Annual Report 2004

Protection
Restoration
Education
MONO LAKE COMMITTEE MISSION

The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens’ group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

PHOTOS BY ARYA Degenhardt, ELIN LJUNG, GEOFF McQUILKIN, BARTSHE MILLER
Dear Mono Lake Friends,

2004 was a year of significant successes on behalf of Mono Lake. Thank you to all the Mono Lake supporters for your letters to decision makers, personal involvement, and financial contributions!

The Committee’s educational programs continued to thrive in 2004, reaching thousands of visitors and Los Angeles youth. Our ability to support sound science grew with the creation of the Mono Basin Field Station. We continued to be a vocal advocate for water conservation in Sacramento and Southern California. And our Mono Lake protection and restoration efforts achieved many victories. Here are some highlights:

- **Stopping flawed highway plans**: In 2004, the flawed plan by Caltrans to widen the highway next to Mono Lake without due consideration for the lake’s unique resources ground to a stop—and we now can confirm it will not proceed.

- **Preserving State Park authority**: The Committee spoke up when the authority of the Department of Parks and Recreation to protect Mono Lake was legally challenged. We helped reach success in court and we wrapped things up by obtaining clarifying state legislation to assure that there can be no future misinterpretations of Mono Lake’s protection.

- **Creating new funding for the Sierra**: The Committee worked to build bipartisan support for the creation of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Signed into law last fall, the Conservancy is a new way to bring much-needed funding to conservation projects throughout the Sierra, including Mono Lake.

- **Progress in rewatering Mill Creek**: In 2004, Committee staff, experts, and attorneys—and many letter writing members—advocated a hydropower relicensing settlement that will correct the historically excessive diversion of Mill Creek streamflow. By the year’s end a successful agreement took shape between federal and state agencies, Southern California Edison, the Committee, and others.

- **Undoing the damage of water diversions**: The Committee is deeply involved in restoring the lost resources of Mono Lake and its streams. Los Angeles completed two major construction projects in 2004, allowing higher water volumes to be delivered to Rush Creek and refurbishing the Lee Vining diversion dam to allow sediment to pass downstream and to better assure delivery of proper stream flows.

- **Stopping inappropriate development**: The Committee undertook major actions to head off the subdivision of the Cunningham property immediately adjacent to Mono Lake, in violation of federal law. New legal arguments and media coverage throughout the country resulted, leading to the purchase of the property in early 2005 for purposes of transferring it to public ownership.

Our many successes give us so much to be proud of, and the improving health of this magical part of California gives us inspiration to be ever vigilant on Mono Lake’s behalf. New challenges face us, such as continuing overdevelopment and subdivision pressures, and new opportunities await us, such as expanding our successful youth education programs. Thank you for your support—we look forward to continued success together for many years to come!

Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director, Operations

Frances Spivy-Weber
Executive Director, Policy
## Financial Highlights

### Fiscal Year 2003 Revenues and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Support</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Contributions</td>
<td>838,306</td>
<td>812,117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations and Bequests</td>
<td>117,804</td>
<td>107,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assets Released from Restriction</td>
<td>242,999</td>
<td>260,683</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,199,109</td>
<td>1,180,391</td>
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<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Center Sales Program</td>
<td>121,324</td>
<td>151,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue</td>
<td>53,407</td>
<td>54,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Other</td>
<td>52,597</td>
<td>59,599</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>227,328</td>
<td>265,349</td>
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| Total Income                         | 1,426,437  | 1,445,740  |

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<tr>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Education and Outreach</td>
<td>715,460</td>
<td>786,886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Policy Development</td>
<td>476,834</td>
<td>257,928</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,192,294</td>
<td>1,044,814</td>
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<tr>
<th>Supporting Services</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>251,184</td>
<td>309,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>126,955</td>
<td>120,779</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>378,139</td>
<td>430,706</td>
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| Total Expenses                       | 1,570,433  | 1,475,520  |

### Capital Campaign Donors

In 2004 the Mono Lake Committee Capital Campaign raised $500,000 for a Southern California policy endowment; and $100,000 toward its $1 million goal of supporting sound Mono Lake science through creation of the Mono Basin Field Station on former motel property in Lee Vining. An Outdoor Education Center and improved office space for staff are also on the Campaign agenda.

Howard & Harriet Allen
Rich & Erin Atwater
Virginia Barber
Joan Barker
James Berkus
Joseph & Gayle Brower
Ms. Emelda Burrows & Mr. Lynn Burrows
Neil & Mimi Burton
Steven & Carolyn Conner
Alison Davis
Dick & Ginny Davis
Grace de Laet
Patricia Edward
Sally Gaines
Bill Geyer
Ronald J. & Nina Gilson
David Grubbs
Edward J. Hard
Cole & Priscilla Hawkins
Robert & Phyllis Henigson
Rosalind M. Hewesman
Phillip & Naomi S. Holm
Ms. Rampa R. Hormel
Brielle Johnick & Steve Schmidt
David Kanner
Jerry, Grace & Mike Lieberman
Ed & Maria Manning
Genny Smith
Mrs. Mabelle Jean Smith
Frances Spivy-Webber
Jack & Jill Stark
Tony & Sherry Taylor
Dong Virtue & Kathy Day
Michael Weber
Dan Weinstein & Vicky Schiff
Ms. Judith Weston & Mr. James R. Worms


- Howard & Harriet Allen
- Rich & Erin Atwater
- Virginia Barber
- Joan Barker
- James Berkus
- Joseph & Gayle Brower
- Ms. Emelda Burrows & Mr. Lynn Burrows
- Neil & Mimi Burton
- Steven & Carolyn Conner
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- Jack & Jill Stark
- Tony & Sherry Taylor
- Dong Virtue & Kathy Day
- Michael Weber
- Dan Weinstein & Vicky Schiff
- Ms. Judith Weston & Mr. James R. Worms
2004 Free Drawing Sponsors

- Anne Bredon, Artist
- Base Camp Cafe, Mammoth Lakes
- Chart House Restaurant, Mammoth Lakes
- Cinnamon Bear Inn, Mammoth Lakes
- Double Eagle Resort & Spa, June Lake
- Douglas & Cindy Dunaway, Artists
- Footloose Sports, Mammoth Lakes
- Jack Trefry, Artist
- Jim Stimson, Photographer
- Mammoth Lakes Ice Creamery
- Mono Lake Bike Park
- Nicey's Restaurant, Lee Vining
- Nicola Voorhees, Artist
- Patagonia
- Rainbow Tarns Bed & Breakfast, Crowley Lake
- Saloon Skis
- The Ansel Adams Gallery
- The Mono Inn at Mono Lake
- The Yosemite Association
- Wilson's Eastside Sports, Bishop