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Mono Lake Committee Establishes the New Mono Basin Field Station

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For Immediate Release

The Mono Lake Committee is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of the King's Inn in Lee Vining, California. Purchased from Mammoth Lakes' residents Paul and Kathleen Rudder, the former motel property contains 16 units of varying size that will be used for a variety of projects including a much needed field station for Mono Basin research scientists. Located just one block behind the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore, the property, currently called "the Annex" by Mono Lake Committee staff, will also be used for seasonal staff housing.

The purchase of the King's Inn is a major step forward in the Mono Lake Committee's ongoing capital campaign, a program initiated in 2003 to establish funding for a new outdoor education center, make research and lodging facilities available to Mono Basin scientists, provide more efficient

office space for Committee staff, and create endowments to ensure the longevity of the Committee's policy program. Geoff McQuilkin, Co-Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee, offered thanks to Paul Rudder for helping with this positive step in the future of the Mono Lake Committee's dream of furthering outdoor education for California's children and to the advancement of scientific research in the Mono Basin. "Paul and Kathleen worked with the Mono Lake Committee on the purchase of the King's Inn and donated a significant portion of the sales price to the capital campaign".

A portion of the property will become the Mono Basin Field Station, to be used by scientists investigating Mono Lake and the Mono Basin. The Field Station will continue the 28 year history of intensive scientific study of Mono Lake's unique ecology, geology, bird populations, and water chemistry. Already 6 ornithologists and 1 geologist are scheduled to use the field station in the upcoming spring and summer months.

To learn more about the Mono Lake Committee and ongoing scientific research projects, visit www.monolake.org or call (760) 647-6595.

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