

COMMUNITY

continued from page 9

our landfills.”

More info on how condominium complexes can take advantage of the program: call 760.914.0115 or e-mail brian@recyclesierra.com.

HSEF gets Flex Your Power grant

The High Sierra Energy Foundation has been awarded an \$8,000 grant as a member of the 2010 Flex Your Power Community Outreach Campaign.

Flex Your Power is California's state-wide energy efficiency marketing and outreach campaign. Initiated in 2001, FYP is a partnership of California's utilities, residents, businesses, institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working to save energy. The campaign's primary funding comes from the Public Goods Charge as approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as well as contributing municipal utilities and other partner organizations and companies.

In addition to this year's campaign, HSEF staff said they plan to recruit Flex Your Power "street teams" composed of Mammoth Middle School's 6th Grade Earth Science Classes. Students will be educated on the Flex Your Power program, given take-home activities to complete with their families and friends, and participate in a pledge drive throughout the community.

For more information, visit www.highsierraenergy.org/-flex-your-power.

Help for Hernandez

Friends and colleagues of Chris Hernandez will want to set aside time on the evening of Monday, March 1, and head up to Mammoth Mountain's Conference Center in the Old Gondola Building for a fundraising event to help cover some of his medical expenses.

Hernandez has been in recovery at Renown Hospital in Reno, healing from injuries resulting from a snowboarding accident on the Mountain.

Complete fundraiser details are included in the advertisement at right.

Fabulous raffle prizes and awesome auction items will be available, and the \$40 ticket price not only includes food and beverages, but also entry to the after-party at World Famous Lakanuki from 11 p.m. until ???

Shuttle service from the Village to Main Lodge will run from 5:45 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at Stellar Brew, Sierra Sundance, Nevados, and Giovanni's. All proceeds will go directly to Chris and his family to help alleviate medical and rehabilitation costs.

If you are unable to attend and wish to contribute, send donations to the Mammoth Community Foundation in the name of Chris Hernandez, PO Box 1394, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

COUFAL GIVES UPDATE ON PROPOSED SOLAR PROJECT

By Frederickson

The Bishop area's Chamber of Commerce met Thursday at Whiskey Creek to listen to a presentation from Gene Coufal, representing the Los Angeles Department of Water Power's (LADWP) solar array project on Owens Lake.

A pilot project has been approved to cover 616 acres of the lake area with solar panels. If the project shows signs of long-term viability, it could lead to a solar array covering thousands of acres.

At the meeting, Coufal emphasized that the project is still in the very preliminary stages. The main obstacle will be trying to get about 30 different groups on the same page, which all have vested interests in the project. These groups include government agencies, environmentalists, ranchers and other entities in the Owens Valley area. Dust mitigation on the lake bed, water conservation and investing in renewable energy sources are the three main objectives.

Since July of 1998, LADWP has been working on complying with dust mitigation measures outlined

in the Memorandum of Agreement reached by the City with the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District. Coufal said that meeting deadlines for the implementation of control measures has been the priority for the past 12 years. The measures include covering the lake with shallow flooding, gravel and managed vegetation. But these strategies have resulted in a hodgepodge of short-term, expensive solutions.

Now, LADWP, the state, and agencies such as the Audubon Society and the Department of Fish & Game, want to draft a plan for a more long-term solution for the future health of the Owens Lake area.

As L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has announced that the City will be phasing out coal power by 2020, LADWP has been investigating renewable sources of energy. Coal power currently meets 40 percent of L.A.'s energy needs. Replacing that amount with renewable energy will be a huge task, requiring a massive area to install energy-producing technology—technology like photovoltaic solar panels.

That's where Owens Lake comes in. The only locations that met the certain criteria for prime energy-producing land were Owens Lake and an area south of Independence and east of the river. While some people have asked why L.A. doesn't just install solar panels on all the rooftops in the city, Coufal said the Owens Lake area has 20 percent more energy-producing potential than Los Angeles.

Proponents of the Owens Lake solar plan say the project will conserve a huge amount of water annually. The idea is that solar panels would replace shallow flooding as a dust mitigation measure. Currently, 68,000 acre feet of water are pumped into the lake, with 27,000 more acre feet scheduled to be added April 1. Researchers believe solar panels would dampen the wind enough to prevent the massive dust storms characteristic of the area. If the pilot project proves this to be true, panels could replace water to help the dust-ridden area comply with federal air quality regulations.

Before LADWP can install the project, more research must be done on the potential environmental impacts. Coufal said no matter what, the project will have impacts on the environment, so the best mitigation strategies must also be drafted.

"This is not a project where the City is trying to pull wool over somebody's eyes," Coufal said, referring to L.A.'s unfavorable history of controversial Owens Valley projects.

He said DWP is truly trying to gather as much information and input as possible—from researchers, Owens Valley residents, and agencies—in order to ensure the best strategy for success, benefiting both the environment and peoples' energy needs.

THE CHRIS HERNANDEZ BENEFIT

AN EVENING OF APPETIZERS, DRINKS, MUSIC,
DANCING, RAFFLES, AND A COMMUNITY JOINING
TOGETHER TO HELP CHRIS HERNANDEZ IN
HIS RECOVERY!

WHEN:
Monday March 1st, 2010 • 6 pm to 11 pm

WHERE:
Mountainside Conference Center (AKA Old Gondola Room)
Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge

**ENTERTAINMENT FROM SOUL SINGER
CHRIS PIERCE AND DJ RODNEY O**

A Taste of Mammoth, donated by:
Angel's, Breakfast Club, Giovanni's, Nevado's, Petra's Bistro, Rafters, Skadi,
Stellar Brew, Thaid Up, Whitebark

Silent Auctions & Raffle Items Including: 5 Star Golf Resort Season Pass,
Ski/Snowboard Gear, 3 Night Penthouse Package, 6 Night Luxury Hotel Package,
Cabin Retreat Package with Personal Chef, restaurant gift cards...just to list a
few...

TICKETS:
\$40
Tickets can be purchased @ one of the following:
Giovanni's, Nevado's, Sierra Sundance & Stellar Brew.

Includes: Entry, Raffle Ticket, Beverages, Food, & after party
@ Lakanuki 11pm-close.

**All donations can be made to The Mammoth Community Foundation in the name
of Chris Hernandez @ PO Box 1394 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546**

Presented by Synergy Event Planning & Giovanni's

DB'S FIREWOOD

SEASONED **ALMOND** HARDWOOD
BURNS HOT, CLEAN & LONG
DELIVERY & STACKING
AVAILABLE
760.935.4465

Real Estate Inspections



CIP
Inspections, Inc.

Charles Perry
(760) 695-2527
www.cipinspections.com

Liability and E&O Insured