

April 1, 2020
Special Meeting
Item # 2c

Economic Development /
Partner Agencies

Additional Documents:

Public Comments

Letter to the State

Stacy (et al.) -

Thank you for taking into consideration my request to temporarily restrict fishing access in Mono and Inyo Counties during the COVID-19 Crisis. It should seem apparent to the entire population of California that the mandated "Stay at Home Order" being directed by Governor Newsom includes the travel and tourism of fishing, but unfortunately there exists an incredible number of anglers who feel exempt from this government mandated message. I understand the confusion on their behalf, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has taken the position that it is okay to fish when six feet apart from the next angler on the water. That works fine if you have a creek running through the back of your property, but 99.95% of license holders in our state do not have access to fishing within their immediate place of residence. Very few have it within a few miles of their property. Most anglers must travel long distances to fish. I have been in communication with DFW personnel almost daily, and I continue to point this out to them. I get the response from them that they are in communication with CDC, weighing the costs and benefits of restricting fishing, etc. CA DFW is a large bureaucracy and making decisions on their behalf to restrict fishing is no doubt difficult. But, it's not impossible. The State of Washington has restricted all inland recreational fishing until further notice.

I therefore implore our local government personnel to take matters into our own hands, and demand of California DFW that fishing is temporarily restricted in both Mono and Inyo Counties during the COVID-19 Crisis. BLM and USFS have both taken measures to help discourage people from traveling here to recreate in the mountains. The ski area closed. There are thousands of anglers throughout the State of California who are ignoring Newsom's "Stay at Home Order." On March 29, 2020, a local outfitter in Bridgeport, California - Ken's Sporting Goods - actually published on Facebook a current fish report for fisheries in Bridgeport, California. This haphazard type of behavior sends the wrong message to anglers who do not understand the "Stay at Home Order." It justifies for those in the dark or on the fence of the quarantine order, that a trip to the Eastern Sierra to fish is okay. It's not. Upon learning of Ken's Sporting Goods published fish report, most residents of Mono County are disgusted by the action of drafting a fish report - thus encouraging fishing tourism. When I read the report, I immediately shared it with Rick Flamson, owner of Rick's Sporting Goods. He is in disbelief of the report. I shared it with the management of Twin Lakes Resort in Bridgeport. They are in disbelief of the report. The vast majority of outfitters in our region recognize the severity of this worldwide crisis, and have decided to do what is best for humanity - stand with the "Stay at Home Order" issued by Governor Newsom.

Fortunately, there are several outfitters and guides in the area who acknowledge the reality of this situation, and they have shut their doors and asked clients to reach out for guide trip services and retail purchases after this has passed. I am a guide in the area myself. I contract through Kittredge Sports. I have already postponed trips with clients empathetic to our situation. I enjoy the company of my clients, and it is a source of income also, but I have forgone the opportunity to guide for the benefit of our region, and society as a whole. I do not stand alone in my position. The guide community in Mammoth Lakes is a small one, and I have been in constant communication with several guides. Other guides who absolutely support a temporary closure of fishing in the region include: Ernie Gulley, Harry Blackburn, Doug Rodricks (owner of Sierra Drifters), Jim Elias, Fred Rowe. The list grows daily as we see the number of COVID-19 cases escalate throughout our region, and country. I have received a mass email from Crowley Lake Fish Camp director Abbie Thomason who has essentially advised her customers to not visit until this passes. Fishing opener on Crowley Lake is a huge money-maker for Crowley Lake Fish Camp. I commend Abbie Thomason on putting safety first.

Unfortunately, not everyone recognizes the true and real threat to public health. There are opportunist outfitters like Ken's Sporting Goods hoping to remain active with sales throughout this unprecedented event. Ken's Sporting Goods is encouraging fishing travel and tourism. There are thousands of Southern Californians who feel a sense of entitlement to travel to the Eastern Sierra, and recreate on the waters - ignoring the "Stay at Home Order." There are local residents in Mammoth who also ignore the "Stay at Home Order" - and head to the water to fish. We are all in this together, whether you live in Mammoth Lakes, or Manhattan Beach. And "Stay at Home" means "Stay at Home." I'll say that again, "Stay at Home" means "Stay at Home."

Hence, I strongly encourage our local leaders to lobby hard to restrict ALL fishing in Mono and Inyo Counties until Saturday, May 30, 2020, at the earliest. While President Trump has extended the quarantine through April, it is scientifically evident that this will not have passed by then. As a full-time career high school teacher at Mammoth High School (I guide in the summer), we have been ordered out of school through the end of the school year - the middle of June. Fishing opener this year is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020. I suggest the entire month of May, since the local game wardens will most likely have to post closure signs on the fisheries. Make it easy on the wardens not having to replace the signs two weeks after opener when it is evident this will not have passed by that time. I also request ALL fisheries since this makes it easy for the wardens to patrol. It leaves no room for confusion with the general public when you close ALL fisheries. This request does not come lightly. Fishing is my source of sanity. But, I'm okay temporarily sitting this out for the good of humanity. A noticeable amount of tourist dollars comes to our region through fishing. However, when the majority of the guides and the majority of the anglers have to be the voice of the minority who don't see the common sense in the "Stay at Home Order," then we have to help the minority understand through legal restrictions. Most anglers already understand the "Stay at Home Order" hence the lost revenue from mandating closure to all is minimal to being with. Likewise, there are really no available services in the region for anglers to stay. Campsites, motels, hotels, nightly rentals, restaurants... they are all ordered closed. We cannot accommodate them even if they come - it would be catastrophic. There is no place for them.

Thank you for considering my request, and discussing my request with local government personnel. It is critical for the long-term benefit of our local (and national) economy and the short-term health benefit of our residents to demand all fishing is closed in Mono and Inyo Counties until at least May 30, 2020, of which another assessment can be made to see if restrictions are lifted.

Chris Leonard
Mammoth Lakes Fly Fishing Guide
818.288.3271

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all staying safe during this time. I wanted to send in some public comment for the meeting you guys are having tomorrow.

I know that things are hard on everyone right now, I am glad to see the community coming together during this time to help one another.

COVID 19

In Regards to the COVID 19's affect on our community. We would like the county to help bring resources to Bridgeport. Many of the people in North County have been out of work for 5 months and are usually eagerly await fishing/camping season to begin to generate income. It seems everyone wants to do their part and are practicing social distancing and most businesses that would normally be opening their doors in the next 15-30 days, if not already, are now not planning on doing so to protect the community and its medical resources. We understand this is something every american is feeling right now, but due to our seasonal nature, its really affecting our town. With the stay home order lasting another 30+ days, we would like to find a way to help get some groceries into the homes of people who need a little help at this time. I spoke to US Foods about how the food bank in Mammoth is working. US Foods is reducing the pricing to just cover their costs and Mammoth Lakes Tourism is covering the expense. With about \$50k they were able to provide meals to about 5,000 individuals last week. We estimate there are about 150 people in Bridgeport who could use this help right now. We would like to ask the Board of Supervisors and Mono County Tourism to help us get food into the homes in Bridgeport. I have started a spreadsheet with notes on how we can do this and the best way to keep the cost down and be most effective, but we need help from the county. We wanted to ask the county and/or the tourism commission for \$3,000 to provide food to 150 people in Bridgeport. We want to focus on non-perishable foods to fill their cupboard, snacks for kids at home and some meat & dairy. We have also received \$1500 from the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department and are donating \$1,000 ourselves to get this program started. We think with these funds, we would be able to provide a few weeks worth of food to people.

FISHMAS / Fishing & Fish Stocking

In Regards to Fishing, we would like to ask the county to please reconsider making a recommendation to postpone Fishmas and stocking. We feel that once the stay order is lifted, people are going to need a place such as the Eastern Sierra's to visit without having to go to crowded areas. Postponing Fishmas may cause a large crowd to then come again on a certain day versus letting them stagger in as people feel comfortable. Come fishing season, many locals in the area also rely on fishing for recreation and food. Even if the no travel / stay at home ordinance is still in place, we really feel that the locals should still have the option of doing fishing on the local waters while practicing social distancing. Fishing is a way of life for many people living here, its a way for them to escape, relax, feed their families, spend time with their children and so much more.

I also feel if the reasoning behind postponing fishing and stocking is to keep tourism down (which we understand and support) , but we should acknowledge that a large amount of visitors to the area are coming for hiking and other activities so this delay would not help in those areas. Maybe instead we focus on another way to stop visitation to the area without taking away the right to fish from locals.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Misti Sullivan

Cell 310-809-4003

Please close all county roads to all non- residents. I believe that this can be done efficiently by placing dirt and large rocks on the roads leading to the hot springs.

This could reduce the time and effort of law enforcement in those areas. I believe that, Hwy. 395 should have all traffic violations tripled during this time; especially for non- residents. Non residents can be given a choice to turn around or get a ticket. Don't close areas where fishing is permitted, but do close off public vehicle access with road blocks. This way, residents won't be in the area and at risk, and will still be able to get out and enjoy themselves. I live on the reservoir and I've been quarantined for 6 months because of winter and need to get out by myself. I'm one of the very few residents that doesn't need public access to enjoy the outdoors. Due to the pandemic, I'm afraid to go to the store, post office, and leave my house to do anything. I believe that the elderly should be checked on and remain safe. For example, the post office should have a trash can on the outside of their building and not just inside, so people can put gloves and proactive masks in the trash before getting in their car. Also, we should have a mobile clinic available to the people in Mono county; this way people don't have to drive all the way to mammoth.

All people pay County taxes in this area and have the right to speak out and be safe. We all need to relax and to stay in one area.

Please take all that I have just said, into consideration.

Thank you.
Ron Allen
Mono county resident

Please include this letter in the public responses for the April 1, 2020, Special Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting:

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support your proposed letter to State Agencies requesting a delay in the Opening of the 2020 Fishing Season in Mono County.

I commend the BOS for recognizing that we need to delay this opening for the safety of our communities and visitors, and to be consistent with state and county orders to stay at home, and for social distancing and closures of all but essential businesses.

This is a time of great anxiety in our small rural communities. We are well aware that our own hospitals, first responders and emergency services lack the capacity to deal with any influx of visitors during the covid-19 crisis. We have heard of the waves of recreation-seekers on the coast, exceeding the capacities of those jurisdictions to enforce the rules we need to follow to prevent the spread of this pandemic. Please do not let that happen here.

Rather, please make it your next priority to reach out with the strongest and most consistent messaging possible, through your Board, the Mammoth and Mono County Tourism Departments and any public interface you can think of to prospective visitors and tourists- that this is Not a good time to come here- and for their well being and ours: Stay Away!

Thank you for the tremendous amount of work you are doing for our communities in this time of crisis,

Sincerely,

Ilene Mandelbaum
PO Box 89
Lee Vining, Ca 93541

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the health and safety of Mono County residents, we must do everything we can to alert the visiting public and even second home owners that we are taking seriously Governor Newsom's order for all Californians to stay at home. That means:

1. Delaying Fishing Opener and Fishing Season. This is essential—an obvious necessity.
2. Making sure all private camping/RV areas are taking the stay-at-home order seriously and not accepting guests.
3. Creating a plan **now** to not allow dispersed camping (everywhere—in town, in the Mono Basin, up all the canyons, ...) and clearly let it be known right away that this is the policy the County is adhering to. Dispersed camping has been an increasingly major problem in the past years. I know this is not an easy issue to resolve since it involves federal land managers, but it needs to be for all kinds of reasons including increased fire hazards.
4. All social media messages need to be strong and clear. Posting beautiful landscape photos is probably not helpful. If images need to be posted, how about ones of the hospital, or closed businesses, or

Thank you very much for all your work,

Margaret Eissler
Lee Vining

Hello my name is Jeremy Ross and my family owns Ernie's tackle and ski shop and have since 1960. I writing this letter to hope get the opening of trout season delayed. As many know our hospital cannot handle the population of the residents here let alone visitors. Should they come and spread the virus our community may not survive the outbreak. I'm asking our supervisors and sherriff to please reach out to the state and put a postponement until a time where we can be sure it's safe and then our economy can come back stronger than ever. This is not the place to see if the experiment of social distancing works. I've seen many social media post saying if the season is open they're coming regardless of the governor's stay at home order. With only a few essential businesses open the spread could be catastrophic as we all need these entities.

Thank you for your time,
Jeremy Ross

Good evening Fred,

Thank you for the heads up on the agenda item regarding the opening of fishing season.

At present Convict Lake is shut down. We have cancelled all of our lodging reservations from March 19 up until the fishing opener. Our general store, restaurant and the marina are closed. Our opening day visitors who are generally repeat customers have or will be advised that most likely our lodging, restaurant and marina will not be open until some unknown date after the first of May.

Here is my input on this agenda item:

Skiing and fishing attract thousands of visitors and sustains the local economy. The number of visitors at any time can exceed the total residents of Mammoth Lakes and, may on occasion exceed the number of residents in the County (such as the beginning of the fishing season). The health and safety the county residents and, the capacity to treat this illness however has to take precedent over the economic impact of a shutdown. It would be too easy for this virus to be spread by just a few visitors who may be contagious.

To the best of my knowledge there has been no statewide mandate from either the Governor or DFW restricting fishing. Even though, the state and local orders are contradictory. Inyo County continues to allow short-term lodging facilities and, fishing in Inyo county as well as Mono County e.g. East Walker is open. I would be curious as to how the Board will want to approach this. Are you going to recommend that DFW alter their regulations for just Mono County? Are you going to ask that they shut down only certain waters? Does the county have authority to restrict visitation? How would all of this be enforced?

These are hard choices and no one can say definitively whether one course of action is better than another. The information we have seems to suggest that social distancing, staying in place and reducing interaction amongst us will slow down and reduce the spread of this scourge. This will also allow the medical field to treat those that are infected and hopefully buy time to find long term solutions for treatment and vaccinations.

I wish you the best of luck in having to grapple with the issue before you and the other member of the Board of Supervisors.

Regards,

Brian

Hi Bob,

Here are my thoughts on the fishing opener - please see attached for some big picture thoughts.

Also, I think if we look at the science it's clear that a 60 day moratorium and then reassessing the situation makes sense. Below is a graph from U Washington, which state & federal authorities are looking at (on a nationwide and statewide basis). The one I'm showing is of course for CA, but you've probably seen the similar graph for the U.S. It shows that there is projected to be a real peak (if current social distancing guidelines stay in place) in later April into mid-May. The curve really drops down by June 1 and is back near flat by July 1.

I'd like to request the Board ask CADFW (or the Commission) to delay opener til at least June 1, and reassess when timely with a hoped for opening date by mid-June, July 1 at latest. This is in line with the science - which is always subject to change but this is the current science.

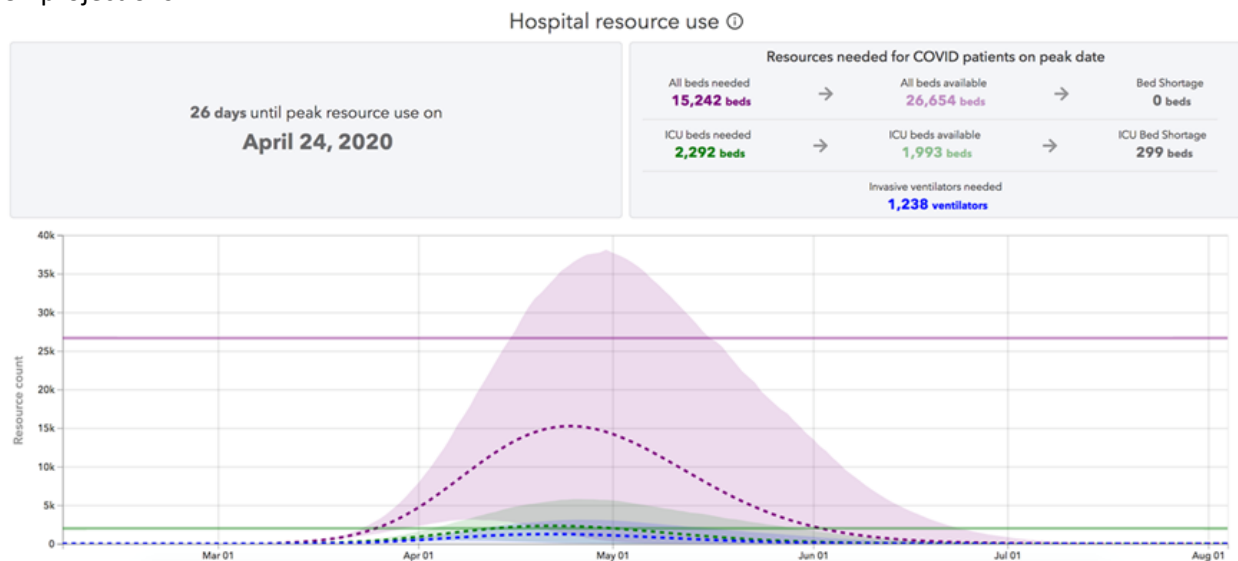
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (U Washington)

See CA graph pasted below: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/projections> - go to drop down menu/CA to see the same graph online

US graph: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/projections>

Story on U WA modeling: <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/03/28/university-of-washington-web-app-coronavirus/>

CA projections:



Story from today's NY Times on the U WA/IHME modeling:

See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/31/world/coronavirus-live-news-updates.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage#link-a737c70>

Models predicting expected spread of the virus in the U.S. paint a grim picture.

The coronavirus studies that appear to have convinced President Trump to prolong disruptive social distancing in the United States paint a grim picture of a pandemic that is likely to ravage the country over the next several months, killing close to 100,000 Americans and infecting millions more.

White House officials have not specifically said which of several epidemiological models by researchers around the world they used to persuade Mr. Trump to extend federal guidelines that call for people to remain in their homes, limit travel, work from home and refrain from gathering in groups of 10 or more. But the administration's leading scientists — including Dr. Anthony S. Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, who is coordinating the coronavirus response — have said that several of the publicly available studies generally match their own conclusions about the deadly impact of the virus.

“We’ve reviewed 12 different models. And then we went back to the drawing board over the last week or two, and worked from the ground up, utilizing actual reporting of cases,” Dr. Birx told reporters during a briefing in the White House Rose Garden on Sunday. She said the evidence collected by the government experts “ended up at the same numbers.”

Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci are expected to provide a detailed presentation about their conclusions during a briefing from the White House Tuesday evening. A senior administration official declined to reveal any information about those studies in advance. But the publicly available research suggests that even with the isolation efforts already underway to limit the spread of the virus, infections are almost certain to soar, straining the ability of hospitals to care for infected patients and leading to a growing number of deaths.

One of those models, created by scientists at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, [predicts that deaths](#) from the virus in the United States will rise rapidly during the month of April, from about 4,000 to almost 60,000, even with the many restrictions on movement now in place. The study suggests that the pace of deaths will eventually slow down, reaching a total of about 84,000 by the beginning of August.

The model assumes that social distancing measures will be broadly effective across the country and uses the severe lockdown in Wuhan, China, to calibrate how the outbreak might play out in the United States. That approach has some critics because control measures imposed in the United States have generally been less stringent than those in Wuhan. While officials have told more than 250 million people to stay at home, some parts of the country, especially in the South, have resisted or delayed similar measures for fear of the economic consequences.

The University of Washington model is also considered simple by the standards of the field because it does not take into account the full geographic complexity of the outbreak, nor does it rely on detailed understanding of the basic biology of the disease, said Aaron A. King, a professor in the ecology of infectious disease at the University of Michigan. In the later stages of an outbreak, as some people recover or die from the disease and others change their behavior, more complex models can be more accurate, he said.

A second study, released on March 17 by the [epidemic modeling group at Imperial College London](#) and authored by 30 scientists on its coronavirus response team, predicted that if the United States had done nothing to prevent the spread of the virus, 2.2 million people could have died. If, however, the

government tried to isolate people suspected of having the virus and people they were in contact with, the number of deaths could be cut in half, the researchers said.

They concluded that only a suppression effort across the entire country — an expanded version of efforts now underway across wide swaths of the country — might significantly further reduce the death toll. But they warned that such efforts might have to be maintained for long periods of time in order to ensure that the threat is over.

“The major challenge of suppression,” the British scientists concluded, is the length of time that intensive interventions would be needed, given that “we predict that transmission will quickly rebound if interventions are relaxed.”

Mr. Trump appears to have been affected by the grim statistics. During his appearance in the Rose Garden on Sunday, the president repeatedly mentioned the worst-case scenario from the Imperial College study, saying that hundreds of thousands of lives would be saved by making the decision to continue social distancing.

“Think of the number: 2.2 — potentially 2.2 million people if we did nothing. If we didn’t do the distancing, if we didn’t do all of the things that we’re doing,” Mr. Trump told reporters. He acknowledged that even 100,000 would be a “horrible number,” but that bringing the deaths down from possible millions would show “we all, together, have done a very good job.”

Thank you for all you are doing! Stay healthy!
Best,
Sally

Mono County Fishing Opener Scheduled for April 25, 2020

- Opening on the scheduled date violates the spirit and intent of the Governor’s Stay at Home order for all Californians.
- Opening violates Mono County’s Stay at Home order (3/21/2020) consistent with the Governor’s order, prohibiting all but non-essential businesses from operating.
- Opening on the scheduled date violates Mono County’s restriction of short-term, transient occupancy (March 21, 2020). With no overnight rentals allowed or available, including at area campgrounds operated on private lands and by the US Forest Service and BLM, there is no way Mono businesses can legally rent rooms or campsites to anglers coming from out of the area. The Mono County transient occupancy ban is in place until deemed unnecessary by the Health Officer.
- Opening on the scheduled date violates the County order (March 17, 2020) restricting public gatherings. With popular spots like Crowley Lake or Convict Lake key destinations for the angling public there is simply no way to allow for safe separation and proper physical distance of anglers.
- Opening on the scheduled date may violate Mayor Garcetti’s closure order for the City of LA since areas like Crowley are on lands owned by the City of LA/Los Angeles Department of Water

and Power. LADWP and the Mayor's office should be consulted as to their position on having LADWP lands open to large numbers of the fishing public on the scheduled "opening day."

- Areas are already open to fishing in Mono & Inyo counties including:
 - Lower Owens River
 - Upper Owens River
 - Pleasant Valley Reservoir
 - Walker River

While Mono County should not necessarily promote these areas for tourists to visit until local lodging and other restrictions have been lifted, the local populace that reside in Mono County can still enjoy fishing in these areas.

- Opening day puts law enforcement officers and first responders at huge risk. Not only would enforcement of physical separation, no camping orders and checking for licenses likely require law enforcement getting in close physical proximity to the angling public, opening day might place additional strain on local hospitals and emergency/healthy personnel (SAR, etc.).
- It sends a totally mixed message if Fishing Opener proceeds as if it's Business as Usual when overnight accommodations and restaurants are closed, and a statewide Stay at Home order is in effect. Mono County, which was just recognized for being the County with the 2nd greatest physical distancing record in the state, should continue to place the highest priority on public health and safety over everything else.

Sally

I don't see what postponing the trout season opener will accomplish. I have given my thoughts to Jeff Simpson already via emails. Any postponement date would most likely be after the summer season is already underway, when the Eastern Sierra will (hopefully) be filled with visitors anyway. Don't waste the DFW's time on this. Better to encourage local businesses to file for the new federal stimulus help with payroll expenses, etc.

Jim King



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

April 1, 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: Postponement of Regular Fishing Season and CDFW Fish Stocking in Mono County

Dear Mr. Bonham,

On April 1, 2020 the Mono County Board of Supervisors discussed potential impacts of the annual Fishing Opener weekend, April 25-26, 2020 on the public health and safety of local residents, communities and visitors. Fishing Opener, known as Fishmas in Mono County, is a long-standing, traditional event that celebrates the beginning of the regular trout fishing season, and attracts thousands of anglers to the County's front country lakes and rivers.

Governor Newsom's March 19 "Stay-At-Home" Executive Order requiring all Californians to stay in their place of residence through April 30, 2020 should theoretically eliminate visitation to the Eastern Sierra. Indeed, all short-term lodging rentals and campgrounds, most restaurants, shops, amenities and attractions are closed in compliance with the State and local Public Health Officer's orders. However, in spite of the Governor's directives, and in spite of the lack of available accommodation and amenities, we are unfortunately still seeing numerous visitors who are hiking, climbing, ski touring, camping and recreating in the County.

Based on these observations, the consensus of the Board is that Fishing Opener will draw significant numbers of people from Southern California, Sacramento, Bay Area, San Diego, Reno and many other urban areas to fish in our region. This influx of anglers and potentially families/companions will promote transmission of COVID-19 and put additional strain on our already taxed health care services. Mono County is simply not equipped to handle multiple cases of COVID-19 illness. There is one small hospital in Mammoth Lakes which has limited beds and four ventilators – as of today, there are 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with more cases expected in the coming weeks. It is highly possible that by April 25th and Fishing Opener, our health care system will be overwhelmed.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors also requests that the CDFW fish stocking schedule for Opener also be postponed to further discourage recreational fishing.

In summary, for the protection of public health and safety, the Mono County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the California Department of Fish & Wildlife delay Fishing Opener and its fish stocking plans for Mono County waters until the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order is lifted.

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
Mono County Chair and District 5 Supervisor

CC: California Fish and Wildlife Commission
Stafford Lehr – Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Governor Gavin Newsom

April 1, 2020
Special Meeting
Item # 2d

Board of Supervisors

Additional Documents:
Letter to the Rep. Cook



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

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

Via Email to Tim Itnyre, District Manager
Tim.Itnyre@mail.house.gov

Re: Mono County need for resources for local COVID-19 response.

Dear Representative Cook,

Thank you very much for reaching out to Mono County to ask what resources we need for the local COVID-19 response. Mono County requests the following additional resources:

- Ventilators with PEEP capacity: #6
- Oxygen concentrators: #70
- Medical gowns (part of COVID PPE): #1000
- Shoe covers: #1000 pairs

As of today, Mono County has 13 confirmed positive COVID-19 tests, and unfortunately, we have lost one beloved member of our community to this virus. The only hospital in Mono County is Mammoth Hospital, a 17-bed critical access acute care facility with two ICU beds and four ventilators. The hospital does not normally provide long-term ICU care, instead transferring critically ill patients to higher-level facilities, typically in Reno or Carson City. Last week, if our transfer options had been closed, we would have had just one remaining ventilator before having to ration care.

We hope the “Stay at Home” order is successful in delaying and reducing the onslaught of the pandemic surge, but we are preparing for the number of patients to overwhelm our existing resources. We are attempting to procure ventilators through the usual channels but delivery has just been delayed. Our Public Health Officer Dr. Thomas Boo has also submitted a request for ventilators and concentrators for Mono and Inyo Counties through the MHOAC/RDMH system but the Medical Health Coordinating Center in Sacramento is so far unable to fulfill the ventilator order (reportedly awaiting federal ventilators). Concentrators, which will be essential in the care of severely ill patients who do not require mechanical ventilation, are not part of anyone’s stockpile. Because of our 8,000-foot elevation in Mammoth Lakes, we are particularly conscious of the lifesaving role of oxygen in this pandemic.

We are doing a lot to try to mitigate the epidemic, creating an integrated COVID-19 nurse triage line linked to our epidemiology contact tracing team and a team of people to respond to the homes of affected persons to evaluate, refer, educate, and advise persons with suspect COVID-19. The teams will sometimes collect specimens for testing. These teams will need PPE, hence the request for gowns and shoe covers. Our supplies of N-95 masks and goggles are adequate for now.

Again, we thank you for your attention to our needs here in Mono County, and for your leadership in fighting this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Stacy Corless
Chair, Mono County Board of Supervisors