

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

April 29, 2025

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:32 a.m., on April 29, 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 8:32 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: *Lisa Kay Sanders v. City of Bishop, County of Inyo et. al.* (Case No. 25UC71944); and No. 3 **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 Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich.

Open Session

Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:01 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item No. 2 and voted unanimously to authorize counsel to defend the County against the lawsuit brought by Lisa Kay Sanders; and Item No. 3, with no action was taken that is required to be reported.

Introductions

The following new employees were introduced to the Board:

- Assessor: Isaiah Lopez, Appraiser
- County Counsel: Stacey Simon, retired annuitant
- HHS: Joshua Vega, Program Supervisor
- Sheriff: Jorge Fierro Vazquez, Sheriff Deputy-Trainee
- Water Department: James Mills, Research Assistant

Public Comment

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Lauralyn Hundley, Mel Joseph, Wendy Schneider, and Trevor Warner.

*Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of April 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –
Tecopa Cemetery
District Board
Appointment*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to appoint Ms. Ally Few to an unexpired four-year term on the Tecopa Cemetery District Board of Trustees, ending February 22, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

<i>CAO-Broadband – Onward Design Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Inyo Networks, Inc., d.b.a. Onward of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, for the provision of last-mile network designs in an amount not to exceed \$93,500 for the period of April 29, 2025, through September 30, 2025, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Health & Human Services – EMCC Appointments</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to appoint or reappoint the following individuals to two-year terms on the Inyo County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) ending December 31, 2026: Billy Eichenbaum to represent Southern Inyo Fire Protection District; Jacinda Thomsen to represent Northern Inyo Healthcare District; and Chief Carl Bursell to represent Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Health & Human Services – Mono County ESAAA Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the contract with the County of Mono for the provision of Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) services to Mono County eligible residents, in the total, not-to-exceed amount of \$1,000,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and negotiable for a maximum of two additional one-year periods, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Health & Human Services-ESAAA – FY 2025-2026 Area Plan Update</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Approve the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) 2025-2026 Area Plan Update; B) Set minimum percentages for the Supportive Services subcategory as recommended by the ESAAA Advisory Council at 50% for Access category-Transportation, 10% for Legal Services, and 5% for In-home Services; and C) Authorize the Chairperson and HHS Director to sign the required Transmittal Letter. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Planning Department- Yucca Mountain Oversight – Roux Associates, Inc. (Andy Zdon) Contract Amendment No. 4</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Approve Amendment No. 4 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Roux Associates Inc. (Andy Zdon) to amend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 – Term, to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026; • Term to July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2026 on Attachments A-E as applicable; • Section 3 - CONSIDERATION at Subsection D - Limit payable under Agreement. Shall not exceed \$95,000; • The "not to exceed" amount to be \$95,000 on Attachments A-E as applicable; and • Attachment D – Insurance Requirements; and B) Authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works-Airports – Lone Pine Taxiway A Resurfacing Project N.O.C. & Reso. No. 2025-13</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Resolution No. 2025-13, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California Authorizing the Recording of a Notice of Completion for the Lone Pine Airport Taxiway A Resurfacing Project," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works-Airports – SIAAC Appointment</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to appoint Ms. Lynne Bunn to an unexpired term as an alternate voting member on the Southern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee, ending on June 1, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Eastern Sierra Disc Golf Club Donation</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to, pursuant to Inyo County Code Section 6.26.020, accept a donation of disc golf baskets and a pallet of concrete from the Eastern Sierra Disc Golf Club on behalf of the County. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Mendenhall Park Playground Plans & Specs.</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the plans and specifications for the Mendenhall Park Revitalization Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously.

<i>CAO-Information Services – Land Mobile Radio Purchase</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to authorize a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$210,000.00, payable to BlackPoint LLC of Gardnerville, NV, for in-vehicle and handheld radios for the Sheriff's Office. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Sheriff – 2025 DOJ Bulletproof Vest Program Application</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to authorize the submittal of the U.S. Department of Justice Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Program application for 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Sheriff – FY 25-26 Boat Safety & Enforcement Grant</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to authorize the submittal of the Boating Safety and Enforcement Grant for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Water Department – OVGA Executive Manager Contract Amendment No. 1</i>	<p>Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Approve Amendment No. 1 of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) contract for the provision of Executive Manager services in an amount not to exceed \$25,410 annually, and to remain in effect until terminated by any party with 30 days' notice; and B) Authorize the Chairperson to sign. <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<i>County Department Reports</i>	<p>Public Works Director Mike Errante provided an update on the Whitney Portal Road culvert repair project, the Walker Creek Bridge replacement project, and a status on mountain road re-openings. Errante said Public Works staff were well received at a Career Day hosted by Big Pine High School.</p> <p>Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser provided information on the hantavirus threat and offered additional guidance to those living and working around rodents.</p>
<i>CAO – Eastern Sierra Community Housing/Silver Peaks Affordable Housing Project Presentation</i>	The Board received a presentation from Eastern Sierra Community Housing Executive Director Patricia Robertson on the Silver Peaks Affordable Housing Project.
<i>Recess/Reconvene</i>	The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 10:49 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. with all Board members present.
<i>Water Department – Inyo County Water Commission Workshop & Annual LADWP Operations Plan</i>	<p>At the direction of Chairperson Marcellin and fellow Board members, the Water Commission Workshop item was taken ahead of the Annual Operations Plan to allow for open discussion prior to the Board providing direction to staff. The two items ultimately overlapped.</p> <p>Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert provided a brief overview of the draft 2025-2026 Los Angeles Department of Water and Powers Annual Operations Plan, LADWP's proposed range of pumping amounts of 67,860 to 88,560 acre-feet, and staff's recommended response (due within 10 days of receipt) of a minimum pumping amount of 61,660 acre-feet.</p> <p>Alpert highlighted LADWP's proposed pumping range specifically in the Taboose-Aberdeen wellfield area (10,200 to 15,600 acre-feet) and noted staff's alternative recommendation (4,000 acre-feet) given the projected average runoff forecast. Alpert also noted the intentional lack of planned water spreading in this year's plan, to which the Board expressed mixed concern over the need for vegetation for grazing livestock (grasses) without the added risk of excessive burn fuel (weeds and brush).</p> <p>Prior to the designated commenting period, County Counsel Vallejo brought it to the Board's attention that some Water Commission members were attending the Board meeting remotely and explained that because this was not disclosed in advance and on the published agenda,</p>

they could only comment as members of the public and their comments would need to be limited to three minutes, as is procedure for public comment and in order to comply with the Brown Act.

Commission members Randy Keller and Vikki Glinskii were present and provided feedback on behalf of the Water Commission.

They shared the Commission's concern regarding recharge and recovery of vegetation as well as LADWP's perceived idea that water used for mitigation projects is borrowed water. Supervisor Griffiths agreed, stating, "It seems like they (DWP) perpetually forget that mitigation projects were projects to mitigate prior damage that's already been done. It's not a gift, it's an obligation." The Commission advocated for recommending even less than the Water Department suggested: 51,470 acre-feet, which was LADWP's proposed minimum last pumping year. The Commission also encouraged the County to take a proactive, rather than reactive, strategy when dealing with LADWP and to hold them accountable under the Water Agreement. Glinskii noted the need for an overall, vegetation-focused plan and the opposition to any new well activity.

Public comment was received from Teri Cawelti, Paul Huetten, Wendy Schneider, Lynn Boulton, Sally Manning, Santeena Pugliese, Sydney Quinn, Lauren Kelly, Randy Short, Noah Williams, Allison Weber, and Carola Gregorich. The majority of commenters supported the Water Commission's recommendation and also urged for proactive, strong responses to LADWP.

The Board also supported the Commission's recommendation. Supervisor Roeser expressed specific concerns about the Taboose-Aberdeen wellfield and requested that the County response call for no additional pumping there. Dr. Alpert noted that with that wellfield taken out of the equation, the new recommended pumping number would be 48,720 acre-feet (based on the Commission's recommendation).

Board members provided the following direction to staff:

- Proceed with the recommended response with support for a lower proposed pumping amount of 48,720 acre-feet.
- Request test pumping at proposed sites with clarification in advance, on whether it will be a shallow study or a deep study.
- Continue follow-up with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on the long-delayed installation project for flow regulating apparatus at the Fish Springs hatchery.

Board members thanked Water Department staff and Water Commission members for their hard work and dedication.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for lunch at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:49 p.m. with all Board members present.

Agricultural Commissioner – Ag. Department Overview & Workshop

Agricultural Commissioner Nathan Reade provided a workshop on the various functions of the Inyo/Mono Agriculture Department as well as an overview of the financial aspects of the department.

Reade answered questions posed by Supervisor Roeser regarding the availability of wildlife services within the Agricultural Department and offered to gather further information from contacts at the United States Department of Agriculture. Roeser requested that Commissioner Reade bring back a workshop item on his findings.

CAO-Personnel – Elected Officials Salary and Benefit Adjustments

Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney introduced the item and noted two corrections made to the ordinance after publication of the agenda: the addition of the Coroner's salary on the Elected Officials listing as well as a change to the "effective" date of implementation to reflect June 5.

Oney and CAO Greenberg answered Board member questions. The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to provide public comment and comment was received from Trevor Warner.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Waive further reading of the proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Sub-sections 2.88.040(A) 2.88.040(B) 2.88.040(C) and 2.88.040(G), and Repealing Sub-section 2.88.040(H) of the Inyo County Code Regarding Certain Elected Official Salaries," and schedule enactment for May 13, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence; and

- B) Approve the update to the County of Inyo Elected Official Salary Adjustment Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Benefit Update for
Board of Supervisors*

Public comment was received from Trevor Warner.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to waive further reading of the proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, State of California Amending Section 2.01.040(H) of the Inyo County Code to Provide for a Change in Benefits for Members of the Board of Supervisors," and schedule enactment for May 13, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence. Motion carried unanimously.

*Health & Human
Services –
EMCC Update/
2025 CARESTAR
Transformations &
Innovations Initiative
Grant Proposal*

CAO Greenberg and Health & Human Services Director Anna Scott provided information on the current state of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Emergency Medical Care Committee, and requested support for the submission of an application to CARESTAR as part of the 2025 Transformations & Innovations Initiative to support analysis of Inyo County's current EMS system.

Board members directed staff to move forward with the grant application process and to continue to provide updates as they are available.

Public Comment

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

*Board Member & Staff
Reports*

Supervisor Roeser said she attended the Honor Guard and internment for WWII Veteran Roman Cherubini. Roeser announced that she has been nominated for the University of Southern California "Speak Your Mind Challenge" and is in turn, nominating CAO Nate Greenberg.

Supervisor Wadelton said he attended an Inyo Associates meeting, Keeler Swap Meet, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Earth Day, and the Lone Pine Fishing Derby and said he will attend a Board of Supervisors meeting in Tecopa next Tuesday. Wadelton announced that there will be a Kids Free Fishing Day at the Mt. Whitney Historic Fish Hatchery this Saturday and said that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Supervisor Orrill said she and fellow Board members attended the California State Association of Counties Legislative Conference last week, where she had an opportunity to meet with Congressman Kiley's staff and said she will travel back to Sacramento tomorrow to attend the CSAC Homeland Security Committee meeting as a designated representative.

Supervisor Marcellin said he attended the CSAC Legislative Conference, Bishop Chamber's "Fishmas" celebration and media reception, the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Cultural Exchange, the Lone Pine Fishing Derby Opener, and the Lone Pine Tribal Earth Day Celebration. Marcellin said he will attend a Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District meeting tomorrow and mentioned he has also been nominated for the "Speak Your Mind Challenge."


Supervisor Griffiths said he met with Governor Newsom and attended meetings of the Inyo County Office of Education Board, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments "Towns to Trails" collaboration, Bishop City Council, and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. Griffiths said he will attend upcoming meetings for ESCOG and CSAC.

County Council Vallejo announced his department is in the process of hiring a new Public Defender and hopes to have a contract in place soon.

CAO Greenberg announced that Sheriff Rennie nominated him for the “Speak Your Mind Challenge” and acknowledged the importance of highlighting May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Greenberg said he attended a kickoff meeting for an ESCOG Towns to Trails project and reminded attendees that there will be a full-scale mock emergency exercise at Bishop Airport this Saturday as well as a Southeast County Board meeting in Tecopa next Tuesday.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2025, in the Tecopa Community Center in Tecopa, CA.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: 

Darcy Israel, Assistant