

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**April 26, 2022**

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 April 26, 2022 in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present via webinar per California Assembly Bill 361: Chairperson Dan Totheroh, presiding, Rick Pucci, Matt Kingsley, Jeff Griffiths, and Jennifer Roeser. Also present: County Administrator Leslie Chapman, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, Office Technician Hayley Carter and County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo.

*Public Comment*

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to Closed Session items and no comments were heard.

*Closed Session*

Chairperson Totheroh recessed open session at 8:33 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 – Title: County Administrator. 3. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** Initiation of litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(c): one potential case.

*Open Session*

Chairperson Totheroh recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:01 a.m. with all Board members present.

*Pledge of Allegiance*

Per the request of Chairperson Totheroh, Public Works Director Mike Errante led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Report on Closed Session*

County Counsel Vallejo reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

*Public Comment*

Chairperson Totheroh asked for public comment on items not calendared on the agenda.

Public comments were made by Lauralyn Hundley, Wes French, Lynne Greer, Lynette McIntosh, and Mike Godbe for California Indian Legal Services.

*County Department Reports*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards updated the Board on the West Wide Energy corridor.

HHS Director Marilyn Mann noted the success of the recent flag-raising ceremony held in observance of Children’s Memorial Day and invited everyone to attend another ceremony in observance of Mental Health Awareness Month, to be held Monday at the Clint G. Quilter Consolidated Office Building at 10:00 a.m.

*Water Dept. –  
ICWC Pumping Plan  
Workshop*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand introduced a workshop with the Inyo County Water Commission to discuss Owens Valley conditions and the 2022-2023 LADWP operations plan, where LADWP proposes pumping somewhere between 67,210 acre-feet and 86,300 acre-feet of groundwater. Dr. Steinwand gave a presentation showing research collected on declining groundwater levels and drought patterns and showing that the current annual snow runoff is at 47% of normal levels. He said staff is recommending LADWP pump no more than 59,540 acre-feet for 2022-2023.

Water Commission Chair Terri Red Owl reported that this could be one of the lowest forecasted runoff in recent history and low groundwater table levels and drought could be the new normal due to climate change, and the County needs to start planning according to the new paradigm. She said major adjustments may need to be made to policy and other resources made available to staff in order to reach this goal. Commission members Holly Alpert, Randy Keller, and Paul Huette also spoke, agreeing that LADWP should only pump

what's needed for in-valley uses – 55,900 acre-feet – and that there is a need to address the new normal.

Public comment was made by Sally Manning, Wes French, and Daris Moxley.

*Water Dept. –  
LADWP Draft 2022-  
2023 Pumping Plan  
Board Input*

Supervisor Roeser recused herself at the advice of County Council prior to Board discussion. Water Department Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand said the County's response to LADWP's draft pumping plan is due Friday. The Board discussed the recommendations of staff and the Water Commission, agreeing that even LADWP's proposed low-range pumping is too high. The Board came to consensus that the County's response should include the following: LADWP's low range is too high; providing such a wide range is unacceptable; and pumping amounts should be closer to the Water Commission's and staff's recommendations. Supervisor Roeser returned to the Board Room at the conclusion of discussions at 11:55 a.m.

*HHS-ESAAA –  
CILS/CARES Funding  
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Contract Amendment No. 1 between the County of Inyo and California Indian Legal Services for the provision of Independent Contractor Services, revising the Scope of Work and Schedule of Fees to include additional CARES funding. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-First 5 –  
Darcia Blackdeer-Lent  
Commission  
Appointment*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to appoint Darcia Blackdeer-Lent to an unexpired three-year term as the Health & Human Services designee on the First 5 Children and Families Commission, ending December 5, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Social Services –  
Community Service  
Solutions Contract  
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Community Service Solutions, revising the Scope of Work and Schedule of fees to include additional COVID-19 funding received for the purpose of providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to IHSS caregivers. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning –  
REAP Grant  
Funding MOU*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Bishop for the allocation of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant funding. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning –  
HELIX Sole-Source  
Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to A) declare HELIX Environmental Planning Inc. a sole-source provider of planning services; B) approve the contract between the County of Inyo and HELIX Environmental Planning Inc. for the provision of planning services in an amount not to exceed \$60,758.50 for the period of April 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2022- 2023 Budget; and C) authorized the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
AMWC  
Payment Approval*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve payment to Aspendell Mutual Water Company (AMWC), in the amount of \$26,614.44, for AMWC's relocation of County Service Area No. 2 sewer lateral that services 281 Columbine Road. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
TerraVerde  
Sole-Source Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) declare TerraVerde Energy, LLC of San Francisco, CA a sole-source provider of asset management services for solar photovoltaic systems; B) ratify the contract between the County of Inyo and TerraVerde Energy, LLC of San Francisco, CA for the provision of asset management services for solar photovoltaic systems in an amount not to exceed \$15,531.13 for the period of April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and C) authorized the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
Road and Highway  
Builders Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to A) waive requirements of the Inyo County Purchasing Policy per the "no competitive advantage" exception; B) approve the standard contract between the County of Inyo and Road and Highway Builders of Sparks, NV for the provision of Road Construction Services on Cactus Flats Road in an amount not to exceed \$239,405.54, plus any allowable change orders, and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and C) authorize the Public Works Director to execute all other project contract documents, including contract change orders, to the extent permitted by Public Contract Section 20142 and other applicable laws. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –  
ESSBRC Update*

Miquela Beall updated the Board on previous and upcoming events at the Eastern Sierra Small Business Resource Center; spoke about researching potential grant funding; and said that the next meeting on May 31, 2022 would be based around climate innovations and ecosystem management.

*Probation – Deputy  
Chief Probation Officer  
(Weier) Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: A) approve the modified job description for Deputy Chief Probation Officer; B) approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Julie Weier for provision of professional services as Deputy Chief Probation Officer at a monthly salary of \$9,248, effective April 28, 2022, with benefits provided pursuant to Resolution 2022-12; and C) authorized the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*District Attorney –  
Military Equipment  
Policy Presentation*

Stephanie Rennie, D.A. Investigator, gave a presentation on behalf of District Attorney Tom Hardy regarding the Inyo County District Attorney Military Equipment Policy proposed pursuant to Assembly Bill 481.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to direct staff to post the proposed policy for 30 days on the D.A.'s website, then agendize for adoption by ordinance following the 30-day posting period. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff –  
Military Equipment  
Policy  
Presentation*

Lieutenant Jared Sparks gave a presentation on behalf of Sheriff Eric Pritchard regarding the Inyo County Sheriff's Military Equipment Policy proposed pursuant to Assembly Bill 481.

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to direct staff to post the proposed policy for 30 days on the County's website, then agendize for adoption by ordinance following the 30-day posting period. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff –  
OHV Grant Application*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Resolution No. 2022-13, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Authorizing the Submittal of the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Application," and authorized the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Recess/Reconvene*

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 12:42 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:47 p.m. with all Board members present

*Public Works – SB 1  
Road Projects/Reso #  
2022-14*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: A) Approve proposed Resolution No. 2022-14, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Identifying Projects to be Funded by Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Funds Pursuant to SB 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; B) Approve the recommended project lists attached to satisfy the documentation requirements to receive SB1, Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA); and C) Authorize the Public Works Department to apply for and submit all required documentation to receive the Inyo County allotment of SB 1, Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 funding and authorized the Public Works Director, or his designee, to sign for the RMRA funding and all associated supporting documents. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of April 12, 2022 and April 19, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Comment*

Chairperson Totheroh asked for public comment on items not calendared on the agenda.

Public comment was made by Public Works Director Mike Errante, providing an update on the seasonal opening of County roads.

*Board Member and  
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Kingsley reported that he and Supervisor Roeser had attended consultations with the Independence tribe through Great Basin Air Pollution Control District. He also said he placed third in an iris competition.

Supervisor Roeser said she had received a tour from Westridge Community Services District, met with “Friends of Amargosa” in the Tecopa Shoshone area, met with small business owners in Death Valley, and attended the Eastern Sierra Child Support meeting, and an Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency meeting.

Supervisor Pucci said he attended a Fish and Game Commission meeting as well as the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Supervisor Griffiths said he had attended the CSAC Legislative conference, the Earth Day celebration in Bishop, the LAFCo meeting, and the Bishop City Council meeting.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Totheroh adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m., to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 3, 2022, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: LESLIE L. CHAPMAN  
Clerk of the Board*

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Darcy Ellis, Assistant*