



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority  
**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff  
**Subject:** Executive Director Report  
**Meeting date:** February 26, 2025  
**Prepared on:** February 20, 2025  
**Attachments:** None

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Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program:

Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator:

- Staff executed an amendment to the agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to extend the term of the agreement and scope of work to continue work under the grant through December 31, 2026 to expand environmental review to the Mono Basin.
- Staff is working to build capacity to support the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and strengthen relationships with federal and NGO partners leveraging Inyo National Forest Liaison Funding.
- Staff attended Wildfire Resiliency Action Finance Team meetings
- Staff attend the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance meeting
- Staff met with Steve Nelson to discuss conversations with LADWP leasees surrounding the Bishop community to inform wildfire mitigation pre-planning.

Towns-to-Trails:

- Staff met with multiple agency and local jurisdiction partners to confirm appropriate route connections through communities and areas with infrastructure gaps, including: Inyo County Transportation Planning, Mono County Community Development, City of Bishop Planning, Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation and Community development, Supervisor McFarland, Alpine County Economic Development, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, Bureau of Land Management, and others.
- Next steps:
  - Alta Planning and Design will prepare a planning document that includes a project description, a proposed alignment, reference to other regional trail planning efforts, and identification of gaps and next steps.
  - The planning team will develop an online platform ("storymap") to improve communication with the public about the project and the proposed alignment.

- Staff will hold final public report-out meeting. This meeting will be held virtually to reach all three counties.

California Jobs First Initiative:

- Staff prepared three applications for Catalyst Funding:
  - Eastern Sierra Business Resource Programming
  - Eastern Sierra Collaboratives
  - Chipmunk Canyon Feasibility Analysis
- California Jobs First awards will be announced March 21, 2025

ESCOG Administration:

- ESCOG's has been meeting with interested parties to build a sustainable capacity model to support the INF Liaison position, Catalyst scope and establishing improved ESCOG administration and operations.
- Staff has been participating the Regional Housing Needs Assessment planning process.
- A draft RFP for a consultant to prepare a regional housing needs assessment has been prepared and is being circulated by Mono County's contractors.
- Ongoing grant administration and reporting for the CDFW Proposition 1 grant, Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism grant, and California Jobs First Initiative.
- Staff continues to work with the Institute for Local Government to refine the ESCOG strategic plan.