



COUNTY OF



# Inyo

## Proclamation

PROCLAMATION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF INYO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
COMMEMORATING COUNTY'S 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**WHEREAS**, Inyo County was officially established by the California State Legislature on March 22, 1866, largely carved out of territory from other California counties, including Mono, Tulare, Kern and San Bernardino; and

**WHEREAS**, the name Inyo is a Native American word derived from the area's first inhabitants, who included members of the Paiute-Shoshone, Panamint-Timbiha, Shoshone, Mono, Coso and Kawaiisu Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to being established as a County, the area that would become Inyo County played a critical role in the settlement of California during the Gold Rush of 1849 by serving as a popular route for prospectors and other "49ers" through Death Valley and the Eastern Sierra; and

**WHEREAS**, the silver mines of Cerro Gordo were the first in a long line of local mining operations producing a variety of valuable minerals like borax, gold, tungsten, boron, salt, and soda which led to the exploration and colonization of the eastern side of California and the growth of Los Angeles; and

**WHEREAS**, Inyo County, comprised of 10,227 square miles, is the second largest geographic county in the State of California, is the ninth largest in the contiguous United States, with about 98 percent of that land in public ownership, providing un-paralleled recreational opportunities and sweeping open spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, a large portion of the public lands in Inyo County's Owens Valley are owned by the City of Los Angeles and have been providing precious water to Los Angeles for more than 100 storied years via the Los Angeles Aqueduct, thereby replacing Cerro Gordo ore with liquid gold and enabling Los Angeles to become the second largest city in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the landscapes of the Owens Valley have served as the location for more than 400 feature films, from silent movies to modern day thrillers, from our favorite western movies and television shows, to science fiction films like *Tremors*, as well as modern day blockbusters like *Iron Man*; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop, the only incorporated city in the County, is the Mule Capital of the World, which honors and celebrates the contribution made by local high-country packers who, with the aid of their trusty, steadfast, sure-footed mules, forged access to the vivid spectacular panoramas of the Sierra Nevada back-country now enjoyed by a wide-variety of recreationist from across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, the High Sierra backcountry in Inyo County was explored by pioneering mountaineer legend Norman Clyde, who, along with the first generation members of the Sierra Club, advanced modern mountaineering-climbing techniques and wild lands advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, Inyo County is a land known for intriguing extremes that include Death Valley's Badwater Basin, the lowest land elevation in the United States; Mt. Whitney, the highest land elevation in the lower 48 states; 14 of California's 15 peaks topping out above 14,000 feet in elevation, along with the Ancient Bristlecone Pines, the oldest trees on Earth; and

**WHEREAS**, Inyo County located in central California, encompasses the scenic splendor of the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains, as well as the dramatic desert landscapes of Death Valley, making it a year-round picturesque playground for millions of visitors from around the State, the Nation and the world each year; and

**WHEREAS**, *El Camino Sierra*, Highway 395, has traversed the County's westerly north-south access, along the Sierra Crest since 1834 with the first recorded trip by Joseph Walker, which is now as much a *place* as it is a roadway; and

**WHEREAS**, Digital 395, a major fiber optic trunk line completed in 2013, promises to join the *El Camino Sierra* in providing access to the County's intellectual resources and quality of life and serve as the next generator of economic prosperity for the next 150 years; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 22, 2016 Inyo County will celebrate 150 years of welcoming visitors who come to Inyo County to experience the unique, diverse, irreplaceable outdoor recreational opportunities available in one of the most beautiful, accessible, pristine places in California, the United States and across the globe.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2016, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors hereby joins with the citizens of Inyo County in commemorating and celebrating Inyo County's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Dan Totheroh, First District Supervisor

Rick Pucci, Third District Supervisor

Mark Tillemaans, Fourth District Supervisor

Matt Kingsley, Fifth District Supervisor

Chairperson, Jeff Griffiths, Second District Supervisor

