



California Department of Food and Agriculture
Division of Fairs & Expositions
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California, U.S.A. 95814

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing on behalf of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to express the vital importance of the Tri-County Fairgrounds as a community center, economic driver, and regional resiliency hub for the Eastern Sierra region. As a key institution, the Fairgrounds plays an integral role as community center, a regionally serving events center, a cultural hub and a critical resource for regional emergency preparedness.

The Fairgrounds not only provides a venue for the celebration of local culture, history, and agriculture, but it also serves as a central gathering space for community members from Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties. It is a unique facility where public events, educational programs, and recreational activities unite residents, visitors, and businesses alike. The significance of this facility cannot be overstated, as it contributes to the social fabric of our region and generates substantial economic benefits through events that define our community, including the Labor Day Fair and Bishop's namesake Mule Days celebration.

Moreover, the Tri-County Fairgrounds plays a pivotal role in regional resilience. During emergency event, the Tri-County Fairs serves as the emergency operations center, providing a central place for organizations such as the Red Cross to mobilize, shelter for persons who have been evacuated, and livestock facilities for evacuated animals. The Fairgrounds also was the central location for COVID-19 testing during the pandemic. The ability of the Fairgrounds to quickly pivot and provide necessary services during emergencies, including wildfire evacuations and public health crises, underscores its value as an essential asset for the region's safety and well-being.

Given the Tri-County Fairgrounds' essential functions, we strongly emphasize the need for prompt appointments to the 18th D.A.A. Board of Directors. The timely and strategic appointment of new board members is crucial to ensuring the continued success of the facility and the organization as a whole. We also request transparency into the appointment process because of its significance and visibility in our small community. Effective leadership is key to advancing the Fairgrounds' mission, appointing key administrative staff, securing adequate funding, and ensuring its long-term sustainability. A fully staffed board will enable the organization to continue its work as a cornerstone of our community and to plan effectively for the future, addressing both current operational needs and long-term development opportunities.

We respectfully urge you to prioritize the prompt appointment of board members who are committed to fostering the Fairgrounds' role as a community and economic driver, while also advancing its capacity as a regional resiliency center. The Tri-County Fairgrounds is not only a



beloved institution but also a critical resource for the entire Eastern Sierra region, and its continued success is dependent on robust governance and strong leadership.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support in ensuring that the Tri-County Fairgrounds can continue to thrive and serve our community.

Sincerely,

Bob Gardner

Chair, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments