



Agricultural Commissioner’s Office

FINAL REMINDER!!

Thank you to Ag. Commish *Nate Reade* for the following notice – it is also attached to the Update.

**NOTICE OF REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)
Informational Update**

SAN LUIS OBISPO	REDDING	BISHOP
January 9, 2015 9:00 a.m. to noon	January 15, 2015 9:00 a.m. to noon	January 28, 2015 9:00 a.m. to noon
Board Room - Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101 San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401- 7906	City of Redding Council Chambers 777 Cypress Avenue Redding, CA 96001	Tallman Pavilion, Tri County Fair Grounds Sierra Street & Coates Street Bishop, CA 93514

RSVP - Due to limited space in the meeting rooms, please RSVP if you plan to attend by email to DWQ-GRAP@waterboards.ca.gov and include your name, affiliation, email address and meeting(s) that you will attend. For each location, if the meeting is full, we will schedule a second meeting in the afternoon (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) on that same day.

SUMMARY - The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is exploring a range of options to enhance environmental benefits from grazing, protect beneficial uses of surface and groundwater, and address water quality impacts potentially related to livestock grazing in California. This Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) aims to facilitate efficiency and statewide consistency in developing and implementing strategies to meet these goals, while at the same time accounting for regional differences in hydrology, topography, climate and land use. The GRAP process will consider a wide range of alternatives to ensure that grazing has minimal negative impacts on water quality. A cornerstone of the GRAP will be thoughtful consideration of the costs of compliance to the regulated grazing community. The participation of interested stakeholders throughout the development of GRAP is necessary to its success. As an initial step, the Water Boards engaged stakeholder groups in Focus Listening Sessions (FLS) to solicit comments early in this process, before beginning to develop GRAP (No new regulatory approach has been developed.) The FLSs were the first of many opportunities for stakeholder participation. The purpose of the Regional Stakeholder Meetings is to share with stakeholders the comments from the FLSs and gather thoughts, suggestions or other feedback from the community on the FLSs comments and on GRAP.

MEETING AGENDA AND OTHER INFORMATION - The agenda and other meeting materials will be posted to the GRAP website below at least ten days prior to the meeting date. In the event of a change or cancellation due to weather, notice will be posted at the earliest practical time at the GRAP website below. For more information, please contact Water Board staff: Esther Tracy at (916) 341-5908 esther.tracy@waterboards.ca.gov, Cindy Wise at (530) 542-5408 cwise@waterboards.ca.gov or Ben Letton at (530) 224-4129 bletton@waterboards.ca.gov.

CONTACT: Nate Reade, nreade@inyocounty.us

Animal Control

The freezing temperatures are a stark reminder that pet care should be on everyone's mind.

The attached flier (also attached as a PDF to the Board Update) has some healthful and helpful tips for pets during the winter months.

Keep Fido warm!

CONTACT: Angelle Nola, (760) 932-5582

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Department is pleased to sponsor a training with Dr. Kristen Ochoa, MD, MPH. She'll be discussing some of the following: what's new with psychiatric medications, how to do a proper case presentation in 3 minutes or less, and updates on the DSM-5 and HIPAA; this training will also include time for case review and consultation. Dr. Ochoa is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and is a specialist in Emergency Department psychiatry. Her trainings are always well received and accessible to all professions. This event will be held at the Mammoth Lakes Library, Friday January 9th, 2015, 9am-3pm. RSVP at 760-924-1740. It is no cost, CEU's for RN's are provided.

CONTACT: Robin Roberts, (760) 924-1729

County Administrator's Office

Help send Bon Voyage to long time Board member Byng Hunt on January 9th – Attached with the Board Update is the flier for next Friday's farewell event for Supervisor Byng Hunt. Please take a look and hope you can attend. The event is being privately paid for but we are asking folks to RSVP to Stacie Klemm at sklemm@mono.ca.gov.

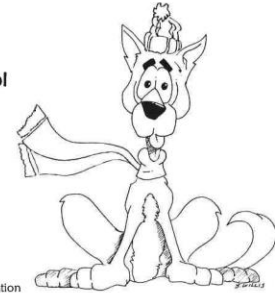
CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Winterizing Your Pet

When the temperature (and the snow) begins to fall, you'll find that your pet needs a little extra care from you. Here are some points to remember this winter.

- * Cats and dogs need protection from wet and cold, whether they get it inside your house or inside their own. Cats are best kept inside when it gets cold, as are most small and short-haired dogs. An outdoor dog needs a dry, elevated dog house with clean, dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out. Or consider adding a dog door to the garage with a soft cushion in the warmest corner.
- * A bowl of frozen water can't help a thirsty pet. Check outdoor water bowls often when it's below freezing, and break the ice or refill with water as necessary.
- * Outdoor dogs need more calories in the winter to produce body heat, so increase the amount you feed your pet. On the other hand, indoor dogs and cats may get less exercise in the cold months, and will need fewer calories to avoid weight gain.
- * Chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks can irritate pets' paws, so you may need to wipe them with a wet cloth after an outing. Dogs outside in the snow may need the ice between their paw pads removed.
- * Antifreeze tastes good to pets, but it is a deadly poison. The most likely source of the poison is radiator drainage spots in your garage, which should be flushed with water immediately.
- * A cat may crawl up under your car seeking shelter and warmth near the engine. It may get caught in the fan and seriously injured when the engine starts. Open the hood of your car or slap it noisily with your hand before starting the engine on cold days to startle any animal sleeping there.

Mono County Animal Control
Angelle Nolan 760-932-5582



AMERICAN
HUMANE ASSOCIATION 63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood, Colorado 80112-5117
Provided by The American Humane Association



The Strategic Plan moving forward! – The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on January 8th at 4:00pm at the Lee Vining center. The Updated Draft will be reviewed as we prepare to bring it to the Board on January 20th.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

REMINDER!!



Economic Development

Happy Holidays, everyone! We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best this holiday season and to thank you for your ongoing support, insights, suggestions and all the ways you help us spread the word about this wonderful and special place we are so blessed to call home. If you haven't seen our "75 Seconds of Mono County" yet, please take a minute (and 15 seconds!) to watch it now: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPHroGz5wmc&feature=player_detailpage.

We'd love it if you would forward the video link to your own visitor and client database and please feel free to post it on your website and Facebook page.

Also, we have a very special event coming up we think you will find very interesting and informative...

SAVE THE DATE: January 15, 2015
WHAT: State of the County Forum
WHERE: Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth Lakes
WHEN: 8:30am - 11:00am
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Caroline Beteta, President of Visit California, will present state, national and global tourism trends and the marketing outreach strategies implemented by California's Tourism and Travel Commission California and much more

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST PROVIDED

FREE -- Registration required

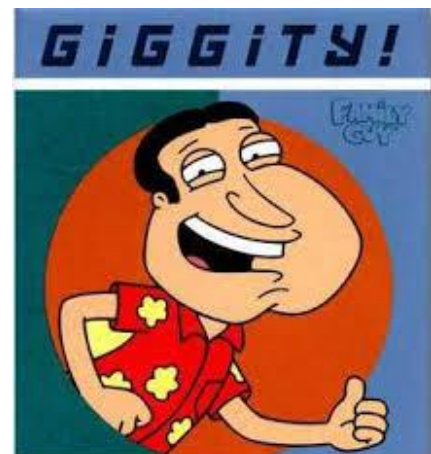
RSVP -- JSimpson@Mono.Ca.Gov or AVennos@Mono.Ca.Gov

We hope you can join us!! May your year ahead be filled with much joy, good health, prosperity and... Precipitation!

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos & Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-1743

Information Technology

Digital 395 sees two new applicants to enhance Mono County Internet Underserved communities – Race Telecommunications, Inc. has submitted two grant requests to the California Public Utilities Commission totaling over \$12 million. If funded, these



projects will greatly enhance the connectivity of South Chalfant, Benton, Swall Meadows, Lee Vining, and Mono City, Walker and Bridgeport.

Then projects involve Fiber based Internet speeds will offer packages including 1Gbps. This project is called **Gigify Mono**. In addition, Race Communication has put in an application for the **Gigify North 395** which would, if funded, deploy a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) Last Mile network to serve 100% of the homes in a defined service area that includes Bridgeport and Walker, California. Fiber based Internet speeds will offer packages including 1Gbps (1000 Mbps) down and 1Gbps (1000 Mbps) up. The full applications with maps are included as attachments to the Board Update.

This could be the next level of needed investment for our residents who deserve equal access to Internet resources.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819

Social Services

Start Your Year Off Right: Eat Fresh!

The CalFresh Program can add to your food budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table. The program issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used to buy most foods at many markets and food stores. The CalFresh Program helps to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing them a means to meet their nutritional needs. For more information visit www.C4Yourself.com.



Eat Fresh

EatFresh.org is playful, engaging and easy to use. It includes:

- Recipes searchable by food type, so that you can find recipes using whatever ingredients you have.
- Recipes that can be cooked in crockpots and microwaves.
- Ask a Dietician: Type in your question and a dietician sends you the answer.
- Tips about nutrition and healthy lifestyles.
- Text, email, share and print recipes.
- Discussions online about nutrition or cooking.
- Post recipes on Facebook, Pinterest, or Twitter.
- The locations of farmers' markets that accept EBT, and food pantries in your county.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760-924-1763

Federal Court order strikes down FLSA regulations - On Wednesday, December 31, 2014 the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an order earlier this week in favor of plaintiffs of the litigation over the FLSA regulations for personal care workers. The federal overtime pay requirements for home care workers was due to go into effect 1/1/15, and would have impacted our In-Home

Supportive Services (IHSS) program recipients and their providers. The litigation was filed by the National Association of Home Care & Hospice asserting that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) rule is in direct conflict with the Fair Labor Standards Act as passed by Congress in 1974.

The one-page court order concluded that the U.S. DOL's Third Party Employer Regulation is VACATED. The specific regulation cited in the order provides "[t]hird party employers of employees engaged in companionship services ... may not avail themselves of the minimum wage and overtime exemption" provided by the statute, and "[t]hird party employers of employees engaged in live-in domestic service employment ... may not avail themselves of the overtime exemption" provided by the statute.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon says the rules conflict with federal law that has long exempted providers of in-home care for the elderly and disabled from complying with wage laws. The Memorandum Opinion (also attached) states, "Plaintiffs, on the other hand, contend that the exemption enjoyed by third-party employers over the past forty years is not an open question and the Department of Labor cannot, therefore, manipulate its definitional authority in such a way as to effectively rewrite the exemption out of the law. [Pls Mem. at 11-13.] I agree with the plaintiffs."

This means that:

- The IHSS program in California will **not** be implementing payments for overtime, travel time, or wait time for providers of services at this time, and
- The "hours cap" of 61 hours per week for each provider will **not** go into effect at this time.

All authorized hours worked will be paid only at straight-time (the locally bargained hourly wage), and travel and wait time will not be paid. **This means providers will be paid the same way they were in 2014 until further notice.**

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760-924-1763

5 Things to know about Marketplace Open Enrollment - Open Enrollment is the period when you can sign up for or renew a health plan through Covered California, the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Here are 5 important things to know:

1. 2015 [Open Enrollment](#) lasts until **February 15, 2015**.
2. If you don't enroll in a health plan by February 15, 2015, the only way you can get health insurance for 2015 *through the Marketplace* is if you qualify for a [Special Enrollment Period](#). You may qualify if you have a qualifying life event such as marriage, birth or adoption of a child, or loss of other health coverage.
3. You can apply for MediCal at any time of year. If you qualify, you can enroll immediately. To find out, go online to www.C4Yourself.com or call 760/924-1770 to make an appointment with a Mono County Eligibility Worker. We are here to help!
4. You can preview 2015 health plans and estimated prices before you apply through the [Covered California Shop and Compare Tool](#).
5. When you buy health coverage for your employees through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace, you [may qualify for a tax credit](#) worth up to 50% of your premium contributions.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760-924-1763

Covered California Referrals to Medi-Cal - Some individuals who were previously receiving subsidized health care coverage under Covered California plans may no longer be eligible for those subsidies after December 31, due to changes in their incomes, and they will now qualify for health care coverage through Medi-Cal.

Known programming problems with CalHEERS and the tight timing have made this effort more challenging, but counties are working closely with the Department of Health Care Services to expedite enrollment for affected individuals and avoid gaps in coverage to the greatest extent possible. We understand that the state will take steps to ensure there is no gap in coverage by enrolling individuals into Medi-Cal this month if their cases are still pending.

Notices from Covered California will be going out to those consumers affected by this change to explain their options and what actions they should take in the coming weeks. Once these individuals are enrolled into Medi-Cal, they will receive information from the Medi-Cal program confirming their eligibility.

We recognize that Covered California's consumers have not been given much time to make the transition – nor have counties. We will do everything in our control to get people enrolled into their new Medi-Cal coverage as soon as possible.

Keep in mind this is relevant only to a group of Covered California consumers who are renewing coverage *and* whose income level caused them to lose eligibility for subsidized coverage in Covered California and instead appear eligible for Medi-Cal.

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, (760) 924-1789



***Inyo &
Mono
Veterans
Service
Office***



January Outreach Calendar

JANUARY 8 The Veteran Service **MONO** Outreach Program will be observed **Thursday, JANUARY 8th**. Please contact **873-7850** to schedule your appointment by Wednesday, JANUARY 7th.

JANUARY 15 The Veteran Service **MONO** Outreach Program will be observed **Thursday, JANUARY 15th**. Please contact **873-7850** to schedule your appointment and outreach location by Wednesday, JANUARY 14th.

CONTACT: Yvette Mason, (760) 873-7850