

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

October 21, 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 October 21, 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: Acting County Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel.

- Public Comment I* 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 5:16 p.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 – Acting Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich; No. 3 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Health & Human Services Director; No. 4 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; No. 5 **Conference with Real Property Negotiators – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8** – Property: 605 S. Main St., Lone Pine, CA 93545. Agency Negotiator: Denelle Carrington, Meaghan McCamman, John-Carl Vallejo. Negotiating Parties: Inyo County and Jeff Potter. Under Negotiation: price and terms of payment; No. 6 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: City of Los Angeles v. County of Inyo et al (Case No. 12908); No. 7 **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation** - Initiation of litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(c). Number of cases: 1; and No. 8 **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9**. Number of potential cases: 1.
- Open Session* Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:07 a.m. with all Board members present.
- Pledge of Allegiance* Acting County Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 through 4 and said that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported. He said the Board would reconvene in closed session later in the meeting.
- Public Comment II* The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Sierra Baptist Church Pastor Tracy Weaver.
- County Department Reports* Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser provided information on two newly enacted Assembly Bills – AB 592, known as the "Open Kitchen Law," and AB 671, which outlines scheduled inspections of restaurant establishments.

Health & Human Services Director Anna Scott shared an update on the status of client services impacted by the ongoing federal shutdown. She noted that the department has

received new guidance from the State Department of Social Services regarding the situation. As a result of the disruption, CalFresh will not be available in November. In response, department staff will support community members by connecting them with local food banks to help ensure their needs are met.

Employee Service Milestones

The Board of Supervisors recognized the following employees who reached service milestones during the third quarter of 2025, many of whom were in attendance to receive their commemorative pins:

- Deo Delos Santos, 30 years – Health & Human Services
- Noni Raley, 15 years – Health & Human Services
- Melissa Ruiz-Bermudez, 10 years – Health & Human Services
- Brittin Gillespie, 10 years – Health & Human Services
- Monica Tinlin, 25 years – Personnel
- Keri Oney, 15 years – Personnel
- Cathreen Richards, 15 years – Planning
- Stephanie Rennie, 20 years – Sheriff
- Christian Ray, 25 years – Sheriff
- Derek Henry, 5 years – Sheriff
- Travis Dean, 10 years – Public Works
- Kevin Lomeli, 5 years – Public Works
- Penni Brown, 15 years – Probation.

Introductions

The following new employees were introduced to Board:

- **Auditor-Controller:** Office Technician Danielle Cuara, Administrative Analyst Armand Pigeon
- **Health and Human Services:** Administrative Secretary Liza Aguilar, Behavioral Health Counselor Natalie Feeney, Office Clerk Yessica Valadez, Social Worker I Jolene Covington, Prevention Specialist Lori Wiest
- **Public Works:** Building Maintenance Worker Jason Forehand, Heavy Equipment Operator Lucio Gonzalez, Heavy Equipment Operator Valentine Vega
- **Sheriff:** Public Safety Dispatcher Bayden W. Jennings.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of October 7, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO-Personnel – District Attorney Authorized Strength Correction

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to correct the title in the authorized strength in the District Attorney's Office by changing the District Attorney Operations Analyst to Administrative Operations Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff – Boating Safety Equipment Grant

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to formally accept the grant award of \$10,963.49 from the Division of Boating and Waterways to support the refurbishment of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office Patrol Boat and authorize the Sheriff or authorized designee to sign the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff – FY 25-26 Justice Assistance Grant Equipment & Training Program Award/Reso. #2025-41

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve Resolution No. 2025-41, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Authorizing the Acceptance of the State of California, Justice Assistance Grant Equipment and Training Program Administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Authorize the Sheriff or her designee to complete any additional paperwork required to receive the grant funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

HHS – Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care

The item was pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Regular Agenda at the request of the Chairperson for further discussion. HHS Director Scott explained that the agenda item was driven by a substantial increase in funding for the Foster Care Program.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to ratify and approve the

Letter of Allocation from the California Department of Health Care Services Children's Medical Services Branch for the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, in the total amount of \$343,236, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Certification Statement. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Consolidated Slurry
Seal Change Order
Reso. #2025-39 &
N.O.C. Reso. #2025-40*

Chairperson Marcellin moved the item from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for clarification on the ratification of Change Order No. 1. Public Works Director Mike Errante explained that the change order and increase in cost occurred out of necessity for additional material for the Consolidated Slurry Seal Projects.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Approve the proposed Resolution No. 2025-39, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Ratifying Change Order No 1 to the Contract with American Asphalt South, Inc. of Riverside, CA," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Approve the proposed Resolution No. 2025-40, 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 Consolidated Slurry Seal Projects," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO/ Auditor-
Controller/Treasurer-
Tax Collector –
SIHD Loan Document
Approval and
Reso. #2025-42*

Southern Inyo Hospital District CEO Dr. Kevin Flanigan reported a notable improvement in the hospital's financial condition in recent weeks, assuring both the Board and the public that bankruptcy is no longer a concern. Responding to an inquiry from Supervisor Wadelton, Dr. Flanigan expressed optimism that, based on recent communications, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power appears willing to engage and offer support. Additionally, Supervisor Wadelton stated he would set aside Fifth District TOT funds for the hospital in case further financial assistance is required.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Approve Resolution No. 2025-42, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Authorizing a Loan to the Southern Inyo Healthcare District, Pursuant to Government Code Section 23010", and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Authorize the Board to approve a Promissory Note between the County of Inyo and Southern Inyo Healthcare District and authorize the County Administrative Officer to sign; and
- C) Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Economic Stabilization Budget (010407) as follows: increase appropriation in Other Agency Loans (Object Code 5560) by \$500,000. (4/5ths vote required).

Motion carried unanimously.

*Water Department –
Inyo/Los Angeles
Standing Committee
Meeting*

Water Director Holly Alpert provided an overview and requested Board direction in advance of the Inyo County/Los Angeles Standing Committee meeting scheduled for November 10, 2025 in Los Angeles.

The Board issued the following directives to staff:

- 1) Investigate and report on any current strategies aimed at preventing the spread of the highly invasive Golden Mussel into Inyo County waterways.
- 2) Integrate details on mitigation efforts into the Long-Term Water Agreement presentation, emphasizing the critical importance of proactive measures to address environmental threats.

Chairperson Marcellin asked if there were any members of the public who wished to provide comment and public comment was received from Friends of the Inyo Executive Director Wendy Schneider, Big Pine Paiute Tribe Environmental Director Sally Manning, and Friends of the Inyo Water Justice Organizer Lauren Rose.

*Environmental Health –
Fee Schedule*

Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser delivered a presentation outlining proposed structural changes to the Environmental Health fee schedule. Acting CAO Carrington emphasized the County's commitment to ensuring all fee schedules undergo review and updates. Board members expressed appreciation to Oser for information gathered and

requested updates on planned public outreach efforts on the matter.

*CAO –
Tecopa Hot Springs
Concession Agreement*

Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman provided details on the new Tecopa Hot Springs Campground and Pool Concessionaire Agreement and addressed questions from the Board. Board members thanked staff for hard work put into securing the agreement so swiftly - especially given that the previous concessionaire only just departed in June. They noted that the timely turnaround ensures the community's needs are met ahead of the upcoming "Tecopa Takeover" event and the seasonal arrival of winter visitors.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the concessionaire's agreement between the County of Inyo and Flippin Happy Campers & Lance Hamrick LLC of Las Vegas, NV for the operation and maintenance of the Tecopa Hot Springs Campground & Pools in Tecopa, CA for the period of October 21, 2025 through June 30, 2035, with two options to extend through June 30, 2045, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement presented today, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
ICEA Side Letter*

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the side letter between the County of Inyo and the Inyo County Employees Association. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Interim CAO Personal
Services Contract
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Denelle Carrington for the provision of personal services as the Interim County Administrative Officer at Grade 34, Step A \$18,000.22 per month effective October 9, 2025, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –
Regional Broadband
Update –*

Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong provided an update on broadband initiatives across the region, highlighting recent progress, ongoing research into grant funding opportunities, and the status of infrastructure availability throughout Inyo County communities. Armstrong also provided a short demonstration on a new internet speed test application and explained its practical uses.

*Assistant Clerk of the
Board –
CSAC Board of
Directors Appointments*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint Supervisor Orrill as a director to serve on the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors for year 2025-2026 and Supervisor Griffiths to serve as alternate representative. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Commercial Air Service
Cost Sharing
Agreement*

Deputy Director of Public Works – Airports, Ashley Helms presented a brief overview of the cost-sharing agreement between the County of Inyo, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area to support the minimum revenue guarantee for air service at the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport.

Helms noted that the agreement has not yet been reviewed by the other governing boards, and if approved by all parties, the funding would be issued from the current fiscal year budget retroactively. Board members raised questions and requested adding language into the agreement which requires the use of itemized invoicing and displays the complete breakdown of stakeholder contributions.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Approve the Commercial Air Service Cost Sharing Agreement, as amended, between Inyo County, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and authorize the Board Chair to sign;
- B) Approve the payment of Invoice #2570 from Mammoth Lakes Tourism in the amount of \$200,000, contingent upon an itemized receipt and receipt of the fully executed Cost Sharing Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
CSA2 Budget
Amendment*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 County Service Area #2 Budget (810001) as follows: increase appropriation in Construction in Progress (5700) by \$85,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment III

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

Supervisor Wadelton said he attended open houses at volunteer fire stations, a countywide flu shot clinic, and the Lone Pine Film Festival. He noted the Olancha-Cartago Fire Department is seeking a new water tender and highlighted the Lone Pine Death Valley Airport's annual fly-in event, as well as the Inyo Associates meeting held in Lone Pine. Wadelton said he will travel to Tecopa for a community meeting, attend the Caltrans District 9 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Olancha-Cartago 4-Lane Expressway Project, help with Lone Pine High School's Homecoming barbecue, attend meetings to discuss a food bank for National Park employees, and participate in the Death Valley '49ers Annual Encampment event.

Supervisor Orrill reported that she attended meetings of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the Laws Railroad Museum Board, and met with representatives from California Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power to discuss the Golden Mussel issue. Additionally, she participated in the Halloween "Trunk or Treat" celebration hosted by First 5 Inyo and the Eastern Sierra Walk for a Cure, hosted by the Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance. Orrill commended County Animal Control staff for organizing an animal adoption event in conjunction with the Walk for a Cure.

Supervisor Marcellin said he attended the "Trunk or Treat" event and thanked staff for their continued dedication to the community. He also met with Senator Alvarado-Gil and her staff to discuss establishing in-person assistance hours at the Bishop Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office for elderly and Tribal constituents.

Supervisor Griffiths said that he attended an Executive Committee meeting of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) alongside Supervisor Orrill, participated in discussions with CDFW and LADWP regarding the Golden Mussel issue, and met with newly appointed City of Bishop Administrator Pamela Foster. He also completed CSAC-related work in San Benito and Monterey counties, and noted he will attend the upcoming Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) meeting.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the regular meeting at 2:00 p.m. to return to closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 3:56 p.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under item Nos. 4 through 8 and said that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *DENELLE CARRINGTON*
Interim Clerk of the Board

by: 
Darcy Israel, Assistant