



AGENDA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Special Meeting
February 4, 2025
4:30 PM

Meeting Location: Rayburn House Office Building, 2445, Washington, DC 20006

Regular and special meetings of the legislative body shall be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except to do any of the following: Meet outside their immediate jurisdiction with elected or appointed officials of the United States or the State of California when a local meeting would be impractical, solely to discuss a legislative or regulatory issue affecting the local agency and over which the federal or state officials have jurisdiction. G.C. §54954(b)(5)

4:30 PM Call meeting to Order

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Opportunity for the public to address the Board on items of public interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Speakers may be limited in speaking time dependent upon the press of business and number of persons wishing to address the Board.)

2. AGENDA ITEMS

A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF MONO COUNTY

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Fiscal Impact: None.

B. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS

1. Sunny Slopes Fire Station
 - a. \$4.2 million to construct a new fire station in Sunny Slopes.
2. Emergency Backup Generators
 - a. \$1 million in funding to procure and install 19 emergency backup generators in eight communities.
3. Lee Vining Public Utilities District Water System Replacement
 - a. \$2.27 million replace the aging water and sewer infrastructure in conjunction with Caltrans' 2026 U.S. Highway 395 rehabilitation project.
4. EMS Station Improvements
 - a. \$1.34 million to renovate three MCEMS facilities to protect staff and equipment.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Fiscal Impact: None.

C. ADVOCATE FOR ISSUES WITH THE MONO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Review support for various legislative, regulatory, and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County's access to federal and state funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility.

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Fiscal Impact: None.

D. Q&A AND OPEN DISCUSSION

Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Fiscal Impact: None.

ADJOURN



The Need

Mono County, California, is a rural county situated between the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains and the Nevada state line. Covering 3,132 square miles, the County has a population of approximately 13,200 people, with over 8,000 people living in the town of Mammoth Lakes. With approximately 94% of its land publicly owned – primarily within the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests – Mono County faces significant challenges when funding essential services, including those for public safety and firefighting. Mono County, a heavily forested area, is constantly at risk of damage from wildfires and other natural disasters that require strong and well-equipped fire and emergency response services.



Exterior Design of Sunny Slopes Fire Station

Mono County, in partnership with the Long Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), is seeking funds to build a new fire station facility in the Sunny Slopes neighborhood in southern Mono County. Sunny Slopes sits adjacent to the Crowley Lake reservoir, Long Valley Dam, and several water storage and flood control facilities for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The new station will provide firefighting and emergency response services to approximately 7,000 people, the average summertime population, in the Sunny Slopes, Toms Place and the Crowley Lake region. Unfortunately, no fire station exists in this service area and leaves residents without rapid response services. This lack of coverage also extends to the LADWP and Los Angeles Aqueduct, many facilities of which are protected by the LVFPD. Damage to LADWP infrastructure could have major effects and harm the available water resources for the entire Los Angeles area.

Sunny Slopes Fire Station



Mono County is requesting \$4.2 million to construct the fire station in Sunny Slopes. This 3,800 square foot fire station will include indoor storage space for one fire engine, 1 tanker, 1 rescue unit and 1 command vehicle. In addition, the building will also feature a front office with communications equipment, a meeting room, decontamination area with shower and sink, and have air compressors, floor drains, redundant heat sources, an emergency generator, and a diesel exhaust treatment system. Planning for this project is well underway, with use permit applications filed with the Mono County Community Development Department and a \$100,000 investment for design and planning. LVFPD has coordinated with relevant stakeholders and community members to ensure the project has necessary interest and transparency. The fire district has also completed soils work and analysis, and a completed site plan has been finalized.

Project Elements

- Constructs a new fire station in Sunny Slopes, which will provide emergency services to approximately 7,000 people (summertime pop.).
- Will include storage space for emergency response vehicles, a meeting room, as well as telecommunications and equipment maintenance systems.

Project Benefits

- New fire station will protect residents in Sunny Slopes, Toms Place, Aspen Springs, Rock Creek, and areas along the Highway 395 corridor.
- Provides fire protection services for LADWP and Aqueduct infrastructure at the Crowley Lake reservoir and Long Valley Dam.





Mono County Emergency Backup Generators

2025

The Need

Residents in Mono County, California, often find themselves struggling with reliable electricity, and in turn heat and air conditioning, during major weather events or natural disasters. Many homes in the don't have air conditioning, increasing the need for spaces with filtered air as wildfire smoke fills the air during fire season. Mono County Public Works (MCPW), for its part, provides and maintains facilities that serve as Emergency Disaster Shelters in unincorporated areas and towns that act as heating and cooling centers during those weather events, with highly effective HVAC systems that provide heating and cooling spaces with clean, smokeless, air.



MCPW faces unique challenges due to sparse population density, challenges which are compounded by Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events triggered by hazardous weather conditions, which frequently leave many population centers without power. In such cases, residents rely heavily on community facilities equipped with backup power resources. Current protocols prioritize powering emergency centers during PSPS events, but doing so limits power availability elsewhere in the County. Additionally, extreme weather can cause avalanches and road closures, isolating entire communities and leaving them without electricity for unpredictable periods. Mono County experiences severe weather conditions throughout the year. Summer months bring extreme heat, heavy rainfall, and flash flooding, including a hurricane-related rain event in 2023. Winters are marked by significant snowfall and sub-freezing temperatures, leading to increased risks of avalanches and additional flooding from snowmelt. To enhance the County's resilience, this funding request will support the repair, upgrade, and installation of generator systems throughout the County. Critical facilities, such as the health center at the County Civic Center, house essential medical supplies and medications in climate-controlled environments. During power outages, staff must physically relocate these critical items to the local hospital, a time-consuming and potentially hazardous process during emergencies.

Mono County Emergency Backup Generators



Mono County is seeking \$1 million in funding to procure and install 19 emergency backup generators across eight communities. This investment will enhance resilience by equipping Emergency Disaster Shelters, senior centers, medical facilities, road maintenance facilities, the Bridgeport Courthouse, and the Mono County Civic Center with reliable power during emergencies. The proposed generators will provide sufficient capacity to sustain HVAC systems and critical electrical infrastructure, ensuring continuity of services and safeguarding the county's most isolated and vulnerable residents during severe weather events. Funding will also support project design, engineering, site preparation, permitting, materials, and construction at each designated location.

Project Elements

- Purchase and installation of 19 emergency backup generators in emergency disaster shelters and places of community interest.
- Fund design, engineering, groundwork, planning, material, and construction costs at each location.

Project Benefits

- Provide necessary power resources to support HVAC systems and electricity in major weather events.
- Increases ability of County to provide disaster response services during major weather events and natural disasters.



Sandra Moberly, Mono County CAO

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Lee Vining Water Utility Replacement Project 2025

The Need

Mono County, California, is a rural community nestled between the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains and the Nevada state line. Spanning 3,132 square miles, it is home to approximately 13,200 residents, with over 8,000 concentrated in the town of Mammoth Lakes. With roughly 94% of its land publicly owned—primarily within the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests—Mono County faces significant challenges in funding critical infrastructure projects, including water utility and pipeline replacements. These challenges are particularly pronounced in low-population towns that serve as gateway communities to national parks and are surrounded by vast stretches of public land.



To address these infrastructure needs, Mono County, in collaboration with the Lee Vining Public Utility District (LVPUD), is seeking funding to replace LVPUD’s aging water and sewer systems. The district provides essential services to approximately 225 residents, as well as federal, state, and school facilities, and local businesses that drive Lee Vining’s tourism-based economy. As the eastern gateway to Tioga Pass and Yosemite National Park, Lee Vining plays a vital role in regional tourism, attracting visitors to Yosemite and other popular destinations such as June Mountain and Mammoth Mountain ski areas. In 2026, Caltrans District 9 will undertake a major rehabilitation of the segment of U.S. Highway 395 that runs through Lee Vining. This project will involve extensive roadway reconstruction, necessitating the replacement of aging water and sewer lines located beneath the highway. By coordinating these efforts, Lee Vining can efficiently upgrade its infrastructure while minimizing disruptions, adhering to “dig once” best practices, and ensuring long-term resilience for its water and sewer systems.

Lee Vining Water Utility Replacement Project



Mono County is requesting \$2.27 million to assist the Lee Vining Public Utility District in replacing its aging water and sewer infrastructure in conjunction with Caltrans’ 2026 U.S. Highway 395 rehabilitation project. The funds would be used for utility system engineering, permitting and construction, as well as to purchase water mains, laterals, valves, and upgraded fire hydrants. If this project is not funded, Caltrans will proceed with the highway rehabilitation without replacing the underlying water and sewer systems, which could damage or destroy the existing system. Not undertaking this project in unison with the highway rehabilitation project would cause significant delays, disrupt water services, and cut off firefighting water resources along 60 miles of Highway 395.

Project Elements

- Replacement of aging, leaking, and antiquated water and sewer pipes in Lee Vining, California.
- Fund engineering, permitting, construction, purchase of materials, and project management for the water and sewer replacement.

Project Benefits

- Ensures reliable water and sewer services in Lee Vining for decades to come.
- Improves water for firefighting capabilities throughout Lee Vining and along the U.S. Highway 395 corridor.
- Reduces time, effort, and costs by aligning with the Caltrans rehabilitation project.





EMS Station Modifications and Refurbishment 2025

The Need

Mono County, California, is a rural county situated between the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains and the Nevada state line. Covering 3,132 square miles, the County has a population of approximately 13,200 people, with over 8,000 people living in the town of Mammoth Lakes. The County seat is located in Bridgeport, a small town with a population of roughly 550 people located 54 miles north of Mammoth Lakes. With approximately 94% of its land publicly owned – primarily within the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests – Mono County faces significant challenges when funding essential services. The limited availability of privately owned land restricts its ability to generate revenue for critical infrastructure projects, public safety programs, and emergency medical services.



Mono County Emergency Medical Services (MCEMS) is the primary provider of emergency medical response and inter-facility ambulance transports across Mono County. Due to the region’s rugged terrain, remote communities, and harsh environmental conditions, MCEMS works in close collaboration with local fire departments, many of which rely on volunteer personnel, to ensure reliable emergency response services. The agency employs a dedicated team of 21 paramedics and three EMTs, operating a fleet of four Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances, with two additional reserve ALS units. Through its commitment to providing high-quality emergency medical care, MCEMS plays a vital role in safeguarding the health and well-being of Mono County’s residents and visitors, often responding to incidents in some of the most challenging and isolated locations in the country.

EMS Station Modification and Refurbishment



Mono County EMS operates multiple stations which house employees during their shifts. These structures need major renovations to better protect MCEMS personnel and improve emergency response services. Improvements to the facilities include installation of modernized HVAC systems, climate-control equipment, medical supply storage, and reconstruction of ambulance garages. Mono County is requesting \$1.34 million to help address these EMS needs.

Project Elements

- Repairs and modifies three paramedic crew stations in the towns of Bridgeport, Walker, and June Lake.
- Purchases HVAC systems, climate-control equipment, and weatherizing improvements.
- Rebuilds ambulance garages at all three crew stations.

Project Benefits

- Improves working facilities for EMS first responders.
- Improves quality of life for employees and improves MCEMS services for residents.
- Ensures medical equipment, including Advanced Life Support ambulances are always protected from harsh weather and available for use.



MONO COUNTY, CA 2025 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District One: Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz

District Two: Supervisor Rhonda Duggan

District Three: Supervisor Paul McFarland

District Four: Supervisor John Peters

District Five: Supervisor Lynda Salcido

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
January 14, 2025**



MONO COUNTY, CA 2025 STATE AND FEDERAL PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES

About the County

Mono County, California, is a rural county nestled between the Sierra Nevada Mountain range and the California/Nevada border. Spanning over 2 million acres, it features diverse landscapes, including pine, juniper, and aspen groves, countless lakes, alpine meadows, rivers, streams, and sagebrush-covered high desert. Much of this scenic expanse lies within the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, as well as the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. Mono County is renowned for its abundant natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The county is home to several small towns and picturesque villages, each offering year-round recreation, historical landmarks, and distinctive charm. Bridgeport serves as the county seat, while the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the only incorporated city, is the largest community with a population of 7,191 as of the 2020 census. Mono County as a whole has a population of 13,195, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. Tourism and recreation form the backbone of Mono County's economy.

Mono County's State and Federal Priorities

Mono County's Federal Platform is based on five general areas focused on protecting the natural beauty of our land, promoting our local and regional economy, and supporting our communities and residents. Our goals are focused on:

- Housing
- Forest Management
- Infrastructure
- Recreation, Tourism, and Local Economy
- Public Safety
- Community Support



Mono County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California

OUR MISSION

To support all our communities by delivering superior services while protecting our unique rural environment.

OUR VISION

**Outstanding Community Services
Quality of Life Beyond Compare**

OUR VALUES

**Collaboration
Integrity
Innovation
Outstanding Customer Service**



MONO COUNTY, CA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz,
District 1



Supervisor Rhonda Duggan,
District 2



Supervisor Paul McFarland,
District 3



Supervisor John Peters,
District 4



Supervisor Linda Salcido,
District 5

Elected State and Federal Delegation Contact Information

California Delegation	Federal Delegation
<p>State Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil (Senate District 4) 1021 O Street, Room 7240 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4004</p>	<p>Representative Kevin Kiley (CA-3) 2445 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2523</p>
<p>State Assemblymember David Tangipa (8th Assembly District) 1021 O Street, Suite 4310 Sacramento, CA 94249-0008 (916) 319-2008</p>	<p>Senator Alex Padilla 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3553</p>
	<p>Senator Adam Schiff SD-B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3841</p>



HOUSING

Safe and affordable housing was determined to be Mono County's highest-ranked priority during the public input process of Strategic Plan development. The Board of Supervisors is strongly committed to improving safe workforce housing opportunities in all areas of Mono County.

Housing Diversity

Mono County is committed to expanding housing opportunities and fostering a diverse range of housing options for its residents. The County actively supports initiatives and programs aimed at increasing the availability of housing and ensuring that a variety of housing types are accessible to meet the needs of the community. Additionally, the County supports legislation that eases the administrative burden on local governments in managing affordable housing programs, helping to streamline efforts and make these essential programs more effective.

Housing Insecurity and Assisting the Unhoused

Mono County is dedicated to addressing housing insecurity by supporting programs and securing funding that enable communities to accurately identify individuals who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused. The County also advocates for initiatives and policies that recognize the unique challenges rural areas face, particularly in regions with tourism- and recreation-based economies, where housing insecurity issues may differ from those in more urban environments. This includes additional resources to identify unsheltered people from those living alternative lifestyles.

Federal Agency Coordination

Mono County actively supports initiatives and policies that enhance federal agency support for rural communities, particularly in housing and development programs. The County seeks increased assistance from key federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to address the specific needs of rural areas like Mono County. The County also supports efforts to close the gap between market rate housing and affordable housing in ways that do not undermine said efforts. The County is also supportive of regulatory initiatives that promote the purchase of first homes in areas with high numbers of secondary/vacation residences.

State Agency Coordination

Mono County is involved in State lawmaking through participation in the Rural County Representative of California (RCRC) and California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to support our rural community. County officials and staff coordinate closely with CalOES on disaster response, and the Departments of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Housing & Community Development (HCD) on relevant areas and issues of interest that pertain to housing development.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mono County's Mission Statement reflects its commitment to preserving its distinctive rural environment. The County acknowledges that maintaining an exceptional quality of life for both residents and visitors depends on striking a balance between access, responsible use, and the protection of its forest resources and public lands.

Management of Public Lands

With 94% of the land base in Mono County being owned by state and federal entities, Mono County remains committed to the preservation and maintenance of those federal and state lands, including those managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, the State, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The County strongly advocates for increased levels of funding for federal land management agencies and their programs, ensuring these vital lands continue to be well-protected. Additionally, Mono County supports efforts to secure funding for improvements to regional U.S. Forest Service facilities, recognizing the importance of modern, well-maintained infrastructure in preserving these public lands, as well as providing high quality living facilities for Forest Service employees.

Support of Land Management Employees

Mono County relies on the hard work and dedication of our land management employees. The County will continue to advocate on their behalf for increases in locality pay benefits, improvements to employee housing, and other measures to improve their quality of life. These employees often play dual roles in our community, including those that volunteer for local fire protection districts, and are integral to our safety and success.

Forest Protection and Resiliency

Mono County is dedicated to promoting wildfire resilience through initiatives and policies focused on mitigation and protection. The County actively supports legislation and funding for comprehensive wildfire prevention efforts and forest health programs on public lands. Additionally, Mono County advocates for legislation and programs that assist forest communities in addressing key issues such as recreation management, water quality, and sustainable forest management practices. The County is also supportive of the utilization of Good Neighbor Authorities and the expansion of those practices in neighboring communities. Mono County also supports the continued expansion and funding of biomass fuels and biomass reduction programs, which allow for improved resiliency in communities and lower energy costs.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Reliable and resilient infrastructure is fundamental to Mono County's mission of supporting its communities and fostering local and regional economic growth. To achieve this, the County strategically prioritizes investments in upgrading and modernizing its transportation, water, and communications systems.

Airports

Mono County is committed to improving its local airports by supporting programs and securing funding aimed at enhancing operations, maintaining infrastructure, and developing new facilities. Additionally, the County advocates for initiatives that promote and expand the use of its airports for military support and emergency services, recognizing the vital role these facilities play in regional safety and preparedness.

Wastewater Infrastructure

Mono County supports programs and seeks funding that will focus on the improvement and development of wastewater treatment infrastructure. These efforts aim to benefit the County's communities, businesses, residents, and visitors by ensuring reliable and efficient wastewater management services. With many of the County's special districts providing wastewater and drinking water services being run by volunteers, additional state and federal assistance is needed to improve expertise and finances and to also meet new state water requirements.

Drinking Water Infrastructure

Mono County is committed to supporting programs and pursuing funding that ensure reliable access to clean drinking water for its communities, businesses, residents, and visitors. The County also supports initiatives aimed at water conservation and projects that enhance water supply resiliency, safeguarding this vital resource for the future.

Transportation Infrastructure

Mono County is dedicated to improving local transportation infrastructure by supporting programs and securing funding for local and regional transportation projects that address community needs and enhance public safety. The County will also advocate for initiatives and pursue funding from programs that allow for streetscape improvements, beautification projects, and parking access, all of which contribute to business development and economic growth.

Additionally, Mono County backs programs that improve transportation and transit access to, and around, state and federal lands and recreational areas, promoting accessibility to these natural resources. The County is also committed to supporting programs that

facilitate the installation and deployment of zero emission vehicle technology and infrastructure, as well as those that fund or promote the adoption of zero emission vehicles and encourage the transition into sustainable transportation solutions. Viable zero emission vehicle technology is a serious challenge in the Eastern Sierra as extreme temperatures, the need for snow chains in the winter, long distances of undeveloped open space with no charging stations, and heavy-duty fleets for snow removal/rural uses limit the applicability of electric vehicles. Other zero emission technologies, such as hydrogen fuels, require startup costs and economies of scale that are insurmountable in rural areas like Mono County without state and federal government assistance.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Ensuring the safety and security of residents and visitors is a top priority for Mono County.

However, the diverse landscape and remote nature of many communities pose significant challenges for public safety, fire response, and emergency service teams. To address this, the

County is committed to fostering cross-jurisdictional collaboration through innovative emergency response programs that enhance public services and provide strong support to the County's first responders.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Mono County is committed to enhancing public safety and emergency services by supporting programs and pursuing funding for key activities such as search and rescue operations and 911 dispatch services. The County also advocates in support of investments for communications infrastructure, vehicles, ambulances, and other critical equipment to ensure first responders are well-equipped.

In addition to this, Mono County supports funding for the development and maintenance of public safety facilities, including the County jail and emergency service stations. The County also promotes initiatives that foster coordination between local public safety efforts and state and federal land management agencies, ensuring a unified approach to emergency response when those efforts take place on our public lands. These initiatives should also include financial support for mapping the effects of avalanche, flood, earthquake, and other hazards.

Disaster Preparedness

Mono County is dedicated to enhancing our community's emergency and disaster preparedness by supporting programs and securing funding for projects that strengthen response and management capabilities. The County also advocates for initiatives and policies that ensure effective mass care and sheltering services during disasters, evacuations, or other emergency events, prioritizing the safety and well-being of its residents and visitors.

Fire Protection

Mono County is committed to strengthening fire protection efforts by supporting programs and funding for essential activities and equipment, including fire stations and reliable access to water supplies. The County also advocates for initiatives that provide funding for firefighter training, safety measures, and adequate staffing to ensure the highest level of preparedness and response to fire emergencies.

In addition to this, Mono County supports legislation to expand the accessibility of home and fire insurance. In light of the many devastating forest fires in California in recent years, the County will advocate at the state and federal levels to ensure that home and fire insurance becomes and remains available to all individuals.

Cybersecurity

Mono County supports programs and funding aimed at enhancing cybersecurity measures and establishing redundancy in equipment and infrastructure to protect critical systems and ensure operational continuity.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RECREATION, AND TOURISM

U.S. Forest Service, the State of California, and other non-private entities. Recognizing the challenges posed by land use restrictions, the County is committed to fostering economic development strategies that not only support existing businesses and industries but also find innovative ways to address the limited flexibility and development potential created by these land constraints.

Economic Development Planning

Mono County supports programs that promote comprehensive planning and development strategies to strengthen the local economy. The County also advocates for initiatives and policies that facilitate employee recruitment and provide affordable and robust training opportunities, ensuring a skilled workforce to meet the needs of businesses and industries.

Recreation on Federal Lands

Mono County is committed to promoting recreational tourism by supporting initiatives and policies that encourage visitation to the region's National Parks, including Yosemite National Park, and efforts to enhance recreational opportunities on public lands managed by agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The County is supportive of additional funding for public land agencies to maintain recreational support service responsibilities that have fallen onto the County such as restroom maintenance, trash gathering, and trail upkeep, or resources that improve the County's ability to take on those responsibilities. Mono County also continues to support initiatives aimed at protecting and bolstering native and hatched fish populations to preserve the region's natural ecosystems and outdoor recreational resources.

Local Businesses

Mono County is dedicated to supporting local businesses, particularly those reliant on recreation and tourism, by backing initiatives and policies that assist and promote off-season business development opportunities. The County also advocates in support of programs and pursues funding that supports the creation and staffing of childcare facilities, providing crucial resources for business owners and employees.

In addition, Mono County champions initiatives that strengthen small business and entrepreneurial ventures, fostering economic growth and innovation. The County is committed to improving telecommunication infrastructure, including broadband and cellular services, to ensure the isolated rural areas remain connected and competitive. Those improvements should also include funding to shore up landline and cellular service capabilities along the State Road 6 corridor, which routinely experiences technical disruptions and can result in lapses in public safety and emergency response.

Special Districts within Mono County

Mono County has prioritized support and engagement with local special districts throughout the community, including our local fire prevention districts and public utility districts. To further develop our partnerships with our special districts, Mono County has funded a liaison staff position to facilitate additional growth and provide more resources to our special districts. The County will continue to work with these special districts to improve local needs and advocate with them as necessary.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mono County's vision is encapsulated in the statement, "Outstanding community services; Quality of life beyond compare." This commitment is reflected in the County's programmatic and financial investments in both human and physical infrastructure. The County is dedicated to reaching all corners of its vast rural regions, ensuring that residents across all demographic and economic backgrounds benefit from its services and initiatives.

Health and Well Being

Mono County is committed to improving healthcare access by supporting programs and funding that expand emergency services, community health clinics, and hospitals. This includes innovative solutions like mobile health and dental vans and transportation services to reach underserved areas. The County also advocates for initiatives that provide access to and raise awareness of substance abuse, mental health, and other behavioral health issues, ensuring comprehensive care for all residents.

Community and Public Facilities

Mono County is dedicated to enhancing community resources by supporting programs and funding for the construction and programming of essential facilities such as museums, libraries, community centers, and animal shelters. The County also backs initiatives that fund election activities, physical and digital infrastructure, and the management of public records to ensure government transparency and efficiency.

Additionally, Mono County advocates for programs that promote community outreach and engagement, focusing on activities that encourage healthy lifestyles, improve access to public services, and contribute to the overall well-being of its residents.

Tribal Communities

Mono County is committed to fostering collaborative partnerships between local agencies and tribal entities by supporting initiatives and policies that encourage cooperation. The County also advocates on behalf of policies and federal actions that strengthen the well-being and support the sovereignty of the County's tribes. Mono County actively advocates for the federal recognition of the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe, acknowledging their cultural and historical significance to the region.

County of Mono, CA

2025-26 Legislative Platform



General Principles

The Mono County Board of Supervisors supports the general principles 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, regulatory or other policy efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County's access to state and federal funding sources, including pandemic support and relief programs, 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 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;
- Support legislation that addresses the burgeoning substance use disorder crisis and increases access to Medication Assisted Treatment;
- Support measures that increase resources for disaster response initiatives requiring County involvement;
- Support legislation that waives the local share of cost of all emergency response and disaster recovery activities;
- Support funding for counties to provide for higher demands on critical recovery services;
- Support local, regional, state, and federal initiatives and legislation that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism and reduce inequity;

Legislative Platform

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 and state funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility. Oppose legislative and administrative actions that would create federal or state unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority. Strongly encourage Congress and the President to commit to negotiate successfully 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 and state housing and economic development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the reduction from 50% to 25% of the private activity bond cap.
- e) **Support expanding Housing Choice Vouchers in Mono County:** Engage with Stanislaus County Housing Authority to advocate for project-based Housing Choice Vouchers in Mono County. Support efforts to increase the Mono County Fair Market Rents for Housing Choice Vouchers, and work with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to find solution to the lack of engagement from our Public Housing Authority.
- f) **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.
- g) Unfortunately, several Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity as there is inadequate infrastructure to support 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.
 - iv) Legislation supporting digital equity, including, but not limited to the creation of affordable broadband for all.
- h) **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.
- i) **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.
 - v) Advocate for full funding the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act (H.R. 6492) to enhancing outdoor recreation access and infrastructure on federal public lands
- j) **Disaster Response:** Support measures that increase resources for disaster response initiatives requiring county involvement.
- i) Support legislation that establishes federally available fire insurance, similar to the options provided through the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - ii) Support legislation that protects homeowners with active insurance plans and prevents policy cancelation by insurance companies.
 - iii) Oppose efforts by insurance companies to cancel or refuse to renew existing homeowner insurance policies.

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 state and federal public lands:** Support measures to sustain our federal lands. Closure or underfunding of the lands managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the

California Department of Fish & Wildlife would result in a significant negative impact to our county as tourism and recreation are our economic drivers.

- b) **Support legislation and funding to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands**
- 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 as described in item "e" below.
- e) **Support strategic, widely supported public lands transfers:** Support the sale, transfer, and "release" of public lands 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 and public facilities such as the June Lake Park and Community Center.
- f) **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 wildfire risk to communities and increase forest health.
- g) **Support Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health:** Support legislation and funding for comprehensive wildfire prevention and forest health programs on public lands.
- h) **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.
- i) **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.
- j) **Support sustainable fishing.**
- k) **Support federal initiatives and / or funding of efforts towards enhancement of Mono County's fish population,** including sustainable fishing, ongoing fish stocking, education for proper catch and release practices, protection of spawning waterways, and support of the stocking of diploid trout in allowable waters.
- k) **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.
- l) **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.

- m) **Support alternative energy:** 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. Oppose commercial-scale wind and solar energy development with significant environmental impacts.
- n) **Continue to support geothermal power production that is environmentally sustainable and doesn't negatively affect local domestic water supplies.**
- o) **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.
- p) **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 on county residents.
- q) **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. Geological Survey. The coalition includes technical and scientific support, legislative and policy support, and funding to ensure conservation commitments 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 management of water by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in Long Valley, and adequate budgets to support a positive conservation outcome. While not currently listed as an endangered or threatened species, Mono County will continue to promote engagement between the federal government, state agencies, and other California interests to mitigate the additional regulatory and economic impacts expected if that listing were to change.
- r) **Support legislation to avoid landfilling of waste originating on federal land:** Develop policies and programs that successfully reuse, 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:** 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 state and 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 and ensure access for millions of visitors every year. 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 and state 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) **Provide funding that maintains and enhances regional access across Federal Lands and National Parks:** Mono County supports budget policy and legislation that maintains, enhances, and extends the operational season of roads crossing federal lands and National Parks that provide access to communities, federal lands, 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.
- f) **Support flexibility with compliance of zero emission vehicle requirements in rural counties, and support for implementation**
Viable zero emission vehicle technology is a serious challenge in the Eastern Sierra as extreme temperatures, the need for snow chains in the winter, long distances of undeveloped open space with no charging stations, and heavy-duty fleets for snow removal/rural uses limit the applicability of electric vehicles. Other zero emission technologies, such as hydrogen fuels, require startup costs and economies of scale that are insurmountable in rural areas like Mono County without state and federal government support.

5) Health and Human Services

- a) **Public Health Crises:** Support and advocate for any legislative or budgetary action, including stimulus money and direct funding for counties, related to the response, recovery and/or economic impacts of public health crises during both the emergency itself and the recovery phase.
- b) **Disaster Response:** Support measures that increase resources for disaster response initiatives requiring county involvement.
- c) **Support Cost-Neutral State and Federal Mandates:** Support full funding to ensure that state and federal mandates are cost-neutral to the County and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government.
- d) **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.
- e) **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.
- f) **Medi-Cal Funding:** Support all efforts to adequately fund the federal Medicaid program. Similarly, oppose all efforts to block grant, cap or otherwise reduce federal and state funding to support this critical safety net program.

- g) **Administration of the Medi-Cal program:** Fully fund county costs for County administration of the Medi-Cal program.
- h) **Managed Care Medi-Cal:** Advocate for a Medi-Cal Managed Care model that generates high healthcare quality scores, increases primary care capacity, improves coordination of care, and conducts outreach to enroll uninsured populations.
- i) Support and encourage managed care entities to include senior HMO's in sparsely populated areas.
- j) **Oppose other eligibility changes, including but not limited to elimination of retroactive benefits or grace periods for eligibility pending verifications.**
- k) **Oppose turning Medicaid over to States:** Oppose efforts to turn Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) over to the states with less federal funding.
- l) **Support full funding of programs that provide health insurance to children.**
- m) **Support funding of Veterans benefits:** Support provision and funding for current benefits and health care programs for Veterans.
- n) **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.
- o) **Support Child Welfare:**
 - i. **Federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018:** Advocate for full federal and state funding of the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) enacted to reform the federal foster care system.
 - 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 "virtual appointments" 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.
 - ix. Support working families and reduce childhood poverty through legislation to retain and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- p) **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.
- q) **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.
 - iii. Waive family fees, increase vouchers, and establish "crisis factor" stipends.
- r) **Immigration Reform**
- i. Support immigration reform efforts that would create pathways to full and equal citizenship.
 - ii. Oppose immigration reform efforts that would restrict the rights of immigrants or break up families, or that would focus on a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.
 - iii. Oppose Legal Immigrant Benefit Changes
 - iv. Oppose any efforts to include non-cash benefits in the definition of 'public charge'.
 - v. Oppose any efforts to further restrict legal immigrants' access to federal benefits.
- s) **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.
- t) **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 a thorough review and updates to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to more accurately account for the cost of food, dietary needs, purchasing patterns and regional differences in food costs, housing and medical care, which affect the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
 - v. Support increased nutritional supplementation efforts at the state and federal levels, including increased aid, longer terms of aid, and increased access for those in need.
 - vi. Support extending Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents work requirement waivers for as many counties and sub-county regions as possible.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. Support provisions to further streamline and simplify federal requirements for SNAP/CalFresh recipients to enhance enrollment and retention.

- ix. Support additional flexibility for states to align SNAP/CalFresh eligibility and processes with state TANF/CalWORKS programs.
 - x. Support efforts to improve timeliness of data provided by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to states for use in administering SNAP/CalFresh.
- u) **Support Adult and Disability Services:** Support legislation that would provide adequate funding such as state-only funded programs, programs authorized under the Older Americans Act, a return to full funding for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) programs and increases to the SSBG allocation to keep up with inflation and population growth.
- v) **Support Homelessness Legislation:** Support federal homelessness legislation funding an array of services to individuals and families at risk of or who are experiencing homelessness.