

October 17, 2017
Regular Meeting
Item # 2a

Clerk of the Board

Resolution of Appreciation
for Dick Whittington

A RESOLUTION OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN APPRECIATION OF DICK WHITTINGTON, YARTS TRANSIT MANAGER

WHEREAS, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) provides much-needed public transit in the Yosemite region, with buses entering Yosemite Valley from Fresno, Mammoth Lakes, Merced and Sonora, providing an alternative to driving to nearly 100,000 riders per year; and

WHEREAS, Dick Whittington has worked for YARTS and the Merced County Association of Governments since 2002, and has served as Transit Manager since 2004; and

WHEREAS, the YARTS service area has grown under his leadership to include all of the Yosemite gateways in six counties and routes on Highway 140, Highway 120 East/395; Highway 120 West and Highway 41; and

WHEREAS, the YARTS service area and annual ridership has doubled, serving its one millionth rider in 2014 with a fleet of 10 fully outfitted, over-the-road coaches; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whittington implemented an automated fare system, and an online reservation system that has recorded thousands of ticket sales from all 50 states and 92 countries in its first year;

WHEREAS, Mr. Whittington has proven his dedication to the entire YARTS service area by taking the “long way” to Mono County twice during his tenure to deliver bus schedules when Tioga Pass was closed; and by deftly navigating the full range of California weather by experiencing rain in Mammoth Lakes, snow at Tioga Pass, a lightning storm in Tuolumne Meadows, hail at Olmsted Point, clouds and 68 degrees in Yosemite Valley and 97 degree heat in Merced – all in one day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mono County Board of Supervisors recognizes and appreciates Dick Whittington’s dedication to regional public transit, his service with YARTS, and his contribution to tourism and economic development in Mono County.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of October 2017, by the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

Stacy Corless, Chairperson of the Board

October 17, 2017
Regular Meeting
Item # 7c

CAO

Dream Mountain Drive
Flooding

October 18, 2017

We are appearing before the Mono County Board of Supervisors today to give you our perspective regarding SCE's dam project in the June Lake Loop which occurred last summer. At the meetings SCE convened, many of us felt that we were being dismissed as overly upset by what happened to our down-canyon community. Although many homeowners can't be here because they live long distances away, the twenty residents listed at the end of my statement endorse our appearance. My statement will give you an overview of the events and other speakers will lay out additional issues

The Sheet edition of May 14 states that representatives from Southern California Edison reached out to local media sources to assure residents living in areas beneath their dams that the water levels would remain safe despite record runoff. In addition, at a public meeting it was explained that SCE would be transporting pumps by helicopter to the Gem/ Agnew Lakes area but that they didn't anticipate needing the pumps and that their installation was merely a precaution. From newspaper accounts it would seem the only downside to SCE's maintenance of their dams was helicopter noise but that isn't at all what the residents down canyon, in the vicinity of SCE operations, experienced. We experience serious flooding and were given no warning.

We don't know when the decision to use the pumps was made but as of late May and early June the breathtaking volume of water flowing off of Horsetail Falls began to cause damaging flooding in our area. Residents on Dream Mountain Drive and across the highway at the Lockhart property were never alerted to the impending use of the pumps which resulted in the flooding and from all indications SCE never bothered to investigate what their operation was doing to our neighborhood. Later in the process they stated that it wasn't their problem.

But when several Dream Mountain Drive residents pointed out that the flooding was coming from property SCE leases from the BLM, something apparently made them realize they needed to do something. On June 27 sandbags were delivered and installed and the flooding began to subside. We believe that as well as using sandbags they altered the flow they were releasing. Driveways, backyards and crawlspaces which had up to 18" of water in them began to dry out.

Some or all of this is the result of a study which was done in 2007 identifying a fault zone in the vicinity of the dams which led to a mandate that the water behind the dams be kept at a low level. We would like to know why SCE chose this, a high snow-pack year, to fix the problems they had known about for ten years. We are also questioning if this flooding had anything to do with record snow-pack and more to do with the pumping they were doing to achieve mandated lake levels.

We think that there are infrastructure repairs and methods of adequate notification that need to be employed in order that our neighborhood be safe from another event like this one. Because of cavalier comments from SCE officials we don't think they understand the seriousness with which we are taking this issue. One person was quoted as saying it could have been worse but we are saying given the resources and expertise that SCE presumably has, it could have been much better. We are appearing before the Board to get the following comments about the future on the record.

1) There needs to be careful monitoring of the flow of the water in the future. Also, prior to any action by SCE that threatens the Dream Mountain neighborhood there needs to be adequate warning given and discussion and plans made as to how the situation will be remediated.

2) Caltrans needs to clean out and maintain the culverts which are under their jurisdiction. There is a distinct possibility that these culverts are inadequate and need to be enlarged because they are acting as dams.

3) There needs to be adequate management of fall and flow from Rush Creek to Silver Lake spill way.

4) There needs to be a deepening of the Silver Lake outlet into Rush Creek.

We realize that Mono County is not responsible for this situation but we are your residents and you are our representatives with presumably a say about how businesses operate in your jurisdiction. We want you to support us in our efforts to hold SCE accountable. We would like you to make a statement that shows that you expect SCE to be responsive to our concerns. If possible we would like the board to work with SCE to develop a more responsible way to perform their activities. And we would appreciate a written response to our presentation.

Dream Mountain Drive residents:

Alice and Ed Suszynski
Angela and Eddie Gonzales
Ralph Lockhart
Dan and Sherri Rubendall
Nancy and Jeff Morris
Bonnie Reinhold
Gary Richinik and Mary Healy
Chad Woods
Susan and Danny Winters
Bill and Kathleen Herren
Karen and Bill DeWitt
Gina Keller

October 17, 2017

Regular Meeting

Item # 7d

**Community
Development**

Compliance Agreement:

Rainbow Realty

Submitted on Saturday, October 14, 2017 - 4:58pm

Name: Tom Davis

Regarding the Board of Supervisors Item # 7D - Code Compliance Agreement with Rainbow Ridge Realty. My wife and I own a home in June Lake. We have dealt with Connie Lear for over a decade and have her to be honest, straightforward and professional, having the best intentions for the community. We support the Staff recommendation and the agreed upon Compliance Agreement. I am further concerned that the correspondence in the staff reports are anonymous. There are no persons following "From". In addition, there is a questionable economic analysis presented. Has Staff verified the accuracy of this analysis? If not, why would it be part of the public testimony. Is it true that a county official condoned the rentals? Is it true the county knowingly accepted TOT for these rentals? If so, the county is complicit in this case. Regardless, the penalty assessed under the agreement, from my experience, is more than appropriate. Please approve the proposed Compliance Agreement.

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CAO / CD / CC

**Owens Valley Groundwater
Authority / JPA Update**



Larry Johnston ~ District One Fred Stump ~ District Two Bob Gardner ~ District Three
John Peters ~ District Four Stacy Corless ~ District Five

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO

P.O. BOX 715, BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517

(760) 932-5533 • FAX (760) 932-5531

Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board

October 17, 2017

Heather Shannon
Senior Engineering Geologist
Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Support for Application to the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program for
 Funds to Prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Owens Valley Groundwater
 Basin

Dear Ms. Shannon:

On behalf of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, I write to express Mono County's (County) support for the Inyo County Water Department's application to the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Program for funds to prepare a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). The cost of preparing a GSP for the Basin is currently estimated to be more than \$600,000 and very well may increase as additional information about the Basin and its resources are realized. These costs are expected to be a significant burden for the rural local governments, special districts, and other entities participating as members in the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (Authority), the joint powers agency recently formed to serve as the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for the Basin, to prepare a GSP for the Basin and comply with future regulatory requirements imposed by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Many of the members of the Authority likely qualify for classification as disadvantaged communities or severely disadvantaged communities.

In light of the foregoing, the County supports Inyo County Water Department's recent SGWP Grant Program application to fund the Authority's GSP preparation and SGMA compliance activities. Inyo County is a member of the Authority, and although the County has not reviewed Inyo County Water Department's application, the County understands it was submitted on behalf of the Authority and its members' collective interests and that any funds awarded will be administered and utilized by the Authority to fund the preparation of a GSP for

the entire Basin. Accordingly, the County supports the Inyo County Water Department's SGWP Grant Program application.

I appreciate your consideration of the County's support for the Inyo County Water Department's application for SGWP Grant Program funding. If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Jason Canger in the Mono County Counsel's Office at (760) 924-1712 or jcanger@mono.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Stacy Corless, Chair
Mono County Board of Supervisors