

MBCA Eblast

Saturday, November 7, 2015

There are two meetings this Monday we want to bring to your attention:

- 1) El Nino Forecast / Public Outreach Meeting - Monday, Nov. 9, 5:30 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center – County Emergency Services will discuss how they are preparing for flooding and mudslides that may result from unusually heavy rain fall predicted in coming months. Flood preparation materials will be offered.

A [website](#) is available for County residents to obtain information about El Nino Resources and details about the Yucca Valley Public Meeting.

- 2) MAC / Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) regular open session meeting, Monday, Nov. 9, 6:30 PM, Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree, CA 92252.

Save-The-Date: Public Meeting on BLM's WEMO Transportation Plan
Saturday, December 5, 2:00-5:00 PM, Community United Methodist Church,
6213 East Parkway in Joshua Tree (4 blocks north on Park Blvd. from Hwy 62)

The Alliance for Responsible Recreation will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposal by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to dramatically increase access for off-road vehicles in our rural communities, allowing ORVs to ride on our public roads, private property and public lands. Law enforcement cannot deal with existing problems with ORV trespass, and now the BLM wants to double the mileage of ORV routes in our communities.

The meeting will feature a detailed explanation of the BLM's Western Mojave (WEMO) Route Management Plan, maps of the network of proposed ORV routes in the Morongo Basin, and an opportunity for the public to ask questions and voice their concerns. For more information:www.orvwatch.com

Thanks to MBCA Advisors

I want to thank the MBCA Advisors for their contributions to our organization. In addition to their being a regular source of expertise for Directors to draw-on, the Board meets with the Advisors annually to seek their input for the coming year. We met last Sunday for what proved to be a fruitful dialog around issues they brought forward, as well as in response to questions posed to them. From a presentation from Advisor Greg Gilbert about a Basin-wide bike path currently under consideration by the Yucca Valley Town Council, to the value of using social media, much was learned.

mbconservation.org

Our website mbconservation.org has a new "events list" on the Home Page

featuring a list of upcoming conservation-related events in the Morongo Basin (and sometimes the Lower Desert). These are events we think will be of interest to MBCA E-blast subscribers. It will include National Park lectures, events of other conservation-minded non-profits, and pertinent government meetings, and will be updated approximately weekly. Please visit this new feature when you have a minute.

Campaign for California Deserts: Monuments

Lastly, thanks to the many MBCA members and supporters who attended the Public Meeting hosted by Senator Feinstein at the Whitewater Preserve on Oct. 13th. There was a strong showing of support there for the creation of the three new national monuments in the California desert: Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains. These lands deserve designation that recognizes their scenic, ecological, cultural, and economic importance.

Until protections as monuments are secured, it remains urgent for us to communicate our belief that these lands are not adequately protected. Please take a few minutes to express your position in an op-ed for one or more of the regional papers or, if you haven't already done so, sign the Campaign for the California Deserts' [petition](#) in support of the monuments.

Remember: It takes a Basin!

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2015 MBCA Board

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www.mbconservation.org
*MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment
that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth,
and economic well-being.*