I am similar to a large number of persons who want to fish on the 1st, but would like to get to the area the day before (I have a seven hour drive in my RV, pulling a boat).

Thank you,

Stan Johnson

Hello Mono County Board of Supervisors.

In regards to fishing season, now that the fear of opening day has come and gone, we would ask that you please consider asking California Fish and Wildlife to cancel the postponement of fishing season. We need to encourage people to get out, especially our local families, residents and communities. As most of the state is starting to reopen, we hope you will allow our county to do so also.

I would also like to ask the board to consider those of us who offer recreational activities at our places of business be allowed to do so. Examples being equestrian activities, kayak rentals, etc. We would be happy to implement a system for verifying customers are locals in Mono County as long as the state wide travel order is in place, but again, we can then encourage people to get outside which has been proven good for mental, emotional and physical health. We believe these parts of our businesses should be considered essential.

We look forward to hearing from you on these topics.

Best Regards,

Misti Sullivan

Hello Supervisors,

I would like to ask what the plan is for reopening the county. May other county's and states have set guidelines, data driven, which call for a 2 week reduction in cases. I don't have a tally sheet of the timelines of the spike in our county, as isolated as the cases seem to have been, but do feel this 2 week timeline is near. If it's a question of when people come will they bring it... CA is believed to have had this roaming around the state as early as November/February. Herd immunity was initially the path, no complete total isolation is the answer. Except to go get groceries, to the building stores, bicycle stores, pawn shops what have you yet the people aren't allowed to fish. People have been treating this as a paid vacation since week 2 or 3 to begin with and the heart of summer is amongst us here shortly. People need to be able to get out of their houses and recreate freely, decisively and smart but freely none the less. Locals should be allowed to fish local waters, considering I can still fish the Walker's and Topaz I don't see why I can't fish where I want to. The fear has hit its limit, can't pour out anymore onto the people, I ask as you all are elected officials from the votes of the people to keep the people's

thoughts in your decisions. The ramifications of this shutdown will not be seen this year, maybe during next winter but for sure by the following winter when business' won't take more loans out to survive and just go bankrupt. America needs to stop protecting people from themselves and let people make adult decisions and the outcome lies on their shoulders, like it used to be before lawsuits became the new "American dream", which we are all sure to see happen at many levels because of the way this is all being handled Across the board.

If you can hike, ride your bike, snowmobile, or swim, I can fish, otherwise it's not fair to take my California constitutional right to fish away from me, and every other Californian citizen.

Tim Sullivan

Owner, Twin Lakes Resort

Mono County Board of "Supervisors"--

There is so much that I want to say in a respectful manner, but when our state and local government has not treated the small businesses with respect, it makes it very difficult. I know you all are afraid to make the "wrong" decision, so you make quasi-decisions, based on what Dr. Boo has stated. Remember he is a doctor, not an economist. And the Board needs to listen to what is happening to our economy. You are destroying it!

Bridgeport is not Mammoth, we have 5 months to make money, so that we can survive the winter. The Board has effectively made our season 3 months to make money. And then on top of that, you are willing to put in restrictions for seating at restaurants and number of people in a store. I don't know what you are going to require for motels? Oh, but Dr. Boo should know.

We need to open our businesses now! We are smart enough business owners, to know how to run our businesses in a safe and effective manner. Trust us, as we have trusted you for the last month.

Sincerely,
Erinn Wells

Dear Board members and staff,

My Name is David Rosky, from June Lake.

As a resident, I would like to thank and complement the County Board, staff, and all departments for the way they have been handling the Covid-19 crisis, especially with this crisis coming on the heels of last year's PSPS situation. I haven't necessarily agreed with every single decision, but I think 99% of them have been right on, and some aspects of it are going to be trade-offs with no perfect answer.

Respectfully,

-David

At first I was like wait, this is serious and scary. It's new. It could do what?? Yes, lock down. Anything to save people.

But then I started dig. I started to ask questions. I started to look at the data. I started to see people's quality of life deteriorate. I Started to see small businesses fear for their livelihoods and not get one stimulus check. I started to see scared America's that the government didn't have their best interest at heart. I started to see healthcare staff take pay cuts and get laid off. I started to see how a shut down America means a shut down world... and that

means many many millions of deaths from hunger, suicide, abuse, and missing of doctor checks ups for things like cancer that needs to be caught early.

I see fishing and out door ativity taken away from people. This all so wrong to do to people when they can do thing by them selfs and or with a loved one. I started to see parties collid.

Putting ego aside is hard . No one admits when they were wrong. They just dig thier damn heels in out of pride and the human ego of wanting to "win".... And they forget what they are fighting for!! Our freedom!!!

It's time to take the power away from all of these elected officials in California and go back to work. It's time to support the economy.

Ron Allen

Greetings

I want to write to you to give my opinion of the shutdown.

I am a 50 year resident of Inyo and Mono counties and I have worked here since 1970 when I moved to Mammoth Lakes.

My business, Sierra Design Studio was established in 1988 so I'm in my 32nd year.

I am a woman owned business that I started on my own and have run solely with the help of wonderful employees. One of my employees has worked for me for 25 years. My staff is laid off now and I have no retail income.

Over the decades I have employed dozens of people and I have supported my communities (Bishop and Mammoth) in as many ways as possible.

My business (a furniture store) already has social distancing, people browse around on their own and there is rarely a crowd.

Everything is clean and sanitary (it was before) so I'm confused as to why my business needs to be closed.

The financial damage will be challenging to recover from.

I believe that our area is rural enough to handle the possible rate of contraction.

I'm not a Dr. but as a business person and as a "healthy senior" I beg of you to not let our community fall into a financial catastrophe.

All those who want to stay inside, should.

Elderly and predisposed should as well.

Please see that this pandemic will ruin our livelihoods and no one will recover if the area doesn't open up soon.

I believe it's our constitutional right to be able to run our business and have freedom.

This is no disregard for those who have died and suffered, but many more will from other maladies if this goes on much longer.

Sincerely,

Robin Stater

Crowley Lake Mobile Home/RV Park

Joseph and Kathleen Santos
515 South Landing Road #90
Crowley Lake, CA 93546
(760) 935-4221
crowleylakerv@gmail.com

April 27, 2020

Mono County Board of Supervisors
C/o Shannon Kendall
P.O. Box 715
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Mono County Health Department
C/o Dr. Tom Boo
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 200
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Economic Development
452 Old Mammoth Road
3rd Floor, Suite 306
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Dear Mono County Board of Supervisors, Dr. Tom Boo, and Economic Development,

We own the Crowley Lake RV/Mobile Home Park in Crowley Lake. Due to the Mono County Health Department's Mono Gram short term rentals restriction dated March 21, 2020, we have canceled and refunded all upcoming reservations through May 31, 2020. We understand the initial response to the pandemic, and we have complied with this order out of respect for authority and an abundance of caution. Although Mono County's restriction complies with Governor Newsom's Stay at Home Order (N-33-20), we are only meant to "heed" this order. The State of California and Mono County do not have the authority to deem any business non-essential or quarantine healthy people. This drastic order is simply unconstitutional and violates our freedoms. This order has resulted in an extreme loss of revenue for our business and our tenants. Our business has maintained our employees, yet we have not been able to secure any funding from the Federal Government even though we have applied through several banks in a timely manner. We are asking you to highly consider ceasing this order immediately, not only for our business but for our tenants as well. Please allow us to exercise our freedoms and open our business in compliance with social distancing.

We have seen the numbers decreasing; and if we do not open soon, there will not be many small businesses left standing in our county. Many other small business owners are struggling to get through this. Our county thrives on tourism, and you all have effectively and unlawfully taken that from all of us. Decisions continue to be made that are "for the health" of our citizens, but health alone does not justify these harsh closures. We will not be able to feed and care for our families if we do not have tourism dollars in this county. The longer we postpone reopening, the harder it is going to be for all of us to recover from this. One by one, small businesses are going under because of the prolonged closure decisions made by the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Boo, Mammoth Hospital, and especially the State of California.

We are very concerned about our full-time tenants that live and work in our community. These closures have created severe hardships. Although we continue to offer inexpensive space rent in Mono County, our tenants are finding it increasingly difficult to pay as they have all been laid off from their jobs. Unemployment will only sustain them for a short period of time. Regardless if our tenants are able to pay or not, we are still required by law to cover living expenses such as

electricity, water, propane, trash, sewer and required maintenance of the grounds. This has and will continue to create a severe financial hardship on our business and family.

Additionally, we are disheartened that Mammoth Parks and Rec has already canceled summer programming. Canceling programs that benefit our youth is a shame. If our Covid-19 cases continue to decline, why are our children not allowed to participate in camps with other local children? This is simply irrational. Furthermore, now that the Crowley Lake Fireworks Show is canceled, we will be seeing a drastic drop in revenue for the year. Our 4th of July celebration brings tourism dollars to our county, and now, you have taken that away as well. You have closed our skateparks and our community parks. Our taxpayer dollars fund the maintenance of these parks and facilities, yet we have not had access to these for over 6 weeks. These are extreme decisions, and the numbers of Covid-19 cases do not warrant these draconian measures.

Please understand that we are fully aware of why these closures were initially put into place. We have done our part to flatten the curve; and as we continue to research this, we see that we have successfully accomplished this goal. It is now time to allow our small businesses and tenants an opportunity to recover by beginning to reopen. We understand that our county reopening will look quite a bit different given the situation, but at least our businesses and locals may have a fighting chance. We urge you to follow the science and reopen our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph and Kathleen Santos

Please accept this email as a request for your governing board to do the right thing and open up the Mono County Waterways to fishing and tourism. I, like many people appreciate your concerns for doing the things you have felt right to keep Mono County safe up to this point during these unprecedented times. However I am begging you to consider opening up fishing and tourism to the area in order to loosen the noose from around the necks of our local businesses who have already suffered such great losses. These businesses, both large and small deserve the opportunity to open for the season and try to get back in the fight to stay alive. We have all learned the value of using PPE's to keep ourselves and those around us safe and healthy. The root of the sport of fishing allows for anglers to easily comply with social distancing while safely enjoying the outdoors. In my 42 years of angling I can honestly say that I have never really seen the issue of large groups of Anglers gathering in small areas!

I ask that your group begin immediately drafting a REAL plan including target dates, new precautionary measures for businesses to implement in order to safely open up the area. My real concern is that if you do not act now and start to fight for our small businesses they will not be here in the future.

Do What is right!

Thank You,
Daniel A. Mills

Mono County Board Of Supervisors
PO Box 715 Bridgeport, CA 93517

RE: Request to keep Public Lands and Forest Service open

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for your time today. You are in the process of making decisions that affect us all. How and when we will resume life beyond this, I ask your hearts be filled with wisdom and compassion. That with clear intention, noble power, may you remember those you serve and may you be filled with divine guidance at this time. We as a community, ask that all political differences are neutralized and personal agendas transmuted that could emerge.

We acknowledge it is no easy task to give one self to public service, we ask your decisions will serve the highest and greatest good of the people of our communities for everyone involved. We want you to be filled with good energy wherever you receive it. The influences and decisions you make, we want you to serve the highest good of everyone, because we will be moving out of this in a few weeks. This is an important time more than ever to come together as a community. Our local government is doing a great job. We are progressing with no new cases in Mono/ INYO counties as we succeed to end these trials and tribulations. We are all growing in mind, body and spirit in this time in many ways.

Many of us, and you yourselves included, receive this in the National Forest, our Public Lands. This is the true health of our community and why we live here. With mindfulness see that keeping the National Forest open is the key to health in our community and always has been. Showing California that we will continue to lead by example is the true answer, you know this in your hearts, because you have been succeeding.

Not slapping our community on the hands for doing an excellent job at social distancing by further closing Public Lands and the National Forest. Perhaps we as a community need more encouragement- to ask for our community to have patience as well as continue by giving us good council as you have been. Not by slowly allowing more and more Public Lands to close.

People are relaxing and do need to continue being discerning at this time. Encourage us in activities like to avoid shopping at a busy unexpected time. Or to pass a trailhead that has a few cars parked and go somewhere we love that is next on the list. To remind our visitors that it *still is not the time* to visit the Sierra. I was just in June Lake two days ago to get out of the heat and hike some trails at the base of Dream Mountain. People are

following suit and social distancing is succeeding in our communities wilderness areas. There were more cars at the end of the road so I parked a mile away and did not see one person all day long. Social distancing is not hard to accomplish here. It was the first time that I went hiking since this started. Please do not take that away from us. Someone who is responsible and does social distance and wears a mask and gloves should also be able to be 1-100 miles away from anyone peacefully.

There are people along the roads far apart and most areas are desolate. As a local resident I appreciate our open spaces. We know that we can do better than to condense our community members into smaller more closed areas.

At this time what we do need is more preparation and focus. Please spend time helping us figure out creative ways to pay our mortgages and rent. Help by keeping businesses alive and thriving. Focus on a larger plan for future food security, sustainable agriculture and how we can grow and raise food for our communities food sovereignty. Celebrate our essential workers like we never as a community have before. Show them they are respected with healthy creative incentives to support them and their families health. Please spend this time to discuss how we can come together as a community and support our hospital get the protection they need. By encouraging us to continue to do the right thing this is helping our hospitals. Focus on get more ventilators. I also called the hospitals to see how we as a community can advocate for them. They have 4 ventilators, 9 emergency ventilators for transportation and the items Tesla with good intentions sent. These are the discussions we need to be having. Seeing that we are doing great.

In speaking to the Forest Sup Tammy Ramsey, as well as our County Board in INYO/Mono, the governor, both town councils and former mayor, I urged all of them to shut down the PCT and keep the forests open. So far everyone did a great job at doing so. FS director said she could not close our NF although she needed Washington DC's approval to do so. Please do not write Washington DC and advocate they shut down our forests like they have in other states that have much worse scenario than we do. Eastern Sierra California has shown we are responsible and able to keep our communities healthy ~ especially the Eastern Sierra. We can as a community beat this and keep our Forest Service Public Lands open. We are not like other states and need not act in fear. Act with awareness yes, to act in fear no.

Now this is changing with LAWP closing many of our well loved country roads and access is getting smaller and smaller. Yet people are not climbing, we are not back country skiing or snowboarding and we are social distancing well in public lands. Those that do understand they must be safe as well as

responsible~ the community shaming for extreme sports is understood. Supporting search and rescue and our hospitals is well understood.

We are used to climbing in LAWP's crags, or enjoying the cold springs yet we wait, almost expecting them to close, and they do one by one. We receive this health in the clear blue rivers, lakes and streams of our mountains. Please don't make us wait for them too in the heat of the summer while we already sacrificed our best winter days turned into sweetest spring corn. In BLM's wild open free vast landscapes we find freedom, peace of mind and health and it is understandable that the hot springs are closed... This is enough. Please keep our National Forest Public Lands open. And I mean this in that we have respected the rules and kept visitors at bay with kindness. This the sort of mountain culture we have developed at this time respectfully is one to admire -we need not turn to a slap of the hand for the people have been beating this with strength and have our doctors saying it is working. Rather perhaps more guidance from our town and county leaders is what we truly need.

Please spend this time to discuss how we can come together as a community and support our hospital get the protection they need and our essential workers as well. Spend time on helping us with our mortgages and rent. Keeping businesses alive and thriving. Focus on a large plan for sustainable agriculture and how we can grow and raise food for our communities food security. Do not lock us out of our back yards like surfers in Southern California who are getting fines for surfing thus crowding their beaches further. We want to reelect the voices who are guided to listen to us and govern well with clarity and a good strong leadership at this time especially.

Thank you,

Maya Jamal Kasberg

The following is a letter copy and pasted from the community that I support:

Hi Bob:

Just to give you my opinion.... this has gone on long enough! Have you been to Bishop? Almost every business down there is open.

This is the saddest thing I have ever seen in June lake and our whole country!

It's been really smart to keep everyone home all this time.... but it's time to get moving again!

People can be safe and still get our economy going!

I realize you are in a tough spot to try to make everyone happy . I was disappointed to hear you say you would support a bill board! That would be a horrible message to people who have come here for years and love June lake! Horrible idea! Slap in the face type thing!
People wouldn't forget that!

I hope this meeting is about re-opening sooner than later. Sure would appreciate something positive coming from

Thanks !

Candy Logue

Developmental Overview of EOC With Emphasis On Economic Recovery Branch and Reopening Plan

Answered: 149 Skipped: 4

