

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF INYO**

**RESOLUTION No. 2002- 34**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF INYO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, REGARDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION EXPANDING THE WILDERNESS SYSTEM ON THE INYO NATIONAL FOREST AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS MANAGED BY THE BISHOP FIELD OFFICE IN THE EASTERN SIERRA REGION**

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Supervisors has considered public input, both written and verbal, on various proposals to designate additional Inyo National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area lands as Wilderness; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been wide public discussion in Inyo County regarding proposals to expand the Wilderness System in the Eastern Sierra region; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Inyo County, through the participatory and inclusive processes of the Inyo 2020 Forum, identified the protection of agricultural lands and access to public lands as priorities for action, as well as a desire to increase citizen involvement to ensure that decision making at all levels of government reflect an understanding of local residents and their concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2001 Inyo County General Plan Update Goals and Policies Report identifies policies to preserve and protect a variety of recreation opportunities, appropriate access to resource managed lands, current and future extraction of mineral resources and use of public land for agricultural operations; as well as goals to provide for a balanced approach of resource protection and recreation and resource use of lands in Inyo County; and

**WHEREAS**, continued access to public lands and the maintenance of land uses on public lands such as recreation, grazing, packing, and mining are important components of the social and economic health of Inyo County and its communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Supervisors has a role in the process of determining changes to public land designations, the nature of public land access, or public land management prescriptions in Inyo County; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Supervisors cannot support the April 26, 2002 Discussion Draft of the proposed "California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002," or future iterations or revisions of this proposed legislation, without adequate protection of the overall environmental, social, and economic character of Inyo County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, the following concerns and issues be addressed in considering the April 26, 2002 Discussion Draft of the proposed "California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002" or future iterations or revisions of this proposed legislation expanding the Wilderness System in Inyo County:

Provide opportunities to obtain local consensus and support for any changes to public land designations in Inyo County and address the concerns of residents and public land users;

2. Ensure, through prior economic analysis, that Inyo County's communities and businesses will not be adversely impacted by changes to public land designations;
3. Protect existing recreation, grazing, packing, mining, research, archeological and cultural uses on federal lands, including access;
4. Protect private property rights; including vested water rights, and access to private land inholdings and other lands that may be affected by adjoining federal land acquisitions;
5. Ensure there is no net loss of privately owned property in Inyo County as a result of expanded Wilderness designations; and
6. Ensure there is no net loss in revenues to local governments necessary to provide and maintain essential public facilities and services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Board of Supervisors directs staff to actively represent the County's issues and concerns throughout the legislative process, particularly in the Congressional committee mark-up, hearings and amendment processes.

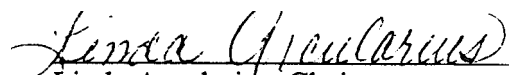
**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2002, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES: Supervisors Arcularius, Bear, Lent, Hambleton and Dorame

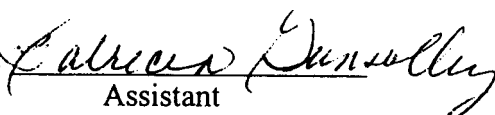
NOES: -0-

ABSTAIN: -0-

ABSENT: -0-

  
Linda Arcularius, Chairperson  
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
RENÉ MENDEZ  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By:   
Assistant