



Mono County

2020 State and Federal Legislative Platform



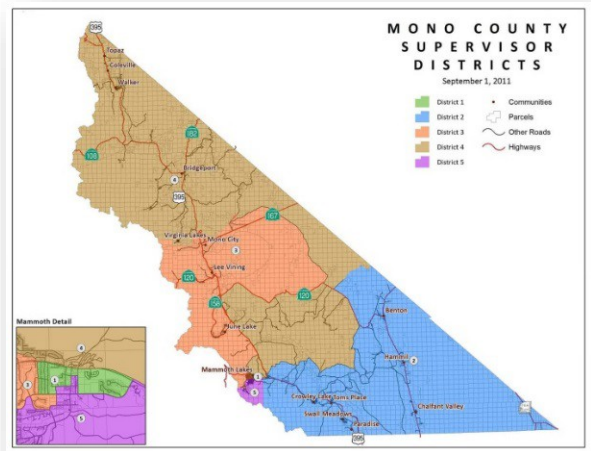
Reviewed and adopted by the Mono County Board of Supervisors

February 18, 2020

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Introduction

Mono County, California, is a rural county situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada and the California/Nevada border. Accessed by US Highway 395 which weaves its way north-south and is a state-designated Scenic Byway from its southern boundary all the way to Topaz Lake in the north, Mono County is 108 miles in length, and has an average width of only 38 miles. With dramatic mountain boundaries that rise in elevation to over 13,000 feet, the county's diverse landscape includes forests of Jeffrey and Lodgepole pine, juniper and aspen groves, hundreds of lakes, alpine meadows, streams and rivers, and sage-covered high desert. The county has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of the land is contained in the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, as well as the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. As a result, Mono County offers vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and outdoor recreation and adventure.



Mono County Tourism/Mono Lake Tufas

The county is home to, and named after, Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake with intriguing limestone tufa formations and is a vital habitat for millions of migratory and nesting birds. Mono Lake is just one of the reasons that Mono County draws landscape photographers year-round.

Another highlight is the historic gold rush town of Bodie, which during its heyday in the late 1800s, was home to as many as 10,000 people, and is now maintained as a State Historic Park with about 200 buildings still standing as they were left, preserved in a state of “arrested decay” for visitors to enjoy. Other natural wonders that attract people to Mono County include Devils Postpile National Monument, one of the world's finest examples of columnar basalt and the headwaters of the Owens and Middle Fork San Joaquin Rivers; two of the state's most important watersheds. Yosemite National Park's eastern entrance at Tioga Pass is only 12 miles from Lee Vining and Mono Lake.



Mono County Tourism/Bodie State Historic Park

Mono County has several small towns and charming villages, each with its own scenic beauty, year-round recreational opportunities, natural and historical attractions, and unique characteristics. The County seat is proudly located in Bridgeport, where the original 1881 courthouse is the second oldest in the state to be in continuous use. The only incorporated town in the county is Mammoth Lakes, which is located at the base of world-renowned Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, with a summit of 11,053 feet, over 3500 skiable acres, 28 lifts, and an average of 400 inches of snowfall annually. For example, January 2017 recorded historic amounts of snow, with 20.5 feet accumulating in Mammoth during that month alone. Approximately 8,100 people reside in the Mammoth Lakes area year-round, and during the peak winter season, the population swells to over 35,000 when visitors from around the state, country, and world come to ski, snowboard, and take part in many other winter activities. The sister resort, June Mountain, just 20 miles north of Mammoth, offers uncrowded, wide-open slopes and a more peaceful, family-friendly alternative to busier ski areas.



Mono County Tourism/Bridgeport Courthouse

Summer, however, is when Mono County really shines. The region offers countless miles of alpine hiking, superb trout fishing at dozens of well-stocked lakes, streams and rivers, kayaking, cycling, horseback riding, golfing, and endless warm-weather adventures. Photographers flock to the county in September and October when it is almost impossible to take a bad photo of the fall color that lights up the Eastern Sierra landscape. *Sunset Magazine* named Mono County one of the “Top 5 places to Hike” in autumn and *TravelAndLeisure.com* listed Mono County as one of “America’s Best Fall Color Drives.”



Mono County Tourism/Silver Lake

A wide variety of lodging, restaurants, and shops are available throughout the county, and commercial air service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport, just a 10-minute drive from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, is accessible non-stop and year-round from Los Angeles, and seasonally from many other airports. Air services are offered through United Airlines and JSX.

State and Federal General Guidelines

The Mono County Board of Supervisors supports the general guidelines set forth below. County staff will apply these guidelines in evaluating State and Federal legislation, as well as executive and regulatory actions. It is the Board's objective to implement these guidelines.

To support the County's service to the community, the County should:

- Support legislative and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County's access to state and federal funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility;
- Oppose any effort to balance the State budget through the taking of local government resources;
- Support legislation that protects the County's quality of life and diverse natural resources, while preserving the essence and historic values of the County;
- Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources;
- Support legislation and budget action which provides additional and continued funding for local road infrastructure, including complete street features;
- Oppose legislative and administrative actions which would create federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority;
- Support legislation that realigns governmental services in such a manner as to improve the delivery of services and make government more accountable to the people;
- Support the promotion of tourism, recreation, sustainable fisheries, filming, and a diversified local economy in the Eastern Sierra to achieve strong economic growth and prosperity;
- Continue to support legislation that honors our veterans for their service to our country;
- Support efforts that further the strategic directions outlined in the County's Strategic Plan;

- Engage on any proposals to repeal or additionally alter the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides Mono County citizens the ability to obtain affordable health care;
- Support efforts to combat climate change;
- Support legislation that seeks to address the insufficient quantity and quality of homes affordable to our residents; and
- Support legislation that addresses the burgeoning substance use disorder crisis and increases access to Medication Assisted Treatment.

State Priorities

1. **Protect County revenue sources** – Many County programs are at risk due to the instability of State funding. The Board of Supervisors supports efforts to sustain funding, enabling the continuation of critical programs for Mono County’s constituents.

2. **Encourage regulation relief/reform** – Mono County applauds California’s efforts to protect the environment. The Board supports efforts to achieve responsible regulation relief in the following areas:
 - a. **Provide regulatory relief for solid waste operations** –
 - i. Continue to provide regulatory relief to rural jurisdictions from statewide solid waste and recycling mandates when recycling infrastructure does not yet exist and causes significant transportation costs and emissions.
 - ii. Provide funding for the siting and development of recycling infrastructure, and/or develop policies within state agencies and businesses such as Caltrans, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Southern California Edison for the local re-use of materials (glass cullet, wood chips) when generated in rural areas.

 - b. **Support CARB compliance legislation** – Support legislation regarding California Air Resources Board (CARB) compliance to assist rural counties with the costs associated with State mandated compliance.

 - c. **Encourage communication between air districts especially as it relates to smoke management.**

 - d. **Support environmental processing legislation** – Support legislation that streamlines environmental processing, including the application of certain urban exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to rural communities.

 - e. **Support regulation of short-term rental online platforms** – Online short-term rental platforms are unregulated, leaving accountability and compliance issues to local jurisdictions. Mono County urges the legislature to support regulation of short-term rentals to ensure an even playing field with traditional commercial lodging, require accountability, provide for tax collection, and support compliance at the state and local levels.

 - f. **Ensure adequate oversight of state requirements for commercial cannabis activities and encourage development of hemp regulations** – Mono County is

concerned about the state's allocation of resources for monitoring and inspection of commercial cannabis permits to ensure compliance with state requirements, particularly in rural areas like Mono County. Where oversight is delegated to local agencies, such as the Agricultural Commissioner, adequate funding should also be provided. Where oversight is retained by the state, state agency staff should have adequate on-the-ground presence to ensure accountability and compliance without increasing the burden on local jurisdiction staff. In addition, the state has issued emergency regulations for hemp cultivation but has not yet proposed a regulatory plan for final regulations or federal government review. As with cannabis, state regulations are critical for local governments to craft local regulations that create a comprehensive set of rules that protect public health and safety while providing for the industry. Without those state regulations, local jurisdictions are acting in a vacuum that may increase challenges due to uncoordinated or inconsistent requirements and approval processes.

- g. **Continue to provide and increase funding for local jurisdictions to meet affordable housing goals** – In an effort to address affordable housing needs throughout the state, new housing laws are passed every year. Some carry new mandates that place a regulatory burden on local jurisdictions, and some simply require funding to implement. We encourage the State to continue providing new funding streams, such as SB 2 and the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grants program, as well as technical assistance programs, to assist local jurisdictions with meeting new mandates and working toward statewide and local housing goals.

3. Natural Resources, Public Lands and Agriculture

- a. **Support sustainable funding for State parks** – Continue to support measures to sustain our State parks, roads that access these parks, and recreation programs for the continued enjoyment of visitors and residents. Closure or underfunding of these parks would result in a significant negative economic impact on our County as tourism and recreation are our most important economic drivers.
- b. **Protect our communities from wildfire and promote forest health** – Support a balanced approach to fuels management that increases funding and capacity for community protection and, also, considers air quality and other health related issues within the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.
- c. **Support legislation regarding programs and policies that promote the creation of both state and local disaster prevention, response, and recovery planning policy.**

- d. **Support continued and enhanced state funding for non-native, invasive plant management programs** – After years of no state funding allocation, weed management area groups throughout the state will have funding opportunities in the coming budget year. These programs are critical to the protection of our local and statewide environment, and have proven positive effects on natural fire regimes, species diversity, watershed health, and many other concerns. State funding for these programs should be maintained and enhanced if possible.
- e. **Ensure full funding of Department of Fish and Wildlife Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Program (AB 7- 2006)** – In 2006, AB 7 dedicated by law one third of all sport fishing license fees to be used for adequate stocking of Department of Fish and Wildlife Hatcheries. Beyond the funding dedication, AB 7 dictated the size of fish to be stocked. Recent California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) actions, as well as state budget actions, have reduced the size of the stocking fish and not fully directed the fee funding to this program. Mono County supports the original intent including all funding being directed to the hatchery program, fish size, and reproducing diploid fish countywide as described in the original legislation.
- f. **Support budget appropriations to modernize and maintain the hatchery system.**
- g. **Support a balanced approach to regulating fishing** – Support a fishing season in the Eastern Sierra that provides economic opportunity while maintaining the balance of environmental health and sustainable fisheries and requires California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to notify local government of proposed fishing regulation changes.
- h. **Support sustainable fishing** – Support the funding of efforts to enhance the fish population in Mono County including sustainable fishing, ongoing fish stocking, education for proper catch and release practices, protection of spawning waterways, and support of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stocking of diploid trout in allowable waters.
- i. **Support bio-energy action plan development** – Encourage the various state agencies involved to continue evolving this field of work to produce and permit cleaner, more affordable technology based on sustainable and healthy forestry principles in a manner that benefits rural Sierra economies. Mono County has encouraged state agencies, such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and California Energy Commission (CEC) to provide funding for project scoping and planning.

- j. **Support legislation that promotes, protects, or facilitates the sustainability of our local agriculture** – Mono County agriculture is an important local economic driver. It provides jobs and contributes to the open-space landscape that draws visitors. Reinstating Williamson Act subventions and continuing to develop alternative funding measures, such as the Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.
- k. **Support development of domestic recycling markets and streamline process for recycling infrastructure development.** – Domestic recycling markets are needed to address the changes in international trade policies which have disrupted California’s solid waste and recycling industry by restricting foreign imports of recyclable materials and requiring reduced contamination levels in recycling streams. In order to meet California’s ambitious recycling mandates, investment in and development of domestic markets has become necessary.
- l. **Support legislation that allows for alternative organic programs for rural areas and exempts them from the SB 1383 requirements until such time that an economically feasible infrastructure is in place** – Rural jurisdictions are disproportionately burdened under mandates of SB 1383/Short Lived Climate Pollutants. With no developed infrastructure, no economy of scale and great hauling distances to existing infrastructure, this remains a major challenge for rural areas.
- m. **Support legislation and funding that eases the burden of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, including creating necessary infrastructure in rural, sparsely populated areas** – The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act provides for local agencies to develop groundwater sustainability plans and, pursuant to those plans, sustainably manage groundwater resources. The funding mechanism for these activities provided in the law is for local agencies to impose fees on water users. Areas subject to the Act in Mono County are sparsely populated and primarily in agricultural production. Accordingly, very few individuals (less than a dozen) would have to bear the significant burden of funding compliance with the Act. This raises real concerns regarding the future of Mono County’s agricultural operations.
- n. **Continued engagement in Bi-State Sage Grouse conservation efforts** – Mono County appreciates the State’s increased role in sage-grouse conservation efforts and addressing the threat posed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s (LADWP’s) management of water in Long Valley, a key habitat area for the South Mono Population Management Unit. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is a significant player in this conservation effort. Ultimately, continuation of the collaborative multi-party partnership, strengthened by

cooperative engagement by LADWP, would be the ideal outcome to warrant a new decision not to list the species under the federal Endangered Species Act. If listed, the result could be an additional regulatory burden with devastating impacts to our agricultural and recreational activity-based economy.

4. Public Safety and Criminal Justice

- a. **Advocate to prevent adverse local impacts from cannabis and hemp legislation** – Advocate for local control, taxation and funding for addressing the environmental, land use, and public safety impacts of the cultivation of cannabis and hemp.
- b. **Ensure State realignment & cost-shifts** – Continue to ensure successful implementation of the broad array of programs transferred to county jurisdiction under the 2011 Public Safety Realignment, including appropriate distribution of AB 109 funding. Support state policy changes that will allow for greater administrative and program flexibility for county programs associated with this shift of responsibility.
- c. **Support of rural fire districts** – The population of Mono County is highly rural and dependent upon voluntary associations that provide basic emergency services. These volunteer fire districts provide services to residents and tourists, and they are often the first responders to accidents. Support relief for rural fire districts.
- d. **Advocate for Community Paramedicine** – Advocate for the State Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) to expand the current number of EMS Programs participating in the Community Paramedicine Demonstration Project.
- e. **Advocate for legislation to extend the age for juvenile services from 18 through the age of 20** – Neuroscience supports that brain development continues until the age of 23.
- f. **Support legislation that provides financial support to probation** – Provide financial support to probation to include more evidence-based services and incentives for both adults and youth.

5. Transportation and Infrastructure

- a. **Support action for transportation funding** – Support the multiple transportation funding sources that provide for improved transportation systems and

multimodal networks, including SB 1 as enacted and delivery of projects that rehabilitate and improve local roads and related infrastructure.

- b. **Support State highway access** – Mono County supports budget policy and legislation to fund rehabilitation of the Bodie Road (Highway 270) that provides access to Bodie State Park and to facilitate early Sierra Pass openings (including Highways 120 and 108).
- c. **Support complete streets and walkable community principles** – Mono County is a strong supporter and advocate of the complete streets and walkable community principles in the 2040 California Transportation Plan. This focus is a transportation paradigm and culture shift that will impact projects from initiation to completion and maintenance. Recently, local jurisdictions have been increasingly tasked with the funding and maintenance of complete street features on state facilities such as state highways. These responsibilities lie with the state, and a corresponding shift in the functioning and funding of Caltrans is needed to ensure success.
- d. **Support broadband deployment and communications systems improvements** – Leverage existing work efforts focused on broadband infrastructure investments and deployment projects to further increase access to Gigabit broadband throughout the County. Advocate and work to improve communication systems including:
 - i. Plain Old Telephone Systems (POTS) system reliability;
 - ii. Reliable 911 service, the NextGen 911 transformation (including the leveraging of broadband for improving 911), 211 service, and public notification and warning services;
 - iii. Cellular-based communication systems and networks including those designed for commercial and public safety use (such as FirstNet);
 - iv. Policies, programs, and funding opportunities for other public safety communication platforms, including but not limited to Land Mobile Radio;
 - v. Appropriate and effective definitions of ‘broadband’ which recognize the importance of technology and dependence on the internet for public safety and economic development;
 - vi. Legislation and associated programs that provide funding for broadband infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts.
- e. **Investor-Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation and Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) policy** – In coordination with local allied agencies and community organizations, advocate for policies and practices which ensure public safety while recognizing and addressing the unique challenges of PSPS events in a

tourism-driven rural environment. Encourage utilities' investment in infrastructure hardening, grid modernization, and situational awareness tools.

6. Administrative and Fiscal Services

- a. **Support Clerk/Recorder Services and Elections Administration improvements** – Support resources for improving county record keeping services and election administration, and monitor legislation that may impact the following:
 - i. Recording fees and process, and recorded documents;
 - ii. Vital statistic fees and process;
 - iii. Public records;
 - iv. Unfunded mandates;
 - v. Vote-by-mail, voter registration, election management systems, elections process, and election equipment;
 - vi. Funding for records preservation (such as Board of Supervisors historic records);
 - vii. Funding for modernization of elections equipment;
- b. **Support Vote-by-mail legislation** – Support legislation to authorize vote-by-mail ballot elections for rural counties.
- c. **Support leveraging SB2 Recording fees to return to Mono County for housing.**
- d. **Support the full funding of all Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** – Support legislation and budget efforts that provide for payment of past due balances and continue to maximize the PILT revenue to counties and maintain full funding of PILT without restrictions beyond the current authorization.
- e. **Oppose legislation that would limit and/or impose significant procedural or substantive barriers to counties' ability to contract for services.**

7. Health and Human Services

- a. **Ensure State and Federal Healthcare Reform has equitable funding formulas for rural counties** – Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation began in 2014, and it is vital that local government funding streams reflect equitable distribution formulas to service our rural constituents. Securing adequate funding to sustain health care reform measures is important to Mono County. Key issues include Medi-Cal expansion and funding for these mandates and continuation of 1991 realignment allocation/amounts.

- b. **Support legislation that provides funding to support the Local Primacy Agency (LPA) program that ensures safe drinking water to Mono County residents.**
- c. **Support funding opportunities for environmental health regulation** – Support funding opportunities including fees for State mandates related to environmental health regulation of food establishments, sewage disposal facilities, water systems, well construction, swimming pools, and recreational health facilities, occupied housing, underground storage tank facilities, solid waste facilities, land use development, rabies and vector control, and the management of hazardous waste/materials.
- d. **Support legislation that provides funding for the Local Primacy Agency (LPA) program that ensures safe drinking water to residents** – The LPA program provides local oversight of small public water systems (SPWS) in Mono County. This program is implemented by the Environmental Health Division of the Public Health Department. Currently, program costs are offset by annual permit fees collected from the SPWS and by Public Health Realignment. The revenues do not cover the costs of this program. AB 402, introduced last legislative cycle but continued to this year, proposes a new method of financial support of LPA programs statewide whereby an LPA would be able to bill the state for costs associated with implementing their LPA program. AB 402 is expected to be voted upon by the State legislature this legislative cycle.
- e. **Support funding opportunities for Mono County’s CUPA Program** – The California Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is implemented by the Environmental Health Division of the Public Health Department. Funding for this program is provided through environmental health fees and Public Health Realignment. In the past, the CUPA was provide grant funding through Cal EPA to offset costs incurred in implementing the program. This grant funding was subsequently discontinued last year. Negotiations are ongoing to reinstitute this funding program.
- f. **Support legislation for public health programs** – Support legislation and programing, and advocate for upstream approaches to health and preventative public health programs including Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH), Oral Health, Tobacco Education, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Emergency Preparedness, Communicable Disease, HIV/STDs, and Immunizations.
- g. **Support revenue opportunities and increased flexibility with State allocations for local public health departments** – With rising costs of business, the Mono County Health Department’s expenditures are now greater than its revenues. With a decline of Public Health Realignment funds since 2007, these dollars no longer cover the cost of fulfilling mandates, backfilling State grants,

and addressing local health priorities. Opportunities include increasing revenues through State allocations and advocating for a broader, less restrictive scope of work which can be tailored to a community's unique health needs.

- h. Support public health fiscal sustainability in rural counties in the form of relaxed programmatic FTE requirements and indirect cost rate caps** – Health programs are continually evolving and new opportunities to improve community wellness are on the rise. Rural counties face unique recruitment and retention challenges and much of the prospective funding comes with strict FTE requirements and/or caps on what can be reimbursed in indirect costs. Funding allocations usually do not provide enough resources to hire new staff and the majority of existing staff manage or support multiple public health programs. Additionally, funding allocations do not cover the true cost of the program, especially overhead costs, leading to difficult decisions about implementing programs that have been recognized as a need in our rural communities.
- i. Support legislation for health providers** – Support legislation and advocate for increasing the number of dental and medical providers in rural counties. , especially those who accept Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal insurance.
- j. Advocate for a level of funding that enables counties to properly administer the Medi-Cal program on the state's behalf.**
- k. Support improvements to Medi-Cal** – Support the streamlining of the Medi-Cal administration and improve access to health coverage for uninsured families.
- l. Support legislation that would increase the number of volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians** – current licensing requirements are onerous and deter volunteer first responders from seeking EMT licenses.
- m. Provide a State funding stream for county spending on Public Administrator/Public Guardian/Public Conservator (PA/PG/PC) programs** – County Public Administrator, Public Guardian and Public Conservator (PA|PG|PC) programs provide critical safety net services to the most vulnerable adult Californians. The PG/PC provides protective services to individuals with diminished capacity to make decisions due to cognitive impairments and severe mental illness. The PA function handles the disposition of deceased estates. Working collaboratively with local medical, mental health, social services, and justice providers, PA|PG|PC programs petition the Courts to be appointed the legal decision maker with regard to healthcare, psychiatric care, and/or financial management for clients who are unable to make decisions for themselves.

County PA|PG|PCs are the only major county safety net programs that receive no direct State or Federal funding. Significant legislative changes to PA|PG|PC services, such as the Omnibus Conservator Act of 2006, and amendments to California Penal Code 1370 regarding criminal defendants who are found to be incompetent to stand trial and deemed unrestorable, have profoundly impacted programs through significant increases in referrals and case complexity. County PA|PG|PC programs on average are short staffed by 20% or more according to a 2018 study by CAPAPGPC and this impacts their ability to provide high quality services, find housing for conservatees, and stabilize treatment. Last year, the coalition requested augmenting spending on PA|PG|PC programs by \$68 million GF annually or by 35% statewide which would significantly improve the lives of impaired Californians. (Co-sponsored by CBHDA with the California State Association of Counties, California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators, and Service Employees International Union – California)

- n. **Support legislation that increases services and supports Child Welfare –**
 - i. Support legislation that increases services and resources for caregivers of children and former foster youth who are victims of or at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 - ii. Support legislation that increases and supports appropriate short and long-term placements, services, and resource options for children and former foster youth who are victims of or at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

- o. **Support county implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform –** Support adequate funding for county implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform including the recruitment, retention, and support of resource families so that they may provide stable, loving homes for children in the foster care system.

- p. **Support legislation that increases Adult and Disability Services –**
 - i. Support legislation that promotes the financial sustainability of the In-Home Supportive Services Program through programmatic changes and appropriate cost sharing mechanisms between the State and counties.
 - ii. Support efforts to increase resources and services available to adults who are unable to live independently or victims of or at-risk of abuse or neglect and the individuals who provide them with care. Support legislative and budgetary efforts to reduce fragmentation within the long-term care delivery system and adequately fund a system of care for seniors in California. A coordinated support system would better utilize state resources and provide a greater benefit to those receiving services.

- q. **Support efforts to develop permanent supportive housing and affordable housing –**
 - i. Support State laws that support affordable housing and broaden the opportunities and reduce barriers for local government, and non-profit housing entities and instrumentalities of government to increase homeownership and the creation of rental housing. This includes repealing of California State Constitution Article XXXIV. In addition, support increased financing, subsidy options, and tax incentives to support development of new, affordable housing units in rural communities such as Mono County.
 - ii. Support efforts to streamline funding, construction processes and land use regulations, which expedite the development of low and moderate income housing units and allow local governments to adequately plan to meet the housing needs of all economic segments of the community.
 - iii. Support measures that enable seniors and the adult disabled population to obtain affordable housing and live independently.
 - iv. Support additional funding for the Older Californians Act and other programs that assist older adults and caregivers.

- r. **Support the enhancement of childcare and development –** Support measures that enhance the overall quality, affordability, capacity, accessibility, and safety of childcare and development programs. Specifically, support legislation and budget action that would:
 - i. Ensure continuity of childcare for children and families.
 - ii. Preserve, protect and increase funding for subsidized and other government-funded childcare.

- s. **Support measures that seek to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), address the impacts of trauma, and build resilience.**

- t. **Support legislation to combat human trafficking –** Support legislation that will develop or enhance programs and services to combat the negative impact that human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children has on victims and support efforts to provide additional tools, resources, and funding to help counties address this growing problem.

- u. **Support full funding to ensure that state mandates are cost-neutral to the County and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government.**

- v. **State Realignment & Cost-Shifts –** Oppose proposals to restructure, realign, or otherwise shift the cost of programs to local government, without commensurate compensation.

- w. **Support legislation, funding opportunities, and multidisciplinary efforts to provide harm reduction and substance use disorder services in Mono County.**

- x. **Support Peer Support Certification (SB 803)** – Unlike 48 states, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA), California fails to value or maximize the benefits of providers with lived experience in the state’s Medicaid program, Medi-Cal, because California does not certify peer support specialists nor recognize these professionals as Medi-Cal billable providers. In addition, unlike most states and the DVA, California does not include peer support services as a Medi-Cal mental health benefit. Demand for peer services is growing, but there is no statewide scope of practice, training standards, supervision standards, or certification in California. SB 803 (Beall) establishes a statewide certification program for peer support specialists and provides the structure needed to maximize the federal match for peer services under Medi-Cal. The program defines the range of responsibilities and practice guidelines for peer support specialists, specifies required training and continuing education requirements, determines clinical supervision requirements, and establishes a code of ethics and processes for revocation of certification. (Cosponsored by CBHDA with Los Angeles County, The Steinberg Institute, and the California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations (CAMHPRO))

- y. **Support legislation effort that would encourage Integrated School Behavioral Health Services** – The Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Services Partnership Program (Partnership Program) encourages local educational agencies (LEAs) and county behavioral health agencies to collaborate on providing on-campus services for students at the earliest onset of a behavioral health condition. In the schools participating in the Partnership Programs, county behavioral health agency trained professionals will serve any student appropriately referred by school personnel, including Medi-Cal beneficiaries, privately-insured and uninsured students and provide brief initial intervention services intended to prevent a behavioral health condition from worsening. The county behavioral health professionals will ensure privately-insured students access a private plan provider, if available. If the private plan cannot provide an appropriate provider within state mandated timely access timeframes, the county behavioral health agency will initiate services as appropriate and consistent with professionally recognized standards of practice. The Partnership Program will include annual reporting requirements to help the state evaluate the impact of these intervention services on the health and well-being of students.

- z. **Strengthen the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)** – Support legislation proposals to review the MHSA, recognizing the importance and significant contribution this critical funding source has made to persons with mental illness. The MHSA review provides the opportunity to reflect on 15 years of MHSA implementation and find areas for improvement while preserving core MHSA

services, including the crisis continuum, prevention/early intervention, and full-service partnerships. Improvements should seek to eliminate restrictive mandatory funding distributions for each component of the MHSA and ensure MHSA funds can be used for individuals with primary substance use disorder diagnoses, as well as support the protection of MHSA's current ratios and funding for small, rural counties. A review should also identify a process for the development of statewide performance and outcome measures to be reported annually to the state, the legislature and the public.

aa. Enhance Board and Care rates to prevent further loss of critical housing for SMI clients and build out housing options –

There is a critical lack of housing in California, particularly for its most vulnerable low-income adults most at-risk of homelessness: older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with serious mental illness (SMI). With the rapidly growing aging population and continually rising housing costs, the homeless population is expected to grow, and a larger number of the homeless population are expected to be disabled and elderly. Even more alarming, California has lost hundreds of board and care homes in recent years that are specifically set up to serve these very populations. Los Angeles County has lost about 1200 beds since January 2016. The reimbursement rates provided by SSI/SSP are inadequate at \$35/ day and counties do not have the capacity to patch facilities at the demand needed. CBHDA proposes enhancing board and care rates through \$500 million one-time General Fund (GF), reforming punitive regulations/ enforcement of facilities by CDSS, and exploring federal waiver opportunities to fund board and cares. (Co-sponsored by CBHDA with the Steinberg Institute)

- i. **Status:** Board and Care funding is a component of the \$750 million Flexible Funding Pool Proposed in the Governor's January budget, however, CBHDA will request a state lawmaker sponsor the full \$500 million budget request via the legislature for consideration as part of the budget.

bb. Pursue Funding for Pretrial Mental Health Diversion (AB 1810) –

There is an overrepresentation of individuals with SMI in the criminal justice system. All too often, individuals with SMI in crisis are inappropriately routed by law enforcement into jails and ultimately prison, instead of receiving treatment in the community. Once incarcerated, individuals living with a mental illness tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without a mental illness. A significant number of individuals experiencing homelessness with behavioral health conditions can cycle in and out of the criminal justice system. California passed in 2018 AB 1810 which establishes pre-trial MH diversion in CA for individuals with SMI and who could be experiencing homelessness. Funding AB 1810 with \$250 million one-time GF would help alleviate strains on justice systems and break the cycle of

individuals experiencing homelessness with SMI from cycling in and out of the justice system. (Co-sponsored by CBHDA with the Steinberg Institute)

8. Economic Development

- a. **Support new and current business development** – Support legislation and programs that support economic development efforts that augment and promote business retention and expansion, as well as create an environment conducive to new business attraction.
- b. **Support of commercial filming** – Support bills and initiatives to attract and retain film production in the state as increased filming statewide will result in commercial opportunities for commercial filming projects in Mono County.
- c. **Support sustainable tourism and recreation economy** – Support legislation that strengthens the tourism and recreation economy, including the formation of a State Office of Outdoor Recreation.

Federal Priorities

1. **Support Funding/Program Preservation** – Support legislative, regulatory, and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County’s access to federal funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility. Oppose legislative and administrative actions that would create federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority. Strongly encourage Congress and the President to commit to negotiate successfully so as to avoid any future Federal Government shutdowns.
 - a. **Support Sustainable Funding for Secure Rural Schools** – Support legislation that creates a sustainable revenue stream for Secure Rural Schools, such as the Forest Management for Rural Sustainability Act.
 - b. **Support the full funding of all Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** – Support legislation and budget efforts that continue to maximize the PILT revenue to counties and continue full funding of PILT without restrictions beyond the current authorization.
 - c. **Support full federal funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Programs** – Support funding for community development programs and affordable housing such as the Section 502 Direct Loan Program and the necessary program staff to implement these programs.
 - d. **Support full and expanded federal funding for Housing and Economic Development programs** – Support the highest possible funding level for key federal housing and economic development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the creation of a minimum four percent Low Income Housing Tax Credit floor.
 - e. **Support continued rural broadband deployment and communications improvements through local, State, and Federal policy advocacy, infrastructure projects, and grant programs** – Having appropriate policy at the local, State, and Federal levels is imperative to ensure adequate communications connectivity, which is a critical part of public safety and economic development. Because Mono County has dedicated resources to improve access to high-quality broadband in our communities and as a result of the completion of the Digital 395 project, roughly 90% of our households have access to Gigabit internet. Unfortunately, several Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity as there is inadequate

infrastructure to support basic Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) telephone service, including cellular phone service, let-alone high-speed Internet. In order to improve the landscape, the County should advocate for:

- i. Policies, regulations, and enforcement around providers delivering basic POTS services to all locations desiring this service;
 - ii. Appropriate and effective definitions of ‘broadband’ which recognize the importance of technology and dependence on the internet for public safety and economic development;
 - iii. Legislation and associated programs that provide funding for broadband infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts; Programs and efforts that move to improve the accuracy of metrics used to represent the current state of broadband in Mono County
- f. **Support legislation that promotes, protects, or facilitates the sustainability of our local agriculture** – Mono County agriculture is an important local economic driver, provides jobs, puts food on the table and contributes to the open-space landscape that draws visitors.
- g. **Support Economic Development resources** –
- i. Support legislation and federal programs that provide access to small business capital for local business development through the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Corporation and other government loan and financial programs.
 - ii. Support legislation and federal programs that promote locally-based business retention and expansion, as well as create an environment conducive to new business attraction.
 - iii. Support initiatives to attract commercial filming opportunities to the region: in particular, budgetary allocations that increase capacity for processing special use permits on the Inyo and Humboldt Toiyabe National Forests.
 - iv. Support bills, initiatives, and programs that strengthen the tourism and recreation economy, with a focus on sustainable practices.

2. Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Agriculture – Support legislation that promotes agriculture and that protects the County’s quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County, along with legislation that provides adequate funding for stewardship of our public lands.

- a. **Support sustainable funding for federal public lands** – Support measures to sustain our federal lands. Closure or underfunding of these lands managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service would result in a significant negative impact to our

county as tourism and recreation are our economic drivers.

- b. **Support outdoor recreation economy and public lands** – Support the enacted 2016 Outdoor Recreation and Jobs Act and the effort to measure the outdoor recreation economy’s contribution to the US Gross Domestic Product. Once the federal government fully understands the economic benefits of outdoor recreation, land management agencies and local governments will have necessary data to measure the impact of the recreation economy and the key role that sustainable recreation needs to play in the management decisions of public lands agencies.
- c. **Support special designations** – Support special use designations for public lands such as National Scenic Areas, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, when demonstrated conservation values and public support warrant such designations.
- d. **Oppose public lands disposal** – Oppose the large-scale sale, transfer or "disposal" of public lands except for strategic, widely supported transfers or exchanges for management and boundary adjustments with demonstrated public benefit, for example community expansion in support of affordable housing.
- e. **Support wildfire funding and fuels reduction** – Support immediate enactment of legislation to change the method of funding wildfire suppression on National Forests by providing access to funding outside of the statutory discretionary limits for emergency purposes and for investment in additional resources for forest management/fuels reduction to mitigate wild fire risk to communities and increase forest health.
- f. **Support public land infrastructure** – Support increased funding for public land management agencies to address deferred maintenance of infrastructure in forests, national parks and reserves that rural counties depend on for tourism and recreation-based economies.
- g. **Support regulatory relief for Mill City Cabin Tract funding** – Support administrative and legislative solutions for funding and/or regulatory relief for the cleanup of contaminated soils at the Mill City recreation residence tract on the Inyo National Forest in Mammoth Lakes.
- h. **Support land management directives** – Support Mono County’s tourism and recreation economy by ensuring funding, programs, and management directives for federal land agencies (including the Land & Water Conservation Fund) that facilitate the planning, building, and maintenance of infrastructure

for sustainable recreation, travel, and commercial film permitting on public lands.

- i. **Support sustainable fishing** – Support the funding of efforts to enhance the fish population in Mono County including sustainable fishing, ongoing fish stocking, education for proper catch and release practices, protection of spawning waterways, and support of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife stocking of diploid trout in allowable waters.
- j. **Support the control of invasive species** – Support control and mitigation for the spread of invasive species to protect, conserve, and restore public and private lands.
- k. **Support biomass project development** – Support legislation that encourages the US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue actively promoting and assisting with biomass project development.
- l. **Support alternative energy** –
 - i. Support local efforts to develop renewable, distributed energy sources including but not limited to environmentally and appropriately scaled biomass, solar, and wind, while ensuring projects and their supporting infrastructure (i.e. transmission lines, pipes lines, towers, service roads) does not degrade the County’s quality of life, natural or visual resources, water or essence and history.
 - ii. Continue to support geothermal power production that is environmentally sustainable and doesn’t negatively affect local domestic water supplies.
- m. **Support Devils Postpile National Monument legislative requests** – Support legislation to authorize a boundary adjustment request, and to designate a portion of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River as Wild & Scenic, as described in Devils Postpile National Monuments 2015 Management Plan.
- n. **Support endangered species conservation** – Support a balanced approach to the implementation of endangered species regulation with impacts to the rural economy and communities of Mono County. Mono County is fortunate to have a rich natural heritage that should be conserved, and it supports the need to protect and recover imperiled species. These conservation measures should be specifically tailored to the threats and circumstances in the Eastern Sierra and Mono County, and must be weighed and balanced against impacts to the fragile tourism and recreation-based rural economy and local communities. Every effort must be made to protect private property rights and avoid detrimental impacts to county residents.

- o. **Support Red Fox conservation** – In particular, the current proposed listing of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox should be carefully evaluated to ensure conditions specific to the Eastern Sierra/Mono County have been taken into account.

- p. **Support sage grouse conservation** – Mono County appreciates the strong support of the multi-party, collaborative Bi-State conservation effort, including several federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service (Inyo National Forest and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest), and U.S. Geologic Survey. The coalition includes technical and scientific support, legislative and policy support, and funding to ensure conservation commitments made during the 2015 listing withdrawal are met and honored by federal agencies. Ultimately, continuation of the collaborative partnership requires the federal agencies to remain stalwart in their commitments with the flexibility to address new issues, such as the threat posed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s (LADWP’s) dewatering of Long Valley, and adequate budgets to support a positive conservation outcome such that a new decision can be made not to list the species under the federal Endangered Species Act. If the bird is listed, the result could be an additional regulatory burden with devastating impacts to our agricultural and recreational activity-based economy.

- q. **Support legislation to avoid landfilling of waste originating on Federal Land** – develop policies and programs that successfully re-use, recycle and transform resources that originate on USFS, BLM, and DOD lands. Support policies that reduce the impacts of Federally-generated waste on local jurisdictions’ waste management systems, and/or support policies that enhance local systems to effectively manage Federally-generated waste.

3. Public Safety and Criminal Justice

- a. **Support full funding of Byrne Justice Assistance Grants** – Support the preservation of funding levels for existing safety programs such as the Byrne Justice Grant (Byrne/JAG) Program and oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding away from these programs.

- b. **Support continued funding of FEMA’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program** – Support continued funding to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

- c. **Support legislation that resolves the conflict federal statutes have with legalization of recreational cannabis use in California** – ideally, this includes removing cannabis as a schedule 1 drug and providing cannabis businesses with access to business banking services by changing federal banking access laws. Barring a legislative solution by Congress, the County supports reinstatement of the concepts stated in the past Justice Department memorandums allowing for commercial cannabis activities to operate free and clear of federal enforcement interference so long as the County has a robust regulatory framework in place.
- d. **Urge common-sense gun safety legislation.**
- e. **Support sustainable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding for airport safety related projects on public and private property on or near our airports.**

4. Transportation and Infrastructure

- a. **Ensure that federal transportation formulas support rural road infrastructure** – Mono County relies on the network of state highways and locally maintained roads to link residents to essential services. Transportation funding formulas should provide funding protections or guarantees for California’s rural transportation system and reflect that rural counties lack viable means to fund larger projects that provide statewide benefit. We must advocate for formulas that distribute federal funds to support local transportation priorities.
- b. **Support efforts to protect the Highway Trust Fund** – Support efforts protecting the Highway Trust Fund and programs that provide funding for local roads, bridges, and transit initiatives including pedestrian and bicycle systems, and other multi-modal transportation programs.
- c. **Support federal highway access** – Mono County supports budget policy and legislation that funds infrastructure such as roads on federal land with access to popular destinations including national parks and monuments.
- d. **Support Yosemite Area Regional Transportation and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority funding** – Support efforts to seek sustainable funding for regional public transportation to Yosemite National Park, other National Parks in our region, and other public lands destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra.

- e. **Support the resurgence of the Scenic Byway program** – Mono County completed a Scenic Byway Corridor Plan through a federal grant, then shelved the plan because the Scenic Byway program was not funded. The program has been re-established, and continuity of funding is needed for jurisdictions to dust off inactive plans, program their implementation into the workflow again, and being making an impact.

5. Health and Human Services

- a. **Support Cost-Neutral Federal Mandates** – Support full funding to ensure that federal mandates are cost-neutral to the County and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government.
- b. **Oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA)** – Work to preserve and expand the number of citizens currently receiving health insurance. Oppose efforts to reduce benefits and block grants or other actions that would shift the current federal/state cost and responsibility to the states and counties.
- c. **Ensure that Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding is maintained for local governments** – Support the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the ACA, the nation’s first dedicated mandatory funding stream for public health and prevention activities, which supports Mono County health care services to underserved residents.
- d. **Oppose funding reductions for Medicaid** – Oppose efforts to reduce or block grant federal funding for Medicaid administration or benefits, including efforts to place a per-capita cap on funding or limiting the ability of states to leverage funds through assessments on providers.
- e. **Oppose federal efforts mandating states to require work as a condition for receiving Medicaid benefits.**
- f. **Oppose other eligibility changes, including but not limited to elimination of retroactive benefits or grace periods for eligibility pending verifications.**
- g. **Oppose turning Medicaid over to States** – Oppose efforts to turn Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) over to the states with less federal funding.
- h. **Support full funding of programs that provide health insurance to children.**

- i. **Support funding of Veterans benefits** – Support provision and funding for current benefits and health care programs for Veterans.
- j. **Support Women’s Rights to Health** – Health care is key to women’s well-being and economic stability. Support provisions that make sure new health care law works for women.
- k. **Support Child Welfare** –
 - i. Support amendments to the Family First Prevention Services Act to better align the FFPSA with California’s Continuum of Care Reform initiatives and prevention services provided in the state.
 - ii. Support efforts to reform child welfare financing, including expanding the types of prevention activities eligible for the IV-E foster care financial match.
 - iii. Support a provision allowing for “skyping” with non-minor youth in the extended foster care program when the youth is attending college or living in another state or out of country as an alternative to monthly, in-person visits.
 - iv. Support increased federal funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with their children in foster care.
 - v. Support increased federal financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post- emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care.
 - vi. Support retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and eliminate outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances.
 - vii. Support legislation that would provide tax credits to companies that hire current or former foster youth.
 - viii. Support increased federal funding to respond to the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- l. **Support legislation to combat human trafficking** – Support legislation that will develop or enhance programs and services to combat the negative impact that human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children has on victims and support efforts to provide additional tools, resources, and funding to help counties address this growing problem.
- m. **Support the enhancement of childcare and development** – Support measures that enhance the overall quality, affordability, capacity, accessibility, and safety of childcare and development programs. Specifically, support legislation and budget

action that would:

- i. Ensure continuity of childcare for children and families.
 - ii. Preserve, protect and increase funding for subsidized and other government-funded childcare.
- n. **Oppose Immigration Reform** – Oppose immigration reform efforts that would eliminate a pathway to full and equal citizenship, that would restrict the rights of immigrants or break up families, or that would focus on a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.
- o. **Oppose Legal Immigrant Benefit Changes** –
- i. Oppose the Administration’s regulatory efforts to include non-cash benefits in the definition of ‘public charge’.
 - ii. Oppose federal efforts to further restrict legal immigrants’ access to federal benefits.
- p. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization** –
- i. Support increased federal support for TANF/CalWORKS subsidized employment programs.
 - ii. Support more flexible work participation requirement measures to give credit for client engagement and for work activities not meeting the current thresholds.
 - iii. Support the ability of states to provide and receive federal support for vocational education and career technical training for longer than 12 months.
 - iv. Support new federal measures demonstrating success in meeting outcomes rather than processes that would align with the CalWORKS Outcomes and Accountability Review (CalOAR) process underway in the state.
 - v. Support federal efforts aligning with the goals and vision of the CalWORKS 2.0 Strategic Initiative to better meet the needs of individual families and support families in a more holistic way.
- q. **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
- i. Oppose proposed rules to limit eligibility, reduce benefits and/or limit state and county flexibility in administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh).
 - ii. Oppose efforts to block grant or otherwise limit the federal contribution to SNAP/CalFresh.
 - iii. Oppose federal mandates to require states to increase SNAP/CalFresh work requirements.
 - iv. Support extending Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents work requirement waivers for as many counties and sub-county regions as possible.

- v. Support further collaboration with the federal government and national partners to increase outreach and enrollment for SNAP/CalFresh, especially in underserved populations such as students, former foster youth, non-English-speaking populations and seniors.
 - vi. Support provisions to further streamline and simplify federal requirements for SNAP/CalFresh recipients to enhance enrollment and retention.
 - vii. Support additional flexibility for states to align SNAP/CalFresh eligibility and processes with state TANF/CalWORKS programs.
 - viii. Support efforts to improve timeliness of data provided by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to states for use in administering SNAP/CalFresh.
- r. **Support the Older Americans Act (OAA)** – Support the Older Americans Act (OAA) and increased federal funding for the OAA programs. The Act established a national network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) which oversee a variety of social services for seniors, including nutrition, elder abuse prevention, legal services and advocacy, and caregiver resources. The OAA is not adequately funded and does not reflect the need for senior services or the population growth of people over age 60. With the limited state funding to support California’s AAA programs, it is critical that the federal funding expand to support senior services.
- s. **Support Adult and Disability Services** –
- i. Support full appropriations of \$100 million authorized under the Elder Justice Act to support state and county adult protective services programs.
 - ii. Oppose the termination of the Social Services Block Grant, which in California is used primarily to augment county and state funded in-home supportive services for elderly and disabled persons, and to coordinate services to children with disabilities.
 - iii. Support the Older Americans Act OAA reauthorization and increased federal funding for the OAA programs.
- t. **Support Homelessness Legislation** – Support federal homelessness legislation funding an array of services to individuals and families at risk of or who are experiencing homelessness.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



TOP ATTRACTIONS

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK Drive California's highest pass to Yosemite's east entrance—just 12 miles from Lee Vining—for ten-story waterfalls, iconic granite domes, rock climbing, hiking, and more (pass closed in winter). www.NPS.gov/yose • 209-372-0200 • Bus service: www.Yarts.com

MONO LAKE This ancient inland sea with its unique limestone formations and alkaline waters is home to hundreds of bird species! Learn more at: [Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center](http://MonoBasinScenicAreaVisitorCenter.com) 760-647-3044 • [Mono Lake Committee](http://MonoLake.com) www.MonoLake.org • 760-647-6595

DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT Located near Mammoth Lakes, Devils Postpile is one of the world's finest examples of columnar basalt formations. www.NPS.gov/depo • 760-924-5500



BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK With about 200 buildings still standing—thanks to ongoing preservation efforts—keep an eye out for spirits roaming the once-wild streets of this genuine gold-mining ghost town. www.Parks.CA.gov • 760-647-6445 www.BodieFoundation.org

WHAT LIES BEYOND?

When the things right in front of us turn invisible and the everyday loses its magic, you know it's time to go beyond.

Beyond the traffic, the deadlines and the incessant chatter of so-called civilization.

A journey to Mono County will take you to a California you didn't even imagine existed. A land of lava and ice, sparkling clear waters, miles of hiking trails and dozens of secret fishing holes.

Discover rock formations from another world at Mono Lake and Gold Rush history at Bodie ghost town. You'll also find genuine local hospitality, like a welcome from another era.

It takes a bit of traveling to get here, but that's the way we like it. Because once you're out here, you'll start to see again.

Welcome to Mono County: California's Great Beyond.

TOWNS & COMMUNITIES

BENTON HOT SPRINGS Soak in hot tubs fed by natural hot springs at the Historic Benton Inn. Once a bustling Wells Fargo stagecoach station, Old Benton offers a self-guided tour of numerous original buildings, historic sites and the cemetery.

BRIDGEPORT Gateway to Bodie ghost town and home of the county seat, Bridgeport's iconic courthouse has been in use since 1880. The California state-record brown trout, at 26 lbs 8 oz, was caught in Bridgeport's Twin Lakes.

CONVICT LAKE / MCGEE CREEK Dramatically situated under towering Mt. Morrison, Convict Lake is loved by anglers, hikers, and...wedding parties! Catch wildflowers or fall colors at McGee Creek Canyon—hiking or on horseback.

CROWLEY LAKE Fishing season opener's home base, this expansive lake offers world-class trout fishing.

JUNE LAKE Tucked away at the base of 10,909-ft. Carson Peak, June Lake is a scenic mountain hideaway. Famous for trout fishing and brilliant fall colors, the June Lake Loop is a snowy retreat in winter. June Mountain Ski Area offers free lift tickets every day, all winter long for kids age 12 and under.

LEE VINING Overlooking dramatic Mono Lake, Lee Vining is the gateway town to Yosemite National Park—just 12 breathtaking miles up Tioga Pass Road/SR 120.

MAMMOTH LAKES Mammoth Mountain Ski Area consistently ranks as one of the top winter sports destinations in North America. In the town of Mammoth Lakes, you'll find quaint shops, gourmet restaurants and accommodations from cozy cabins to four-star luxury hotels.

ROCK CREEK / TOM'S PLACE With beautiful Little Lakes Valley hiking trail, fall colors and winter "Adventure Dining" at Rock Creek Lodge—complete with snowmobile taxi—Rock Creek Canyon is magical all four seasons.

TOPAZ At the northern tip of the county, Topaz Lake boasts a nine month fishing season, a big cash derby and a Nevada casino.

WALKER AND COLEVILLE Ranch towns in the northern part of Mono County, Walker and Coleville host California's only ATV/UTV Jamboree every September!

VISITOR AMENITIES

LODGING With more than 140 hotels, motels, bed & breakfast inns, cabins and campgrounds, Mono County has a diverse lodging base—from deluxe spa hotels to rustic cottages and scenic RV parks.

DINING There are more than 100 restaurants, cafés, pubs and bakeries to choose from throughout Mono County, with options ranging from traditional comfort food to delicious ethnic cuisine and fine dining.

SHOPPING If you're looking for Macy's, you won't find it in Mono County! However, with over 125 stores to browse through, you'll find intriguing shops, art galleries, Native American crafts, fishing and sports gear, and unique souvenirs in every community.

MUSEUMS The Mono County Museum in Bridgeport, Mono Basin History Museum and Upside-Down House, Hayden Cabin in Mammoth Lakes and Benton Historical Society all bring the region's rich history to life with unique exhibits.

VISITOR INFORMATION Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center and Mono Lake Committee Information Center in Lee Vining, as well as the Bridgeport Ranger Station provide maps, guide books, permits, and visitor info.

TOP MONO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

SUMMER

Hiking, Backpacking & Rock Climbing
Fishing & Camping
Mountain Biking & Road Cycling
Kayaking & Canoeing
Horseback Riding
ATVs & Off-Highway Vehicles

WINTER

Skiing & Snowboarding
Cross Country Skiing
Snowshoeing & Ice Skating
Snowmobiling
Dog-Sledding
Sledding & Tubing

2020 EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Fishing Season Opener | Mono County | Apr 25 |
| Mammoth Lakes Film Festival | Mammoth Lakes | May 20-24 |
| Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua | Lee Vining | Jun 19-21 |
| How Big Is Big Fishing Derby | Walker / Coleville | Jul 1-31 |
| Old-Fashioned 4th of July | Bridgeport | Jul 2-5 |
| Mammoth Festival of Beers & Bluesapalooza | Mammoth Lakes | Aug 1-2 |
| Friends of Bodie Day | Bodie | Aug 7-8 |
| Founders' Day Celebrations | Bridgeport | Sep 4-7 |
| Eastern Sierra ATV/UTV Jamboree | Walker / Coleville | Sep 8-12 |
| Ambush at the Lake Fishing Derby | Convict Lake | Oct 1 - Nov 15 |
| Leaves in the Loop | June Lake | Oct 16-18 |
| Benton Hot Springs Victorian Christmas Dinner | Old Benton | Dec 12 |



GETTING TO MONO COUNTY

FLY! Daily air service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) is available on United Airlines from Los Angeles year-round and San Francisco and Denver in the winter. JSX flies to MMH from Burbank and Orange County, winter only.

Reno/Tahoe International Airport is just 1.5 hours drive from Northern Mono County.

DRIVE! Mono County is situated along beautiful Scenic Byway US 395—a few hours' drive from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

DRIVING DISTANCES AND TIMES

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Reno | 2.5 hours | 140 miles / 225 km |
| San Francisco | 5.5 hours | 250 miles / 402 km |
| Los Angeles | 5.5 hours | 330 miles / 531 km |
| Sacramento | 4 hours | 220 miles / 354 km |
| Las Vegas | 5.5 hours | 340 miles / 547 km |
| Yosemite Valley | 2 hours | 75 miles / 121 km |

*All mileages and times are from Lee Vining, CA. *East-west mountain passes (Highways 120 East/Tioga Pass, 108/Sonora Pass and 89/Monitor Pass are closed in winter due to snow and usually open before Memorial Day.*

For more info and a FREE Visitor Guide, visit www.MonoCounty.org | 800-845-7922



Elected State Representatives:

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|--|---|
| Assembly Member Frank Bigelow 5 th Assembly District State Capitol, Suite #4158 Sacramento, CA 94249 Capitol Office Phone: (916) 319-2005 District Office Phone: (559) 673-0501 Fax: (916) 319-2105 Website: https://ad05.asmtc | Senator Andreas Borgeas 8 th Senate District State Capitol, Room 3082 Sacramento, CA 95814-4900 Capitol Office Phone: (916) 651-4008 District Office Phone: (559) 253-7122 Fax: (916) 651-4908 Website: http://borgeas.cssrc.us/ |
| Governor Gavin Newsom State Capitol, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 445-2841 Fax: (916) 558-3160 Website: http://gov.ca.gov/ | |

Elected Congressional Representatives:

| | |
|---|---|
| Senator Kamala Harris United States Senate 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3553 Fax: (202) 224-0454 Website: http://www.harris.senate.gov/ | Senator Dianne Feinstein United States Senate 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3841 Fax: (202) 228-3954 Website: http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/ |
| Congressman Paul Cook 8 th Congressional District 1027 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5861 Fax: (909) 797-4997 Website: http://cook.house.gov/ | |



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