



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

## July 26, 2016

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:30 a.m., on July 26, 2016, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Tothoroh, Rick Pucci, Mark Tillemans and Matt Kingsley.

*PUBLIC COMMENT* Chairman Griffiths asked for public comment and there was none.

*CLOSED SESSION* Chairman Griffiths recessed open session at 8:35 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following items: No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION.** (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9). *Native American Heritage Commission v. Inyo County Planning Department and Inyo County Board of Supervisors*, Inyo County Superior Court Case No. SICVPT1557557 (Munro Petition for Writ of Mandate; No. 3 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.** Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. (*one case*); and No. 4 **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS** – (Government Code Section 54957.6). Employee organizations: Deputy Sheriff’s Association (DSA); Elected Officials Assistant Association (EOAA); Inyo County Correctional Officers Association (ICCOA); Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA); Inyo County Probation Peace Officers Association (ICPPOA); Law Enforcement Administrators’ Association (LEAA). Unrepresented employees: all. Agency designated representatives - County Administrative Officer Kevin Carunchio, Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, Information Services Director Brandon Shults, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph and Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo.

*OPEN SESSION* Chairman Griffiths recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:07 a.m. with all Board members present.

*PLEDGE* Supervisor Kingsley 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* Chairman Griffiths asked for public comment and there was none.

*COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORT* Chairman Griffiths asked for County Department reports and there were none.

*INTRODUCTIONS* Marilyn Mann of Health and Human Services introduced the following new employees to the Board: Connie Connolly, RN, Health and Human Services; Margaret Peterson, Health and Human Specialist IV; Rhiannon Baker, Health and Human Services Office Clerk II; and Laura N. Boyer, Health and Human Services Office Clerk II.

*ITEM REMOVAL* After notification from the Assistant Clerk of the Board, Chairman Griffiths announces Item #9 is being taken off the agenda as it was accidentally duplicated from last week.

*COUNTY COUNSEL BIENNIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST REPORTS - AGENCIES* Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: 1) Receive the 2016 Conflict of Interest Code Biennial Reports from the following Local Agencies (Exhibits A.1. through A.13.): A.1. Big Pine Community Services District; A.2. Big Pine Fire Department; A.3. Big Pine Unified School District; A.4. Bishop Rural Fire Protection District; A.5. Bishop Unified School District; A.6. Darwin Community Services District; A.7. East Independence Sanitary District; A.8. Lone Pine Fire Protection District; A.9. Mt. Whitney Cemetery District; A.10.

Olancha Community Services District; A.11. Pioneer Cemetery District; A.12. Sierra Highlands Community Services District; and A.13. Sierra North Community Services District; and 2) Approve the Amended Conflict of Interest Code for the following Local Agency (Exhibit B.1.): B.1. Bishop Unified School District. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNSEL – INYO  
AND MUNRO  
VALLEY/ECOS  
ENERGY CONTRACT  
AMENDMENT**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Amendment #1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Munro Valley, LLC and ECOS Energy, LLC to increase the contract limit by \$10,000 to a total of \$70,000 and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon the adoption of future budgets and obtaining appropriate signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNTY CONTRACT  
WITH ATTORNEY  
GREG JAMES**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) Approve Amendment #1 to the Agreement between the County of Inyo and Gregory L. James, Attorney at Law, to increase the contract limit by \$10,000, from \$60,000 to an amount not to exceed \$70,000, to cover the anticipated costs to Mr. James to represent the County on behalf of the County and ECOS Energy, LLC from January 8, 2015 to the completion of the *Native American Heritage Commission v. County of Inyo, et al.*, Inyo County Superior Court Case No. SICVPT lawsuit; and B) Authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract for defense litigation costs contingent upon adoption of future budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

**PW CONTRACT WITH  
QUINCY  
ENGINEERING  
AMENDMENT**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) Approve Amendment #9 to County of Inyo Standard Contract No. 156, between the County of Inyo and Quincy Engineering of Sacramento, California for preconstruction and construction engineering support services, increasing the contract \$66,000 for an amount not to exceed \$1,536,062; and B) Authorize the Chairperson to execute Amendment #9, contingent upon obtaining appropriate signatures and adoption of future budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

**WATER DEPT. –  
INDIAN WELLS JPA  
BOARD  
APPOINTMENTS**

Water Director Bob Harrington reminded the Board that it voted on July 12, 2016 to have Inyo County join the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater JPA for the purposes of establishing a Groundwater Sustainability Agreement. He said he was now asking the Board to assign individuals to a director and alternate director position, and recommended Fifth District Supervisor Matt Kingsley serve as director and that he himself serve as the alternative, given the water-centric nature of his position. Supervisor Kingsley suggested and Chairman Griffiths concurred that the positions should be added to the Board's official list of committee assignments. CAO Carunchio said the alternative director position should have a notation indicating it will always be filled by the Water Director. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to designate Supervisor Matt Kingsley and Water Director Bob Harrington to be, respectively, the Primary Director and Alternate Director to the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and direct staff to add the positions to the Committee list as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS FIRST  
SUPERVISOR**

HHS Director Jean Turner explained this position, which was authorized in last year's budget, is in response to the caseload of the full-on family engagement program almost doubling. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) The availability of FIRST (Families' Intensive Response and Strengthening Team) funding for the position of a FIRST Supervisor will come from the money appropriated in the non-General Fund, as certified by the Health and Human Services Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) Where internal candidates meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an external recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) Approve the hiring of a FIRST Supervisor, either at Range 78 (\$5,303 - \$6,445) or Range 81 (\$5,692 - \$6,921), contingent upon whether or not the successful applicant holds a California license to practice psychotherapy. Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CONTRACT  
WITH ECHO GROUP**

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and the Echo Group for a total amount not to exceed \$48,236.34 for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract and the HIPAA Business Association Agreement. Motion carried 4-0 as Supervisor Pucci was out of the room at the time of the vote.

**HHS BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CONTRACT**

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve Amendment A04 to the Standard Agreement between the County of Inyo and the Department of

*AMENDMENT A04  
WITH DHSC FOR  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
DISORDER SERVICES*

Health Care Services for Substance Abuse Disorder Services, increasing the contract \$15,783 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,290,905 for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets, and authorize the chairperson to sign five original signature pages plus one original signature on the Certification (CCC-307). Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS SOCIAL  
SERVICES OFFICE  
TECHNICAN III*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) The availability of Social Services funding for the position of Office Technician III will come from the money appropriated in the non-General Fund, as certified by the Health and Human Services Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) Where internal candidates meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but as a State Merit System position, an external recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) Approve the hiring of one Office Technician III at Range 63 (\$3,716 - \$4,522). Motion carried unanimously.

*PLANNING  
PRESENTATION ON  
SOL SMART AND  
SOLAR ROAD MAP*

Planner Cathreen Richards presented information on two new renewable energy programs affecting Inyo County. The first, SolSmart, is part of an initiative by the U.S. DOE to provide both national recognition and no-cost technical assistance to local governments who encourage more solar development on homes and businesses. Richards said the program also aims to make residential and commercial solar development more affordable at the local level. The overall goal is to make it faster, cheaper and easier for home and business owners to install solar energy systems. Local governments have a chance to receive a SolSmart designation by working to address "soft costs," the non-hardware related costs associated with solar energy systems that include planning and zoning, permitting, interconnection and inspection, financing, customer acquisition and installation labor. Richards said it is estimated that soft costs currently represent as much as 64 percent of the price to install a residential solar energy system, and the SolSmart program aims to reduce that. Overall, she said, the program aims to benefit stakeholders by increasing the return on their investments, save local governments time and money by eliminating red tape and streamlining approval processes, and improving business prospects for local companies. Richards said more than one-third of solar installation companies avoid serving certain areas because of permitting difficulties. Local governments can benefit from the program via national recognition, an opportunity to receive awards, and the chance to host a "SolSmart Advisor," basically a full-funded staff person to work on the program for six months. Richards noted that as part of the SolSmart – Roadmap program the County previously participated in, the County was able to add a page to its website where the public could find information on energy efficiency and renewable energy for homes and businesses, including links to tips, tools, products, where to find financing and how to navigate the permitting process. She said the County has also already provided for streamlined permitting and building inspections as well as solar-friendly zoning, but could better develop methods to help the public find local financing and installers. She also said the public could use help navigating the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's solar energy permitting process, which she said she heard from a number of people can be quite difficult. Chairman Griffiths said he sat on a SolSmart panel at the recent NACo panel and found it to be an interesting program. He noted that the application for the program is a checklist and the County has already completed most of the items on the list. Considering it comes with a free staff member, Griffiths said the program is something worth pursuing. Supervisor Totheroh wondered if there was any downside, since it sounded so wonderful. Richards said maybe only in staff time spent working on the program, but she reiterated that the lion's share of the work has been completed and this program will help the County tie up the loose ends it needs to have a fully comprehensive solar energy program for residents and businesses. She noted that Inyo County is currently number one on the Solar Roadmap of communities that have addressed the local government issues for getting solar energy to private individuals and businesses. Chairman Griffiths then discussed Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), the other program. He explained it as the creation of solar facilities into which renters, low-income residents or non-profit groups can buy shares. Richards said the state opened the electricity markets to CCAs under Assembly Bill 117. Program proponents are starting a study on what CCAs should address, which might result in a handbook for communities that want to develop CCAs. Inyo County has been asked to participate. She said there is no expectation or obligation to develop a CCA if the County provides input. Supervisor Kingsley said one of the things the County heard loud and clear during the renewable energy overlay process was that residents would be interested in having a solar energy installation to serve their communities, and help out those who can't afford to buy solar panels. He said Inyo County does have a lot of small communities that could benefit from

*(continued)*  
**PLANNING  
PRESENTATION ON  
SOL SMART AND  
SOLAR ROAD MAP**

the County trying something like this. He also said that navigating the City of L.A.'s solar energy system is extremely difficult. Some residents will have their panels installed and then not be able to use them for months because of delays at the City. He said he'd support anything the County could do to either work with the City to help streamline that process or help residents navigate it. Richards said a good use of the technical assistance that comes with the program would be finding a way to expedite the process. Supervisor Totheroh pointed out and Richards and Griffiths concurred that the program loosely defines community as a group of people. Supervisor Tillemans said there has been a lack of incentive for home solar, so he was excited about this program's potential. Earl Wilson said there are a lot of opportunities in Inyo County for placing solar panels as shade structures over parking lots, basketball courts, etc. He also complimented staff for being on top of the issue. The only problem he could see with the program is out-of-county entities jumping on the band wagon and erecting huge fields of solar panels. He urged the Board to make sure these installations stay small. Supervisor Totheroh said the downside he saw was the program's lack of ways to reduce the costs of the actual infrastructure for homeowners. Chairman Griffiths explained that the costs of the panels are always decreasing, but the administrative, or soft costs, do not and that's what this program will help with. Richards said co-ops are one way to reduce hard costs and the Planning Department can look for ways to cut costs on hardware, but the biggest complaint from residents has been dealing with LADWP. She asked the Board which areas on the Interest Sheet it would want to see as focal points of the CCA study. Chairman Griffiths suggested the creation of new jobs and investments opportunities, as well as the effects of new requirements for infrastructure, and effects of electricity procurement on rate reduction. CAO Carunchio suggested adding under the "Other" category a request for a diagram of the different funding options available. Richards thanked the Board for the direction.

**PLANNING  
PRESENTATION ON  
SMARA**

Planner Tom Schaniel gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), the County's role as Lead Agency in the enforcement of SMARA, and recent changes to SMARA and how they will affect Inyo County. He explained that SMARA's requirements apply to anyone, even government agencies, engaged in surface mining on more than one acre or removing more than 1,000 cubic yards of material. Examples include prospecting and exploratory activities, open pit mines, borrow pits, dredging and quarrying, and stockpiling mined minerals from underground mining. Lead Agencies are responsible for providing the regulatory framework under which the mining and reclamation activities can take place. The framework is adopted via ordinances reviewed by the State Mining and Geology Board to ensure they are in sync with SMARA procedures. As a Lead Agency, Inyo County is responsible for reviewing applications for permits, submitting plans and financial assurances to the State for technical review and comment, annually reviewing financial assurances (e.g., surety bonds, letters of credit), annually inspecting mines for compliance, and taking enforcement actions where necessary. Schaniel said there are about 80 surface mines in Inyo County that are currently active, idle or in reclamation and which are subject to County oversight. He said most are borrow pits, and about 50 out of the 80 are owned by the County, Caltrans, DWP and BLM. There are also gold mines and other mines for extracting specific minerals. All new mines are subject to Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) which the County is in charge of issuing, along with Reclamation Permits. Schaniel said SB 209 and AB 1142, signed into law on April 18, 2016, make changes to inspection requirements, the Lead Agencies' requirements for their own pits, review and appeal processes with the State, and to forms and fees. For example, Lead Agency inspectors must now be licensed professionals or complete a State certification class. Schaniel said the Planning Department wants to get a few staff members certified. Another change is that if any issues of geologic import are discovered during an inspection, they must be reviewed by a State-licensed engineer, geologist, or geophysicist. Schaniel gave the example of soil discovered to be looser than previously thought. Other changes include Lead Agencies being able to inspect their own pits and only having to do so every other year. Schaniel also noted that the timelines for reviews by the State are now well defined, maximum fees are increasing from \$4,000 to \$10,000 annually (phasing by \$2,000 annually for next three years), and miners must file all forms online now. Supervisor Kingsley asked whether it will be a hardship for miners to have to file everything online, and Schaniel said it would. He said as it is, miners already come into his office to get helping filing paperwork. He said there are real consequences for the County if these papers aren't filed. Schaniel also noted the State has established a new auditing agency, the Lead Agency Review and Assistance Program, to audit all Lead Agencies in order to: establish a complete and accurate administrative record for each mine, improve quality of inspections, verify the adequacy of financial assurances and reduce liability to Lead Agencies, the State, public, and environment; and achieve greater compliance with SMARA. LARA will determine whether each Lead Agency has on file with the State an annual mine inspection report, financial

assurance cost estimate, and financial assurance mechanism for each mine. Lead Agencies will be scored and those with the lowest scores will have to go through the LARA process first, which includes a detailed file review, inspection training, and a report on the Lead Agency. Schaniel said he's not sure how this will impact Inyo County, which has a lot more mines than other Lead Agencies as well as weird mines that have been out of compliance for decades. But he said his predecessor, Adena Fansler, was a great recordkeeper so he doesn't anticipate many issues. He concluded with the news that the bankrupted Briggs Mine was sold at auction and is now owned by DV National Resources, which is looking into the feasibility of resuming operations. Schaniel said he had heard an operation like Briggs is financially unstable when gold is below \$12,000 a pound. It's at \$13,000 right now. He added that the County's Papoose Pit was just reviewed by the State and deemed reclaimed. He said he plans to inspect the bulk of Inyo's mines in September and October. Supervisor Kingsley said there are 80 mines in Inyo County, and it's important the County's customer service ethic is strong so the smaller mining operations don't give up out of frustration over the changes. Earl Wilson told the Board that the fee increases were going to kill some of the smaller operations. Schaniel noted the fees are the maximums and will mostly affect large operators. Paul Lamos of Rio Tinto said he was happy the County kept its role as Lead Agency instead of handing it back to the State. He said he imagines a \$2,000 increase will be tough on some of the smaller operations.

***PUBLIC WORKS FULL-TIME BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE WORKER II***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to find that, consistent with the Authorized Position Review Policy: A) The availability of funding for Building and Maintenance Worker II will come from the money appropriated in the Building and Maintenance Budget in the General Fund, as certified by the Public Works Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) Where internal candidates meet the qualifications of the positions, the vacancies could be filled through an internal recruitment, however an open recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure the most qualified candidates apply; and C) Authorize the hiring of one Building and Maintenance Worker II at Range 60 (\$3,471 - \$4,216). Motion carried unanimously.

***ROADS – FULL-TIME EQUIPMENT MECHANIC I/II***

Public Works Director Clint Quilter noted the position was in the Bishop Maintenance Shop and he wants to move it to the Mazourka Maintenance Shop. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley find that, consistent with the Authorized Position Review Policy: A) The availability of funding for an Equipment Mechanic I/II position will come from the money appropriated in the non-General Fund 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 of the positions, the vacancies could be filled through an internal recruitment, however an open recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure the most qualified candidates apply; and C) Approve the hiring of one full-time Equipment Mechanic I at Range 58 (\$3,310 - \$4,027 plus 2.5% tool allowance) or Equipment Mechanic II at Range 60 (\$3,471 - \$4,216 plus 2.5% tool allowance), depending on qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

***ROADS – TWO FULL-TIME HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I/II POSITIONS***

Public Works Director Quilter said one position will be stationed at the Lone Pine yard and the other at the Big Pine yard. position at LP Yard one at BP. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to find that, consistent with the Authorized Position Review Policy: A) The availability of funding for two Heavy Equipment Operator I/II positions will come from the money appropriated in the non-General Fund 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 of the positions, the vacancies could be filled through an internal recruitment, however an open recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure the most qualified candidates apply; and C) Approve the hiring of two full-time Heavy Equipment Operator I/II at Range 58 (\$3,310 - \$4,027) or Range 60 (\$3,471 - \$4,216), depending on qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

***GULLY WASHER***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to continue the local emergency known as the "Gully Washer Emergency" that resulted in flooding in the central, south and southeastern portion of Inyo County during the month of July, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

***LAND OF EVEN LESS WATER***

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to continue the local emergency, known as the "Land of EVEN Less Water Emergency" that was proclaimed as a result of extreme drought conditions that exist in the County. Motion carried unanimously.

*DV DOWN BUT NOT  
OUT*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to continue the local emergency, known as the "Death Valley Down But Not Out Emergency" that was proclaimed as a result of flooding in the central, south and southeastern portion of Inyo County during the month of October, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

*PW PRESENTATION –  
BISHOP AIRPORT*

Public Works Director Clint Quilter gave the Board a presentation regarding the Bishop Airport, specifically the status of construction projects, a passenger service evaluation, regional considerations (both ongoing and proposed) and what's on the horizon. He said the County has done about \$4.5 million to \$5 million worth of work at the airport over the past couple years, including installation of a backup generator and an airfield lighting project that makes the facility look like any other large airport someone would land at. The Airport Layout Plan is 80 percent complete and will be finalized after completion of the Phase II Passenger Traffic Study. He said the current Creak Seal, Pavement Marking, and Security Fencing Project is about 90 percent complete. Quilter said the airport was given an informal review by the FAA's western region representative, who spent a day out at the airport with staff and the County's airport consultant showing them what changes and upgrades needed to be made to get Part 139 certification, which allows airports to accept commercial aircraft. He said the recent projects have been informed by that review. The Phase I Passenger Traffic Study has already been completed and included meetings with airlines and Mammoth Mountain, he said. Consultants recommended the County move on to Phase II, which he said should be completed in another few months. Work includes reviewing existing aviation demand forecasts, economic trends, tourism trends and historical aviation trends, and preparing short- and long-term annual forecasts and peak hour forecasts. Ultimately what the County wants, he said, is a letter from an airline saying they want to land at Bishop Airport. From there, it's just getting FAA approval. A Terminal Apron Rehab project is planned next as part of Phase I improvement projects. He said it's recommended that if the County wants to support long-term passenger service, Phase I and II should be undertaken simultaneously or one right after the other. Phase II calls for restoring the width of Runway 12-30, which Quilter explained basically means moving the lights back out to the 150 feet mark. He said this would take about a week and would allow the airport to accommodate A319 or B737 service. Phase I is listed at \$2.1 million and Phase II, \$4.9 million. The FAA would contribute \$5.3 million of that total. Phase III, which includes runway and parallel taxiway rehab, can be probably be done about 10 or 20 years in the future for a cost \$23.4 million, with the FAA contributing \$20 million. He added that the FAA probably won't pay for the terminal building included in Phase I because compared to Mammoth Airport's terminal project, it is a low priority for the agency. Quilter then showed a comparison of all three regional airports, Bishop, Mammoth and Inyokern. Bishop has three runways compared to one each at the other facilities, and runway strength of 240,000 pounds. Quilter noted that if you have three runways, you can take off in any direction and deal with wind issues a lot better. Mammoth Airport had 38 average annual flight cancellations from 2010-2014 and Inyokern had an average of 17 cancellations annually from 2010-2013. Quilter also pointed out that Mammoth has heavy snow in the winter, strong crosswinds and airspace constraints related to the terrain, while Bishop and Inyokern have minimal wind issues and no snow. Inyokern's airspace is constrained by the military action in the area, while Bishop has no constraints. Of the three airports, Bishop has the widest, longest, and strongest runways. It is also centrally located to serve Mammoth and Inyokern as well as nearby Nevada. Regional collaboration to date has included staff/Eastern Sierra Council of Governments tours of the Bishop and Mammoth airports, as well as emails and some sitdowns with Town of Mammoth Lakes staff. Quilter said discussions have mainly been in general terms although County staff did broach the subject of a partnership between the Town and Bishop Airport. He said the Town indicated its openness to the idea during meetings but the County has yet to receive an actual response. Quilter asked CAO Carunchio whether that was a fair representation of the situation and Carunchio said it was. Quilter did note the Town does a good job of updating ESCOG.

*(continued)*  
**PW PRESENTATION –  
BISHOP AIRPORT**

Bottom line is that Mammoth has too many operational constraints, he said, noting they're primarily due to the facility being located at a high elevation with a mountain next to it. Quilter said the County, meanwhile, doesn't have the experience to run a commercial airport even though it has the better facility. Teaming with Mammoth seems like a logical conclusion. Possibilities include leasing the Bishop Airport to the Town, entering an operational contract or Joint Operating Agreement with the Town, or using Bishop Airport for flights that for whatever reason can't use Mammoth Airport. He said there has been difficulty in getting from Point A to Point B with Town staff on these issues. FAA representatives will be in town Friday and will want to see what kind of collaboration has taken place or been planned. Quilter said it was recommended that the County just grab the bull by the horns and show the FAA how serious it is about a regional collaboration. Chairman Griffiths said he agreed this is a really important next step to take and asked whether the County could ask for assistance while the FAA is here. CAO Carunchio said the FAA does not want to be in a leadership position, only to encourage collaboration. He noted that Quilter listed four ways collaboration can work and they put those ideas out to Town staff with minimal feedback. He said staff is looking for direction from the Board about whether it's comfortable letting them talk about collaboration ideas with the FAA. Supervisor Pucci praised staff's work and said that while they had no authority over the airport, he said it will be helpful to have the support of the agencies surrounding the airport. Quilter said he offered to make a presentation to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and they haven't taken him up on his offer yet. He said he'd be happy to reach out to the City of Bishop. Quilter proposed having ESCOG form a subcommittee to discuss what information is needed to do an honest assessment of regional air service. Supervisor Kingsley said he thought staff's plan was the right approach and said he would like a third-party recommendation as to how to proceed. Earl Wilson had a few questions for the Board, including how the County planned to get people in and out of the airport, and what the County had planned in case passengers became stranded in Bishop by storms in Mammoth. Supervisor Tillemans responded that, hopefully, the County would be able to have discussions and ask those questions and find out what the best remedies are. He reminded everyone that the County got very positive feedback from the public when it did an outreach in 2014 regarding commercial service in Bishop. He said Inyo's perspective is "what's best for the region?" and the fact the County has offered to let Mammoth run the airport shows the County's true intentions and creativity in proposing a regional approach to commercial flights. Chairman Griffiths confirmed there was consensus among the Board to recommend staff make its subcommittee request and for staff to discuss the four collaboration proposals with the FAA and Town staff.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Earl Wilson of Lone Pine said he had more information on the maps he mentioned during the July 19 RETI 2.0 discussion. He said he would get that information to the CAO for distribution to the Board.

**CORRESPONDENCE  
ACTION**

At the request of Inyo Council for the Arts, it was moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to adopt Resolution No. 2016 - 29 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Designating Inyo Council for the Arts as the County's Partner to the California Arts Council." Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD MEMEBERS  
AND STAFF REPORTS**

CAO Carunchio noted he had the pleasure of attending the NACo conference over the weekend with Chairman Griffiths and Supervisor Pucci. Topics of discussion included tribal consultation and he researched the availability of federal money to support the County's Obsidian project.

Supervisor Tillemans said he attended a web conference on RETI 2.0 last week. He said Kern County was taking the interesting approach of saying solar energy is good for groundwater, and incorporating that sentiment into their SGMA-related planning.

Chairman Griffiths said he attended a panel discussion at NACo regarding renewable energy. He said he didn't have the same take as other panel members, who neglected to consider impacts from these projects. He said it was good to inject some realism into the conversation and share some of the real concerns Inyo County is facing.

Supervisor Totheroh said he attended a meeting of the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative and heard a lot of good input about the Forest Service's updated Forest Plan.

Supervisor Pucci said that in addition to attending the NACo conference recently, he also attended a meeting of Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative. He said the group is focused on what the public thinks the best recreational opportunities are or should be.

Supervisor Kingsley said the Collaborative had a meeting just last night, and said their approach seems to be giving input applicable to all the alternatives. He also noted that there was a large search operation on Mt. Whitney over the weekend involving up to 40 searchers a day, a Chinook helicopter and rescue personnel from as far away as the Bay Area. Unfortunately the search turned into a recovery mission when the missing hiker's body was discovered. He said he had a chance to speak with the victim's family and they were really impressed to see how much effort was being put into the search for their loved one.

*ADJOURNMENT*

Chairman Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. with the Board scheduled to meet next on August 2, 2016 at 8:30 in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor

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

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