

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Don Semon
Director



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 2021

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Cc: Don Ashton

FROM: Don Semon, Director of Health & Human Services Agency *DS*

SUBJECT: Mother Lode Lions Club Facility Use Agreement Termination

The purpose of this memo is to advise you of the decision to terminate Facility Use Agreement 013-O1611 with the Mother Lode Lions Club of Diamond Springs, effective May 23, 2021, pursuant to Section 8 of that Agreement. The Agreement provides use of the Lions Club for Senior Nutrition congregate meals. County Facilities notified Mother Lode Lions Club of Diamond Springs, in writing, of this decision on April 22, 2021.

In early April 2021, I received a recommendation from HHS Senior Services Program management staff to terminate the agreement between El Dorado County and the Mother Lode Lions Club of Diamond Springs. The rent charged to the County for utilizing their facility for serving and distributing lunches has been considerably higher than other locations providing the same service. As a result of COVID, we have not used this facility for over a year. Recently, County Facilities staff attempted to renegotiate the agreement and bring the rental costs of the Lions Club Diamond Springs location back in line with the cost of our other congregate meal site locations. In short, the Lions Club Board of Directors was not willing to accept a rate that was comparable to the rates we pay for our other congregate meal sites.

In arriving at the decision to terminate the agreement, a number of considerations were contemplated. A rental rate cost comparison was performed between all of our congregate meal sites in an effort to be consistent. The County has been paying a considerable amount of rent over the years with the current agreement for the Lions Club facility (currently \$2,087 per month). The fact we have been paying this amount does not mean we are willing to enter into another agreement to subsidize the Lions Clubs' expenses beyond what would be considered a reasonable rate for the size of the facility or time the Senior Nutrition Program uses the building. The terms presented by the Lions Club during the negotiation process were \$1,800 per month with an annual increase. As a comparison, the agreement the County has with the Pollock Pines Community Center was negotiated at \$525 per month. When compared to our Greenwood congregate site, the County currently pays the utilities in lieu of rent, which averaged approximately \$500/month pre-COVID-19.

An unknown factor to the Senior Nutrition Congregate Meal Site Program is the re-opening date (post COVID-19). It was noted that the proposal letter from the Lions Club was silent on a suspension rate. Again, it seemed unreasonable that the County would consider paying the full rate until the congregate program reopens.

One of the main factors in this decision was the potential impact to our clients who use the Diamond Springs facility for congregate lunches. The Lions Club congregate site has been closed since March 2020 (over a year). Since the onset of COVID-19, seniors who attended the congregate meal program at the Lions Club, approximately 40 individuals per day, have been picking up meals at the Placerville Senior Center. My staff verified with the Senior Nutrition Food Supervisor that we have the capacity to accommodate the pre-COVID-19 Lions Club seniors at the Placerville congregate site once we have reopened that site for congregate dining. The Spring Street congregate site is exactly 4.6 miles from the Lions Club and takes an average of 7 minutes to drive. In addition, seniors who find themselves in a position where the other locations are personally deemed too far to travel, will be provided the option of receiving meals on wheels.

With the Lions Club of Diamond Springs congregate site currently closed, this decision will not create any gaps in the level of service being provided to the senior population. In fact, this decision will provide cost savings to the Senior Nutrition Program, starting at \$21,600 per year.

In addition, we will save in staff time, as our staff members will no longer need to travel to the Lions Club to serve meals and return to Spring Street. We should also experience a corresponding reduction in vehicle use (gas & maintenance). The cost savings of this decision will allow us to invest those funds into direct services instead of operating costs, while providing the same level of service to the affected seniors.

It should be noted that our Senior Services management discussed their recommendation with Commission on Aging Chairperson, Steve Shervey and based on the justification, he supported the decision. Our plan is to officially advise the Commission on Aging of this decision at their upcoming meeting on May 20, 2021.

As the Lions Club of Diamond Springs facility is located within District 3, on April 6, 2021, I reached out to Supervisor Thomas to advise her of this situation and get her perspective, before arriving at this decision. I provided the recommendation and the justification at that time. I also provided a summary of our communications with County Facilities staff throughout this process. Supervisor Thomas was comfortable with this decision. As a side note, District 3 is the only district currently with two congregate meal sites. The decision to terminate this Agreement will leave District 3 with one meal site, as each of the other districts currently have.

My hope in providing you with this information is that if you are contacted by a member of the public as to why this decision was made, you are better able to provide an explanation. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.