



Agricultural Commissioners

USDA Designates 55 Counties in California as Primary Natural Disaster Areas with Assistance to Producers in Surrounding States - WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2015 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 55 counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by a recent drought. Those counties are:

Alameda	Lake	Placer	Sierra
Alpine	Lassen	Plumas	Siskiyou
Amador	Los Angeles	Riverside	Solano
Butte	Madera	Sacramento	Sonoma
Calaveras	Marin	San Benito	Stanislaus
Colusa	Mariposa	San Bernadino	Sutter
Contra Costa	Mendocino	San Diego	Tehama
El Dorado	Merced	San Joaquin	Trinity
Fresno	Modoc	San Luis Obispo	Tulare
Glenn	Mono	San Mateo	Tuolumne
Humboldt	Monterey	Santa Barbara	Ventura
Inyo	Napa	Santa Clara	Yolo
Kern	Nevada	Santa Cruz	Yuba
Kings	Orange	Shasta	

To view the full Press release, please visit:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=edn&newstype=ednewsrel&type=detail&item=ed_20150204_rel_0007.html

CONTACT: Nate Reade, (760) 873-7860

Assessor

Assessor send shout out to Brian Butters for helping fire impacted residents - I would like to acknowledge and thank **Brian Butters** for helping with the calamity survey in Paradise and Swall Meadows, and for his work toward helping those property owners who were affected by the Round Fire, and for coming in on his day off.

We anticipate we will have removed the improvement value on all of the affected improved parcels that we were able to identify by the end of day today, and their notices of the value reduction should be in the mail by February 12th.

Thanks to the rest of the Assessor’s Office staff who have handled a large volume of phone calls about this calamity in an accurate and compassionate manner. Also thanks to **Leslie Chapman, Roberta Reed, Gerald Frank, Stephanie Butters**, and the rest of the Finance staff for working with us to find a streamlined method to address these value reductions as quickly as possible.

CONTACT: Barry Beck, (760) 932-5522

Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors ratifies local disaster declaration – directs staff to find all available funding sources to respond to fires – On Tuesday, February 10th, the Board of Supervisors ratified the emergency proclamation issued by Sheriff Ingrid Braun and directed all staff efforts towards helping address the impacts of the largest structural fire in Mono County history since the Bodie fire.



Every County department (All of you!!) is currently responding to move and support the community towards recovery. The County has requested state aid through the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. (Request attached)

Our organization will continue working to address the tragic impacts of the windstorm and subsequent fires. Thank you for everything everyone is doing to help the communities of Swall Meadows and Paradise.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



Community Development

Round Fire – Thanks to Building Official **Tom Perry** and Building Inspector **Jim Shoffner** for their quick response in assessing fire damage and building conditions/safety following the Round Fire, and **Gerry Le Francois** for providing assistance to displaced residents at the Crowley Lake Community Center during the weekend. Tom also provided an overview of Building Division plans for expediting the permitting and inspection process for destroyed/damaged structures and responded to a number of related questions at the Contractors Association Thursday.



Local Transportation Commission – At Monday’s meeting Lt. Jeff Holt, new CHP area commander, was introduced and welcomed by the LTC. **Megan Mahaffey** presented an amendment to the Overall Work Program (OWP) and provided information for the upcoming 2015-16 OWP; **Nate Greenberg** reviewed the draft communication policy, followed by significant Commission discussion on the importance of underground placement policies in light of the recent wildfires; and **Gerry Le Francois** continued the ongoing review of the Regional Transportation Plan. John Helm of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority announced an upcoming expansion of the Mammoth

Express route from Bishop, with an earlier bus to get employees to work by 8 a.m., and an added 7 p.m. southbound departure from Mammoth.

Mono Basin RPAC – At Wednesday’s meeting, CAO **Jim Leddy’s** presentation of the Mono County Strategic Plan was well received, with the RPAC expressing interest in matching /integrating Mono Basin Area Plan policies to the appropriate topics of the Strategic Plan. The RPAC also received an update on Conway Ranch, accepted the Mono-Yosemite Trail Report, authorized a letter of support for a grant application to extend broadband service to Lee Vining and Mono City, and discussed protocol for RPAC member appointments.

Sage Grouse – Mono County is hosting the website for the upcoming Bi-State Pinyon-Juniper Expansion Forum on Feb. 25-26 at Minden, NV. Analysts **Wendy Sugimura** and **Brent Calloway** have been participating in Local Area Working Group discussions to develop and plan this event. For more information, please see attachment and <http://monocounty.ca.gov/community-development/page/pinyon-juniper-expansion-forum>

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

County Administrator’s Office

Mono County’s first ever Strategic Planning Framework Heads to the RPACS – Thank you to everyone on staff (which is ALL of you) who helped bring forward the Strategic Planning Framework. This unprecedented effort now will start the process of being circulated out through many public committees the County has to garner public feedback. On Wednesday February 11th, the Mono Basin RPAC received its first review of the Strategic Planning Framework.

We will be going back on April 8th. Next up will be the Mono Basin RPAC on the 11th!

Please feel free to come on by the following RPAC meetings:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Bridgeport</i> | <i>February 19th and March 19th</i> |
| <i>Long Valley</i> | <i>February 25th</i> |
| <i>Chalfant</i> | <i>March 2nd</i> |
| <i>June Lake</i> | <i>March 3rd</i> |
| <i>Antelope Valley</i> | <i>March 5th</i> |
| <i>Benton</i> | <i>March 16th</i> |
| <i>Mono Basin RPAC (2nd review)</i> | <i>April 8th</i> |

Thank you all very much for being a part of history and building our future!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



Hi everyone! The Summer Grant Class 2015 is set for **May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25 and July 9**. It will take place in **Lee Vining from 8:30 – 4:30 each day**. If you have any questions, just get in touch with me. Karin

Purpose: The purpose of the course will be to build grant writing, development and reporting skills for employees in every department. This course is to augment our organization’s ability to find new revenue sources for services and better support accurate and transparent financial reporting. The training will be eight hours one day every two weeks for five weeks.

CONTACT: Karin Humiston. (760) 932-5570

Creating a Workplace of Equal Opportunity and Respect: California Sexual Harassment and Abusive Conduct Training -- California AB 1825 and AB 2053 Required Training – for all managers and supervisors.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Lee Vining Community Center
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am OR 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Space in each class is limited to the first 40 RSVPs – Please save your spot with me. You must have department head approval to attend.

CONTACT: Sarah Messerlian, (760) 932-5405

Rural County Representatives of California launches new venture for PACE alternatives - As you may have heard, RCRC affiliate entity California Home Finance Authority, previously CRHMFA Homebuyers Fund (CHF), has officially changed its name to Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), effective January 21, 2014. This change will better reflect the existing business model and program offerings, and leads us into GSFA’s new venture with Ygrene Energy Fund, the offering of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing Program called Ygrene Works.

We are excited to bring the Ygrene Works program to your County. Ygrene Works will contribute to energy efficiency and water conservation improvements, local job creation, and will be a valued service to both property owners and local contractors in your community. We will be distributing additional details on Ygrene Works in the coming days and weeks, however, we first wanted to let you know about the name change.

CONTACT: Greg Norton, 916-447-4806





Sierra Nevada Conservancy Hosts watershed protection event - California: The Urgency to Restore Our Primary Watershed

March 4, 2015 | 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

East End Complex

1500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, Calif. 95814

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

California's Sierra Nevada Region is at a critical point. This important ecosystem's current condition threatens to limit our water supply, harm our air quality and devastate our climate. The consequences of inaction will impact our forests, habitat, agriculture, public health, energy and public safety.



Join the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and United States Forest Service to discuss developing a coordinated, collaborative program to restore the

health of California's primary watershed.



Building on broad consensus within the scientific community, key presentations will address the [state of the Sierra Nevada's forests](#), the benefits the region provides to all of California, and the short and long-term impacts from its forests' wildfires.

Following the scientific panel, there will be a facilitated roundtable discussion to propose solutions to protect the Sierra Nevada region and to restore California's primary watershed.

The summit's outcome will highlight multi-agency consensus on the strategies that will comprise the **Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program**.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

CONTACT: Danna Stroud, Danna.Stroud@sierranevada.ca.gov

Inyo National Forest Seeks Comments for Interagency Prescribed Fire Project -- The Mammoth Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest is initiating the environmental analysis process for the proposed Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument Interagency Prescribed Fire Project.

The Interagency Prescribed Fire Project is located within the upper Middle Fork San Joaquin River watershed at Reds Meadow valley.

This project proposes an understory burn 133 acres of national forest and 25 acres of national monument lands. Small trees would be thinned using hand labor and chainsaws on 31 acres of national forest to enhance fire containment lines along Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile access roads. A detailed description of the proposed project, including a map, is attached.

Please provide your comments regarding issues, opportunities, concerns, and suggestions for the proposed project. Please contact Sue Farley, Project Planner, at sfarley@fs.fed.us. To be most helpful, comments should be received by March 13, 2015.

CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, (760) 873-2427 (office), 760-920-2347 (cell)
debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us
<https://www.facebook.com/inyonf>

Inyo National Forest Seeking Comments on Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project

The Inyo National Forest is seeking comments for the Mammoth Lakes Basin Bike Path Construction Project. This project proposes to issue the Town of Mammoth Lake a special use permit to construct and maintain 0.75 miles of paved multiple-use path to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle access in the Mammoth Lakes Basin.

The new, paved path would travel from the Pokenobe intersection of Lake Mary Road, across the Lake Mary outlet, up to the Lake George parking area, and would include a short spur to connect users back to the Lake Mary Road.

To facilitate path construction and improve visitor safety, the forest proposes to authorize these additional actions:

- Realignment of approximately 1/16th of a mile of Lake Mary Road, north of the Lake Mary outlet.
- Relocation of 0.35 miles of soft-surfaced trails used under permit by *Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit*.
- Restoration of approximately one acre of user created trails.
- Placement of boulders, logs, and other obstacles along and adjacent to the newly constructed path and adjacent to the Lake George Road.
- Issuance of a ten-year special use permit to the Town of Mammoth Lakes to maintain public roads within the Mammoth Lakes Basin.

The proposed trail project has been designed and engineered to minimize tree removal, to avoid removal or impacts to any of the western white pine trees that grow within the project area, and to avoid and mitigate other potential resource impacts.

For a full project description, maps of the proposed project, and information on how to submit comments, please visit this [webpage](#) or obtain copies at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, 2500 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Please direct questions and comments to Jon Kazmierski, District Recreation Officer, at 760-924-5503 or jkazmierski@fs.fed.us. To be most helpful, comments should be received by March 13, 2015.



CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, (760) 873-2427 (office), 760-920-2347 (cell)
debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us
<https://www.facebook.com/inyonf>
<https://www.facebook.com/inyonf>

Burned Area Emergency Response Team Assembled for Round Fire -- A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team for the Round Fire has been formed. The team is working to complete its assessment and recommendations to lessen immediate hazards to public resources and downstream private land from effects of the fire. The team is led by geologist Alan Gallegos from the Sierra National Forest.



The BAER team is represented by specialists from the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management including a hydrologist, soil scientist, botanist, biologist and archaeologist. Team members have started assessing the fire area to address potential values at risk related to life and property, water quality and critical plant and wildlife habitat. The purpose of the BAER assessment is to analyze fire effects on soils and watersheds, determine the potential for negative effects, and consider possible treatment options. The potential threat to life and property are always the number one concern and is the first focus of the burned area assessment. Forest roads, including the Witcher Road and Rock Creek Road, are a concern for flood flows at the channel crossings. This may further impact the downstream communities at Swall Meadow. Soil productivity, water quality, and cultural resources are also at risk when wildfire burns through an area and then is followed by significant storms; particularly during the first and second year following the fire. The loss of natural vegetative cover allows water to runoff across bare soils with increased velocity. Fire also induces water repellency of varying degrees, reducing water infiltration, and increasing runoff. The net result under extreme conditions is a loss of soil, a loss of water control, and significant risk of flooding and debris flows downstream of the fire.

BAER treatments such as road storm proofing, erosion controls, storm patrol and culvert cleaning are important. Treatments may also prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Interagency coordination is necessary where downstream values at risk occur on private lands.

CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, (760) 873-2427, <https://www.facebook.com/inyonf>

Economic Development

Please see the two programs below on Business Loans and the California Competes Tax Credit:

FREE Webinar Today: "How to REALLY get a Small Business Loan"

With the Financial Crisis and Great Recession behind us, small business lending is returning to normal. With literally dozens of new loan and equity programs available, join center director Kelly Bearden and CSUB SBDC small business lending expert Gregory Heiss as they discuss what it takes for local business to get funded. Anyone with a business idea or a financing need will benefit from this straightforward webinar on small business funding programs and the many alternative programs that most business owners know little about.

When: Today February 11, 2015 at 12:05 – 1pm.

Where: Go to <http://bit.ly/1zvU9jW> and enter webinar code: 158-303-939

Cost: FREE

\$31.1 Million Available in California Competes Tax Credit

The California Competes Tax Credit is an income tax credit available to businesses that want to come to California or stay and grow in California. \$31.1 Million is available from March 09, 2015 to April 6, 2015 and a portion of this tax credit is allocated to small businesses.

Tax credit agreements will be negotiated by GO-Biz and approved by a statutorily created “California Competes Tax Credit Committee,” consisting of the State Treasurer, the Director of the Department of Finance, the Director of GO-Biz, one appointee each by the Speaker of the Assembly and Senate Committee on Rules.

For more information and to apply visit <http://bit.ly/1oYorwi> or give the GO-Biz office a call at 916-322-0694

Please let me know if you have any questions,

CONTACT: **Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-4634**

Email: jsimpson@mono.ca.gov

website: www.monocounty.org



Court ruling sinks Cal. state assault on recreational fishing -- *Victory preserves jobs, recreational opportunities for individuals, families* – From Press Release -- **Sacramento, CA; February 10, 2015:** The California Third District Court of Appeal has struck down the state Department of Fish and Wildlife’s illegally drafted permitting requirements on recreational freshwater fishing regulations that threatened to decimate the \$2.4 billion industry by driving fishing lakes, private hatcheries, and fish farms out of business.

The ruling came in a lawsuit against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), by Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), representing the California Association for Recreational Fishing (CARF), a grass-roots organization of freshwater recreational fishermen and businesses that serve them. PLF represents CARF as with all clients free of charge.

Even though the state’s freshwater fish population is historically healthy, DFW devised a radical new mandate on hatcheries and stocking ponds. Before they could stock or raise any fish, DFW would have to determine there would be no effect on dozens of arbitrarily-selected species including species that are abundant and thriving in California.

This process would be so cumbersome and drawn out that it could effectively block many stocking ponds and hatcheries from continuing to operate.

Heavy-handed regulations adopted without public input

PLF challenged the new requirements because they were drafted without public input, as mandated by the California Administrative Procedure Act (CAPA). In ruling for PLF and striking them down, the Third District agreed they are illegal ‘underground regulations’ *i.e.* the bureaucracy did not comply with CAPA’s requirements for public review and comments.

The controversial new regulations are rooted in a 2010 Fish and Wildlife Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that claims the stocking of lakes and ponds with hatchery bred fish puts indigenous fish and habitat in danger. The report also radically changed the permitting process for stocking private fishing lakes and ponds without any public review or input, and without direction from the State Legislature.

The state agency changed its fish stocking permitting process in the EIR by prohibiting all stocking which would have an adverse effect on "decision species." More than half of these so-called "decision species" are not listed under any statute or regulation, but were included by agency whim, stated Thompson. The EIR also required private hatcheries to engage in continuous and expensive monitoring for invasive species, the results of which must be reported to the Department for use in its investigations and permitting decisions.

The regulations would also have required environmental reports for California fishing lakes, at costs potentially exceeding \$100,000 every 1-5 years, threatening the ability of fishing lakes to remain in operation and provide an affordable form of outdoor recreation.

Under CAPA, agencies must follow notice and comment procedures before adopting regulations. These procedures not only protect the people who will be subject to the regulation, but benefit everyone by ensuring that agencies only adopt regulations once the consequences have been brought to light. As the Third District affirmed in striking down the new permitting requirements, any regulation that is adopted without following these procedures is an “underground regulation” and void.

The case is *California Association for Recreational Fishing v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*. More information, and the original complaint, may be found at PLF’s website: www.pacificlegal.org.

The court’s ruling: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions/documents/C072486.PDF>

CONTACT: Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-4634



Information Technology

Digital 395 Plays Key Public Safety Role During Recent Fires – CBC Maintains and Restores Communications to Area. In less than a year following its completion, the Digital 395 network Continues to quietly demonstrate its extraordinary value to California’s Eastern Sierra Region.

Attached with the Board Update is the press release which shows the power and saving grace of the D395 project. Without this service, communications and effective response would have been virtually impossible.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1824

Public Health

"Strengthening Families in Mono County: Working to Build the Protective Factors" -- California has been involved with Strengthening Families efforts since 2007 and, in 2010, State leaders formed the California Roundtable for Strengthening Families to implement the Protective Factors statewide.

"Strategies" is the organization that is supported by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention to enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect, using Five Protective Factors: Parental Resilience; Social Connections; Knowledge of parenting and child development; Concrete support in times of need; and Social and emotional competence of children.

Mono County Strengthening Families Task Force is hosting a presentation at Lee Vining Community Center on April 30, 2015 to discuss application of the Protective Factors in Mono County. For further information and to register, please contact Didi Tergesen, CAPC Coordinator at dtergesen@monocoe.org.

CONTACT: Diann Bitzberger, (760) 924-1841

Public Works

Public Works Crews respond countywide to address storm damages -- During and after the rain/snow/wind/fire storms this past Feb 6-8 Public Works staff was busy with:

1. Keeping roads open and clear of debris
2. Emergency repairs of guardrail
3. Emergency Power
4. Keeping generators running for power and fuel
5. Proper accounting of staff and equipment time

Virtually all PW staff worked or is working on the myriad of issues these storms brought to Mono County. ***Everyone played an important role.***

Public Works has a strong team of dedicated staff who rose to the occasion. The stories they tell is one of teamwork and cooperation between themselves, other county staff, departments and agencies. Unfortunately no pictures were taken of PW staff performing their duties during these times as they were quite busy. We all learned a lot and have improvements in place to ensure future events of this nature are handled with better knowledge and experience.

Much work remains in the wake of these storms.

Other projects and activities PW staff is working on include:

1. Bridgeport Campus Relocation (developed budget estimate and schedule)
2. Crowley Lake Ball Field concession stand (exterior is complete)
3. Annex II generator (final inspection on Friday Feb 13)
4. Memorial Hall ADA restrooms (sub-floor complete, sheet rock nailing inspection complete, rough plumbing and electrical continues)
5. Mtn Gate fishing access (awaiting plan approval)
6. Sierra Center Mall improvements (carpet installation continues)
7. CDBG training (Vianey White attending training in Sacramento)
8. Bodie Road maintenance (Upcoming on-site visit with BLM and State Park staff to determine potential scope of work for this spring)

Lastly, I wanted to say thank you to all county staff for their efforts during and after the severe weather event.

CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5459

Social Services

National Eligibility Worker Conference

- Dept. of Social Services staffers **Kaylan Johnson, Armando Alvarez, Jay Sloane, and Yvon Guzman-Rangel** attended the 26th Annual National Eligibility Worker (NEW) Training Conference in San Diego last week. The California State Chapter of NEW is a professional and educational organization with the role of establishing standards of ethical conduct for Eligibility professionals in California.



Mono County Staff and colleagues at the NEW Conference in San Diego

Report from Eligibility Worker Yvon Guzman-Rangel:

Attending the 26th Annual Eligibility Conference was an amazing experience. As an Eligibility Worker for Mono County having the opportunity to network with other counties throughout California has given us insight on what it is to be a professional in this field. It is also a great confidence booster knowing that we are not alone in the obstacles that come our way in social services. Not only has it provided us with a sort of identity in this field, but with a sense of purpose and renewed energy. The training workshops were also a big help as there are constant updates in all programs and regulations that we must keep track of. On behalf of all of us that went, I would like to thank those that were instrumental in giving us this opportunity to participate in the annual eligibility conference and represent Mono County proudly!

CONTACT: Jack Anderson, Eligibility Supervisor, 760-924-1792



Upcoming Foster Parent Orientation Meeting - Mono County Social Services continues to need Foster Parents and we are hosting an orientation meeting coming up on: **Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 5:30pm- 7:00pm at the Lee Vining Community Center.**

Many prospective foster parents are interested in becoming a parent, but can't commit to providing long term care or adoption. That's okay! Mono County needs foster parents of all types; those who can care for a child short-term, on an emergency only basis, as well as those who can provide long-term care. Children come into foster care when their birth families are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons. We provide support and training for you to be a successful foster parent. Please forward the attached flyers to someone you think might be interested; or post the flyers so others may have a chance to see it.

Please give me a call or email if you have any questions, I look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT: Marlo Preis, 760-924-1793 or mpreis@mono.ca.gov to RSVP.

Adult Education – English as a Second Language



Mono County Office of Education is offering an English as a Second Language (ESL) class for adults this spring. Check out the attached flyers in both Spanish and English.

CONTACT: Laura Timpano, Mono County Office of Education, (760) 934-0031

Last chance for 2015 coverage: February 15!
This weekend

marks the last chance most uninsured Americans will have to get health coverage in 2015 since Sunday is the final day for open enrollment. This is true both inside and outside the Covered California marketplace. So no matter how you plan to get private coverage for you or your family you'll need to sign up before open enrollment ends!

If you miss the deadline: you won't be able to get marketplace insurance or an ACA-compliant private plan outside the marketplace until the next annual enrollment period, without qualifying for special enrollment.

Those who have been ignoring the requirement to obtain and maintain coverage risk finding out about how it affects them for the first time during the 2015 tax season.

The fee for not having health coverage is calculated one of 2 ways. If you or your dependents don't have insurance that qualifies as minimum essential coverage you'll pay either a percentage of your household income or a flat fee -- whichever is higher.



The fee for not having coverage in 2014

If you didn't have coverage in 2014, you'll pay the higher of these two amounts when you file your 2014 federal tax return:

- 1% of your yearly household income. (Only the amount of income above the tax filing threshold, about \$10,000 for an individual, is used to calculate the penalty.) The maximum penalty is the national average premium for a bronze plan.
- \$95 per person for the year (\$47.50 per child under 18). The maximum penalty per family using this method is \$285.

**Covered California Report on Subsidies averaging \$5,200 per Household -**

Covered California reported that approximately 800,000 California households received federal subsidies to make health care more affordable in 2014, with the estimated average amount received being more than \$5,200 per household per year, or about \$436 per month.

The data are reflected on new Health Insurance Marketplace Statements being mailed this week by Covered California. Known as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1095-A, the two-page statement (www.CoveredCA.com/news/pdfs/sample-1095-A.pdf) shows the amount of Advanced Premium Tax Credit each household received on a month-by-month basis in 2014. Similar to other tax documents, like a W-2 or 1099, the 1095-A will be used by consumers when they file their federal tax returns this year to ensure the subsidy they received is appropriate.

Covered California developed a fact sheet (www.CoveredCA.com/news/pdfs/1095-A-fact-sheet.pdf) to help enrollees understand the new 1095-A form. Detailed questions and answers for consumers and tax preparers will be available on the Covered California website.

Many tax preparers and commercial tax software products are ready to accept information from Form 1095-A. Consumers may be able to get free software or in-person assistance filing their taxes and can learn more at www.irs.gov/freefile or www.irs.gov/VITA.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760-924-1763