



AGENDA REQUEST FORM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only:
AGENDA NUMBER

34

- Consent Departmental Correspondence Action Public Hearing
 Scheduled Time for Closed Session Informational

FROM: Inyo County Planning Department

FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF: June 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Approve Planning Department to set up an advisory committee for the North Sierra Highway Corridor Plan/Specific Plan

RECOMMENDATION: Request the Board of Supervisors approve for the Planning Department to set up an advisory committee to help bring stakeholder and community input into the North Sierra Highway planning process. The committee will consist of up to 11 members (1 Board Member and 1 Planning Commissioner from Inyo County [the County], 1 Council Member and 1 Planning Commissioner from the City of Bishop [the City], 2 representatives of the Bishop Paiute Tribe [the Tribe], [one may be a representative of the Paiute Palace Casino], 1 from California Department of Transportation [Caltrans], 1 from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power [DWP], 1 from the Tri-County Fairgrounds [the Fairgrounds], 1 from Eastern Sierra Transit Authority [ESTA], and 1 from the Eastern Sierra Community Services District [ESCS]). The committee will not have decision making authority but will act strictly as an advisory panel and will be organized and primarily interact with Inyo County Planning Department staff. If the Board directs staff to set up the committee, it should also appoint a member to participate.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: On April 24, 2015, Inyo County was awarded a Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant from the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$275,440 for the preparation of a corridor plan for the North Sierra Highway located in Bishop. At the July 14th, 2015, Board of Supervisors meeting, Inyo County Planning Staff presented a proposal to augment the Corridor Plan to develop a comprehensive specific plan for North Sierra Highway (a study area along 395 approximately from the fairgrounds/Wye to the Paiute Palace Casino), and complete the associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) needed to adopt the Plan. As this is a cross-jurisdictional project, crossing land owned or overseen by the County, the City, the Tribe, and the State as represented by Caltrans, the County has involved and will continue to involve all of these parties. While these parties will also have direct involvement in the project, the Planning Department felt the need for an advisory committee, with regular meetings and with a broader mix of members providing input.

At the April 26th, 2016 meeting, the Board approved a contract with RRM Design Group (RRM) as the primary consultant for the process of creating the Corridor Plan, Specific Plan and EIR in a two phase project. The proposed committee will not primarily interact with RRM, but will interact primarily with County Planning Department staff. Staff will then use the input with this committee to help inform them as they interact with RRM. The committee will also help work as a disseminator of information, as we apprise them of the progress being made by RRM and the County and they can in turn carry that information back to the organizations they represent. Staff estimates that the Committee would meet periodically throughout the planning process, approximately quarterly – with occasional periods with more frequent or fewer meetings.

Staff feels that this advisory committee is an important sounding board for the staff (though it will not be the only form of community input, it will be the one that has consistent members and regular meetings, providing a continuity that differs from the stakeholder interviews and community presentations that will be part of RRM's outreach). The committee also will help vest these other stakeholder groups represented by committee members in the planning process, with the hopeful outcome of more buy-in to the final product.

Staff is requesting the Board approve the creation of this advisory committee.



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Staff is requesting the Board approve the creation of this advisory committee.

ALTERNATIVES:

- The Board could direct staff to not create this committee. Staff does not recommend this alternative as we feel the benefits of having this committee are worth the time and effort of staff.
- The Board could direct staff to create a committee with a different make-up and/or a different size. Staff does not recommend this alternative, as staff believes that this committee is large enough to include major stakeholders, but not too large as to be difficult to organize and manage.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: While the committee inherently is a coalition of other agencies, the management of this will be solely the responsibility of Planning Department staff.

FINANCING: Work on the North Sierra Highway Sustainable Transportation Corridor Plan portion of this project is being primarily funded through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant with a relatively small matching requirement being provided by the County and City of Bishop. The incremental Specific Plan, EIR and Financial Assessment components are being funded by the County, the City, the Tribe, ESTA and the Inyo County LTC. Other agencies and stakeholders may also contribute. The staff time for the oversight of this committee is included as part of staff's general oversight of this entire project, and will be paid for by the financial sources that were identified with approval of this project.

<u>APPROVALS</u>	
COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)



Date: 5/27/16