

No. _____



Filed _____

By _____

Board Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

- WHEREAS,** access to Yosemite National Park during peak season months is vital to the local & regional economy, and;
- WHEREAS,** the temporary Yosemite peak season reservation systems put in place the past three consecutive years for emergency reasons have created a barrier to economic recovery in our County by restricting county tourism, and;
- WHEREAS,** county hospitality occupancy levels remain significantly below pre-pandemic levels, suggesting any Impediments to tourism and Yosemite visitation recovery should be removed, and;
- WHEREAS,** local businesses serving Yosemite visitors have struggled significantly over the past three years due to the effects of the pandemic, staffing shortages, fire & smoke cancellations, skyrocketing insurance costs, inflationary cost increases, and the temporary peak season entry ticket systems, and would benefit from a return to normalcy, and;
- WHEREAS,** the peak season reservation system provides an unfair competitive advantage to lodging properties within Yosemite, whose guests do not require an entry ticket, thereby unduly impacting hospitality properties within our County, and;
- WHEREAS,** in the summer of 2022 alone, lost peak season tourism in our County is estimated to have resulted in over \$600,000 in lost tax revenue from lodging properties alone, over \$450,000 of which is lost TOT revenue, and;
- WHEREAS,** wildfire and smoke threats and associated extensive press coverage during peak tourism season represent an additional barrier to tourism, scaring off tourists far into the future, and ticketed entry systems create an additional hurdle to recovering lost tourism associated with fire & smoke threats, and;
- WHEREAS,** due to the events of the past several years, including Covid, wildfires & smoke impacts, loss of international tourism, changes in domestic travel habits, remote work, inflation, fuel prices, employment constraints, and other factors, the peak season demand pressure in Yosemite in 2023 and beyond is highly uncertain and may be significantly lower than pre-pandemic years, and;
- WHEREAS,** the National Park Service has this past several years completed significant improvements to Yosemite, including improved traffic flow, roads, and parking, which should allow the park to safely accommodate more visitors than in the past, and;
- WHEREAS,** our County has consistently promoted visitation to county sites throughout the area to help spread tourist visitation and reduce Park impact during peak season, and;
- WHEREAS,** accounts of improved experiences for Yosemite visitors associated with visitor limits due to entry ticket systems do not conversely recognize the significant frustrations, disappointment, and lost experiences of all those unable to visit the Park when they wish, and;
- WHEREAS,** the public deserves the right to the full enjoyment of public lands as long as it can be achieved safely.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Tuolumne Board of Supervisors hereby strongly recommends

- 1) The National Park Service not institute peak season visitation restrictions in 2023 and beyond, and;
- 2) Any long-term pilot system that National Park Service may consider related to peak season visitation includes at minimum 2023 as a baseline setting year with no visitation restrictions in place, and;
- 3) The National Park Service actively develops marketing campaigns to educate Yosemite visitors about peak visitation issues and options for avoiding crowds and visiting less crowded areas of the park during peak times to lessen the chance that another peak visitation system restricting public access to public lands is needed in the future.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE ON _____.

AYES:	1st Dist. _____	NOES:	_____ Dist.
	2nd Dist. _____		_____ Dist.
	3rd Dist. _____	ABSENT:	_____ Dist.
	4th Dist. _____		_____ Dist.
	5th Dist. _____	ABSTAIN:	_____ Dist.

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST: _____	No. _____
Board Clerk of the Board of Supervisors	