



COUNTY OF ALPINE
Administration
Nichole Williamson, CAO/HHS Director

April 8, 2020

Director Charlton H. Bonham
State of California – Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
1416 Ninth Street, Room 125
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Email

Re: Postponement of Regular Fishing Season and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Fish Stocking in Alpine County

Dear Mr. Bonham,

We are writing to request the postponement of the opening of fishing season scheduled on April 25, 2020. As the smallest county in California, Alpine County has insufficient resources for hundreds of people to travel into the County to fish during a pandemic. For this very reason, we have strongly discouraged any recreational travel to Alpine County. Developed recreation sites are closed and recreational lodging (including short-term rentals, vacation rentals, time-shares, hotels, motels and campgrounds) are currently prohibited. Furthermore, all non-essential businesses in the County are closed. If opening fishing day occurs as scheduled there will be no place for anglers to eat or sleep. Additionally, we continue to struggle with numerous visitors from outside the County who are ski touring, snowmobiling, hiking and climbing

Annual fishing opening day in Alpine County is a very popular event. People travel from outside of the County and State from more populous areas will potentially bring disease and burden our public safety system. We believe that Governor Newsom's March 19, 2020 "Stay-At-Home" Executive Order requiring all Californians to stay in place through April 30, 2020 prohibits all non-essential travel to the County.

Additionally, in order to protect our County essential workers the majority of County staff are working from home until May 1, 2020. It is imperative to get our workforce back in their offices as soon as it is safely possible and allowing an influx of outside visitors will potentially affect that.

In closing, we respectfully request that the fishing opening day and CDFW fish stocking for the opener be postponed until the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order and all local Public Health Orders are lifted. Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Nichole Williamson,
County Administrative Officer
Health & Human Services Director



Dr. Richard Johnson
Public Health Officer



Tom Minder, Undersheriff
Alpine County Sheriff's Office



Terrance Hughes, Chief
Eastern Alpine Fire Department

CC Via Email:

Governor Gavin Newsom

Assemblyman Frank Bigelow

Senator Brian Dahle

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director, California Fish & Game Commission

California Department of Natural Resources

California Department of Public Health

Nora Rasure, Regional Forester Region 4, United States Forest Services

Randy Moore, Regional Forester Region 5, United States Forest Service

Karen E. Mouritsen, California State Director, Bureau of Land Management

California State Association of Counties

Rural County Representatives of California