

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

PROJECT: ATV Adventure Trails of the Eastern Sierra Project (CA State Clearinghouse #2013101039)

AGENCY: Inyo County Public Works Department

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR)

SUMMARY: The Adventure Trails System of the Eastern Sierra, Inc. (Applicant) submitted an application packet for the proposed ATV Adventure Trails of the Eastern Sierra Project (proposed Project) to Inyo County on October 12, 2012. The application packet was filed in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 628, which allows for such a pilot project, and the Inyo County AB 628 Implementing Procedures. The application requested the County of Inyo to undertake a project to designate, until January 1, 2017, when the legislative authorization for the pilot project is automatically repealed, several combined-use routes up to 10 miles long on certain unincorporated County roads; and the City of Bishop to undertake a project to designate several combined-use routes of up to 3 miles long on certain roads maintained by the City of Bishop.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County's CEQA Procedures, Inyo County (Lead Agency) has prepared a Draft DEIR for the implementation of the 38 combined-use routes within County- and City-maintained roads, located within portions of Death Valley Road, outside and west of Death Valley National Park; routes in and around the unincorporated communities of Aberdeen, Big Pine, Independence, Lone Pine; and routes in and around the City of Bishop. The Draft EIR for the project is now available for public review and comment. The purpose of this Draft EIR is to inform decision makers and the public of any significant environmental impacts that may result from the Project, and of the mitigation measures and alternatives that may be adopted to reduce these impacts. The Draft EIR identifies the following potentially significant effects from the project: biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise. Of these, impacts to air quality cannot be mitigated to less than significant levels.

Interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to submit comments on the completeness and technical adequacy of the Draft EIR. Following the close of the public comment period, a Final EIR will be prepared in accordance with CEQA requirements. The Final EIR will include responses to comments received.

DATES: Public meetings on the Draft EIR will be held by Inyo County staff. Comments will be accepted during the public meetings; and written comments will be accepted throughout the review period, as described below. Public review will begin on **July 17, 2014**, and in compliance with the standard time limits prescribed by State law and Inyo County, comments should be received no later than **September 2, 2014**.

Oral and written comments, including names and addresses of commentators, will be made available for public review. Individuals may request that their identity or address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: Written comments only need to be sent to Inyo County at the following address:

Inyo County Public Works Department
ATTN: Courtney Smith
P.O. Drawer Q
Independence, CA 93526

If comments are provided via email, please email ab628@inyocounty.us with the Subject Line: ATV Adventure Trails of the Eastern Sierra Project. Comments can be included in the body of the e-mail or attached in an Adobe PDF or a Microsoft Word document. Please include commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address in the body of the e-mail.

MEETINGS: Meetings are being held to provide interested persons with the opportunity to learn about the project and submit comments on the Draft EIR. Inyo County will host the following public hearing and public workshop:

Public Hearing	Public Workshop
August 6, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.	August 6, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
Inyo County Planning Commission Inyo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers 224 N. Edwards Street Independence, CA 93526	Bishop City Council Chambers 377 W. Line Street Bishop, CA 93514

DRAFT EIR COPIES: Copies of the Draft EIR are available for public inspection and review at the following locations during normal business hours:

Inyo County Public Works Department
Courthouse Annex Building
168 N. Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526
(760) 878-0207

Inyo County Free Library
Independence, Lone Pine, Big Pine &
Bishop Branches
(760) 878-0260
inyocolib@qnet.com

City of Bishop Public Works Department
377 West Line Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-8458

The Draft EIR is available for download at: <http://www.inyocounty.us/ab628.html>

CDs are also available upon request.