



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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December 9, 2020

Mono County Board of Supervisors

c/o Clerk of the Board

Shannon Kendall

PO Box 715

Bridgeport, CA 93517

Submitted via email to: skendall@mono.ca.gov

RE: Tioga Inn Specific Plan Amendment hearing scheduled for December 15, 2020

Dear Mono County Board of Supervisors,

The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) is writing in support of the Mono Lake Kutzedika'a Tribe's request that the Tioga Inn Specific Plan Amendment hearing planned for December 15 be rescheduled.

At the Board's hearing on October 14, 2020 the Board deferred a vote on project approval. The purpose of the deferral was to provide time for additional consultations and discussions in hopes of developing resolution to two specific project concerns:

- 1) Resolution of concerns raised by the Kutzedika'a Tribe about the project, including project mitigations the proponent can implement to remedy impacts to the Tribe's cultural heritage resources.
- 2) Exploration of solutions to the significant public safety problem posed by the project's failure to develop a safe route between the project site and the town of Lee Vining for pedestrian and bicycle use. Conversations with Caltrans were specifically mentioned.

The Tribe, in their December 7, 2020 letter to the Mono County Board of Supervisors, reports that there have been no meetings held between the Tribe and the project proponent, despite scheduling efforts by both parties. It is essential that a meeting, and any necessary subsequent actions, take place prior to a Board hearing so that the Board and the public can be informed about the resolution of the Tribe's concerns.

Additionally, rescheduling would provide public benefits. MLC notes that with the hearing date less than a week away no public information has been provided about the County's investigation of the public safety concern flagged for further exploration. As a result, the public is uninformed about any project changes and

approval conditions that are under consideration and is thus unable to comment effectively in advance and at the hearing.

Lastly, rescheduling would provide further opportunity for consultation with the Lee Vining Fire Protection District. Mono County remains in a state of emergency in the Walker area due to the tragic Mountain View fire and the major destruction it caused in a very short amount of time. Significant fire safety concerns have been raised about the Tioga Inn project and presented extensively to your Board by the Lee Vining Fire Protection District and others. It is our understanding that since the October 14 hearing there has been no communication by the project proponent or county staff with the Lee Vining Fire Department and no attempt to resolve or sufficiently mitigate LVFPD concerns. The Mountain View Fire is an unfortunately dramatic reminder of the necessity of doing so.

In short, it appears the December 15 hearing date will not provide the Board with the information it requested for consideration. MLC urges the Board to honor the Tribe's request and defer the hearing until consultation and resolution of the Tribe's concerns has been accomplished.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director



Bartshe Miller
Eastern Sierra Policy Director