



Yosemite • Mono Lake • Bodie

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**Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 10 2023 at 9:00am at Lee Vining Community
Center**

9AM – call to order and introductions

In Attendance:

Kim Traynor – (formerly) Yosemite Gateway Motel, Norma and Manuel Romero – Yosemite Gateway Motel, Lily Pastel – Mono Lake Committee, Elin Ljung – RPAC, Robbie Di Paolo – Mono Basin Fire Safe Council, Stephanie Banta – Lake View Lodge, Nancy Pinizzotto – Nicely's etc, Margie and Wayne Beaver – Beaver's Sporting Goods, Bob Gardner – Mono County Supervisor, Paul McFarland, Cory Zila – Tioga Green, Corey Auchoberry – Chevron, Francisco Copado – Mono Cone, Jeff Hansen – ConSpec, Dennis Domaille and Denise Molnar – Mobil Gas Mart, Jameisha Washington USFS

9:15 Fall meeting minutes approved.

Local Agency updates: See end of minutes for attached details from agencies

USFS – Jameisha Washington

- Forest Service visitor center – opening May 26, 7 days a week (likely 8:30-5PM)

- Fuelwood harvesting/wooding season starts June 1
- Delayed campground openings: Lower LV and Aspen campgrounds will be open ASAP (late May – mid June)
- Will follow up with details as progress is made
- Horses at South Tufa – interpretive signage will likely be added
- Public meeting on horses to come, stay tuned
- OHV staff this year
- Assessing damage and making seasonal repairs at campgrounds
- More staffed than in previous years – building capacity and planning to do more.

Mono County - Bob Gardner
from NPS re: Tioga Road

- Tioga road will open, but no estimated date. Similar wet years had opening dates in late June/early July
- Weekly Tioga Road update emails to begin soon

From Mono County

- Working on county-wide housing issues – possible development on county land near the community center, looking for properties that are for sale as well. Funds are available to develop housing.
- New snow removal equipment is being purchased and delivered.
- Work in ongoing on Monitor and Sonora passes
- Bob will check in with YNP about county resources assisting with the Tioga Road
- Requesting federal assistance for an avalanche escape road along old 395. Old 395 is currently washing out and risking internet connectivity.
- Chris with Mono County emergency operations is preparing for runoff
- Individual assistance available from FEMA for winter-related damage

Jeff Simpson Mono County Tourism

- Business appreciation lunch Friday at Lee Vining Community Center (Please RSVP).
 - o Tourism analytics
 - o Google tools
- 75% of normal fish stocking allotment. Schedule is set for fish stocking.
- USDA rep meeting May 15

SCE

- Matt Parulo: anticipating runoff
- Emergency preparedness resources are available
- Portable generator resources are available
- Financial assistance programs are available

CalTrans

- Crews are near Blue Slide on the Tioga Road
- Conway Ranch shoulder widening project on 395 this summer
- Cemetery road repaving around June 5
- Redoing HWY in town (May-Oct 2025) and will be contacting businesses

RPAC – Elin Ljung

- Next meeting 6:30 June 14th will be in person at the community center
- Volunteer board seeking new members
- RPAC is often the first to know of upcoming development projects. This group is a conduit for agencies to connect with community
- Contact Elin Elin.ljung@gmail.com or Bob Bgardner@mono.ca.gov for more information.

Mono Basin Fire Safe Council – Robbie Di Paolo

- Home hardening
- Defensible space
- Information about fire prevention and fighting resources
- Focused on Lee Vining, Mono City, and HWY 167 communities
- Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday.
- Next meeting is at Lee Vining fire hall on May 24th from 5-6PM – all are welcome
- Fire safety signage is being posted throughout the area
- Campfire safety flyers will be included with wood sales
- Wildfire coordinator Wendilyn Grasseschi is working on grants that could benefit the fire safe council
- <https://www.eswildfirealliance.org/mono-basin-fsc>

Appointment of new officers

Treasurer/secretary

Motion made by Kim Traynor and seconded by Nancy Pinizzotto to appoint Lily Pastel treasurer/secretary– passed

President of Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce

Kim nominates Cory Zila as chamber president – goes to vote – passes 11-1

Budget report

Current account balance: \$3,354.02

Projected expenses: \$1,514.55

18 chamber businesses

Social media update

posts daily, boosted posts for chamber members, social media position needed.

Cory volunteers to assist with social media, Mono Lake Committee and Denise also willing to help

Fish Report – Wayne Beaver

\$3,200.00 for fish stocking saved up

2 stocks paid by Mono County

Wayne working on getting fish into Saddlebag

Hoping for a load of fish by next week

Writing a letter to Yosemite National Park – Margie and Kim drafting letter

Chamber of Commerce official thank you

- Cards (handwritten) being initiated by Paul McFarland

Camp Like a Pro

Contact Paul about Camp Like a Pro materials

Business updates

Wayne: Beaver's open 8AM-5PM

Denise: Mobile mart opening May 19, 7AM-7PM

Stephanie: Lake View Lodge is opening and Basin Café opening later this season

Chevron: currently open 6AM-8PM, will be extending house 6AM-10PM in summer

Tioga Green: Open daily 9AM-7PM in winter, 9AM-9PM in summer

Yosemite Gateway: Open under new ownership this year – Welcome to Norma and Manuel!

Nicely's: Open 7 days a week from 7AM-8PM

Bodie Mikes:?

Pinizzotto Gift Shops: Opening

11:10 Meeting adjourned.

Joe Reidhead, Cal Trans District 9:

For 120 West, Caltrans crews are currently near Blue Slide. Our PIO is headed up tomorrow morning and I might be able to get you some photos before your meeting. Happy to text them to you or email.

Caltrans also has two projects just north of Lee Vining that will begin soon:

1) Conway Ranch Shoulders goes from 167 to approximately 0.4 miles north of Conway Ranch Road. This project will widen shoulders, install rumble strips, improve the chain control area, and correct a curve.

2) Cemetery CAPM goes from 0.2 miles south of Cemetery Rd to State Route 167. This is a minor pavement rehabilitation project that will upgrade guardrail and replace traffic signs.

Granite Construction was awarded both contracts, and they plan to start with Conway Ranch and then do Cemetery CAPM. We do not have an exact start date yet, but once we know it will be posted to the Conway Ranch Shoulders project page: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-9/district-9-projects-list/conway-ranch-shoulder-widening-project>

Best,

Joe Reidhead
District Small Business Liaison
& Legislative Affairs Coordinator
Caltrans District 9
(760) 881-7730

From Chris Moracek, Mono County Emergency Operations:

We continue to prepare for significant runoff in the next few weeks. Lee Vining Creek and Mill Creek should be impressive. Sand and sandbags are available at the Lee Vining Road Shop.

FEMA will be setting up Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) in Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes. They will also provide mobile DRC's to the individual communities on specific days. Schedule to be determined. They will assist individuals who experienced damage (structural and financial) during the Feb/Mar storms to register for Individual Assistance from FEMA. Centers tentatively set to open on May 15th.

From Jeff Simpson, Mono County Tourism and Economic Development:

- Disaster Emergency Loans through the SBA are available for all businesses impacted by the winter storms. Apply at [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov)
- Talked with CDFW. Fish are in all hatcheries and we will receive 75% of our normal allotment with them.
- Mono County stocking schedule is set. We will have two loads of 500 pound mix fish to Lee vining creek and Lundy Lake. We will not do Saddlebag Lake due to snow and access issues.
- We will have a business appreciation meeting for Lee Vining businesses on April 12th from 3-5 in the community center with catered food! I'll have a presentation on Tourism analytics along with a company speaking on how businesses can take advantage of Google tools and how to register their business on the platform. Please RSVP if you plan to participate in the lunch part of the meeting.
- We have a USDA rep giving a virtual presentation on May 15th to discuss all their programs and available funding. Time and invite will come in a few weeks.

any any questions, please email Jeff at jsimpson@mono.ca.gov

From Matt Paruolo, SCE Local Public Affairs:

SCE has received a few inquiries re: Spring Runoff so I am including some general information below. In addition, I would like to remind customers and businesses to continue preparing their emergency plans for homes and businesses as well as for non-emergency Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. **(There are no PSPS events anticipated at this time)**. I have also included the same links to SCE resources which I sent to you last Fall if you are able to distribute. Sorry my schedule won't allow me to attend but please let me know if there are any utility-related questions that come out of the meeting.

Runoff:

- Though we are anticipating increased water flows into and out of our reservoirs during peak runoff (June- August), we do not believe these flows will pose significant dam safety risks.
- The safety of our employees, contractors, and communities is our number one priority. We continue to operate our hydro-electric system with restrictions on reservoir levels to meet safety and seismic requirements and inspect all SCE dams regularly per state and federal guidelines.
- With the work completed since 2017 (Rush Creek System), we do not currently anticipate the need for major construction work. The improvements allow us to more effectively manage the release of excess water and reduce potential downstream impacts.
- Though our team develops and consults forecasting models, weather is always unpredictable and there are several variables which remain unknown. SCE will continue to monitor weather conditions to further inform our preparations.
- We are reducing water levels in our reservoirs to effectively manage capacity and the flow of projected natural snowmelt runoff. We do this by draining excess water through the powerhouse, large pipes, and relief valves.
- SCE is working with local agencies to provide timely updates regarding our planning and the timing of any needed water releases.
- We are also working with federal and state agencies to ensure mitigation strategies are comprehensive to help prepare customers located in downstream communities and have reviewed and amended our Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in consultation with governmental partners and key-stakeholders.

Emergency Preparedness and Customer Care Resources:

Medical Baseline Allowance Program (Overview):

If you or someone in your household requires the regular use of electrically-operated medical equipment or other qualifying medical devices, our Medical Baseline Allowance program can provide an extra 16.5 kilowatt hours of electricity per day. Provided at the lowest baseline rate, this helps offset the cost of operating the medical equipment.

Regardless of your household income, you may qualify if you meet the eligibility requirements below. We encourage you to apply for the Medical Baseline Allowance. You may be eligible for the Medical Baseline Allowance if you or another full-time resident in your home:

1. Requires the regular use of electrically-operated medical/life support equipment to sustain, replace, or restore a vital physical function, and/or
2. Is affected by a condition including multiple sclerosis, scleroderma, or is paraplegic, quadriplegic, or hemiplegic (see list on [sce.com/medicalbaseline](https://www.sce.com/medicalbaseline)), or
3. Has a life-threatening illness or compromised immune system that requires heating and/or cooling.

[More Information](#)

Portable Power Generator Rebates Program (Overview):

Beginning September 1, 2022, you may be eligible to receive a \$200 rebate (or a \$600 rebate for income-qualified or medical baseline customers) for the purchase of a qualifying Portable Power Generator. You must be located in an area designated as a Tier 2 or Tier 3 high fire risk area. Start shopping today for a generator or apply for your rebate on [SCE Marketplace](#). If you Already purchased a qualifying generator and would like to claim your rebate visit the [SCE Marketplace](#) and click the Product Rebate (Quick Link) to apply for your rebate.

[Search Eligible Generators](#) | [Learn More About SCE Marketplace](#) | [View our Portable Power Generator Educational Video](#) | [More Information](#)

Critical Care Backup Battery Program (Overview):

Providing reliable power and keeping customers safe is a priority. We are committed to helping households that require the use of electrically powered medical devices be ready for an unexpected power outage. Our CCBB program offers you a free portable backup battery to power your medical devices in the event of a power outage. And, should the power outage be an emergency that requires you to evacuate, this portable temporary power may also help while you relocate to safety. You may be prequalified if you reside in **high fire risk areas** and are enrolled in our **Medical Baseline Allowance** program, which requires the regular use of electrically powered medical equipment or another qualifying medical device.

[qualified medical devices](#) | [Learn More About SCE Marketplace](#) | [More Information](#) | [Media](#)

Portable Power Station Program (Overview):

A portable power station can help power small devices and household appliances for a limited time to help you be more resilient during an emergency. Beginning September 1, 2022, if you purchase qualifying models and live in an area designated as a Tier 2 or Tier 3 high fire risk area, you could receive a \$150 rebate.

[Search Eligible Batteries](#) | [Learn More About SCE Marketplace](#) | [View Portable Power Station Educational Video](#) | [More Information](#)

CARE/FERA Financial Assistance for Families and Individuals (Overview):

SCE understands that many customers continue to struggle financially, and that sometimes other expenses must come first. Our **Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA)** and **California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)** financial assistance programs help qualifying families of all sizes lower their monthly energy bills when they need it most.

[More Information](#)

Additional Resources:

Emergency Preparedness: <https://www.sce.com/safety/family/emergency-tips>

Customer Resources and Support: <https://www.sce.com/outage-center/customer-resources-and-support>

Public Safety Power Shutoffs: <https://www.sce.com/outage-center/outage-information/pssp>

Community Resource Centers (CRC) & Community Crew Vehicles (CCV): [Potential SCE Community Resource Centers During PSPS Events](#)

Resource Center for AFN: <https://www.sce.com/wildfire/access-and-functional-needs>