

DEATH VALLEY SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 8, 2013 and Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Monday, April 8, 2013 – Tecopa Community Center – Tecopa, California

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 6:15 p.m., on Monday, April 8, 2013, at the Tecopa Community Center, in Tecopa, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Linda Arcularius presiding, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, Mark Tillemans and Matt Kingsley. Supervisor Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period. Mr. Jim Ramm complained about not having sufficient notice regarding today's meeting. Mr. Brian Brown of China Ranch asked about the suspension of the BrightSource Project. The County Administrator explained that the BrightSource Project was scheduled to be discussed later in the meeting and Mr. Brown's questions would be answer then. Sylvia and Max Price, Sandy Valley Residents, asked if speed limit signs could be posted on the road in front of their home to slow down people who are going too fast on that road. The County Administrator told the Price's that he would forward this request on to the Public Works Director. Mr. Brad Goans asked about the contract with CLM for the campground, saying he believes that the handicap bath is not being utilized for that purpose. The County Administrator explained that the CLM contract is expiring but the Company has two automatic extensions should they choose to exercise the options would provide for CLM to continue to operate the County Campground. A woman by the name of Kathy asked about the librarian position not being filled. The County Administrator provided information regarding the recruitment process and later in the meeting explained that he expects to fill the position temporarily sometime hopefully in May. Jackie Longacre said that she felt CLM was doing a good job running the campgrounds. Roger Hickman expressed concern with bath closure. Larry Levy of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District advised the Board that the District is seeking relief from the administration fee the County charges for collecting the District's parcel tax. Supervisor Kingsley explained that he is working with the District to bring this item forward. A gentleman by the name of Bill asked if CLM has requested the County make repairs to the baths. The County Administrator indicated that he would respond to the and other questions regarding CLM during Board Members and staff reports. Ms. Robin Flinchum thanked the Board for coming to Tecopa and having a meeting. She went on to add to what Mr. Levy had said regarding fee being charged the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District, saying that it is crucial to the District to get this resolved as quickly as possible. The audience members continued to ask questions about the library, including the need for additional computers, with Mr. Barnes recommending the County check with UNLV regarding their weekly auctions of their used computers.

HHS/Department Services Ms. Jean Turner provided an overview of services provided by the Health and Human Services Department in Tecopa.

Planning/Yucca Mnt. Office Mr. Josh Hart, Planning Director, provided an update regarding the activities of the County's Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office. Mr. Gregg James added to the presentation, talking about the legal aspects of the project.

Water/Groundwater Issues Update Dr. Bob Harrington, Water Director, provided an update on the groundwater studies and groundwater issues in the southeastern portion of Inyo County.

Department Reports The Chairperson announced the County Department Report period. Mr. Josh Hart, Planning Director, talked about the Forest Plan Directive. The County Administrator followed up on the questions regarding the library services in the area. He explained that the prior librarian had made her computer available for use along with the one assigned to the library. He told the audience that he would be working with the Information Services people to see about additional computer services for the Library.

With regard to questions concerning CLM, Mr. Carunchio explained that the CLM contract is up for automatic extensions and the County is in talks with CLM regarding many of the issues identified by the audience. Members of the audience reiterated their concerns that the handicapped bath is not being utilized properly, that buses are being brought in from outside of the area which are impacting use of the baths and that CLM has increased the cost for locals to use the baths which is cost prohibitive to many local residents. Mr. Carunchio talked about the suspension of the BrightSource Project, speculating that the suspension of the permit had to be beneficial to both sides for this to be allowed. He went on to say that when and if the permit process is reinstated the County is in a position to proceed based on the prior approved agreement or with further negotiations depending upon what changes might be made to the project description.

Board Member and Staff Reports The Chairperson announced the Board Member and Staff Report period. Supervisor Kingsley thanked his constituents for the attendance at today's meeting.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the second public comment period and members of the audience thanked the Board for having the meeting in the area and urged the Board to conduct more of these types of meetings locally.

Closed Session The Chairperson recessed open session at 8:35 p.m., to convene in closed session, with all Board Members present, to discuss and take action on Agenda Item No. 4D. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION [Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)] - City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles v. Inyo County Board of Supervisors, et al.** Inyo County Superior Court Case No. 12908; Blackrock 94 Dispute Resolution.

Report on Closed Session The Chairperson recessed closed session at 9:45 p.m., to reconvene in open session to receive a report on closed session. County Counsel reported that there were no items discussed in closed session that were required by law to be reported on in open session.

Recess The Chairperson recessed the special meeting at 9:45 p.m., to reconvene in open session on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 11:45 a.m., at the Briggs Gold Mine in the Panamint Valley, with all Board Members present.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

BofS/CR Briggs Mine Tour Mr. James Hesketh, President & Chief Executive Officer of ATNA Resources, Ltd., owners of CR Briggs and Mr. Larry Turner, General Manager of CR Briggs, provided the Board with a brief overview of the operations, including a detailed discussion on the cost to provide power to the mining operations in light of the carb compliance regulations that impact their ability to maintain generators. At the conclusion of Mr. Hesketh's and Mr. Turner's remarks the Board took a tour of the CR Briggs mining operation. The tour concluded at 3:15 p.m., with the Chairperson thanking Mr. Hesketh and Mr. Turner for their hospitality.

Adjournment The Chairperson adjourned the special meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor

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

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant