

## WEEKLY ReCAP

February 26, 2021

### A Sampling of News and Views



**P.O. Box 935, San Andreas, CA, 95249 • (209) 772-1463**

***Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation in sustainable land use planning since 2006***

**The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.**

**Learn more at [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com).**

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***Join Us!***

***Get a glimpse into what CPC membership is like by attending a meeting.***

*There is no committment, just show up and listen in!*

## **NEXT CALAVERAS PLANNING COALITION MEETING:**

**March 1, 2021, 3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

### **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME AT CPC MEETINGS**

Organizations, groups, and individuals may join the CPC. Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website: [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com). There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the CAP/CPC. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in CPC membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, [tomi@volcano.net](mailto:tomi@volcano.net), to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

***To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP/CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.***

***Learn about more ways to get involved with CAP/CPC here!***

## **Board of Supervisors Meeting February 23, 2021**

**Watch the Video Here**

## **Planning Commission – February 25, 2021**

**Watch the Video Here**

**You can find current agendas and agenda packets, as well as previous agendas on the County page here**

**Interested in learning more about the General Plan Update? Click Here**

## **Sharp decrease in Yosemite National Park tourism highlights COVID-19 economic impact**

*Guy McCarthy / February 18 2021 / Union Democrat*

The number of recreation visitors to Yosemite National Park dropped by nearly half in 2020 to 2.26 million, a 48.7% decrease from 2019 when 4.42 million visitors were counted at the top tourism draw in the Central Sierra.

The sharp decline in recreation visitors to one of the state's and nation's most popular destinations is a stark reminder of how COVID-19 has raked the Highway 120 and Tuolumne County tourism-based economies since the pandemic — which

has contributed to the deaths of more than 487,495 Americans — began early last year.

The 2020 recreation visitor total for Yosemite is the lowest in more than 45 years. The last time the park counted fewer than 2.26 million visitors in a year was 1973. The park set a record with 5,028,868 recreation visitors counted in 2016, and averaged 4.25 million visitors annually from 2017 to 2019.

More than 90% of the business at Lucky Buck Cafe in Buck Meadows on Highway 120 in Mariposa County comes from Yosemite recreation visitors, Lucky Buck owner Denise Anker said Tuesday in a phone interview.

"When the park was closed, my business was down 90 to 95%," Anker said. "That right there tells you we don't get many locals. It's all about Yosemite."

Overall annual sales at Lucky Buck were down 62% in 2020, Anker said, and she thinks a lot of that is because the park was closed from March to June.

"We got hit harder than Yosemite, when you compare 62% to 48%," Anker said. "We got hit really hard because of the restrictions. We were down more than Yosemite traffic was down by. Of course it had a huge impact on the bottom line. I've taken on a huge amount of debt just to remain open."

There might be other business owners who will share rosier numbers, Anker said, but she refuses to sugarcoat the situation. Her plan is to hang in there and hope for better days approaching. She hopes this past weekend is a positive sign.

"We had a really good President's (Day) weekend," Anker said. "Sunday was the second highest day we've had in 12 months. Usually those high-traffic days are in summer, so it's encouraging. To see this in February, that is a silver lining. I was completely surprised to see such a high number, like a summer day, in February."

Anker emphasized that indoor dining is allowed in Mariposa County. Further west on Highway 120 in Big Oak Flat in Tuolumne County, Anker's brother, Steve Anker, owns Priest Station Cafe, which has been closed since early January. He said Tuesday the whole year of 2020 "sucked in every way imaginable."

The decrease in visitors to Yosemite hurt Priest Station Cafe, and so did the pandemic itself, because eating in a restaurant is a social activity, he said. Folks are less likely to want to enjoy a pleasant meal at a cafe in the midst of a pandemic.

Closures of the park also hurt Tuolumne County residents at a time when everyone could use "the calm, beauty and inspiration of nature we were all denied," Steve Anker said. He added that while he has been closed since just after New Year's Day, he is "super excited to open up again soon."

A spokesperson for the Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce could not be reached for comment on Tuesday.

County tourism statistics for 2020 are not expected until the first week of May,

Lisa Mayo, president and chief executive officer for Visit Tuolumne County, said Tuesday. Nevertheless, only having about half the visitors to Yosemite, the impact to the Mother Lode's tourism economy is very significant.

Yosemite is a key reason that international travelers come to the county. International travelers stay longer and therefore spend more money at their travel destinations, "so not having them is a huge hit to our economy," Mayo said.

Domestic travelers also spend multiple days in the area, to experience Yosemite and other gems in the county. When the park is not accessible or has limited accessibility, it impacts the county's economy and its components, especially hotels, shops, attractions and restaurants. From a tourism standpoint, fewer Yosemite visitors means fewer visitors in other parts of the county.

"While Yosemite is a huge draw for tourism, at Visit Tuolumne County we really work to get Yosemite visitors to explore the other amazing parts of our county as well," Mayo added.

The county's reliance on Yosemite tourism is underscored whenever anyone searches online for "Visit Tuolumne County." The very first hit those search terms bring up is headlined "Start Your Yosemite National Park Vacation in Tuolumne County."

Denise Anker specifically criticized the system intended to limit Yosemite visitors that's currently in place and was used for several months when the park was open in 2020.

"This crazy reservation system, that whole policy is really negative to marginalized communities," she said Tuesday. "It really penalizes people of lower economic needs. People need devices and persistence to get a reservation. It excludes a lot of people. It's a complicated system. People without a computer, it makes it hard to get into the park. The park is supposed to be for everyone, not just people with computers and high-end devices. People don't understand that. They get all the way to my restaurant and they don't know how to get into the park."

Communications staff for the park did not respond to requests Tuesday. In a social media post on Friday, Feb. 12, park staff reminded Yosemite visitors that face masks are required in all federal buildings and lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, including narrow or busy trails, overlooks, and historic homes.

The reservation system for Yosemite visitors, which was in place from June to October 2020, was imposed again early last week.

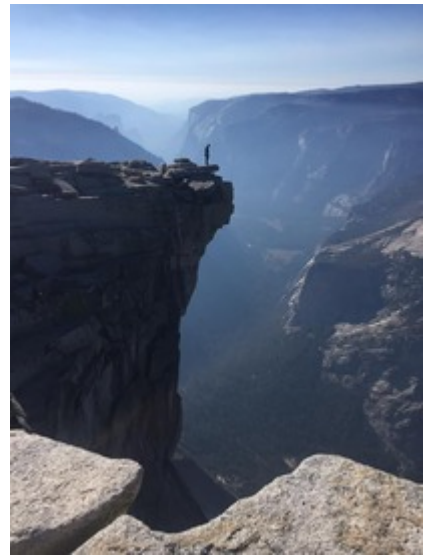
Every daytime reservation is valid for a vehicle and all occupants of the vehicle, Yosemite communications staff said. For visitors staying inside the park — at the Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite Valley Lodge, or Camp Upper Pines — daytime reservations are included in nighttime accommodation reservations. The reservation system will remain in effect in Yosemite until local public health

conditions improve. Reservations can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Contact Guy McCarthy at [gmccarthy@uniondemocrat.net](mailto:gmccarthy@uniondemocrat.net) or 770-0405. Follow him on Twitter at @GuyMcCarthy.

## **Supervisors to consider county-wide zoning map update**

*Noah Berner / February 19 2021 / Calaveras Enterprise*



The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors will consider amending the county's zoning map at an upcoming meeting.

"On March 9, the board of supervisors will consider amending the zoning map to bring zoning into conformance with the General Plan and to rezone all Unclassified and Highway Service zoned parcels," a press release from the planning department reads. "Approximately 6,900 parcels will be affected by these changes."

Since the new General Plan was adopted in November of 2019, the planning department has been working to update the county's zoning to make it consistent with the General Plan. In December of 2020, draft maps were posted on the county's website for review, and on Feb. 11, the planning commission recommended that the board approve the proposed zoning changes.

"The proposed changes can be viewed on the county's open web portal through the planning department's website at <https://planning.calaverasgov.us> under the 'zoning' tab," the release reads. "Directions for finding a parcel and if it is proposed to be changed are also available at that site."

Those in need of assistance in accessing the site can contact the planning department by phone at (209) 530-6494 or by email at [PlanningWeb@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:PlanningWeb@co.calaveras.ca.us).

Comments regarding the proposed changes can be sent to the planning department's email at [PlanningWeb@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:PlanningWeb@co.calaveras.ca.us) or to the board of supervisors at [bosclerk@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:bosclerk@co.calaveras.ca.us).

For more information, contact Planning Director Peter Maurer at (209) 754-6394.

**[Visit the CPC Website Here for more information and assistance viewing the zoning map!](#)**

## **TUD, other agencies discuss progress to acquire PG&E water rights, infrastructure**

*Alex MacLean / February 22 2021 / Union Democrat*

Tuolumne Utilities District provided an update on Thursday regarding negotiations to acquire Pacific Gas and Electric Co. assets in the South Fork Stanislaus River watershed and rights to water in New Melones Reservoir, though the possible costs remain unclear due to a confidentiality agreement.

The TUD Board of Directors hosted a rare joint meeting via video with the county Board of Supervisors, Sonora City Council, local Me-Wuk Indian tribes, and other stakeholders, during which members spoke about the need for community-wide cooperation and collaboration due to the scope of the undertaking.

“This is not a TUD, Tuolumne Utilities District, deal. This is an entire Tuolumne County deal,” said TUD Director Ron Ringen, vice president of the board. “TUD just happens to be the one entity that’s able to maybe, hopefully, bring this thing to a conclusion for all of Tuolumne County.”

TUD announced in March last year, just before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, that it had entered exclusive negotiations with PG&E to acquire the company’s Phoenix Hydroelectric Project, between Sonora and Long Barn, at the upper end of the TUD-owned Tuolumne Water System.

The project includes the Phoenix Powerhouse, Lyons dam and reservoir, the Tuolumne Main Canal, and pre-1914 water rights, which are some of the most sought after in California because they take precedence during times of scarcity such as a drought.

In addition, TUD would also acquire Strawberry Dam and Pinecrest Reservoir that are part of PG&E’s Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project, because about 95% of the water that the district serves to some 44,000 residents originates in the South Fork Stanislaus River and is impounded in both Lyons and Pinecrest reservoirs.

“One of the key, and frankly most important, assets that come with these projects are the water rights,” said Tom Johnson, TUD’s chief negotiator in the process.

The rights date back to the 1850s when miners formed the Tuolumne County Water Co. to provide water for working gold mines in the Columbia area through a ditch system that remains part of how TUD conveys water to this day.

In 1909, the company's assets and water rights were sold to the Sierra and San Francisco Power Co. that was later itself purchased by PG&E.

All of TUD's current water supply from Lyons and Pinecrest reservoirs is provided by PG&E each year for free under a contract when the county purchased the ditch system in 1983, which stipulated the utility would supply the water in perpetuity and that the county would not apply for water rights on the river.

Johnson said that PG&E first approached TUD about selling the Phoenix Hydroelectric Project because it has been trying to get rid of assets that are generating less revenue than the cost to operate and maintain them, though he couldn't disclose the numbers due to a confidentiality agreement in case the deal with TUD falls through.

The district would need to make up the revenue elsewhere to cover the costs if it acquires the assets, Johnson said, such as through rate increases, a tax, or bond measure.

Some people who spoke at the meeting expressed concerns about the potential costs on TUD customers due to current rates already being high, which Johnson said will have to be part of the discussion within the community prior to executing a purchase agreement.

Johnson said progress has been somewhat hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic and inability to negotiate in person, though he estimated a purchase and sale agreement will take about a year followed by 18 months to get the necessary licenses, permits and train TUD staff to operate the facilities.

One of the arguments in favor of acquiring the assets is because PG&E will likely look to another buyer if TUD doesn't purchase them, which wouldn't have to honor the 1983 contract that has served the community up until now.

The possibility of another private entity potentially purchasing the assets and looking to make money off the water provided to the county was discussed, which was something that TUD Director Jeff Kerns said scares him and should scare everyone.

"No matter what we finally agree to with PG&E on what this system may cost to operate or to take care of into the future, we're going to pay for it, our ratepayers are going to pay for it, whether we own it or we don't," he said. "I think it is imperative ... that we get this deal done, that all of us lock arms and march forward in lockstep, because our future generations depend on it."

Many of the other elected officials who participated in the meeting seemed to be in agreement

with Kerns.

County Supervisor Ryan Campbell, who serves as board chairman, said he believes it's an issue that affects all public agencies in the county, but they will need to be clear with people that the process will be "long, difficult, and potentially messy."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly right a wrong, a crime that was done against future generations of Tuolumne County residents," he said. "Surrendering these water rights has caused difficulties that have rippled through this county for a generation."

John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center in Twain Harte, spoke in opposition to TUD acquiring the assets and said he felt that the discussion had been mostly one sided.

Buckley said it was "total speculation" at this point that PG&E would sell a money-losing system to another entity that would turn around and break the contract for free water in perpetuity, but the district would have to spend millions of dollars to take it over.

"It is really sad for me to, before there has been a full discussion of both sides, to see county supervisors, other politicians and board members here endorsing the acquisition of PG&E's facilities without even a clear understanding of many of the mitigations, or requirements, or costs that would be there," he said.

Shaun Crook, a member of the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau, said he couldn't tell his organization to support the idea without more details about how it would potentially affect rates for agricultural customers. While he noted that he's not against the idea of acquiring water rights, he felt ag interests have been left out of the discussion.

Another man who identified himself only as "David" expressed similar opposition as Buckley and said he heard it cost PG&E nearly \$1 million to repair a weeklong outage. He also asked whether anyone other than TUD would buy the assets because they are losing money.

Jesse Barton, TUD's attorney, said it's "not a leap" for him to think of a third party buying the assets because he's been contacted by a number of entities looking to purchase water rights so they can capitalize on them during times of drought.

Barton said the question is now whether people want the owner of the system to be a for-profit entity that would pass on the costs associated with it in addition to make money on top of that, or a public agency like TUD that would do the work at cost.

"Yes, the 1983 contract was a wonderful deal, it provides free water. That's in the past," he said. "What we're confronted with now is a new paradigm."

In addition, Barton provided an update on negotiations with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for



a contract to water from New Melones Reservoir that the county was originally promised as part of an agreement allowing for the development of the facility.

A contract with the bureau, which the TUD board voted to pursue in late 2019, would help to diversify the district's water sources so it's not solely reliant on the South Fork Stanislaus River.

Barton said the process is expected to take about two to three years to complete and would provide backup water for TUD during times of emergency, such as drought or to fight fires, in addition to cover future needs that could be affected by development and climate change.

The cost for the water from New Melones would be \$45 to \$70 per acre-foot, as well as \$193 per acre-foot for electricity costs to pump the water out of the reservoir.

Contact Alex MacLean at [amaclean@uniondemocrat.com](mailto:amaclean@uniondemocrat.com) or (209) 768-5175.

## **Angels City Council approves next step for Habitat for Humanity subdivision**

*Noah Berner / February 23 2021 / Calaveras Enterprise*

Although Angels Camp hasn't seen much new home construction in recent years, Habitat for Humanity Calaveras (Habitat Calaveras) has been working to change that.

At a meeting on Feb. 16, the Angels Camp City Council held a public hearing and unanimously approved a development agreement for Habitat Calaveras' subdivision project off of Copello Drive.

The roughly 17-acre project area is planned to contain 107 units of workforce housing, including 65 single-family homes and seven 6-plexes, as well as a small recreational area. Households of up to four making up to \$64,000 can qualify to purchase the homes, and larger families can make up to \$80,000. Applicants must also qualify for a low-interest loan and put in "sweat equity" during the construction process.

"(I'm) looking forward to seeing this project go through," Councilmember Jeremy Leonard said during the meeting.

Destination Angels Camp (DAC) Executive Director Debbie Ponte read a letter of support for the project on behalf of the DAC Board of Directors during the public hearing. While Habitat Calaveras Executive Director Scott Behiel and Councilmember Gretel Tiscornia are also currently on the DAC board, they did not participate in drafting the letter, Ponte said.

"The need for housing for our local workforce has been determined to be a top priority by our local business leaders," she said. "Housing is a key component to support our economic development mission and enhance business vitality. In

addition, this project also meets the needs as identified and approved by the city council within the housing element of the General Plan 2020. This project will bring much needed housing for our workforce, which in turn will help support our economic strategy to bring jobs to our city and our region.”

Behiel said on Feb. 19 that he was excited to see the project moving forward.

“It was a long time coming, but everything’s approved,” he said. “We have a development agreement in place, so now the next step for us is to answer all of the conditions of the approval.”

Few changes were made during the approval process, Behiel said.

“We pretty much got what we are looking for,” he said. “What was really important for us is that the city agreed to make the roads public roads and put them in their maintenance program. That helped us a lot. ... The city has been really, really good to work with.”

Behiel said that the project has been met with widespread community support.

“We went in front of the planning commission, and also the city council twice, and in neither of those three meetings did we get anybody that objected,” he said. “They had some questions, but there were no objections.”

Habitat Calaveras will now focus on finalizing plans and securing funding for putting in roads, sewers, sidewalks, gutters, lights, landscaping and other infrastructure, Behiel said. He said that he hoped to be able to get bids for putting in the infrastructure this summer, and to have the actual construction of homes begin in the fall of 2022.

“Late ‘22 or early ‘23 would be our hope,” he said.

Because applicants will have to qualify for low-interest loans, Behiel advised those interested in purchasing the homes to begin working to get their finances in order by ensuring they have a credit score of at least 640, low consumer debt and a stable job history over the previous two years.

“A lot of people come in with good credit, but they’ve got a \$600 truck payment that blows them out of the water,” he said. “If people can start getting their ducks in a row a year early, then by the time they’re ready to go, they’re going to look good as borrowers.”

In addition to the subdivision project, Habitat Calaveras is also building a home in Copperopolis, which is planned to be completed in late April or early May.

“We’ve got a homebuyer chosen,” Behiel said. “She’s going to be out there tomorrow working on it.”

The organization is also engaged in a countywide home-repair program to carry out critical home repairs for low-income households.

Last fall, Habitat Calaveras received a \$323,000 grant for its home-repair program, which will need to be spent within two years, Behiel said. Households of up to four making up to \$64,000 can qualify, while larger households can make up to \$80,000.

"Now, our challenge is to get the word out that we have this program available," he said. "We put in a lot of roofs; we do a lot of decks; we've even repaired a couple of foundations."

The program offers affordable home repairs done by licensed contractors. Households making below \$35,000, seniors, disabled residents and those in need of repairs due to a natural disaster can generally qualify for a \$2,000 subsidy towards the repairs.

"We can offer a subsidy of \$2,000 to help do some minor repairs, but if they have a roof they want to put on, we've got to give them a home-repair loan," Behiel said. "It's interest free for five years, and we keep the payments really low. We also have preferred contractors that offer discounts, so we can get it done at a lower price with interest-free financing, but they still have to be able to qualify."

Though the nonprofit's biggest fundraiser, Habitat Hoedown, was held virtually last fall, the event again raised more money than the previous year, netting \$58,000.

"The community support has been amazing," Behiel said. "All the money that was raised at that event is going directly to the subdivision. People are excited about the impact. It's nice to build a home at a time now and then, but when you look at the overall big picture, is that really having much of an impact on the community? And if we can build 100 homes, now there's an impact. That's something that everybody can feel and everybody's going to benefit from."

Those interested in applying for Habitat Calaveras' programs or volunteering can contact the organization's headquarters at (209) 890-3848.

For more information, visit [habitatcalaveras.org](http://habitatcalaveras.org).

## **Calaveras Public Health announces 22 additional COVID-19 deaths occurred during winter surge**

*Dakota Morlan / February 25 2021 / Calaveras Enterprise*

Calaveras County Public Health has announced that 22 additional COVID-19 related deaths occurred in the county within the past three months, nearly doubling the county's total death count.

The fluctuations in local COVID-19 data are due to Public Health's efforts "to reconcile" case information with the state's reporting system as the county

emerges from its months-long surge, the health department stated in a Thursday news release.

"The public should be prepared to see a rise in reported case fatalities that occurred in the last three months, including 22 additional deaths that will be reflected in the county's COVID-19 dashboard later today," the release states. "Our thoughts are with the families that have lost loved ones."

Although the county's COVID-19 information dashboard displayed 47 total deaths as of Thursday, total confirmed case numbers had not seen such a dramatic increase, with about 80 additional cases reported since Feb. 12.

County Health and Human Services Agency Interim Director Sam Leach told the Enterprise on Thursday that there were "a lot more deaths" during the surge, including some that might not yet be reflected in the county's data.

"My understanding is it can take a few months for the confirmation process to be completed to make sure we and the state have accurate data," he said.

While all of the reported deaths were confirmed residents of Calaveras County, many of the deaths occurred outside of the county. However, Leach said he could not confirm where the deaths occurred specifically.

## **Texas storms slow vaccine rollout locally**

*Dakota Morlan / February 23 2021 / Calaveras Enterprise*

Historic winter storms in Texas have delayed COVID-19 vaccine shipments throughout the state and in Calaveras County.

The County Public Health Department and Dignity Health Mark Twain Medical Center did not receive any additional vaccine doses last week, according to administrators, leading to the postponement of some first dose appointments at the hospital this week.

County Health and Human Services Agency Interim Director Sam Leach, who oversees Public Health, stated during Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting that the county received only 100 doses in the second week of February and none last week, but he anticipates a "flood of vaccines" arriving in the coming week.

Leach said continual changes to the supply chain, both at the state and federal level, have caused confusion and frustration, though county residents have continued receiving vaccinations at a fairly steady rate. Last week, 2,300 vaccines were administered locally, largely due to pharmacies now offering the vaccine through a contract with the federal government.

"At the current rate, we're about half a year away from all those who want the vaccine getting vaccinated," Leach said. "I'm encouraged by that, looking at the math, and hopeful that it not only continues but speeds up a little bit."

Public Health is continuing to contact and vaccinate select groups of people within Phase 1B of the state's rollout plan.

All educators in the county who want the vaccine received their first dose as of Feb. 17, according to county Superintendent of Schools Scott Nanik. Leach said on Tuesday that, although supply is low, there is enough to provide second doses to all who require it this week.

Public Health has also launched small pilot clinics to vaccinate individuals 75 and older in areas where getting to the hospital might be a challenge. Leach said those clinics are advised by the state to target a "specific population" and to test out new software that may be utilized when vaccinations are more widely available. Upcoming clinics in West Point and Copperopolis are currently fully booked.

Leach encouraged residents to continue getting tested for COVID-19, even if they are not experiencing symptoms. He said that Calaveras County could move into a less-restrictive COVID-19 monitoring tier as early as March 2, if positivity rates and case numbers continue trending downward.

## **Dispersing Gray Wolf Travels from Oregon to the Central Sierra Nevada**

*CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife / February 25 2021*

Another GPS-collared gray wolf has dispersed from Oregon into California. The wolf, known as OR-93, has traveled farther south in California than the collared wolves that have preceded him.

OR-93 is a young male that dispersed from Oregon's White River pack, southeast of Mt. Hood. He was fitted with a tracking collar within the White River pack's territory in June 2020. Like many young wolves, he subsequently left his pack in search of a new territory and/or a mate.

After arriving in Modoc County in early February 2021, he quickly passed through portions of numerous California counties before arriving this week in Alpine County, between the trans-Sierra State Highways 4 and 108. He then moved just into Mono County, putting him hundreds of miles from the Oregon state line and his natal territory. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will continue to monitor his whereabouts with the cooperation of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

OR-93 is the 16th gray wolf documented to have dispersed into California, and most of those animals have traveled from Oregon. One of those dispersing wolves, OR-54, traveled as far south as the Lake Tahoe Basin before returning north. The

others have primarily traveled, and sometimes settled, in the California's northernmost counties.

The first wolf known in California since the 1920s, OR-7, first visited in late 2011. Since then, the state has seen the formation of two packs. The Shasta Pack in Siskiyou County had five pups in 2015 before disappearing late that year. The Lassen Pack, which occupies parts of Lassen and Plumas counties, has produced pups each year from 2017 to 2020. Additionally, a new pair of wolves has recently been documented in Siskiyou County and CDFW biologists believe it is likely they will produce pups this spring.

CDFW is working to monitor and conserve California's small wolf population and is collaborating with livestock producers and diverse stakeholders to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts. Gray wolves are currently listed as endangered pursuant to California's Endangered Species Act (CESA). Their management in California is guided by CESA as well as CDFW's *Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California*, finalized in 2016. More information is available on CDFW's wolf webpage at: **[wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf](https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf)**.

CDFW encourages those who see wolves to detail their sightings on its online reporting site: **[wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report)**.

**Media Contact:**

**Jordan Traverso**, CDFW Communications, (916) 654-9937

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Opportunities Newsletter  
for March/April 2021:**

[Funding Opportunities Newsletter | Sierra Nevada Conservancy \(ca.gov\)](#).

Click the link above to view this electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

## contrails

by JIM LEWIS

be scientific, be intellectual

lecture me on cirrus aviaticus  
how hot exhaust and particulates  
condense and dance and disperse  
over seconds, minutes, days, weeks—  
tickle my brain with explanations  
of contrail climate change

be magical, be mysterious

whisper to me how the ghosts  
of every airline disaster  
float behind those jets  
billowy white fingers reaching  
stretching for miles  
clawing their way aboard

be ignorant, be earthbound

explain to me how you never once  
look up to see those water lines  
raking fingernails across a chalkboard sky  
never bother with things so far away  
when each spring's preoccupation  
is that the creek will rise too high  
flooding out the garden sprouts  
each summer is spent fretting  
that it will run too low  
and all the corn will wither

be lyrical, be poetic

write lines that catch my breath  
before i exhale into winter air  
my own vapor trail that marks  
if only for an instant  
my passage through your life

*THE HOPPER*, THE LITERARY MAGAZINE OF GREEN WRITERS PRESS,  
ISSUE I (2016)  
Contrails — The Hopper | Environmental Lit. Poetry. Art. (hoppermag.org)

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