



STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff
Subject: Executive Director Report
Meeting date: April 30, 2025
Prepared on: April 25, 2025
Attachments: None

Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program:

Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator:

- Staff onboarded Kristen Pfeiler in support of regional wildfire coordination capacity, including the development and submission of the USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant and coordination for the Phase 2 Calfire Wildfire Coordination Grant
- Staff held a kick-off meeting for Phase 2 of the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator Project
- Staff participated in the Wildfire Resiliency and Financing Action Team (WRAFT) biomass planning subcommittee meeting.
- Staff coordinated with representatives regarding impacts from federal funding uncertainties on local projects.

Towns-to-Trails:

- Staff and Consultants worked to finalized Towns-to-Trails document and storymap.
- Staff made final presentation to the public on the final alignment and proposed next steps. Nearly 60 attendees from Inyo, Mono and Alpine Counties attended.
- Staff provided agency partners final input opportunities on the proposed alignment. Feedback was positive and supportive.
- Staff provided a presentation to the Fort Independence Tribe for to integrate with their regional transportation planning effort to support increased active transportation connections to the community of Independence.

California Jobs First Initiative:

- Staff met with project partners to refine project scope and budget, secure partner buy-in on project implementation and develop project objectives, including the Business Resource Center, Inyo County, the Bureau of Land Management, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the US Forest Service, and the Inyo County Agricultural Commissioner.

- Staff negotiated three awarded contracts with the Sierra Business Council.
- Staff has been coordinating with regional Sierra Jobs First project awardees to identify opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Staff has participated in the working groups for Natural and Working Lands, Tourism and Sustainable Recreation and Sustainable Agriculture.

ESCOG Administration:

- Staff met with each regional manager individually to discuss ESCOG current and future activities.
- Staff provided a semi-annual update on ESCOG activities to Mono County and the City of Bishop, with presentations to Inyo County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes forthcoming.
- Staff has been participating the Regional Housing Needs Assessment planning process.
- Staff continues to host a regional economic development roundtable for information sharing and collaboration, including Inyo County, Mono County, the City of Bishop, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Alpine County, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, the Sierra Business Council, the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center, and RCRC.
- Staff met with the Kern, Inyo, Mono Workforce development board to discuss service provided within the Eastern Sierra region and opportunities for future collaborations to support strategic regional initiatives.
- Ongoing grant administration and reporting for the CDFW Proposition 1 grant, Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism grant, and California Jobs First Initiative.