



Inyo County Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526

Phone: (760) 878-0263

FAX: (760) 878-0382

E-Mail: inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties.

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15082). Inyo County is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Inyo County Adventure Trails Program (Implementation of Assembly Bill 628) identified below. Inyo County is preparing an EIR for the proposed project.

ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERESTED PARTIES: Inyo County requests your comments regarding the proposed project.

PROJECT TITLE: Designation of combined-use roads to establish the Inyo County Adventure Trails Program pursuant to Assembly Bill 628 (California Vehicle Code Section 38026 et seq.).

PROJECT LOCATION: County-wide – Inyo County and City of Bishop Maintained Mileage road systems in and around the Owens Valley in the western portion of Inyo County. The proposed combined-use routes are illustrated in the appendices.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: On October 7, 2011, the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 628, which allows for Inyo County to establish a pilot project to designate combined-use highway segments up to 10 miles long on unincorporated County roads to link existing off-highway-vehicle (OHV) trails and trailheads on federal Bureau of Land Management or United States Forest Service lands, and to link OHV recreational-use areas with necessary service and lodging facilities, in order to provide a unified system of OHV trails in the Owens Valley. The portion of the combined-use routes that are inside of the City of Bishop are being designated pursuant to the California Vehicle Code which permits up to three miles to be so designated. The proposed combined-use routes are all on existing streets and roads that are part of the Inyo County and City of Bishop Maintained Mileage Systems. Additional information is provided in the attached Initial Study and appendices, and at <http://www.inyoltc.org/ab628impl.html>.

FINDINGS: An Initial Study and Evaluation of Potential Impacts has been prepared by the Inyo County Planning Department (Attached). The Initial Study, including an environmental checklist, indicates that the proposed project could potentially have a significant adverse impact on the environment or require mitigation to avoid potentially significant adverse effects on the environment for certain aspects of the following environmental topic areas: aesthetic resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouses gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and could have cumulatively considerable environmental impacts. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared.

Inyo County will be the Lead Agency to prepare the EIR. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permits or other approvals for the project.

FILED

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RESPONSES AND COMMENTS: The Inyo County Planning Department will accept comments/responses to this Notice of Preparation for thirty days, from the date of this notice through and including November 12, 2013. Please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization and send your comments/responses to:

Elaine Kabala, Associate Planner
Inyo County Planning Department
PO Drawer L
168 N. Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526

Comments may also be sent by FAX to (760) 878-0382 or by email to ekabala@inyocounty.us

SCOPING MEETING: Scoping meetings will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 6 p.m. at the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Room in Independence, CA and Wednesday, October 30, 2013, at 6 p.m. in the Bishop City Council Chambers in Bishop, CA. All parties are welcome to attend and to present their views regarding what environmental information should be addressed in the EIR.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Initial Study is available for review on the Inyo County Planning Department website (www.inyoplanning.org) and at the following locations:

- Bishop Public Library, 210 Academy Avenue, Bishop, CA 93514
- Big Pine Public Library, 500 South Main Street, Big Pine, CA 93513
- Independence Public Library, 168 North Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526
- Lone Pine Public Library, South Washington Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545
- Tecopa Public Library, 408 Tecopa Hot Springs Road, Tecopa, CA 92389
- Furnace Creek Public Library, Cow Creek Road, Death Valley, CA 92328

If you require additional information or would like a hard copy of the Initial Study, please contact Elaine Kabala at (760) 878-0265.



Joshua Hart, AICP
Director, Inyo County Planning Department

10/10/13

Date