

LETTERS

TBID "Tax" exemption

Dear Editor:

On Wednesday, July 24 the Mammoth City Council will hold a final vote on the proposed Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). As the TBID currently stands, it needs revision. Until this is done, it should not be approved by the City Council.

Under the TBID, TOT would increase 1%, most retail stores would pay 1.5%, and lift tickets at MMSA would increase 2%. Although this is being called a business assessment, in reality businesses will pass this on to consumers by charging the TBID assessment on their sales. In essence this is a "sales tax" increase without a vote of the Mammoth residents. As a result, Mammoth will have one of the highest "sales tax" rates in California. Because this will be implemented without the required 2/3rds voter approval for a sales tax increase, it is Taxation Without Representation.

There are pros and cons to the TBID, but there is one major flaw that is not adequately addressed. This sales tax will be charged not only to tourists and visitors but also to local residents. This will be a financial burden on Mammoth

residents, especially many of whom earn in the area of minimum wage.

On June 6, 2012, then Assistant Town Manager, Marianna Marysheva-Martinez, published a summary of a Taxation Study which the City had contracted from FTI Capital Advisors. Her summary says this of the Taxation Study: "It concludes that the current level of taxation within the Town is already high, the Town's population is generally not wealthy, and the Town's economy is not likely to sustain additional tax burden."

Her summary further states that among other conclusions: "Roughly 40 percent of the Town's households are classified as low-income, earning less than 80 percent of area median income (AMI), including 53 percent of renters and 24 percent of owners."

Based on the results of this study, I believe Mammoth residents should not be subjected to the TBID "sales tax." It is one thing to implement this tax on tourists and visitors but quite another to impose it on Mammoth residents, many of whom cannot afford it. Before the TBID is approved, it SHOULD BE REVISED TO EXEMPT MAMMOTH RESIDENTS from paying the tax. This exemption should be fairly straightforward to implement.

Wednesday, July 24 will be the final

chance for public comment before the City Council votes on the TBID that night. If you are a resident opposed to paying this tax, I urge you to make your

opinion known at this meeting.

Bob Solheim
Mammoth Lakes

RODEO

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[Multiple Listing Service] the close date for the escrow is July 27," said Lynn Morton, of Sierra Crest Real Estate in June Lake.

Sources have identified the buyers as the Roski family, second homeowners in June Lake for generations.

The family owns and operates Majestic Realty Co., one of the oldest and largest privately held real estate companies in the United States. Currently at the helm of the company is Edward P. Roski, Jr., President and Chairman of the Board.

According to losangelesfootballstadium.com, "As co-owner of the Los Angeles Lakers and Kings, Roski's expertise in real estate development played a key role in the development of the STAPLES Center. Majestic Realty Co. led the efforts to create the STAPLES Center, a landmark in Downtown Los Angeles."

June Lake local and former Mono County Supervisor Vikki Bauer described the Roskis as "long-time June Lake second homeowners" who "care deeply about, and understand June Lake."

Bauer said around the Loop, "we just know them as the Roskis."

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area allowed its right of first refusal on the Rodeo Grounds property to expire on March 15, allowing Intrawest to sell the property without notification.

The Rodeo Grounds are considered by many to be a key piece of property in June Lake. According to loopnet.com, "The June Lake Rodeo Grounds represent a unique development opportunity at the base of June Mountain Ski Area (JMSA). This property is located within the June Lake Rodeo Grounds Specific Plan, and is the largest available land parcel in the Mammoth Lakes/June Lake area. The Seller had previously worked on a general plan amendment that would have led the way to a 'Village type' development consisting of almost 400K sf of new residential space, almost 25K sf of new commercial space, and a direct access to JMSA via a gondola."

The property was listed for \$2.9 million.

26th Annual KIDS FISHING FESTIVAL



Saturday, July 27th, 2013
8am - 2pm Mammoth Lakes, CA
Snowcreek Ponds on Old Mammoth Rd.
FREE for Kids 14 & Under

Fishing Rods, Reels & Tackle Provided... or Bring Your Own!
Art Activities!

Lots of Raffle Prizes!!!

DFW Kids Programs!

Sponsored by Mono Council for the Arts,
Town of Mammoth Lakes and

The Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides Assn.

Call: 760-937-2942 or www.KidsFishFest.com



2013 MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM
SUMMER OF STEWARDSHIP
MOUNTAIN VIEW TRAIL
MAINTENANCE DAY!

Saturday, July 20
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHAT: Join the Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation and Mammoth Outdoor Sports for the long overdue Mountain View Trail Maintenance Day!

WHERE: Meet at the top of the Mountain View Trail by the Minaret Vista for a free bagel breakfast, safety talk and work assignments. Free lunch and lots of giveaways will be hosted on site!

WHO: Volunteers needed! Dress for trail work: sturdy, close-toed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeve shirt. Gloves and tools provided.



ONLINE mltpa.org, friendsoftheinyo.org
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FRIDAY ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR

lunch on the deck
FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY
from 11 am
featuring poolside service

SUNDAY JULY 21
at 4 pm on the deck
grand sparrow

WEDNESDAY
JULY 24 at 7:30 pm
Jonathan of
Lava Moon hosts
musician's jam

DAILY HAPPY HOUR 4:30 - 6:30 pm

51 Club Drive | Mammoth Lakes
760-934-8511
SnowcreekAthleticClub.com