

# COUNTY OF INYO NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## DRAFT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 03, 2016 MEETING

### MEMBERS:

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

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### ALTERNATES:

LINDA EMERSON  
EARL WILSON

### STAFF:

JOSHUA HART, AICP  
DIANE FORTNEY

PLANNING DIRECTOR  
PROJECT COORDINATOR

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The Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on Thursday, November 03, 2016, at the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room in the County Administrative Center in Independence, CA.

DAVID GERMAN, Vice-Chair opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL** – Members in attendance: David German, Doug Thompson, Tom Nolan and Alternate Earl Wilson. Mr. Wilson participated on the Committee due to absences.

Also present was Josh Hart, Planning Director; Michael Draper, Associate Planner and Diane Fortney, Project Coordinator.

**ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**-Was led by David German.

**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 July 12, 2016 meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Committee-member Wilson to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Committee-member Thompson.

The Motion passed 4-0-2, with Committee-member Jeffries and Sharer absent.

**ITEM 5: SIERRAN AMPHIBIANS** – Due in part to litigation from the Center for Biological Diversity, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been promulgating regulations regarding the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad since 2013. Also in 2013, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks issued an Environmental Impact Statement to remove non-native fish from certain lakes accessed through the County. In 2014, USFWS listed the amphibians under the Endangered Species Act. Recently, USFWS issued a final rule designating *critical habitat* for the species in Inyo County, and the Parks issued a Record of Decision regarding their project. Staff will provide an update to the Committee about these developments. The Final Rule and additional information can be found at the following link.  
[http://www.inyoplanning.org/projects/USFW\\_YellowLeggedFrog.htm](http://www.inyoplanning.org/projects/USFW_YellowLeggedFrog.htm)

Discussion was held by the Committee. Areas of concern included removal of land and/or reductions in grazing allotments. The need for the fishing public to have maps showing which lakes will no longer have fish. Protection for fish from grazing within the Golden Trout area already exists, now the fish are going to be killed to provide amphibian habitat.

Questions to staff included:

Is there a risk to humans if the fish killed by chemicals are eaten? *Risk was unknown by staff.*  
Has the fish kill already happening? *Some fish kill has already taken place in Kings County.*  
Does the chemical used kill more than fish? *Yes, waters will be treated during low larva times.*  
How much land will be taken out of grazing? *Planning does not have these numbers. USFWS has stated it will not close grazing.*

**ITEM 6: SOUTH-EAST COUNTY SPECIFIC PLANS** – On October 5th, 6th and 7th 2016, public visioning meetings were held in Charleston View, Tecopa and Shoshone. These meetings were very well attended and the participants worked hard with County staff to develop 'Vision Statements' for each community. These statements will act as the guiding principles for each plan. Staff will present an update on the project.

The Vision Statements and additional project information can be found at the following link.  
<http://www.inyoplanning.org/SpecificPlansforCharlestonViewTecopaandShoshone.htm>

Michael Draper, Associate Planner provided the update. Local input included the need for Residential Solar to provide power to off grid locations. Committee Member Thompson suggested grant funding options for internet service should be researched and continued local input is important.

**ITEM 7: DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN RECORD OF DECISION** – The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is a multi-agency conservation plan for renewable energy development in areas of the Colorado/ Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. It is a landscape scale plan to provide for the siting of renewable energy projects in tandem with habitat protection. The primary agencies responsible for the DRECP are the California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their efforts have included the input from a multitude of agencies and local governments including Inyo County. The BLM recently issued a Record of Decision for the Plan. Staff will provide an update.

The Record of Decision is available at the following link.

Mr. Joshua Hart, Planning Director, provided the update. Mr. Hart noted that BLM changed land designation from Unallocated to General Public Lands. Solar areas around the community of Lone Pine have been removed but Solar Designation of LA DWP land should be watched for in phase II.

**ITEM 8: 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. An Advisory Committee has been formed and three public meeting have been held to date. An Environmental Constraints Analysis and Draft Background/Opportunities & Constraints Report-Public Services and Infrastructure have been completed. Staff will update the Committee on the current status of the project.

The Environmental Constraints Analysis and addition project information can be found at the following link. <http://www.inyoplanning.org/NorthSierraHighwayCorridorSpecificPlan.htm>

Mr. Joshua Hart, Planning Director, provided the update.

Committee members discussed and provided the following concerns. Need for pedestrian safety and lighting. Lighting should consider “night skies”. Address parking issues at business located along the highway. Design should not encourage bicycles up onto sidewalks and pedestrian areas. Add rumble strips to keep cars away from bike lanes. Encourage continued flow to connect the area to downtown and to compliment, not compete against the existing business. Traffic safety issues due to lack of local experience in use of roundabouts.

**ITEM 9: PLANNING DIRECTORS REPORT**

Terms for two committee positions have expired. Notice of Vacancy was published in the October 25, 2016. Request for appointment must be received by November 10, 2016.

**ITEM 8: COMMITTEE MEMBER’S REPORT/COMMENTS**

Committee Member German reported that he had attended one of the North Sierra Highway Corridor/Specific Plan meetings.

**ITEM 9: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The committee scheduled a poll for the next meeting in February.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Diane Fortney  
Staff to Natural Resource Advisory Committee