

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

June 24, 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 June 24, 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 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; No. 3 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation** – Significant exposure to potential litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9: Case No. 25UC71122; No. 3A **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation - Initiation of litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(d)(4): 1 case**; No. 4 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles v. Inyo County Board of Supervisors, et al. Inyo County Superior Court Case No. 12908; and No. 5 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: Sierra Club and OVC v. LADWP et. al. Case No.: S1CVCV01-29768.

Open Session

Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:06 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Roeser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met in Closed Session and no action was taken that is required to be reported. Vallejo said the Board would reconvene in Closed Session later in the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Roeser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

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

County Department Reports

The Chairperson asked if there were any departments wishing to provide updates or reports and there was no one wishing to speak.

***Public Works –
2025 Maintained
Mileage Certification
and Reso #2025-21***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve Resolution No. 2025-21, titled, "Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Annual Certification of the 2025 Maintained Mileage Log," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Authorize the Department of Public Works to file the resolution with the District 9 Office of the State of California Department of Transportation.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Auditor-Controller –
Price Paige &
Company Contract
Amendment No. 1***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Price Paige & Company of Clovis CA, extending the term end date from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of June 10, 2025.
Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk of the Board –
Bishop Rural Fire
Protection District
Board of
Commissioners
Appointments***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Appoint Mr. Steven Nelson to an unexpired four-year term on the Bishop Rural Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners, ending July 1, 2027; and
- B) Reappoint Mr. Michael Holland to the Bishop Rural Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners, to serve a four-year term ending July 1, 2029.

Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO –
127 West Bush Street
Surplus Land
Exemption and Reso
#2025-22***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2025-22, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Declaring Certain County Owned Property Exempt Surplus Land Pursuant to the California Surplus Land Act," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO –
Evergreen Solutions,
LLC Contract
Amendment No. 1***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Evergreen Solutions, LLC of Tallahassee, FL, extending the term end date from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Personnel –
Atkinson, Loya, Ruud,
& Romo Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Atkinson, Loya, Ruud & Romo for the provision of Legal Services - General Labor and Employment Advice, for an amount not to exceed \$420,000 for the term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Risk –
SIR Policy Change***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve the new Self-Insured Retention (SIR) policy requiring an action of the Board of Supervisors to change the SIR amount of our general liability insurance coverage for any change equal to or greater than 20% of the SIR last approved by the Board of Supervisors (for changes to SIR or deductible amounts for all other insurance programs, the Risk Manager shall be required to take such action); and
- B) Retroactively approve the change from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in the general liability SIR previously authorized by the Risk Manager.

Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Risk –
Porter Scott Legal
Services Agreement***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Porter Scott of Sacramento, CA, for the provision of legal services in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

<i>CAO – Kosmont Real Estate Services Contract Extension</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Kosmont Real Estate Services, dba Kosmont Realty of El Segundo, CA, extending the term end date from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>CAO – Autopsy Services Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the contract between the County and Dr. Eva S. Wasef, M.D. to provide autopsy services for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 for a contract amount not to exceed \$175,000, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Environmental Health – Local Enforcement Agency Grant Application Submittal and Reso #2025-23</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2025-23, titled "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Authorizing the Submittal of the Local Enforcement Agency Grant Application," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS – Minutes and Associated Board Order Amendments</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to authorize the Clerk of the Board to amend the minutes of the May 13, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting, and associated Board Order, so that they match the amount on the contract amendment with Eastern Sierra Community Housing. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-First 5 – MCAH Home Visiting Program Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Agreement No. CHVP SGF EBHV 25-14 between the County of Inyo and California Department of Public Health in the amount of \$412,058 in State funding for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, and authorize the Health & Human Services Director to sign the Agreement Funding Application Policy Compliance and Certification. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS – America's Job Center of CA MOU</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the counties of Kern, Inyo, and Mono (KIM) to specify their responsibilities under the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act to be operated in the Workforce Development Area and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS – Payment Authorization</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to authorize payment to County of Mono of Bridgeport, CA for prior-year invoices in the amount of \$18,531.00 for senior infrastructure expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Probation – Siemens Industry, Inc. Agreement Amendment No. 6</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement between the County of Inyo and Siemens Industry, Inc. of Fresno, CA, to extend the Agreement from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, and July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028, with the cost of \$8,064 paid in two installments per year for the semi-annual for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, \$8,468 paid in two installments per year for the semi-annual for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, \$8,890 paid in two installments per year for the semi-annual for Fiscal Year 2027-2028 for the inspection and maintenance of equipment services (fire and safety equipment – fire suppression system), contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Probation – Tuolumne County MOU Amendment No. 6</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 6 to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Inyo and the County of Tuolumne for the provision of Juvenile Detention placement services extending the term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 and modifying the daily rate per youth placed to be \$200.00 per day with a guarantee of one (1) bed at the Tuolumne Juvenile Hall and \$250.00 per day for every subsequent bed used by Inyo County, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson and Chief Probation Officer to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Probation –
Redwood Toxicology
Laboratory, Inc.
Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Declare Redwood Toxicology Laboratory, Inc. of Santa Rosa, CA a sole-source provider;
- B) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Redwood Toxicology Laboratory, Inc. of Santa Rosa, CA for the provision of urine sample collection devices (supplies) and laboratory services, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, with an option to renew a second and third year, contingent on the adoption of future fiscal year budgets; and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Dewey Pest Control
Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Dewey Pest Control of Lancaster, CA for the provision of pest control services in an amount not to exceed \$83,880 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Federal Highway
Safety Improvement
Program Grant
Acceptance*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Accept a successful grant from the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program in the amount of \$466,380 for safety improvements along 2.8 miles of Trona-Wildrose Road corridor in the Slate Pass area in southern unincorporated Inyo County;
- B) Authorize the Public Works Director to execute the grant agreements and other documents related to the grant between the County of Inyo and the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans for the period of June 10, 2025, through June 30, 2028; and
- C) Find that the project is exempt pursuant to Section 15301 Existing Facilities exemption and authorize the Public Works Director to prepare and execute the environmental documents accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Laws, Independence,
and Lone Pine Water
Meter Replacement
Project Bid Package*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the plans and specifications for the Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine Water Meter Replacement Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
2025-2026 SB-1
Project List and Reso
#2025-24*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve proposed Resolution No. 2025-24, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Adopting a List of Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Funded by SB 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Authorize the Public Works Department to apply for and submit all required documentation to receive the Inyo County allotment of SB 1, Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 funding and authorize the Public Works Director, or his designee, to sign for the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account funding and all associated supporting documents.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Outside Agency –
2025 Fire Season
Briefing*

The Board received a briefing on the upcoming fire season from Lance Rosen, Assistant Interagency Fire Management Officer with the Bureau of Land Management, accompanied by Forest Service Assistant Fire Management Officer Todd McDivitt. Jonathan O'Brien, Meteorologist with the Forest Service Predictive Services Unit, presented a slideshow detailing recent data on precipitation, temperature trends, and snowpack levels. His forecast projected continued elevated temperatures and below-average precipitation across the region.

Board members engaged with the presenters and thanked BLM and Forest Service staff for their insights.

***Public Works –
Letter of Support***

Public Works Director Mike Errante shared details about an upcoming event at Diaz Lake to honor military veterans and support the Wounded Warriors Project. He noted that it is the hope of the event organizer that the County's letter of support will help secure approval from military authorities for a ceremonial aircraft flyover.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the letter of support for the request for military aerial support for the Overlanding for Warriors - Veterans Weekend Tribute 2025 Event and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO –
Amendment No. 2 to
EMS Cost-Sharing
Agreement***

CAO Greenberg provided an update on EMS developments in the Bishop area, noting that Sierra Life Flight has been delivering services without a formal Exclusive Operating Area while the County awaits approval of a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), the regional EMS authority. He explained that continuity of 911 services has been maintained through a cost-sharing agreement between the County, the City of Bishop, and the Bishop Paiute Tribe. With the agreement set to expire on June 30, 2025, and the RFP process experiencing delays, Greenberg, out of an abundance of caution, requested Board approval to extend the agreement for an additional year.

Greenberg stated that the final RFP is expected to be completed by July, after which it will undergo a new review by ICEMA. Pending approval, the RFP will be released to potential ambulance service providers interested in operating within the Exclusive Operating Area. He also responded to questions from Board members.

Supervisor Roeser requested that the CAO review the status of payment contributions previously approved by the Board for remaining EMS and fire service volunteers/departments countywide. She also asked for a reassessment of the price-per-call data for each department, along with verification of the previously agreed-upon floor (\$15,000) and cap (\$35,000) amounts.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the agreement between County of Inyo, City of Bishop, and Bishop Paiute Tribe for purpose of cost sharing of the financial support for continuity of 911 Emergency Medical Services in the Bishop Operating Area for the period between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

***Sheriff –
Animal Control Budget
Amendment***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Animal Control Budget #023900 as follows: increase appropriation in Motor Pool Object Code #5333 by \$30,000; and
- B) Amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Jail - General Budget #022900 as follows: decrease appropriation in Salaried Employees Object Code #5001 by \$30,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Personnel –
Senior Deputy District
Attorney Contract and
Reso. #2025-25***

Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney delivered a brief overview and identified an error in the agreement's "Fiscal Impact" section, noting that the year was mistakenly listed as 2016 instead of the correct year, 2026.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Brad Braaten for the provision of personal services as the Senior Deputy District Attorney at Grade 25, Step D, \$12,903.29 per month effective July 3, 2025, and authorize the Chairperson to sign;
- B) Direct staff to update the publicly available pay schedule accordingly; and
- C) Rescind Resolution No. 2025-16 and approve Resolution No. 2025-25 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Setting Certain Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Management Employees Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo, Which Shall Supersede Any Prior Resolutions Pertaining to That Subject to the Extent They Are Inconsistent," effective July 3, 2025, and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:03 a.m. with all Board members present.

Planning Department – Public Hearing and Ordinance 1319

The Board received a presentation from Planning Director Cathreen Richards on a proposed ordinance titled, “An Ordinance of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Amending Section 18.78.310 Pertaining to Maintenance of Animals and Amending Subsections 18.12.020 (D) and 18.12.040 (J) Pertaining to Zoning Requirements for Animal Maintenance.”

Animal Control Supervisor Katie Bird continued the presentation, providing insight and photos of non-compliant scenarios involving animal neglect and some of the obstacles staff encounter when attempting to intervene.

Chairperson Marcellin opened a public hearing at 11:43 a.m. and asked if there was anyone wishing to provide public comment. Lauralyn Hundley provided remarks, after which the Chairperson closed the hearing at 11:45 a.m.

Richards and Bird responded to Board inquiries, followed by an extensive discussion regarding the need for revisions to the proposed ordinance and whether existing enforcement tools sufficiently support staff in fulfilling their duties. Board members concurred that further clarification and consistency are needed in several sections of the code. Supervisor Roeser requested a specific amendment to replace the final sentence of Section II.-C with the language: “In no instance shall stock water access be impeded.” She also requested the addition of a WHEREAS clause to the ordinance that reads: “Inyo County is rural and has had a resource-based economy throughout its history. With this is a proud tradition of ranching and equestrian activities as well as an openness to allowing people to keep animals on their property with little interference. The County is not attempting to change this time-honored tradition, however, feels there needs to be a better balance in animal keeping with a more careful stance on animal welfare and the nuisances that can be created due to poor animal maintenance.”

After additional discussion, the Board decided to postpone any changes to Inyo County Code Sections 18.12.020 and 18.12.040 and directed the following:

1. Planning staff will return to the Planning Commission to gather additional input regarding the definition of a kennel;
2. Animal Control staff will revise licensing language to incorporate provisions specific to kennel definitions; and
3. Both departments will report back to the Board within two months with recommended updates for review and approval as part of the ordinance clean-up adopted today.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Certify the project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Common Sense Rule 15061(b)(3); and
- B) Waive further reading of and enact Ordinance 1319, with the following changes:
 - 1) The addition of: “WHEREAS, “Inyo County is rural and has had a resource-based economy throughout its history. With this is a proud tradition of ranching and equestrian activities as well as an openness to allowing people to keep animals on their property with little interference. The County is not attempting to change this time-honored tradition, however, feels there needs to be a better balance in animal keeping with a more careful stance on animal welfare and the nuisances that can be created due to poor animal maintenance.”
 - 2) Replacement of the last sentence in Section II.-C with: “In no instance shall stock water access be impeded;” and
 - 3) Removal of any reference to amendments to Subsections 18.12.020 (D) and 18.12.040 (J).

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairperson Marcellin asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and comment was received from Nancy Masters, who also submitted a handout for the Board's consideration.

Board Member & Staff

Supervisor Roeser reported attending an Eastern Sierra Land Trust aerial tour, as well as meetings focused on implementing Senate Bill 675 and advancing the Buttermilk

Reports

Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative. She also participated in discussions with local constituents and said she plans to attend an out-of-area meeting with the Rural County Representatives of California.

Supervisor Wadelton said he visited several communities - including Tecopa, China Ranch, Death Valley Library, and Cow Creek - for constituent meetings. He also toured the Haiwee Dam 2 Project, joined an eco-flight over the Lower Owens River and Patsiata Owens Lake dust mitigation projects, and met with both the Independence Fire Safe Council and Eastern Sierra Conservation Group.

Supervisor Orrill reported attending a meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, participating in a webinar on climate planning for local governments, and joining the Laws First Responder Appreciation Day event. She also participated in an aerial tour of Conglomerate Mesa via eco-flight and noted plans to attend tomorrow's ceremony recognizing Sheriff Rennie's certification.

Supervisor Griffiths said he attended meetings with local constituents, the Regional California State Association of Counties Regional meeting, and toured homelessness response programs in Ventura. Griffiths said he plans to participate in upcoming meetings of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) and the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority.

CAO Greenberg said he attended meetings with the Budget Team and has an ESCOG meeting tomorrow.

Supervisor Marcellin said he attended the Independence Father's Day Fishing Derby, Concert in the Rocks, and a food marketing meeting for the Bishop Tribe's Farmers Market reopening. Marcellin said he plans to attend the upcoming Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting and Sheriff Rennie's POST certification ceremony.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting to return to closed session at 1:01 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:22 p.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session


County Counsel Vallejo said that the Board met under Items. 2, 3, and 3A and said no action was taken in relation to Item 2 that is required to be reported, but under No. 3 the Board voted unanimously to authorize counsel to defend against the litigation and under No. 3A the Board voted unanimously to authorize counsel to initiate litigation.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Attest: *NATE GREENBERG*
Clerk of the Board

by: 
Darcy Israel, Assistant



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors