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 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 thorough 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

Tom Minder, Undersheriff
Alpine County Sheriff's Office

Dr. Richard Johnson
Public Health Officer

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