Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I reside and work in Tecopa in Southeast Inyo. As a bicycling enthusiast, along with many other residents and guests to the area, I ride my bike in the local area. Whenever possible, I like to utilize my bicycle to commute to and from work. My commute is from the Tecopa Heights along the treacherous Old Spanish Trail Highway, through the triangle of downtown Tecopa, onto Tecopa Hot Springs Rd to my place of employment on Tecopa Hot Springs Rd. Anytime I ride my bicycle I am at risk and I have experienced numerous close calls. Old Spanish Trail is narrow with a dirt shoulder, which is not a safe alternative to ride a bicycle on. I have been pushed, or needed to divert suddenly from careless speeding vehicles, into the dirt shoulder on this road several times while riding my bicycle. I have been very fortunate to not have been hit and been able to prevent falls and or swerve/fall into traffic and be seriously hurt or killed. One can only be fortunate for so long and it's not a matter or question of if, but when a tragedy will occur. Due to this I have to limit the use of my bicycle to and from work and places of business for the greater part of the year due to safety concerns.

I support the Inyo County Active Transportation Program grant application to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities and implement traffic calming measures along Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd in Tecopa, California and

The Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd are essential and historic routes that connect our rural disadvantaged community and serve as vital gateways to national treasures such as Death Valley National Park and the Amargosa Wild & Scenic River. We feel that this project is particularly important because it addresses the lack of connectivity and safe crossings in downtown Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs. The creation of a complete active transportation network is vital to creating a safer and more livable community and addressing the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

Securing Active Transportation Program grant funding furthers the broader goal of creating a socially equitable and environmentally conscious community and supports Tecopa's commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship. Improving access to safe and convenient pathways promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle regardless of age, income, gender, or ability. I strongly believe that Active Transportation Program funding will have a lasting positive impact on Tecopa. I support Inyo County's efforts to make this project a reality, creating a safer, more pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment for all.

Sincerely,

Annette Colon

Southern Inyo Fire Protection District







May 28, 2024

Tanisha Taylor **Executive Director** California Transportation Commission 1120 N Street, MS 52 Sacramento, CA 95814 Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I represent the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District and I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Inyo County Active Transportation Program grant application to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities and implement traffic calming measures along Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd in Tecopa, California.

As a first responder EMS organization, SIFPD is concerned about the dangers to residents and visitors posed by increased visitation. Because of its remoteness and sparse population density, this area is perceived as being a place where laws and rules do not apply, especially when it comes to traffic. There has been growing concern about the roadways in front of the hot springs area and the downtown restaurant area. We believe traffic calming measures to be essential to lower the risk of pedestrian injury or worse. The more evident it is that the County and the community are actively paying attention to the traffic flow and taking measures to moderate it, the better chance we have of keeping our residents and visitors safe.

The Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd are essential and historic routes that connect our rural disadvantaged community and serve as vital gateways to national treasures such as Death Valley National Park and the Amargosa Wild & Scenic River. We

feel that this project is particularly important because it addresses the lack of connectivity and safe crossings in downtown Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs. The creation of a complete active transportation network is vital tocreating a safer and more livable community and address the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

Securing Active Transportation Program grant funding furthers the broader goal of creating a socially equitable and environmentally conscious community and supports the commitment of SIFPD and this local community to health and safety. Improving access to safe and convenient pathways promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle regardless of age, income, gender, or ability.

We strongly believe that Active Transportation Program funding will have a lasting positive impact on Tecopa, helping to change the perception of our community from a place where anything goes to a place where anyone can go and feel safe. We support Inyo County's efforts to make this project a reality, creating a safer, more pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment for all.

Sincerely,

Robin Flinchum, President

Southern Inyo Fire Protection District Board of Directors



Southern Inyo Fire Protection District

<u>Mail</u>: PO Box 51, Tecopa, CA 92389
 <u>Physical</u>: 410 Tecopa Hot Springs Rd, Tecopa, CA 92389 sifpd@yahoo.com • Phone & Fax: (760) 852-4130

May 24, 2024

Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I represent Southern Inyo Fire Protection District, an emergency first responder service located in Tecopa, CA, and I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Inyo County Active Transportation Program grant application to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities and implement traffic calming measures along Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd in Tecopa, California.

The Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd are essential and historic routes that connect our rural disadvantaged community and serve as vital gateways to national treasures such as Death Valley National Park and the Amargosa Wild & Scenic River. We feel that this project is particularly important because it addresses the lack of connectivity and safe crossings in downtown Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs. The creation of a complete active transportation network is vital to creating a safer and more livable community and address the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

Securing Active Transportation Program grant funding furthers the broader goal of creating a socially equitable and environmentally conscious community and supports Tecopa's commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship. Improving access to safe and convenient pathways promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle regardless of age, income, gender, or ability.

We strongly believe that Active Transportation Program funding will have a lasting positive impact on Tecopa, and as an emergency first reponder service find these improvements vital to the safety of the citizens of Tecopa and the many visitors we receive here each year. We support Inyo County's efforts to make this project a reality, creating a safer, more pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment for all.

Sincerely,

Phil Worsman Fire Chief

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF COUNTY OF INYO

To whom it may concern,

My name is Corporal Tim Plunkett. I work for the Inyo County Sheriff's Office and have been assigned to the Tecopa/Shoshone area for the past three years. During my time in the area, I have witnessed several incidents that could have been catastrophic involving vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians trying to share a small roadway barely big enough to allow two vehicles to travel around the Tecopa Hot Springs Rd. and Old Spanish Trail in the Tecopa area.

The following points are things I have witnessed and how the transportation project could help alleviate the problems and prevent any future incidents from occurring:

The posted speed limit for the area of Old Spanish Trail, near the Tecopa Francis Elementary School and the Tecopa Triangle, is 25 MPH. The school is currently closed, but drivers still travel at excessive speeds in the area. This area of the road is currently a main point of travel for "Dune riders" to get to the Dumont Dunes recreation area. The reaction area is not located in Inyo County, but just south of the county line in San Bernardino County. I have seen many trucks and trailers traveling faster than the posted speed limit. When stopped and spoken to, they claim they did not know the speed limit had dropped from the posted 55 MPH, before getting into this area. I believe the traffic calming measures would help a great deal for people to notice that the speed limit has changed, and they are now in an area that has pedestrian and bicycle traffic. As for the width of the roadway, it is barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass by each other. I believed the addition of a multi-use path, sidewalks, and bicycle path would give a safe place for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel without having to worry about traffic on the roadway.

The posted speed limit for the area of Tecopa Hot Springs Rd is also a posted 25 MPH. There are currently rumble strips at each end of the roadway when entering the area. These rumble strips are there to help get the driver's attention that the speed limit has changed from 55 MPH. I have had several people that are business owners and residents in the area speak to me about how they can tell how fast a vehicle is going by how loud it is when the vehicle crosses the rumble strips. The traffic calming measure would assist drivers with not only feeling the rumble strips but giving them something more visual to know the speed limit is changing to a slower speed. This area usually has heavy pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the fall, winter, and spring months. People travel to the area to camp for several days, eat at the local restaurants, and to enjoy the natural hot spring water in the area. The width of the road currently is also very narrow, and barely allows two vehicles to pass each other. The addition of a multi-use path, sidewalks, and bike lanes would allow designated areas for those not travelling in a vehicle to travel safely. This area also houses the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District station. By adding additional resources to the area, it would also allow the current roadway to be less congested by removing the bicycle and pedestrian traffic off the main road. Allowing emergency vehicles to travel more safely to emergency calls.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing this project.

Plum H177

Corporal Tim Plunkett #177

From: <u>Justine Kokx</u>
To: <u>Acadia Davis</u>

Subject: FW: Prevention is better than cure. **Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 5:26:02 PM

Another LOS.

From: Billy Eichenbaum

 bicyclingcowboy@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 5:23 PM **To:** Justine Kokx < jkokx@inyocounty.us> **Subject:** Prevention is better than cure.

Dear Ms Taylor:

I am a landowner in Tecopa. Of all of the substantiations of Tecopa's need for the proposed bicycle/pedestrian lanes to join my community this letter exposes what is the most significant....."Safety". If you were presently to personally see the tourists and locals walking and bicycling on Tecopa Hot Srings Road and Old Spanish Trail, you would realize without a doubt the serious danger that presently exists for pedestrians and bicyclists. These roads are a dangerous chaotic "free for all" between cars and pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition to locals walking and bicycling on them, these roads are lined with RV park businesses producing leisure hiking and bicycling visitors. The present situation on these roads is a constant danger, with pedestrians and bicyclists vying for road space while competing with motorcycle clubs cars, trucks, vehicles pulling trailers, motorhomes and the endless Sand Dunes crowd hauling huge RV's connected to trailers hauling their offroad vehicles. There has been so many close calls. Is there really not enough resources to ensure the common sense safety of people? All you would have to do is see for yourself the dangers of the present situation.

Thank you for your attention
Sincerely
William Eichenbaum

P.S. Old Spanish Trail in the section being proposed isn't even wide enough to safely allow two opposing RVs to pass each other without leaving the pavement let alone have a pedestrian or bicyclist share the road. Tecopa's Old Spanish Trail is the major route the sand duners drive to get to Dumont Sand Dunes south of Tecopa.

During the huge regular events attended by as many as 50,000 duners, huge rv hauling offroad trailers pass each other on the proposed route while going to and from the sand dunes. My letter to you is addressing the danger this is at present for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Inyo County Active Transportation Program grant application to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities and implement traffic calming measures along Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd in Tecopa, California.

The Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd are essential and historic routes that connect our rural disadvantaged community and serve as vital gateways to national treasures such as Death Valley National Park and the Amargosa Wild & Scenic River. We feel that this project is particularly important because it addresses the lack of connectivity and safe crossings in downtown Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs. The creation of a complete active transportation network is vital to creating a safer and more livable community and address the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

Securing Active Transportation Program grant funding furthers the broader goal of creating a socially equitable and environmentally conscious community and supports Tecopa's commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship. Improving access to safe and convenient pathways promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle regardless of age, income, gender, or ability.

I strongly believe that Active Transportation Program funding will have a lasting positive impact on Tecopa. I support Inyo County's efforts to make this project a reality, creating a safer, more pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment for all.

Sincerely,

Michael Jerry

Tecopa Resident



Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I represent Shoshone Village and I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Inyo County Active Transportation Program grant application to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities and implement traffic calming measures along Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd in Tecopa, California.

The Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd are essential and historic routes that connect our rural disadvantaged community and serve as vital gateways to national treasures such as Death Valley National Park and the Amargosa Wild & Scenic River. We feel that this project is particularly important because it addresses the lack of connectivity and safe crossings in downtown Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs. The creation of a complete active transportation network is vital to creating a safer and more livable community and address the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

Securing Active Transportation Program grant funding furthers the broader goal of creating a socially equitable and environmentally conscious community and supports Tecopa's commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship. Improving access to safe and convenient pathways promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle regardless of age, income, gender, or ability.

We strongly believe that Active Transportation Program funding will have a lasting positive impact on Tecopa. We support Inyo County's efforts to make this project a reality, creating a safer, more pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment for all.

Sincerely,

Shoshone Village

P.O. Box 67 State Hwy 127 Shoshone, CA 92384

Tel: (760) 852-4224 Fax: (760) 852-4250

County of Inyo



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Administration, Suite 201 1360 N. Main Street, Bishop CA 93514 TEL: (760) 873-3305 FAX: (760)873-6505

Anna Scott, Director
hhs-admin@inyocounty.us

May 7, 2024

Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I represent the Inyo County Health and Human Services Department and I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Inyo County Active Transportation Program grant application to develop pedestrian and bicycle facilities and implement traffic calming measures along Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd in Tecopa, California.

The Old Spanish Trail Hwy and Tecopa Hot Springs Rd are essential and historic routes that connect our rural disadvantaged community and serve as vital gateways to national treasures such as Death Valley National Park and the Amargosa Wild & Scenic River. We feel that this project is particularly important because it addresses the lack of connectivity and safe crossings in downtown Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs. The creation of a complete active transportation network is vital to creating a safer and more livable community and addressing the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

Securing Active Transportation Program grant funding furthers the broader goal of creating a socially equitable and environmentally conscious community and supports Tecopa's commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship. Improving access to safe and convenient pathways promotes a healthier and more active lifestyle regardless of age, income, gender, or ability.

I strongly believe that Active Transportation Program funding will have a lasting positive impact on Tecopa. I support Inyo County's efforts to make this project a reality, creating a safer, more pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment for all.

Sincerely.

Anna Scott, Director

Inyo County Health and Human Services



2001 Old Spanish Trail Highway PO Box 14 Tecopa, CA92389 760-852-4580

Discovercynthias.com cynkienitz@gmail.com info@discovercynthias.com

Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

For Pride of Place and Pride of Nation

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I represent the Tecopa Branch of the of the Old Spanish Trail Association - Nevada Chapter. I have been involved with Old Spanish Trail Association since its inception in 2008, have been a Tecopa resident since 2000 and own and operate Tecopa businesses from 2000 to present. I am clear and confident that the Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, traffic calming measures, and most importantly wayfinding and historic information signage are critical to the local community's health, safety, self-esteem, economics, and revitalization.

Tecopa lies in the heart of two National Treasures and is the gateway to a third:

- 1. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT)
- 2. The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River
- 3. Death Valley National Park

Problems and missed opportunities the Active Transportation Program can solve.

 The OSNHT trail segments and sites that lie in and around Tecopa are pristine, remote, and unchanged since they were used by Native Americans, Spanish, Mexicans, and later Mormon wagon trains, and "49ers" travelling to California gold fields. Visiting the OSNHT in Tecopa is a true immersion experience in the history that formed our nation, however, due to its pristine remote environs it is almost impossible to promote visitation, thus it has been almost ignored by the managing entities.

- 2. **The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River** with its unique beauty is one of the most important segments of the OSNHT. It has similar problems that impair promotion along with its best access located on private land, which is denied by the owner.
- 3. **Death Valley National Park**'s iconic attractions have become so over-visited that visitors seek out Tecopa's quieter environs and want the authentic experience of the Tecopa "mom and pop" businesses to meet their needs as opposed to the corporate and government run operations in Death Valley. This new influx is lacking in signage and safe access.

Solutions the Active Transportation Program can provide.

Access. There are 2 places in Tecopa that mark the OSNHT descent into the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River that skirt the private property and give an immersion experience of the OSNHT which are included in the proposed grant application: at the end of Downey Street and at the north terminus of the proposed grant route. At each of these points I propose The Old Spanish Trail Association marks these important waypoints with:

- Our iconic stunning life size steel silhouette of mules with Spanish riders. *Please* see letter of commitment and supporting documentation.
- Signage about the historic importance. *Please see letter of commitment and supporting documentation*.
- Way finding signage to the OSNHT route along the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River, for biking and hiking. Please see letter of commitment and supporting documentation.
- Our iconic concrete obelisks, which are recognized by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management as OSNHT markers. *Please see letter of commitment and supporting documentation*.
- Bike rack. Please see letter of commitment and supporting documentation.
- Bench. Please see letter of commitment and supporting documentation.

Permanence. The OSNHT and the Amargosa Wild and scenic river are permanent fixtures on the Tecopa landscape. Making this a focal point and destination for locals and visitors ensures ongoing use of every tenet of the Active Transportation Program, as businesses come and go and the local community changes over time. Meanwhile these natural and historic treasures inspire wonderful reasons to bike and hike Tecopa environs bringing pride of place to our region's locals; Native Americans, descendants of miners, lovers of the Mojave, pride of nation to domestic visitors, and a pilgrimage for foreign visitors to trace their emigrant ancestry. I urge you to consider all I have said and look favorably on awarding the grant to Inyo County.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kienitz Owner/operator of Cynthia's Safaris

The undersigned support this letter and the supporting documents.

Cynthia Kienitz Old Spanish Trail Association cynkienitz@gmail.com

Dwayne Jechart Old Spanish Trail Association adjresources@gmail.com

Cesare Segalini Old Spanish Trail Association <u>itus67@aol.com</u>

Supporting Links

Video about Old Spanish Trail in Tecopa https://vimeo.com/507308071?share=copy

About Tecopa

https://discovercynthias.com/about-tecopa-california/

See Attached Supporting Documents:

- Mule Silhouette Image
- 2 Old Spanish Trail Marker Images
- Proposed extension of Bike Path
- Old Spanish Trail Marker Placement from Tecopa to the Nevada State line



2001 Old Spanish Trail Highway PO Box 14 Tecopa, CA92389 760-852-4580

Discovercynthias.com cynkienitz@gmail.com info@discovercynthias.com

Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov

Subject: Letter of Commitment of Support for Inyo County Application for the Active Transportation Program

For Pride of Place and Pride of Nation

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Please accept this letter as certification, should the proposal be funded, that Cynthia Kienitz, owner operator or Cynthia's Safaris along with Lost World ATV Tours, and the Old Spanish Trail Association Tecopa Branch is committed to providing:

Certified historic information for signage regarding the Old Spanish Trail – in kind

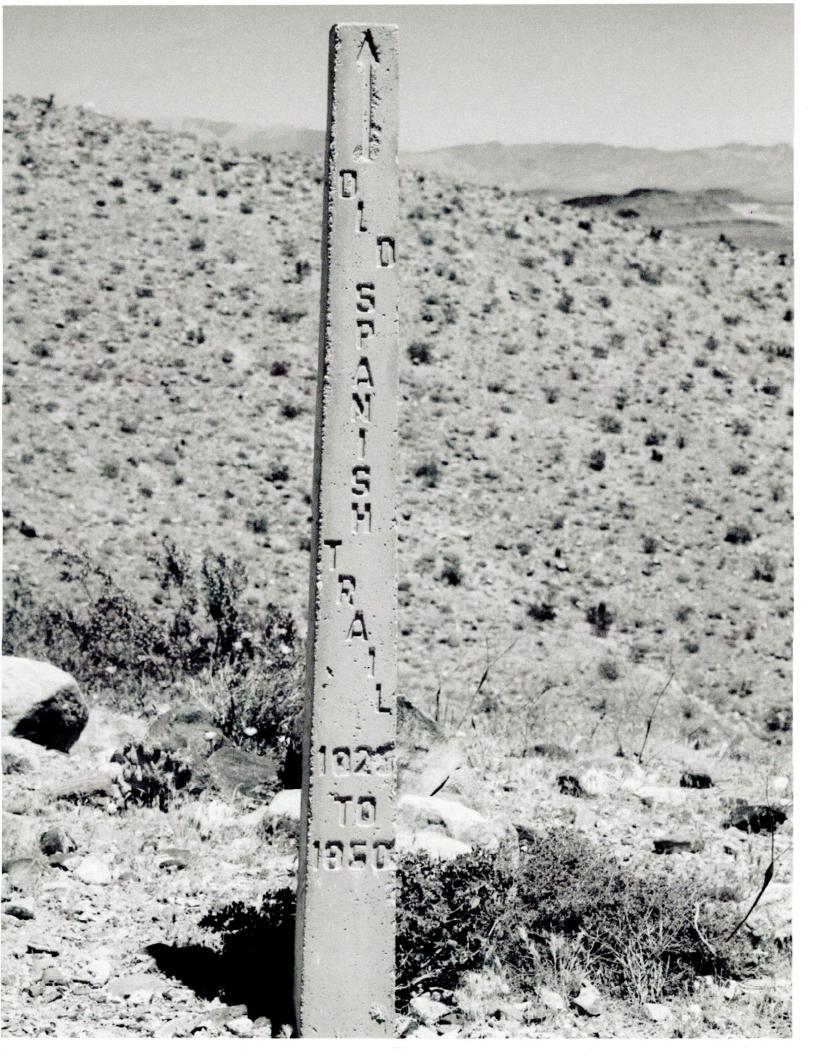
Two concrete Old Spanish Trail Markers as outlined in my support letter - approximately \$3000

Two steel mule silhouettes as outlined in my support letter – approximately \$5000 Installation of above monuments \$2000

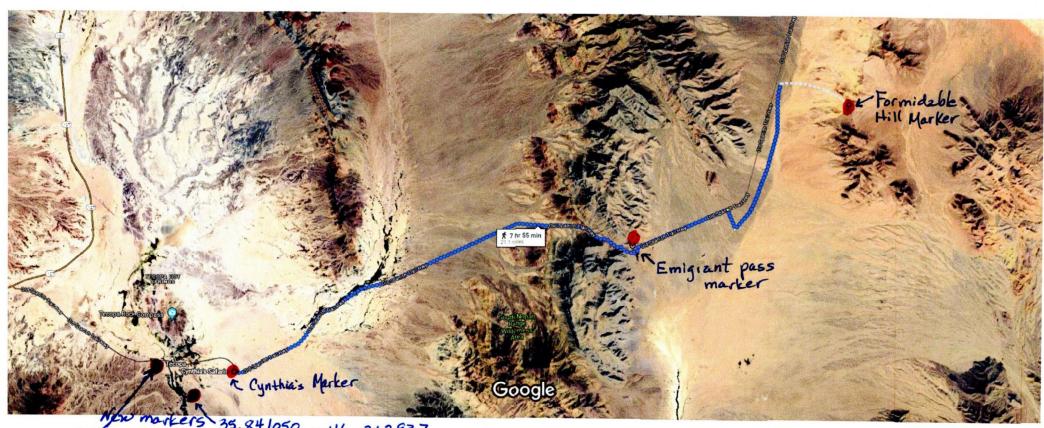
Sincerely,

Cynthia Kienitz









15.848949, -116.231287

Imagery ©2024 TerraMetrics, Map data ©2024 1 mi

Grimshow Lake Amargosa Conservancy Sign BikeRack w/ 88 New OST Marker CHIEF Possible OST
Route from
Resbug
Spring old Spanish Fulling old spanish Trillwy old spanish Tril Tocopa SOST Marker DowneyRd BUM BUM ZELLHOEFER HOWARD W anderson Way **Bob White Way** New OST Marker Rack With Bike Rack and Bench Weather

