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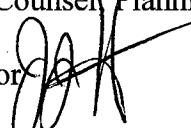
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MEMO

DATE: October 26, 2010

TO: Inyo County Board of Supervisors

CC: County Administrative Officer and Counsel; Planning Commission; NRAC

FROM: Joshua Hart, AICP, Planning Director 

RE: Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors from NRAC October 14, 2010 Meeting

The NRAC recommended the following to the Board of Supervisors at its October 14, 2010 meeting. Additional clarifying input was provided by Mr. Tanksley and Mr. Scott, which is included in Attachment Nos. 1 and 2.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 5 (Renewable Energy)

1. Staff continue with the Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment.

NRAC Agenda Item Nos. 6 and 7 (Alabama Hills)

1. If the Board of Supervisors supports the Alabama Hills designation being proposed by the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group (AHSG), that every effort be made to mitigate land use restrictions and that additional lands be made available.
2. If the Board of Supervisors supports the efforts of the AHSG, provided that the impacts of additional land use restrictions are mitigated, and that additional lands be released.
3. The potential socioeconomic impacts of the proposed designation be analyzed as required by the Inyo County General Plan, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requirement for land use planning, etc., and that the analysis of the impacts be a requirement and written in the legislation being considered.
4. Coordination be thoroughly written in and addressed in the legislation.
5. Private lands be given full unrestricted access.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 9 (Open Space Zoning and Wilderness)

1. Wilderness be removed as a permitted use in the Open Space zoning district.
2. Special use areas be considered.
3. Consideration be given to splitting the Open Space zoning district into several distinct zoning districts.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 12 (Inholding Access)

1. The County take a more proactive stance to protecting inholding access.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 13 (Wilderness Resolution)

1. A resolution be drafted opposing more wilderness in Inyo County.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 14 (Point of Order in Public Comment Portion of Meetings)

1. Inyo County residents be given the opportunity to address the Board of Supervisors and other County boards, commission, committees, etc. before non-residents.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 16 (NRAC Meeting Schedule)

1. The NRAC meet once every 1.5 months, rather than every three months.

Thank you. If you have any questions, please call me at (760) 878-0268 or email me at jhart@inyocounty.us.

Attachment 1 – Comments from Mr. Tanksley

Mr. Tanksley provided the following comments regarding the NRAC recommendations. The numbered comments relate to the numbered NRAC recommendations in the memo.

NRAC Agenda Item Nos. 6 and 7 (Alabama Hills)

2. Release should be in accordance with federal releases; for every acre restricted, 10 acres should be released--WSA's--19,000 acres are being restricted so 190,000 acres should be released. Consideration be given to our Renewable Energy efforts and planning.
3. And review of the Impact analysis be conducted with Inyo County's own review and a determination will be made at that time whether to move forward with the Designation
What are the impacts as a result of the legislation to Inyo County and it's residents?
Insure a thorough Mineral analysis following the same recommendation as the socioeconomic recommendation. Develop, coordinate, and review prior to approval of legislation.
5. Reasonable access and federal agencies can leave everyone walking up the road!!

NRAC Agenda Item No. 9 (Open Space Zoning and Wilderness)

2. Consider developing an MOU with our Federal Agencies to manage areas such as the Alabama Hills. An MOU special use is easier to alter than Congressional Designations if things change.
3. The open Space Zone is a conglomeration of competing uses. Wilderness and Private property are at odds. Industrial and Agriculture are at odds. 40 acre minimum development and 5 acre (existing parcels) are unclear. Clarification of "Natural Resource Areas" needs attention.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 12 (Inholding Access)

1. Develop MOU with Federal Agencies is a possibility along with Road maintenance agreements and new Road classification.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 14 (Point of Order in Public Comment Portion of Meetings)

1. The above will reflect respect for Inyo County voting constituents by honoring their positions on an issue as well as consideration for their time and availability to be at the forum while still giving non-citizens of Inyo an opportunity to voice positions.

NRAC Agenda Item No. 16 (NRAC Meeting Schedule)

1. Too much to discuss and accomplish to meet once a quarter.

Attachment 2 – Comments from Mr. Scott

Mr. Scott provided the following additional comments regarding NRAC Agenda Item No. 14.

Make it a policy that Inyo County citizens be given first opportunity to express their opinion over citizens from outside the county---based on prior speaking signups or other guidelines established by the Board.

The above will reflect respect for Inyo County voting constituents by honoring their positions on an issue as well as consideration for their time and availability to be at the forum while still giving non-citizens of Inyo an opportunity to voice positions.

This policy would only apply to specific issue public forums put on by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. (Boxer-McKeon wilderness issue is an example)