

# MINUTES



## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**July 22, 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 July 22, 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.

***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 Orrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Report on Closed Session***

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item No. 2 and that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

***Introductions***

The following new employees were introduced to the Board:

- **District Attorney** - Senior Deputy District Attorney Brad Braaten
- **Public Works** - Building and Maintenance Worker Michael DeHaven
- **Sheriff's Office** - Cook Rebecca Avila and Correctional Officer Julio Gonzalez
- **Administrator** – Emergency Services Manager Lisa Cox

***Public Comment***

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

***County Department Reports***

Sheriff Rennie reported that missing person Kelsey Pittman was located alive this morning in Colorado. Sheriff Rennie praised her staff for their hard work, dedication, and expertise throughout the investigation. Pittman was last seen in November 2024 and her abandoned car was found near Death Valley in February.

Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman invited contractors to attend an upcoming Procurement Workshop and reminded residents to participate in an ongoing housing survey. She distributed flyers pertaining to both subjects.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson announced Probation Services Week, praised his team, and offered his condolences to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, whose parole agent, Joshua Byrd, was murdered by a parolee, and San

Joaquin County Probation in the wake of one of its probation officers being badly burned while trying to apprehend a client.

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

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of July 8, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

***Health & Human  
Services –  
EMCC Appointments***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the following appointments to the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC): Michael Metcalf to represent Olancho-Cartago Fire Department for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2025; and Rob Deforrest to represent Southern Inyo Hospital District for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works-Parks –  
Independence Creek  
Campground  
Reservation***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve a request from Mr. David Barasch to reserve all campsites at Independence Creek Campground, from September 5, 2025 through September 7, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –  
American Asphalt  
South, Inc. Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Award the contract for the Consolidated Slurry Seal Projects to American Asphalt South, Inc. of Riverside, CA as the successful bidder;
- B) Approve the construction contract between the County of Inyo and American Asphalt South, Inc. of Riverside, CA in the amount of \$971,471.65, and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- C) Authorize the Public Works Director to execute all other project contract documents, including contract change orders, to the extent permitted by Public Contract Code Section 20142 and other applicable laws.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –  
CSA No. 2 Advisory  
Committee  
Appointment***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint Mr. Scott McKenzie and Mr. David Tanksley to the County Service Area No. 2 Advisory Committee to four-year terms ending July 22, 2029. Motion carried unanimously.

***Water Department –  
Water Commission  
Appointment***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint Mr. Matt Kingsley and to the Water Commission to an unexpired four-year term ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

***Health & Human  
Services-Social  
Services –  
Kern County Adoption  
Services MOU***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to ratify and approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kern County for provision of Adoptions Services for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the MOU. Motion carried unanimously.

***Health & Human  
Services-Behavioral  
Health –  
North American Mental  
Health Services  
Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Declare North American Mental Health Services of Redding, CA a sole-source provider of mental health tele-psychiatry services;
- B) Ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and North American Mental Health Services of Redding, CA for the provision of mental health tele-psychiatry services in an amount not to exceed \$190,800 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget; and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract and Business Associate Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

***BOS –  
Proposed  
Independence***

The Board received a presentation from a citizen group regarding its proposal to convert the undeveloped southwest corner of the Inyo County Courthouse campus to an Independence Memorial Park honoring military Veterans including Major General John Singlaub and Captain James Birchim, considered missing in action and presumed dead since 1968.

## ***Memorial Park Presentation***

Independence Civic Club member and project committee member Don Bright outlined the proposed project via a PowerPoint presentation and gave some biographical information about Major General Singlaub and Captain Birchim, while Rick Estes of the Special Operations Association provided background on the national organization, noting it fully supports the Independence project.

Public comment was received from Ken Partridge, expressing his support of any memorial to veterans regardless of location, Travis Powell, a member of the project committee, and Randy Short and Lauralyn Hundley, both also in support of the project.

Supervisors Orrill, Griffiths, and Marcellin expressed concern about the proposal, particularly the lack of firm details such as costs, the role County staff is expected to play, water source, and the potential location. Supervisor Orrill said she would never object to honoring veterans but needs questions answered on multiple practical issues before deciding whether to support this proposal. Supervisor Marcellin said he is in favor of honoring all veterans, not just singling out two individuals. He added that the County must very seriously consider the best use of its land. He also bemoaned a lack of solid information. Supervisor Griffiths said when he first heard about the proposal a year-and-a-half ago, it was for a memorial to veterans past, present, and future. He questioned why the memorial couldn't be placed on existing green space in Independence – Dehy Park or Independence Park, which he said the County already has a tough time maintaining. He said the project committee would have to flesh out the details with Administration before he could consider giving his stamp of approval.

Bright and fellow Independence Civic Club/committee member Nancy Masters said a lot of those details won't be decided on until the committee can start fundraising, which it can't do until the Board agrees to conceptually support the project. Masters said the committee does not want to cost the County any money or add to Public Works' burden. She added the memorial would honor all veterans as well as Major General Singlaub and Captain Birchim.

Supervisors Wadelton and Roeser expressed wholesale support for the proposal, noting that the lot in question is an eyesore right in the middle of town and would benefit from greening, there could actually be better parking management with the memorial park in place, and the proposal is for a good and just cause. Supervisor Roeser said there is something special about special operations that warrants the memorial. She urged the Board to direct staff to work with the proponents to get the details they need to support the project.

CAO Greenberg noted that he sat down with Mr. Bright over a year ago to discuss the project and then gathered feedback from Board members and Public Works that was then passed along to the committee. He said some of that feedback was not accounted for in today's presentation. He offered to take the Board's feedback and meet again with Public Works and the committee to return with a more refined proposal for Board consideration. It was the consensus of the Board that he should do so.

## ***Water Department – FY 25-26 LORP Project Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule***

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to adopt the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Lower Owens River Project Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

## ***CAO-Emergency Services – Fire Hazard Severity Zones Ordinance***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to waive further reading of a proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Designating Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)," and schedule enactment for August 5, 2025 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 224 N. Edwards St., Independence. Motion carried unanimously.

## ***Board of Supervisors – Selection of Board Vice Chair***

CAO Greenberg presented a request from Supervisors Orrill and Griffiths to swap the Vice Chair position so that Supervisor Orrill will serve in that capacity for the remainder of the year and promote to Chairperson in 2026 with Supervisor Griffiths as Vice Chair and then serving as chair in 2027. Supervisor Griffiths, currently serving as the president of the California State Association of Counties, said he will have more capacity to be a more effective Chairperson in 2027 than he will in 2026. It was agreed that the order of ascension after

2027 will be considered at that time. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to appoint Supervisor Orrill to the position of Vice Chair for the remainder of 2025. 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 reported on onboarding new Emergency Services Manager Lisa Cox and continuing full tilt with the Budget Team to develop the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. He added that department heads are in the process of reviewing approximately 300 job descriptions across the organization and that he was on an interview panel for a Regional Recreation Coordinator for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

Supervisor Griffiths reported traveling to Philadelphia for the annual National Association of Counties (NACo) conference and then traveling to Sacramento to teach a couple classes for the New Supervisors Institute. He said he will be in Trinity County tonight and tomorrow for a meeting of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).

Chairperson Marcellin said he attended a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting and has been taking care of constituent issues.

Supervisor Orrill reported attending the NACo Conference, where her proposed policy resolution on water for fire infrastructure in rural and frontier counties was accepted by the Environment, Energy, and Land Use Steering Committee and added to NACo's platform for 2026. She also thanked staff who take the time to answer her questions to give her a better understanding of issues/operations and noted she will be holding a community meeting at 5:30 p.m. July 28 with Caltrans and Inyo County Parks & Recreation in attendance to provide updates on their respective projects.

Supervisor Wadelton reported on the results of the 2025 Badwater Ultramarathon, and said he participated in a tour of the campground and pools in Tecopa with prospective operators and noted that Supervisor Griffiths gave the most popular workshop at the CSAC New Supervisors Institute he graduated from last week. He added that other Supervisors from around the state are jealous that Inyo County's Board receives its agendas a full week in advance of its meetings, which increases the time for the Board and the public to give a proper review. He said he hoped other governing boards and committees could follow that example. He also said he attended the First Annual Dakota Ensminger Memorial BBQ.

Supervisor Roeser thanked the Admin team for the huge lift it's doing behind the scenes on the budget and the revision of job descriptions. She said she attended an LTC meeting and the NACo conference, was appointed to serve on an ad hoc wildlife and predator committee by the Rural County Representatives of California and continues to meet with the OHV committee working group.

***Adjournment***

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 5, 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*