

TOWN COUNCIL/MONO COUNTY SUPERVISORS JOINT MEETING STAFF REPORT

Title: Discussion and Direction on Extreme Weather 2022-2023 Emergency Response and Recovery.

Meeting Date: May 16, 2023

Prepared by: Daniel C. Holler, Town Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

County Supervisors and Councilmembers will discuss and provide appropriate direction on information provided on the Extreme Weather 2022-2023 Emergency Response and Recovery including an option to share consulting services to prepare an After-Action Report.

BACKGROUND:

The extreme 2022-2023 winter storms resulted in Mono County, Inyo County, Town of Mammoth Lakes, State of California, and the Federal Government declaring jurisdictional States of Emergency. The record setting event created challenges for local agencies in providing basic services and has resulted in substantial damage to local infrastructure. Each agency has and will incur substantial costs related to responding to the emergency and repairing damaged infrastructure and facilities. The emergency was managed through a joint Mono/Inyo County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and supported by a State Incident Management Team. A variety of State resources were deployed throughout the region in response to the needs of the impacted communities.

The agencies are now in the transition process of providing limited response, planning for ongoing impacts from flooding, and initiating recovery operations. Mono County has qualified to receive FEMA support for “Individual Assistance” or “IA.” The County has not yet been qualified by FEMA for “Public Assistance” or “PA.” The request to include Mono County under this designation was made. Under the IA designation, Disaster Recovery Centers are (have been) being set up in Mono County. One center will be in Bridgeport and one in Mammoth Lakes beginning Monday, May 15, 2023. There will also be mobile centers traveling to other communities throughout the County. These centers will provide several federal, State, and local staff to assist individuals and businesses in the recovery process. See attached information. A presentation from FEMA will provide detailed information at the meeting.

Town and County staff will provide brief updates on the status of on the ground recovery efforts and steps being taken now and as we look ahead over the next several weeks. This includes ongoing repair work and planning for potential flooding impacts. Staff will be available to discuss the response efforts through the Emergency Operations Center and the use of State Resources.

The Town and County will both be completing an After-Action Report. Due to the time required to complete this report and the desire of both agencies to have a plan that provides recommendations looking forward, it is recommended that the Town and County jointly hire a consultant to assist in the plan development. A review of local emergency operations plans will also be part of the review process. The plan will have agency specific as well as more general comments and recommendations.

Mono County has applied for a grant to update the multi-agency hazard mitigation plan. This required plan maintains eligibility for local jurisdictions to apply for and receive Hazard Mitigation Grant funding, which is offered annually. The update will incorporate lessons learned about the hazard potential in various areas of the County, and updated data.