

Agenda

County of Inyo NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NRAC)

Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room
Inyo County Administrative Center
Independence, CA 93526

Inyo County Planning Department
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DAVID GERMAN (Vice-Chair)	MEMBER	(Appointed 10/6/2015-10/6/2018)
DOUG THOMPSON	MEMBER	(Appointed 10/6/2012-10/6/2015)
TOM NOLAND	MEMBER	(Appointed 10/6/2013-10/6/2016)
DANA JEFFRIES	MEMBER	(Appointed 10/6/2013-10/6/2016)
WALTER SHARER (Chair)	MEMBER	(Appointed 10/6/2014-10/6/2017)

VACANT	ALTERNATE MEMBER	
EARL WILSON	ALTERNATE MEMBER	(Appointed 02/17/2015-10/6/2017)

JOSHUA HART, AICP	PLANNING DIRECTOR
DIANE FORTNEY	PROJECT COORDINATOR

Items will be heard in the order listed on the agenda unless the Committee rearranges the order or the items are continued. Estimated start times are indicated for each item. The times are approximate and no item will be discussed before its listed time.

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June 9th, 2016

- 5:00 P.M.**
- 1. ROLL CALL** – To be taken by Staff.
 - 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - 3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – This is the opportunity for anyone in the audience to address the Committee on any related subject that is not scheduled on the Agenda.
 - 4. MINUTES** – The Committee will review and consider the minutes from the March 17, 2016 meeting.
Action Item
 - 5. DRAFT REVISED LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE INYO NATIONAL FOREST AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT** – The Forest Service has released a draft Revised Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Inyo National Forest. The Committee will receive a presentation from staff and provide input to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.
Action Item
 - 6. RECRUITMENT EFFORTS** – The Committee will receive a presentation from staff regarding recruitment efforts and upcoming vacancies.
 - 7. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - 8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT/COMMENTS**

9. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2016 MEETING

MEMBERS:

DAVID GERMAN (VICE-CHAIR)
DOUG THOMPSON
TOM NOLAND
DANA JEFFRIES
WALTER SHARER (CHAIR)

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ALTERNATES:

VACANT
EARL WILSON

STAFF:

JOSHUA HART, AICP
DIANE FORTNEY

PLANNING DIRECTOR
PROJECT COORDINATOR

The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on Wednesday, March 17, 2016, at the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room in the County Administrative Center in Independence, CA.

WALTER SHARER, Chair opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL – Members in attendance: Tom Nolan, Walter Sharer, Dana Jeffries and Alternate Earl Wilson. Mr. Wilson participated on the Committee as there were absences. David German and Doug Thompson were absent.

Also present was Joshua Hart, Planning Director; Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner and Diane Fortney, Project Coordinator.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT – This was the opportunity for anyone in the audience to address the Committee on any related subject that was not scheduled on the Agenda.

There was no one from the public wishing to address the Committee.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2015.

There was no action taken, quorum of members that attended December 17, 2015 meeting were not present.

ITEM 5: NRAC MEMBER RECRUITMENT – Staff will provide an update on recruitment efforts.

Mr. Josh Hart, Planning Director provided update. Mr. David German's request to continue serving on the committee was approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Hart encouraged committee member to continue reaching out to the public for interest.

ITEM 6: OWENS VALLEY SOLAR ENERGY STUDY (OVSES) – As part of the Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment process the Owens Valley Study Area was designated to be evaluated separately. The County was awarded a grant from the California Energy Commission to conduct this work. County and consultant staff has been working on data collection and public and Tribal outreach to prepare the study. The County has approved the final report, and Staff will present the outcomes.

Ms. Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner presented an overview of the final report and provided a demonstration of the data mapping available at www.databasin.org/ovses. The data collection for this report can be used by the County and members of the public for research and project planning. The data is available at no cost to the public. This collaborative effort created an extensive data base that can be maintained and updated by planning staff.

ITEM 7: NORTH SIERRA HIGHWAY CORRIDOR/SPECIFIC PLAN – Caltrans selected the County and the City of Bishop to prepare a Corridor Plan for North Sierra Highway, roughly between the Tri-County Fairgrounds and the Paiute Palace. The County, City of Bishop, and the Bishop Paiute Tribe, and the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority have pledged to support development of a Draft Specific Plan, and potentially a Final Specific Plan and associated Environmental Impact Report. Staff will present the project and current status.

Mr. Joshua Hart, Planning Director provided the presentation. The first phase of the project is partially funded by a grant from Caltrans with additional funding from the City of Bishop, Bishop Tribe and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority. The first phase is a Corridor Plan which looks at streets, traffic, transit, infrastructure and pedestrian travel is expected to take 2-3 years to complete. A Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report (Phase II) is broader and includes land use, design guidelines, long term planning, identification of environmental concerns and coordination between plans. Project has a large group of stakeholders including, but not limited to, City of Bishop, Inyo County, Eastern Sierra Community Service District, Bishop Tribe, Cal-Trans and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority.

The Corridor Plan covers from the Fair Grounds to the Casino. Areas of concern include traffic at Hwy. 395 and Hwy. 6 intersections (The Wye), Highlands Mobile Home Park intersection, See Vee Lane extension and Casino expansion. Open lands along Hwy 395, north past the Veterinary Hospital are owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and leased to local ranchers. Release of LADWP lands is part of the long term water agreement.

Phase II depends on the outcome of Phase I and is not yet funded. Mr. Hart will continue to solicit funding for Phase II while work is being completed on Phase I during which the Planning Area will be identified.

Committee member Mr. Wilson stated he would prefer development on LADWP lands be south of the North Sierra Highway where there would be less environmental concerns.

ITEM 8: FOREST PLAN UPDATE - The Inyo National Forest is drafting an updated Forest Plan. The County and the Forest Service have entered into a Memorandum of

Understanding designating the County as a Cooperating Agency in developing the Plan. Staff will report on recent activities arising out of its responsibilities in regards thereto.

Mr. Joshua Hart, Planning Director reported the Draft EIS would be available in the spring for public comment. New areas have been identified for consideration as Wilderness. Cottonwood Creek, Rock Creek, Big Pine Creek and Oak Creek have been identified as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The County has provided comment and has permitting concerns for these creeks. The County has also expressed concern about the large number of proposed Species of Conservation Concern.

ITEM 9: PLANNING DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Hart notified the committee of the following: DRECP's re-release of the Areas of Environmental Concern due to noticing errors; BLM is reviewing their Planning Rule; Planning Department has a new member Tom Schaniel, a local architect, on staff and an additional staff member starting in April.

ITEM 10: COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

No reports given.

ITEM 9: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The committee scheduled meeting on June 9th, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Prepared by:

Diane Fortney
Staff to Natural Resource Advisory Committee