

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

July 9, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 10:02 a.m., on July 9, 2019, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Rick Pucci, presiding, Dan Tothoroh, Jeff Griffiths, Mark Tillemans, and Matt Kingsley.

Pledge Supervisor Tillemans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the first public comment period.

Earl Wilson of Lone Pine told the Board he expected a report on the state of the county following the earthquakes near Trona and Ridgecrest on July 4-5.

CAO – Urgency Item Addition CAO Quilter presented a request to add an urgency item to today's agenda. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to add consideration and possible approval of a letter in support of Assembly Bill 651 to the agenda, based on the finding that it needs to be addressed before the next Board meeting on August 6, and only came to the attention of Board members and staff after publication of today's agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

County Department Reports Public Works Director Mike Errante reported on his staff's response to the July 4-5 earthquakes in the Trona/Ridgecrest area to check on County roads and water systems, and noted that no damage was reported. He added that a Building Inspector had been dispatched to do an assessment in the Homewood Canyon/Darwin areas today.

Sheriff Hollowell reported on the July 4-5 earthquakes in the Trona/Ridgecrest area as well as his department's response to the area in their immediate aftermath, and said he was now sending 10 deputies to Ridgecrest on a mutual aid request. He also noted that the aftershocks appeared to be moving north.

Emergency Services Manager Kelley Williams said she was keeping in touch with CalOES in the event damage from the July 4-5 earthquakes in the Trona/Ridgecrest area was discovered in Inyo County.

Planning Director Cathreen Richards distributed two hand-outs to the Board: a copy of an email from the Forest Service announcing a public webinar and a notice from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Ag Commissioner Nate Reade provided an update on the current commercial cannabis licensing period, which ends August 9.

HHS Director Marilyn Mann announced two upcoming events, one in recognition of World Breastfeeding Week in August and the other a teen CERT training in collaboration with Probation.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson updated the Board on the status of legislation being tracked by the Chief Probation Officers of California.

Employee Service Recognition – 2nd Quarter The Board of Supervisors recognized employee service milestones reached during the 2019 Second Quarter. The following employees who were unable to attend last week's presentations were invited back today and presented pins commemorating their milestones by their respective department heads (or their designees) or CAO Quilter:

- Mary Lou Sowa, 26 years, Child Support Services
- Carol Drew, 30 years, Sheriff's Office

*Proclamation –
Probation Services
Week*

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson said it was his honor and privilege to recommend the Board approve a proclamation declaring July Probation Services Week in Inyo County. Before reading the proclamation aloud, he expressed gratitude to everyone in his department for the challenging work they do to make a difference in people's lives, and noted they have been responsible for some real success stories as a result of their dedication. Supervisor Griffiths asked that Thomson pass along the Board's gratitude to his staff. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a proclamation titled, "A Proclamation of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Proclaiming the Week of July 21 through July 27, 2019 Probation Services Week in Inyo County." Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS – Integrated
Case Worker I-II*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh 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 one (1) Integrated Case Worker I-II exists in a non-General Fund budget, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment; however, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; C) approve the hiring of one (1) Integrated Case Worker I at Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387) or Integrated Case Worker II at Range 64 (\$3,964 - \$4,817), depending upon qualifications; and D) if an internal candidate is hired as a result of the open recruitment, authorize HHS to backfill any and all resulting vacancies. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services
– Canon Financial
Services Contract
Amendment 1*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) approve Amendment No. 1 to the lease agreement between the County of Inyo and Canon Financial Services for photocopy machine leasing and management by American Business Machines, adding 11 managed multi-function machines through CFS and ABM for a 55-month term for an annual amount of \$10,800 plus any per-copy overage fees; and B) authorize the Chairperson to sign the lease agreement amendment, lease agreement for 11 additional machines, and municipal fiscal funding addendum, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk-Recorder –
Granicus Payment
Authorization*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize payment to Granicus in the amount of \$10,772 for the annual CRiis Software License Maintenance and Support Fee, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff – Reciprocal
Prisoner Transport
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the Reciprocal Intrastate Transportation of Prisoners Agreement effective upon execution by the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, indefinitely for reciprocal transportation of prisoner services by both parties, and authorize the Sheriff to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Workshop – SCE
Public Safety Power
Shutoff*

Emergency Services Manager Kelley Williams introduced a workshop from Southern California Edison on its 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Plan and the De-Energization (Public Safety Power Shutoff) Communication and Notification Policies and Protocol. Robert Steins, local public affairs manager, provided details on the plan and the shut-offs, fielding questions from the Board and public. Steins was joined by members of the Board in emphasizing the importance of emergency preparedness, including the professional installation of back-up generators.

*Planning – Haiwee
Geothermal Leasing
Area Letter*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards reviewed for the Board the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement related to geothermal energy exploration and development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area as well as a letter authored by staff in response. After some discussion about land designations and boundaries, the Board concurred that the letter should also include the suggestion that the proposed project be sited in areas with less conflicts post-Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign and staff to send a letter in response to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement related to geothermal energy exploration and development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, with the addition as suggested by the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

<i>Water Department – Direction to OVGA Reps</i>	The Board was asked to provide direction to the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority representatives in advance of the OVGA meeting scheduled for July 11, 2019 in Bishop. Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand noted that most of the agenda items are informational, pending the release of the State Department of Water Resources report on basin prioritization which is not expected until August. He said one potential action item involves the formation of a subcommittee, on which Supervisor Totheroh, with the Board’s concurrence, said he would volunteer to serve. Supervisor Totheroh also reaffirmed his belief that, regardless of the results of the State report, the OVGA should continue to operate and do so sustainably. Supervisor Kingsley agreed that the County should use every tool for water management at its disposal.
<i>Recess/Reconvene</i>	The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:07 p.m. with all Board members present.
<i>Ag Commissioner – Mosquito Assessment 1 & 2 (Reso # 2019-31)</i>	Ag Commissioner Nate Reade presented an annual request to hold a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 mosquito abatement assessments, approve the engineer’s report and continuation of the assessments as well as the new fiscal year levies. The Chairperson opened the public hearing at 12:10 p.m. Chris Coulter, consultant with SCI Consulting, which prepared the engineer’s report, provided additional detail for the Board. Supervisor Griffiths noted for the record that there are very few mosquitoes in the Bishop area and he has received no complaints. Supervisor Kingsley similarly complimented the Mosquito Abatement program for the favorable local conditions. The Chairperson closed the public hearing at 12:15 p.m. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Resolution No. 2019-31 titled, “A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Administering the Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program Approving the Engineer’s Reports, Confirming the Assessment Diagram and Assessment and Ordering the Levy of Assessments for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for the Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program Assessment (Assessment No. 1) and for the Mosquito Control and Disease Prevention Assessment (Assessment No. 2),” and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Ag Commissioner – Letter to Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board</i>	Ag Commissioner Nate Reade notified the Board that he was recently made aware second-hand that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board has proposed adding several creeks and streams in Inyo County to a list of impaired waters per the federal Clean Water Act. He said the comment period ends July 15 and he received no direct notification about the proposal from Lahontan, which told him it only notifies those on its mailing list. He said the proposed listing would require a plan to bring the water back into compliance and could conflict with the Long-Term Water Agreement, negatively impacting in-valley uses of those waters. Reade said he drafted a letter to Lahontan, with the assistance of Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand, outlining staff’s concerns and requesting a 45-day extension of the comment period given the insufficient notification and time to review the proposed listings. It was also noted that Lahontan uses much stricter testing standards than the rest of the state. The Board agreed an extension is necessary given the potential negative impacts of the listings. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a comment letter to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) with regard to the LRWQCB’s Proposed Revisions to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d)/305(b) Surface Water Quality Assessment Report (Integrated Report), and for the County to take whatever steps necessary to ensure it secures an extension of the comment period. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Recess for Lunch</i>	The Chairperson recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:28 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:17 p.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Tillemans.
<i>HHS-Aging & Social Services – Life Remedies and Celebrations Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Life Remedies and Celebrations, for the provision of In-Home Supportive Services, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 with an option to extend a second and third year, contingent upon the Board’s adoption of future County budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.
<i>HHS-Public Health & Prevention – Flavored Tobacco Update</i>	The Board received a follow-up presentation from Inyo County Health and Human Services Tobacco Control staff outlining policy options to address the issue of flavored tobacco in the region and provide direction regarding a potential County Ordinance. Program Manager April Eagan distributed literature to the Board, summarizing the previous Board discussion on the topic and reviewing the effectiveness of flavored tobacco regulations in other jurisdictions.

Analyst Mikaela Torres presented the results of a retailer survey. Eagan outlined for the Board staff's recommendations for moving forward: pursuing tobacco retailer licensing, implementing a ban on flavored vaping products, and instituting minimum packaging requirements. She said staff would also continue to work with Mono County Tobacco Control, as well as the Bishop City Council and Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, to ensure a coordinated regional policy to the extent possible. Discussion among the Board members and between staff and the Board ensued. The Board ultimately concurred with staff's three-pronged recommendation, and also wanted to see a working group formed to address the issue.

*Information Services
– Preview of New
Website*

Deputy Information Services Director Jayme Westervelt provided the Board with an update on the development of a new County website, including a preview of what the finished product should look like when it goes live. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine said the front page is too busy and wanted to know why it featured a new County seal. Westervelt explained it's not a seal, but a button, and that the County seal has not been replaced. She showed him where it can be found on the website. She said using a color version of the existing County seal in the location of the button in question would have produced a distorted image. The Board complimented the look and functionality of the new site.

*Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of July 2, 2019. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*Correspondence-
Action – Closure of
Millpond Recreation
Area*

Supervisor Griffiths recused himself from the discussion and deliberation. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the closure of Millpond Recreation Area to the public from 8 a.m. Friday, September 20, 2019 through 8 p.m. Sunday, September 22, 2019 so that Inyo Council for the Arts can host the 28th Annual Millpond Music Festival. Motion carried unanimously 3-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent and Supervisor Griffiths recused.

*Correspondence-
Action – Letter of
Support for AB 651*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter of support for Assembly Bill 651. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

Public Comment

Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the final public comment period and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.

*Board Member and
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Kingsley reported he has been traveling out of the area the past few weeks.

Supervisor Totheroh said he has a County Service Area No. 2 board meeting and a meeting of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority next Thursday.

Supervisor Griffiths reported he attended an Inyo Council for the Arts board meeting, the July 4 celebrations at Bishop Airport and Bishop City Park, and the Bishop City Council meeting, and has a veterans housing group meeting tomorrow, a meeting of the OVGA next Thursday, and then will be leaving over the weekend for the national NACo conference in Las Vegas.

County Counsel Rudolph reported that he was notified that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is meeting in Bishop tomorrow.

CAO Quilter reported he and staff are meeting this Friday with representatives from Mammoth Mountain and Mammoth Lakes Tourism regarding airport subsidies and next week would be giving an update on the Bishop Airport to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council. He also reported that the airport's new Part 139 inspector would be making an informal visit this Wednesday, and that the Junior Livestock Show is happening this week.

Chairperson Pucci said he is attending a meeting Thursday and then leaving for the NACo conference in Las Vegas.

Adjournment

Chairperson Pucci adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 6, 2019 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: CLINT G. QUILTER
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant