

MINUTES

County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

Special Meeting

December 21, 2015

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 4:00 p.m., on Monday, December 21, 2015, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Matt Kingsley, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Jeff Griffiths, and Mark Tillemans. Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period. Earl Wilson, Lone Pine Resident, asked if there was any new information on the situation at the Southern Inyo Hospital. The Chairperson explained that since this was not on the Agenda the Board was precluded for answering his question. Supervisor Kingsley went on to say that he would speak with Mr. Wilson in the lobby after the meeting to share information he has.

Planning/Comment Letter on DRECP Final EIS Land Use Plan Amendment The Planning Director, Josh Hart, reviewed the action taken at the direction of the Board of Supervisors during the December 15, 2015 Board Meeting concerning the protest letter on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Land Use Plan Amendment related to the DRECP. He said that as a result of the protest letter there had been a concern addressed regarding the Board's comments on the coordination process with a request to have the Board consider withdrawing or modifying the letter. Mr. Hart said that he had a conversation with the BLM who had said that the Board could eliminate items in the letter, withdraw the letter completely, but were prohibited from adding items to the letter. Supervisor Kingsley explained that after further consideration of the Board's comments in the protest letter he felt that the County statements criticizing the coordination process was inaccurate, at least as it pertains to the local and State BLM offices. He said that the County has had better coordination on this project than any he can remember and suggested the Board modify the letter to clarify that the coordination problem occurred further up the chain of command at the Federal level. The Board heard from Philip Anaya a Bishop area resident who supported the letter as written and encouraged the Board to preserve its rights under the protest. Earl Wilson, Lone Pine Resident, supporting Supervisor Kingsley's comments, said that he felt there was a great deal of public involvement in the process. Steve Nelson of the local BLM Office responded to questions from the Board regarding the coordination process; amending the letter, and the protest process. The Board and staff went on to discuss the protest letter as well as the suggested changes to the letter. The County Administrator said that he agreed that the local and state coordination on the DRECP has been outstanding. He suggested that since the BLM's requirements on coordination are different than other agencies like the NPS and the Forest Service, and requires that if the project under consideration does not follow local land use General Plans that an explanation be provided, that the County's letter identify where the DRECP document does not coincide with our General Plan and ask for an explanation as to why it does not align with our Plan. The Board and staff continued to discuss the DRECP and the Board's protest letter in detail and at length. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to direct that the protest letter to the BLM regarding the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment Final EIS be amended to remove the reference to coordination and reiterate the need for the plan to align with the County's General Plan, with a request for an explanation as to where and why it does not align. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment The Chairperson adjourned the Special Meeting at 4:58 p.m.

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

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor