

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

November 14, 2017

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:33 a.m., on November 14, 2017, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Mark Tillemans, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, and Matt Kingsley.

- PUBLIC COMMENT** Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the first public comment period and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.
- CLOSED SESSION** Chairperson Tillemans recessed open session at 8:33 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item: No. 2 **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT [Pursuant to Government Code §54957]** – Title: Child Support Services Director.
- OPEN SESSION/RECESS** Chairperson Tillemans recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:55 a.m. with all Board members present. Chairperson Tillemans then recessed open session at 8:55 a.m. and the report on closed session was postponed, so that members could participate in the planting of tulip and daffodil bulbs in the main flower bed at the Historic County Courthouse.
- RECONVENE** Chairperson Tillemans reconvened the meeting in open session at 10 a.m. with all Board members present.
- PLEDGE** Chairperson Tillemans led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION** County Counsel Marshall Rudolph reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the second public comment period.
- Linda Chaplin of Independence noted that she attended a celebration in Keeler to commemorate the donation of a historic fire truck back to Manzanar, and in addition to describing the event as having a friendly crowd with great speeches and good food, offered her gratitude to the community of Keeler.
- COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS** Public Works Director Clint Quilter advised the Board he would be making a presentation to the Sunrise Rotary Club tomorrow morning about ongoing activities at the Bishop Airport.
- CAO-ADVERTISING COUNTY RESOURCES – FINAL 17/18 PAYMENTS** Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the following final payments from the 2017-2018 Advertising County Resources Budget: \$750 to the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce for the 2017 Music in the Courtyard presentations; \$1,578.50 to the Death Valley Chamber of Commerce for the 2017 Death Valley Visitor Guide; and to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, \$4,261 for the 2017 California High School Rodeo Finals, \$1,250 for the 2017 Fishing Season Opening Day Press Reception, \$1,875 for the 2017 Blake Jones Trout Derby, and \$1,500 for the 2017 Vintage Film Festival. Motion carried unanimously.
- LIBRARY – NOVEMBER 25 CLOSURE** Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to authorize that the Inyo County Free Library branches close on Saturday, November 25, 2017 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTOR POOL – P.O. ADJUSTMENT/ ADDITION Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) reduce the existing purchase order with Bishop Ford from \$272,246.46 to \$212,913.93 for the purchase of six (6) 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utilities; and B) award a bid in the amount of \$59,752.26 to Innovative Emergency Equipment of Riverside, CA as the low bidder for equipping six (6) 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utilities with lights, sirens, and other safety equipment; and C) authorize a purchase order to Innovative Emergency Equipment of Riverside, CA in the amount of \$59,752.26 for equipping of lights, sirens, and other safety equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASING – HP TONER CARTRIDGE BID AWARD & P.O. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) award Bid No. 2017-06 HP Toner Cartridges for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to The Tree House, Inc. with the option to renew a second or third year; and B) authorize purchase orders that exceed \$10,000 to be issued to The Tree House, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 from the Purchasing Revolving Budget in an amount not to exceed \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLING & WASTE – MYRNA TEW KEELER CONTRACT Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Myrna Tew for maintenance services at the Keeler Transfer Station in an amount not to exceed \$6,300 for the period of October 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 and authorize the Chairperson to sign; B) rescind the short-term contract in place with Ms. Tew for those services; and C) formally cancel the contract with the former contractor, Bruce Spry. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – ADAMSON'S SOLE-SOURCE & P.O.'S Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) declare Adamson's Industries of Los Alamitos, CA a sole-source vendor for law enforcement supplies; B) authorize a blanket purchase order to Adamson's Industries of Los Alamitos, CA in the amount of \$9,000 for miscellaneous supplies; and C) authorize a purchase order to Adamson's Industries of Los Alamitos, CA in the amount of \$21,900 for ballistic and load-bearing vests. Motion carried unanimously.

BOS-FISH & WILDLIFE APPOINTMENTS Supervisor Pucci noted that the individuals who applied for the available seats on the Inyo Fish and Wildlife Commission are all currently serving on the Commission and doing a good job. Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to appoint Garrett McMurtrie, Joe Pecs, and Larry McIntosh to three (3) four-year terms on the Inyo Fish and Wildlife Commission ending October 6, 2021, and appoint John Frederickson as voting alternate to a four-term ending October 6, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

ROAD DEPT. – HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I/II Public Works Director Clint Quilter requested permission to fill a vacancy on the Road Department's Carpenter Crew. Supervisor Griffiths said he didn't anticipate the department having a difficult recruitment. Quilter noted the department has recently been able to improve the quality of applicants for its vacancies. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for the Heavy Equipment Operator I/II position exists in the Road Budget, as certified by the Public Works Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could be filled through an internal recruitment, but an external recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure the most qualified candidates apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) full-time Heavy Equipment Operator I at Range 58 (\$3,376 - \$4,108) or one full-time Heavy Equipment Operator II at Range 60 (\$3,541 - \$4,301). Motion carried unanimously.

CAO-PERSONNEL – MARILYN MANN CONTRACT/RESO # 2017-54 CAO Carunchio explained that at the conclusion of a national search for a new Health and Human Services director, a series of interviews, and recently, contract negotiations, staff was ready to present for Board approval a contract with Marilyn Mann for the job. He brought to the Board's attention a corrected typo in the Resolution accompanying the contract. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve, as corrected, a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Resolution 2006-06, Changing Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo" and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a contract between the County of Inyo and Marilyn Mann for the provision of personal services as the Director of Health and Human Services at a monthly base salary of \$10,500 effective November 16, 2017 and authorize the

Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CLERK-RECORDER/
TREASURER-TAX
COLLECTOR/
ASSESSOR/
ASSISTANT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR –
GUIDE TO STARTING
A BUSINESS*

Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson introduced the proposed “Guide to Starting a Business,” put together by the Clerk-Recorder, Treasurer-Tax Collector, and Assessor to consolidate information individuals will likely need and usually seek from their departments when attempting to start a business or researching what steps are necessary to start a business. He said the guide will primarily be distributed via a downloadable link that individuals will be directed to when they call for information related to starting a business. He explained that the elected officials’ staffs spend a lot of time answering those types of questions. Supervisor Griffiths asked how the guide will be promoted and Benson said there wasn’t necessarily a plan to do so, but staff should probably consider letting the chambers of commerce know it’s available. Supervisor Kingsley suggested adding information about the Lone Pine Architectural Review Board. The Board complimented the guide and work that went into it. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine commented that prospective business owners should be made aware of signage rules.

*BOARD MEMBER
AND STAFF REPORTS*

Supervisor Kingsley reported attending a Great Basin Air Pollution Control District meeting in Mammoth last week and a community meeting on the County’s proposed commercial cannabis ordinances on November 8 in Olancha. He also noted that the Death Valley ‘49ers’ annual encampment is currently underway in Furnace Creek where Xanterra’s extensive remodel project continues. Kingsley also commented on the donation of the historic fire truck from Keeler to Manzanar, explaining that a picture exists of its initial delivery to Keeler which will help in the restoration process.

Supervisor Pucci reported attending a Northern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee meeting with Supervisor Totheroh and noted that planning continues for the annual Mule Days Celebration, which requires the help of 750 volunteers to become a reality.

Supervisor Totheroh reported attending a meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board yesterday, and distributed to the Board of Supervisors and staff copies of an assessment report showing the demographics of the clients served in the community. He said he also participated in a U.S. Forest Service panel in Placerville regarding the Forest Plan Update process. He said draft documents will likely be produced as a result of the panels, one of which will focus on partnerships.

Chairperson Tillemans reported on a great Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Big Pine American Legion where Jessica Allmon from the County’s Veteran Service Office gave a beautiful speech about the need to honor veterans every day. He said he attended a Big Pine Civic Club meeting last night, and announced the annual Christmas festivities sponsored by the Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department will be held December 3.

Supervisor Griffiths announced the next Inyo Associates meeting is set for November 20 in Bishop, and said he would be attending an Eastern Sierra Transit Authority meeting this Friday. He reported that Inyo Council for the Arts just completed a Strategic Plan Update which includes the goals of having a larger presence in Southern and Southeastern Inyo, and expanding representation for those communities on the Board of Directors. Griffiths said he opted to give up his seat to make room for a South County representative, and the ICA bylaws were accordingly changed so that the Board of Supervisors would no longer have representation on the ICA Board of Directors. Griffiths also reported attending last night’s Bishop City Council meeting, continuing to serve as president on the Eastern Sierra Foundation board, attending a Veterans Day ceremony at Manzanar, meeting with the Coalition of Care and attending an IMACA Board of Directors meeting. He noted the strides IMACA has been making in providing housing and preventing homelessness are incredible.

CAO Carunchio provided additional updates on the recent trip to Washington, D.C. that he took with Supervisors Griffith and Kingsley. He said one of the meetings they had with Broadband USA has resulted in a scheduled conference call next week with the Death Valley National Park Superintendent, Inyo County Information Services and Broadband USA to explore opportunities for “superclusters” in the Park, which he described as WiFi on steroids. Carunchio also reported that a funding agreement was reached with LADWP for the utility to fund the \$550,000 environmental work required for the \$500,000 Owens River Water Trail project. He said he signed the agreement as authorized previously by the Board and is awaiting LADWP’s

signature before signing off on the contract to move forward with the project. He also updated the Board on efforts to utilize the services of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority to improve attendance levels at local schools, and noted the next Mammoth Inyo Airport Working Group meeting is scheduled for December 7.

Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis offered an update on the ongoing tests of live streams of Board meetings, noting that another four tests were anticipated before the I.S. Department planned to officially launch the service. She said a link to the live test feeds is available on the County website and an email account had been set up for feedback.

Supervisor Pucci said he did attend a long-range planning for Cerro Coso College, which needs assistance from the community with focused internships. He also noted that the College is not allowed to recruit for students outside of the district.

Supervisor Griffiths added that the campus has begun offering law enforcement training that, while a major cost-saver for the County, is taxing the resources of the Eastern Sierra Foundation because of the amount of interest.

RECESS/RECONVENE Chairperson Tillemans recessed the meeting at 10:45 a.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 11:02 a.m. with all Board members present.

PLANNING – PROPOSED OVERLAY DISTRICT ORDINANCE Associate Planner Tom Schaniel provided some background information on the proposed ordinance to create an overlay district requiring Conditional Use Permits for any project in the Pearsonville area deemed to be non-groundwater-neutral. He explained that the area in question is located in Indian Wells Valley, which is in critical overdraft. He explained that project proponents can make the case during the Conditional Use Permit process that their projects will not have cause a “significant and persistent decline” in groundwater. He noted that Planning staff worked with the Water Director in developing the definition of non-groundwater-neutral. Supervisors Griffiths and Totheroh discussed setting possible thresholds to better differentiate between which projects will have to go through the Conditional Use Permit process since technically any use of water is non-groundwater-neutral. It was noted that the key determining factor will be whether a project, which has to be an agricultural use, could potentially cause “significant and persistent decline” and that determination would be made by the Planning Director following consultation with the Water Department. Supervisor Kingsley said allowing projects to proceed after completing a Conditional Use Permit process is the right move, considering the possibility of cannabis operations in that area in the near future. Supervisor Totheroh also pointed out a punctuation issue he requested be resolved in the title and body of the ordinance. Chairperson Tillemans opened the public hearing at 11:19 a.m. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine commended the County for adopting its original emergency ordinances prohibiting new non-groundwater-neutral agricultural uses until a permanent solution could be developed. He also said the specific term “persistent” helps to define the vague term “significant.” Chairperson Tillemans closed the public hearing at 11:20 a.m. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) approve a resolution titled, “A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Finding the Proposed Project is Exempt from the Requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, and Making Certain Findings with Respect to and Approving Zoning Text Amendment 2017-03/Inyo County;” and B) waive the first reading of the proposed ordinance titled “An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California adding Chapter 18.67 titled Non-groundwater Neutral Agricultural Use Overlay District to the Inyo County Code” and schedule the enactment for 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 21, 2017 in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center in Independence, with the punctuation changes made as suggested by Supervisor Totheroh. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING – PROPOSED SHOSHONE ZONING CHANGE ORDINANCE Associate Planner Tom Schaniel summarized a proposal to re-zone two parcels that comprise most of the community of Shoshone and are owned by Susan Sorrells. The Zone Reclassification is intended to bring the zoning into compliance with actual uses and future development. Schaniel noted the proposal has been approved by the Planning Commission and will increase open space. He said the project has been through the California Environmental Quality Act process and a Mitigated Negative Declaration was published. Schaniel noted the Planning Department received only one comment, from Caltrans expressing concern over a right-of-way. Sorrells and Caltrans have since reached an agreement on the issue. He added that Consultation notices were sent out to Tribes and no requests were

received in response, although one Tribe did submit information on cultural resources that was incorporated into the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Chairperson Tillemans opened the public hearing at 11:30 a.m. and with no-one wishing to comment, closed the public hearing at 11:30 a.m. Supervisor Kingsley thanked the Planning Department for working so hard with the property owner on something that will ultimately eliminate confusion with regard to zoning in the future. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Chairperson Tillemans to waive the first reading of a proposed ordinance titled "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Approving Zone Reclassification No. 2017-01/Sorrells and amending the Zoning Map of the County of Inyo by rezoning a 225-acre Parcel and a 229-acre parcel that constitute the majority of the community of Shoshone (APN 046-120-25 & 046-120-040) as shown in Attachment A (Current Zoning Map) and Attachment B (Proposed Zoning Map)" and schedule the enactment for 11 a.m., Tuesday, November 21, 2017 in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center in Independence. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Chairperson Tillemans to approve a resolution titled "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County Of Inyo, State of California, Certifying that the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Have Been Met and Making Certain Findings with Respect to and Approving Zone Reclassification No. 2017-01/Sorrells and General Plan Amendment No. 2017-01/Sorrells."

*CAO-PERSONNEL –
PROPOSED MERIT
SYSTEM ORDINANCE*

CAO Carunchio offered background on the proposed ordinance to update Section 2.80.055 of Inyo County Code in order to augment and clarify certain positions that are intended to be exempt from Chapter 2.80 ("the Merit System Ordinance of the County"). He said the change is necessary in order to effect a provision of a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Elected Officials Assistants Association (EOAA) during labor negotiations that allows elected officials' assistants to enter at-will contracts if they choose. He explained the change will accommodate both one assistant who is requesting to go at-will and the Treasurer-Tax Collector who wants to an assistant as a Merit System employee. Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment. Michele Hartshorn, Assistant Clerk-Recorder, said she was speaking as a citizen and not a representative of the EOAA, and read a list of questions for staff: 1. What is the advantage for the County if the Assistants go at-will? 2. What is the ultimate goal for the County with regards to the Elected Officials Assistants Association and how will it benefit the County and its citizens negotiating at-will contracts versus the MOU and Merit System? 3. Will the benefits exceed the Elected Officials' benefits and if so, what is the justification? 4. How do the negotiations for the at-will contracts affect the departments' budgets and will the increase in salaries and benefits be paid by the departments' existing approved budget? 5. Does the elected Department Head have any input as to their assistant going at-will or staying on the merit system when the job is actually flown? She also said she does not believe the Code has to be amended. Carunchio and County Counsel Rudolph attempted to answer some of Hartshorn's questions. Discussion followed between the three, including the clarification that the Code needs to be amended in order to include management-level represented positions and that whether those positions are filled or vacant does not change whether they are represented or non-represented. Carunchio and Rudolph offered to discuss the issue further with Hartshorn individually. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to: A) direct staff to consult with Hartshorn to answer her questions; and B) waive the first reading of an ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Section 2.80.055 of the Inyo County Code Pertaining Exemptions from the Competitive Service;" and set enactment for 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 21, 2017 in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center in Independence.

RECESS/RECONVENE

Vice Chairperson Totheroh recessed the meeting for a break at 11:53 a.m. and Chairperson Tillemans reconvened the meeting at 11:59 a.m. with all Board members present.

*PLANNING –
PERDITO EA LETTER*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards presented for the Board's review, and possible approval, a comment letter addressing the Perdito Mine Exploratory Mine Project Environmental Assessment. She provided a brief overview of the project, which involves drilling seven previously drilled holes on Conglomerate Mesa on BLM land in the Inyo Mountains. She said the EA includes four alternatives with varying levels of disturbance, including a "no action" alternative but does include information about subsequent projects that may result from the exploratory drilling, although a press release from the project proponent indicates they will mine for gold. Richards noted the County's letter focuses solely on the EA, points out that alternatives 1 and 2 should be subject to the State Mining and Reclamation Act and California Environmental Quality Act, and also notes that the BLM failed to consult the County's General

Plan. Chairperson Tillemans asked whether the project proponent wished to speak. Angela Johnson, Project Geologist with Silver Standard Resources, said she wanted to refocus everyone on the proposal itself. She said the road and holes are already there, Silver Standard just wants to re-open them to see what potential is there. She said the project site is located in the prolific Cerro Gordo mining district and the landscape already features pits from previous mining activity. She noted that the land was pulled from Wilderness Study Area designation in the 1990s due to its mineral potential. Supervisor Kingsley said he appreciated his friends and neighbors in Inyo County turned out in such large numbers to participate. He said it's important that the discussion focus on the proposal and the contents of the County's letter, noting that a lot of the opposition he has heard seems to be based on fears and projections about where this proposal might lead. He said he understands people feel Conglomerate Mesa is a special place, and he will not support something that decimates the area, but he also would be considering comments in the context of what he believed to be a fairly modest exploratory project being proposed.

Chairperson Tillemans opened the floor to public comment. Those speaking in opposition to the proposal included Ralph Lachenmaier of Ridgecrest, Danelle Bachoch Guterriez, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Tom Boo of Bishop, Xiangmei Zhang, Tom Budlong, Fran Hunt, Eastern Sierra organizer for the Sierra Club, Erich Warkentine, Steve McLaughlin, Cindy Kamler of Wildlife Care Eastern Sierra, Harry Williams of Bishop, John Louth of Bishop, Skandar Reid of Bishop, Paul Fretheim of Independence, Richard Hanley, Wendy Schneider of Friends of the Inyo, Lynn Boulton of the Sierra Club Range of Light, Shawn Louth, Drew Wickman, Bill Mitchel, Charlotte Lang, Mono Lake Tribal Chairperson, and Loretta Howard, Trustee from Lone Pine Tribe. Most of the aforementioned urged the Board to either send no letter or support the No Action Alternative, noting it was a reasonable conclusion to believe the exploratory project would lead to open-pit cyanide heap leach mine if gold deposits are found. They spoke of the irrevocable harm to the environment and ecosystems that would result, as well as impacts to air quality and the tourist-based economy. Speakers also took exception to the County's letter, citing a lack of substantive comments and apparent endorsement of all mining in general. Those speaking in support of the project included Steve VanErt, Charles McLaughlin, Linda Arcularius of Bishop, Allen Aiken of Keeler, a longtime miner/pro prospector, and Bob Herzog of Keeler. Comments included how the proponents would be drilling holes that already exist, that the time for commenting on an open-pit mine would be when a proposal for one is presented, that the dangers of the cyanide are relatively low, that the claim-holders have an obligation to test their claims for mineral potential or lose their claims altogether, and the Board has a responsibility from a policy standpoint to comment on the EA and project.

Supervisor Kingsley led off Board discussion. He said he appreciated everyone's comments, even if he didn't agree, and noted that rejecting mining in California, where the environmental standards are strictest, only sends projects to other areas where they can do more harm. He said he believes Inyo County can support both mining and tourism, and said not only is the Briggs Mine still open, but much of the site has been reclaimed. Supervisor Griffiths reiterated the Board's process for discussing issues in public before making decisions. He then directed his comments to the letter specifically, citing a statement he didn't feel was accurate and the letter's overall failure to directly comment on the issue. He said mention of the DRECP was irrelevant. Supervisor Griffiths said he thought the Board should let the BLM do its job and not send the letter. Supervisor Totheroh agreed about not sending the letter, but said if it was sent, it should be amended first. He also reiterated that BLM is the decision-maker and the comments made today will be most effective if made directly to the BLM. Supervisor Pucci said whether the County writes a letter or not, everyone in the room should write to the BLM. Chairperson Tillemans said letters to the federal government on these topics are the Board's responsibility. He said it is a mistake to believe Inyo County can rely solely on tourism for its economic health. He said he believed in letting the proponent explore for mineral potential in the least impactful way. Supervisor Totheroh moved that the Board not send the letter and the motion died for lack of a second. After further discussion, and a reminder from Planning Director Richards that the Board had a responsibility to point out to the BLM that it failed to consult Inyo's General Plan or note that two alternatives would be subject to SMARA, the Board began wordsmithing the letter. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to send a revised letter replying strictly to the technical parts of the EA related to the County's General Plan and lack of reference to SMARA. Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

Chairperson Tillemans recessed the meeting at 2:22 p.m. for lunch and reconvened the meeting at 3:11 p.m. with all Board members present.

PW – RAFTALIS SOLE-SOURCE RATE STUDY CONTRACT

At the request of Independence residents, the Board revisited a previous discussion about possibly hiring a firm to conduct a rate study for the Lone Pine, Independence, and Laws town water systems. Public Works Director Clint Quilter noted that the County has struggled to maintain the antiquated systems with the revenue being generated, which is causing health and safety issues. He said the transmission mains are especially struggling right now. He said the proposed consultant, who is an expert in this field, is willing to do the work at two-thirds his normal rate because of his interest in the project and area. He said part of the consultant's job will be engaging with the community to come up with creative ways for how to best finance the systems while minimizing impacts to residents. The floor was opened to public comment. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine said he agreed that a new evaluation is warranted. He also said the County should be able to qualify for some grants through the State Groundwater Management Act if the system is experiencing a lot of leakage. Mary Roper of Independence thanked the Board for moving the agenda item from the Consent Agenda a couple weeks ago. She renewed concerns about money being spend on a study when it could be spent on repairs and replacing meters. She also questioned how familiar the consultant will be with the 1991 EIR and Long-Term Water Agreement, and encouraged the Board to make everything transparent if it moves ahead with the study. Roper also hoped for public meetings. Nancy Masters of Independence said she was encouraged after talking with Quilter and learning what he's considering and the approach he's taking. She provided background on mitigation projects and presented the argument that the Town Water Systems are meant to be among the mitigation for LADWP's groundwater pumping. She said these are some of the most unique water systems in California and the consultant will have to know these underpinnings. Supervisor Griffiths asked whether Quilter would be opposed to letting Roper and Masters speak with the consultant, and Quilter said no, adding the consultant would be speaking with others with related, historical knowledge. Moved by Supervisor Tothorh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) declare Raftalis Financial Consultants, Inc. of Los Angeles, CA a sole-source provider of Rate Study Services; B) approve a contract with Raftalis Financial Consultants, Inc. of Los Angeles, CA for the provision of Rate Study Services for the Lone Pine, Independence, and Laws Town Waters Systems in an amount not to exceed \$30,985 for the period of November 14, 2017 to June 30, 2018; and C) authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the final public comment period and there were no members of the public wishing to address the Board.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tillemans adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO*
Clerk of the Board

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant