

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

February 25, 2025

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 February 25, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Scott Marcellin, presiding, Will Wadelton, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Roeser and Trina Orrill. Also present: County Administrator Nate Greenberg, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel.

*Closed Session
Public Comment*

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to closed session items and there was no one wishing to speak.

Closed Session

Chairperson Marcellin 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 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)** – Name of case: *Khaliq McCracken v. County of Inyo, et al.* Case No.: 1:25-cv-00165-CDB; No. 3 **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation** - Significant exposure to potential litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) Government Code §54956.9: Claim for damages filed by Kelley Williams; No.4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Child Support Services Director; and No. 5 **Conference with County's Labor Negotiators – Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6** – Regarding employee organizations: Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA); Inyo County Correctional Officers Association (ICCOA); Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA); Inyo County Probation Peace Officers Association (ICPPOA); IHSS Workers; Law Enforcement Administrators' Association (LEAA). Unrepresented employees: all. County designated representatives – Administrative Officer Nate Greenberg, Assistant County Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, and Assistant County Counsel Grace Weitz.

Open Session

Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:05 a.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item No. 4 and said that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported. Vallejo said the Board would reconvene later in the meeting to discuss Item Nos. 2, 3, and 5.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Chairperson Marcellin asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Lauralyn Hundley.

County Department Reports

Public Works Director Mike Errante provided a status report on various Public Works projects including pending projects for the vault toilet installation at Diaz Lake and the Walker Creek Bridge Project and the completion of the library bookshelf anchoring project, the aeration ponds in Tecopa, and the Courthouse HVAC system.

Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser provided information on Assembly Bill 993, which is co-sponsored by the California Association of Environmental Health Administrators and the Rural County Representatives of California for the purpose of expanding the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

Clerk of the Board –
Board of Supervisors MINUTES

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes

<i>Approval of Minutes</i>	from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of February 11, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-First 5 – First 5 Commission Appointments</i>	<p>Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Appoint Dr. Lindsey Ricci to a new three-year term on the First 5 Commission ending December 5, 2027; B) Appoint Darcia Blackdeer-Lent to a new three-year term on the First 5 Commission ending December 5, 2027; and C) Appoint Stephanie Tanksley to an unexpired three-year term on the First 5 Commission ending December 5, 2026. <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<i>Public Works – CSA No. 2 (Bishop Creek Sewer) Committee Appointment</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint Steven Leach to the County Service Area No. 2 (Bishop Creek Sewer) Advisory Committee to serve a term ending December 1, 2028. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Independence Legion Hall Facility Use Permit</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the request from the Independence Lions Club for use of the Legion Hall for monthly Bingo games to raise funds to support their community projects and waive all associated rental fees. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Tinnemaha Road Road Closure</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the temporary closure of Tinnemaha Road (Old Highway 395) approximately 6 miles south of Aberdeen and Hogback Road with detours between U.S. 395 and Black Rock Springs Road from March 14-22, 2025, for the purpose of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual Sierra Bighorn Sheep monitoring program. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>CAO – FY 24-25 Mid-Year Financial Review</i>	<p>Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Accept the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Mid-Year Financial Report as presented; B) Approve the specific budget action items and recommendations discussed in the report, and represented in Attachments A & B (<i>4/5ths vote required</i>); and C) Direct staff to continue the emphasis on revenue attainment and expense savings in order to maximize year-end Fund Balances. <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<i>CAO – Eastern Sierra Air Alliance and Commercial Air Service Update</i>	<p>CAO Greenberg and Deputy Public Works Director for Airports Ashley Helms gave a presentation on the current state of airports and commercial air service. Helms outlined the Airport Capital Improvement Program and reported on all pending airport projects in Bishop, Independence, and Lone Pine.</p> <p>Greenberg summarized current County financial involvement in regional commercial air service including costs associated with airport operations and service subsidy contributions. Greenberg provided information on a Draft Cost-Sharing MOU as well as additional proposed flight options for extended summer 2025 services and welcomed Board input.</p> <p>President and CEO of Mammoth Lakes Tourism John Urdi provided information on winter usage of flights services out of Mammoth Yosemite Airport.</p> <p>Board members agreed they would like to see expanded air services out of the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport and an extended flight season with the ultimate goal of providing year-round services but also requested staff bring back a plan to earmark future revenue, specifically for marketing to ensure a return on investment; continue research on bolstering ground transportation options at the Bishop Airport; continue maintenance of airport grounds during periods of time where there is little to no revenue coming in; and consider how to better accommodate the needs of the general aviation community.</p> <p>Public comment was heard from Lauralyn Hundley and Pat Foster.</p>

CAO Greenberg said he will bring back a separate discussion on the marketing aspect, as well as a final copy of the MOU for approval.

- Public Works-Airports – Tartaglia Engineering Contract Amendment No. 1* Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Tartaglia Engineering of Atascadero, CA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$205,243, contingent upon approval of the Mid-Year Budget Review, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
- Public Works-Airports – Lochner Agreement Amendment No. 5* Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:
- A) Approve the letter titled, "Land Lease Status for the Independence Airport and Lone Pine/Death Valley Airport," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
 - B) Ratify and approve Amendment No. 5 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Lochner of Chicago, IL, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$714,252, contingent on the approval of the Mid-Year Budget Review, and authorize the Chairperson to sign.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- HHS-Health & Prevention – FY 24-25 CA Children's Services Plan* Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:
- A) Amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2025, California Children's Services (CCS) Treatment (045500) as follows: decrease revenue in State Grants (4498) by \$4,178.00 and decrease appropriation in Professional Services (5265) by \$4,178.00 (*4/5ths vote required*); and
 - B) Ratify and approve the CCS Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to ensure the continuation of medical services to eligible children in Inyo County and authorize the Chairperson to sign certification statements.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Water Department – OVGA Annual Meeting* Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert reported on the upcoming Groundwater Authority meeting, which will be held on February 27, 2025.
- CAO – District 5 TOT Fund Contribution to DVNP Community Center* Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:
- A) Approve the Donation Agreement between the County of Inyo and Death Valley National Park for the purpose of allocating the Transient Occupancy Tax District Improvement Fund and authorize the County Administrative Officer to sign; and
 - B) Authorize the payment of \$67,749.00 to Death Valley National Park.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- CAO – CA Broadband Corporation Partial Assignment of Rights/ Reso. No. 2025-06* Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2025-06, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Authorizing the Partial Assignment of Rights Grant to the California Broadband Corporation to the California Department of Technology," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
- Recess/Reconvene* The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break, then to return to closed session at 12:36 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. with all Board members present.
- Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under item Nos. 2 and 3 where members voted unanimously to authorize Counsel to defend against the litigation filed and that may be filed.
- Inyo Council for the Arts – State of the Arts Report* Executive Director for Inyo Council for the Arts Sharon Freilich presented the Board with the 2024 "State of the Arts" report, which showcased the organization's programs and events from 2024.
- CAO – Inyo County Legislative* Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman provided an overview on edits done to the Inyo County Legislative Platform based off of input received at the February 11 Board meeting.

Platform Approval

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the Inyo County 2025 Federal Legislative Platform. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Marcellin asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and there was no one wishing to speak.

Board Member & Staff Reports

CAO Greenberg said he attended a City-County Liaison meeting and an off-site Administration team gathering and will attend an Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meeting tomorrow.

Supervisor Griffiths said he attended meetings of the City-County Liaison Committee and the California State Association of Counties Board (with Supervisor Orrill) and will be attending meetings of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

Supervisor Wadelton said he attended the second module of the CSAC New Supervisor training in Sacramento and announced the community infill meetings to be hosted by the Planning Department in Big Pine, Independence, and Lone Pine.

Supervisor Marcellin said he attended meetings of the City-County Liaison and the Local Agency Formation Commission and will attend the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Israel, Assistant