
EL DORADO COUNTY FILM ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2025-26



COUNTY FILM ORDINANCE & MOU



Current state code requires a designated person for commercial film activities



Permits required for any motion picture, television, digital media or commercial still photography on public or private property, facility or residence.



MOU: El Dorado Chamber/El Dorado Tahoe Film + Media (Film Office), clarifies obligations of parties, establishes County film permit fees, and assists in collection of more robust data and reporting.



Permit Fees - Established by Resolution 148-2025

- Application Fee: All activities conducted on public or private property within unincorporated El Dorado County
- Daily Fee & Prep/Strike Fees: Activities conducted on County roads, facilities, or properties.





El Dorado Lake Tahoe Film & Media Office

Kathleen Dodge has led the El Dorado Lake Tahoe Film & Media Office since its creation in 1993.

Supported by the County's longstanding agreements, she delivers full-service film commissioner support and remains available to productions around the clock.

Productions in the County result in the procurement of goods (food, paint, clothing, equipment) and services (carpenters, caterers, electricians, camera crews, hair and makeup), with an estimated ROI of \$7.1 million.



IN THE NEWS: *GOLD MOUNTAIN*



Ang Lee's film *Gold Mountain* is currently being shot in the Greater Sacramento area, including multiple locations in El Dorado County.



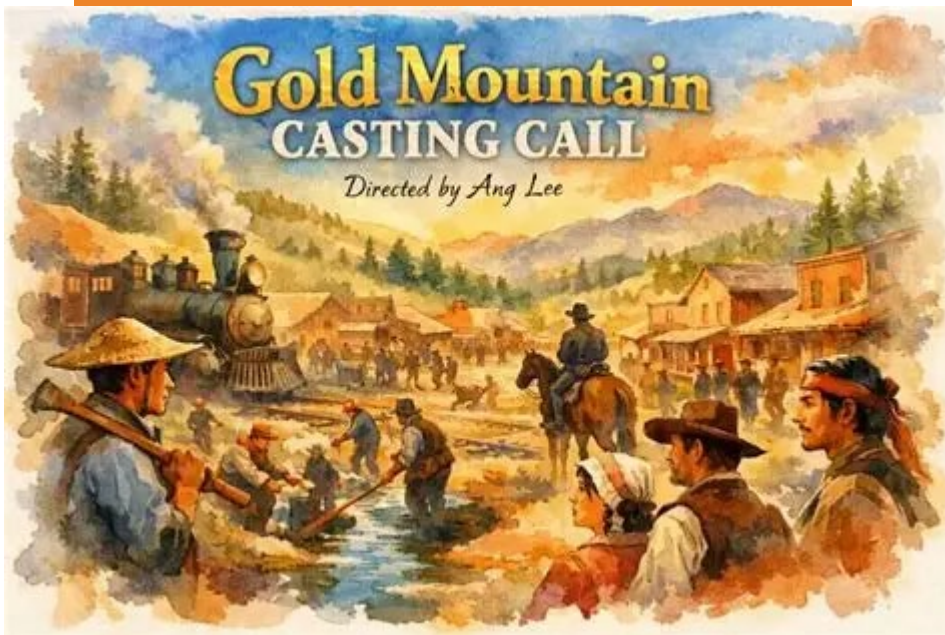
The production has been awarded California tax credits for qualified in-state expenses—part of the state's ongoing effort to retain, attract, and expand production-related jobs while boosting economic activity.



In April, a casting call gave local residents the opportunity to participate as extras (townspeople, railroad workers, butchers, blacksmiths, horseback riders, and more) (Wallace).



The production is expected to involve 58 cast members, 170 crew members, and approximately 1,300 extras, with an estimated economic impact of \$30 million (Large).



Large, Steve. "After Oscar win for Sacramento-shot 'One Battle After Another,' another major movie heads to Northern California". *CBS Sacramento*, 16 Mar. 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/ang-lee-new-film-el-dorado-county-oscars-one-battle-after-another/>.

Wallace, Nalla. "Gold Mountain brings acting opportunities to Sacramento locals". *ABC10*, 17 Apr. 2026, <https://www.abc10.com/article/entertainment/movies/gold-mountain-brings-acting-opportunities-to-sacramento-locals/103-fac00816-8957-49de-be5a-1e7c44708c4f>.



ONE YEAR LATER... WHAT WORKED?

Building on Existing Relationships

- County / Chamber Partnership
- Highly-regarded Film Commissioner

Department Coordination

- Planning and Building Coordination with other departments

Clear Expectations

- The MOU set clear expectations on both sides
- County collected fees and provided timely funding to the Chamber



ONE YEAR LATER... AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Low fees supporting Chamber payment

- Non-County Properties = no prep/strike fees
- Scale of Commissioner work does not affect level of fees

Regional Benefit

- Productions near County, but not on County location
- Goods and services procured outside the County

Data Gathering

- Productions do not always provide details needed to determine revenue to County
- Difficult to quantify economic impact



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR TWO

- Identify additional ways to structure the program to align with film industry standards and best practices, including fees
- Explore alternative avenues for funding Film Commissioner activities
- Approve the revised MOU, extending the term through FY 2026-27