

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

December 16, 2025

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:31 a.m., on December 16, 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: Interim 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 8:31 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 – Interim Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich; and No. 3 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator.

Open Session

Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:11 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Wadelton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 and 3 and said that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

Introductions –

The following new employees were introduced to Board:

- **Health and Human Services** - Administrative Analyst David Rincon-Carranza
- **Information Services** - Office Technician Jennifer Mills
- **Public Works** - Civil Engineering Associate Marc Lucas
- **Sheriff's Office** - Civil Process Analyst Emma Baker, Animal Control Officer Tatum Del Bosco, Dispatch Officer Jon Lemon, Deputy Rudy Madera, and Deputy Briana Stangle.

Public Comment II

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

County Department Reports

HHS Deputy Director for Fiscal and Special Operations Melissa Best-Baker announced upcoming countywide events including the First 5 Annual Toy Drive and a food drive organized by the Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) and noted that a donation from Edison International will allow IMACA to resume food commodity services in Tecopa in 2026. Deputy Director Best-Baker added that through collaborative efforts with Supervisor Griffiths, HHS, the Inyo County Office of Education, Altrusa, and private donors, "Jasmine's Closet" will open in Bishop on December 23 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the program, which provides essential clothing to children living in out-of-home care.

Supervisor Griffiths added that the ribbon cutting will include an unveiling ceremony for a mural created by C5 Studio exclusively for the program.

*Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes from the regular December 9 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS- Behavioral
Health –
Vista Pacifica
Enterprises Inc.
Contract Amendment
No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Declare Vista Pacifica Enterprises Inc. of Jurupa Valley, CA a sole-source provider of inpatient psychiatric and other professional medical services; and
- B) Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Vista Pacifica Enterprises Inc. of Jurupa Valley, CA, increasing the contract by \$68,625 to an amount not to exceed \$118,625, and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS –
EMCC Appointments*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint the following individuals to the Emergency Medical Care Committee, to serve two-year terms ending December 31, 2027: Chief Joe Cappello, representing the Independence Volunteer Fire Department; Michael Patterson, representing Sierra Lifelight air ambulance services; and Lisa Davis, representing EMS Operating Area 1. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning Department-
Yucca Mountain –
Federal FY 24-25
Certification of Funds
Expenditure*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Certify that \$39,061.60 in funds provided to Inyo County as an Affected Unit of Local Government (AULG) under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, have been expended in accordance with the provisions of that Act, Public Law 97-425; and the 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Public Law 111-85);
- B) Authorize the Chairperson to sign the certification (Attached); and
- C) Direct staff to submit the certification to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –
Eastern Sierra
Business Resource
Center Update*

Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center (BRC) Director Meryl Picard shared updates on recent workshops, training sessions, and networking mixers hosted at the center. She also highlighted ongoing programs, collaborative initiatives with partner agencies, and outlined the center's future priorities.

*High Sierra Energy
Foundation Update*

High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF) Executive Director Pam Bold and Program Manager Jess Blackwell of the provided an overview of the organization's 20 years of promoting energy efficiency, and highlighted programs that have supported residents, businesses, and public agencies across Inyo and Mono Counties.

*CAO-Emergency
Services –
Grant Award
Announcement*

Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator Kristen Pfeiler presented updates on wildfire fuel reduction, highlighting available resources for both community and wildland fuels. She also announced that Inyo County has been awarded \$322,000 from CalFire to support community fuel reduction vouchers and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) has been awarded \$4.6 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Inyo and Mono counties.

*Public Works-
Recycling & Waste
Management –
Fire Suppression
Inspection Services*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to formally reject all bids received for the Fire Suppression Inspection Services solicitation and authorize Public Works to re-advertise the project for competitive bidding (*four-fifths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –
2026 Legislative
Platform*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the 2026 Inyo County Legislative Platform as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Bishop Creek Water
Association MOU*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Inyo and Bishop Creek Water Association for the purpose of sharing labor and costs associated with the maintenance and

replacement of certain culverts for which there is common interest and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Job Description
Approvals*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadleton to approve Job Descriptions for the following positions:

- Access Coordinator (Current title - Equity & Diversity Coordinator)
- Assistant Assessor
- Assistant Auditor-Controller
- Assistant Clerk-Recorder
- Assistant County Administrative Officer
- Assistant County Counsel
- Assistant District Attorney
- Assistant Health and Human Services Director
- Assistant Personnel Director
- Assistant Treasurer Tax Collector
- Equipment Mechanic Operator I-II
- Program Manager - Behavioral Health (Current Title - MHSA Coordinator)
- Program Manager - Disaster
- Risk Management Assistant Director
- Safety Coordinator I
- Safety Coordinator II
- Safety Coordinator III

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 Roeser announced that the House of Representatives has recently passed the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Reauthorization Act. She expressed gratitude to Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel for her dedicated efforts in preparing and sending letters of support on behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. Roeser also reported that she participated in a Rural County Representatives of California Board meeting, as well as an ad hoc committee meeting focused on apex predators.

Supervisor Wadleton announced that IMACA will be visiting Tecopa on January 15. He expressed appreciation to Supervisor Griffiths for his efforts in helping restart food commodity services. Wadleton also noted that he will be traveling to Tecopa and Shoshone tomorrow and Thursday.

Supervisor Orrill reported that she hosted a community meeting focused on emergency response and preparedness and extended her gratitude to Assistant Sheriff Tim Bachman and Public Information Officer Lindsey Stein of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services Manager Lisa Cox, Bishop Fire Chief Bret Russell, Assistant HHS Director Gina Ellis, and HHS Deputy Director Melissa Best-Baker for sharing valuable information with residents. Orrill also noted that she attended meetings of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), the Eastern Sierra Transportation Authority (ESTA), and the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

Supervisor Griffiths said that he attended ESTA and ESCOG meetings.

Interim CAO Denelle Carrington said that she attended the Inyo Associates dinner in Bishop.

Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel announced that the Assessment Appeals Board will meet in the Board room tomorrow for a pre-hearing conference with Verdant Bishop LLC.

Supervisor Marcellin said that he attended the Caltrans open house for the Manor Market Complete Streets Project and the Inyo Associates meeting.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m. to 8:15 a.m. Monday, December 22, 2025, at the Consolidated Office Building in Bishop.

Handwritten signature of L. McKee in blue ink.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: DENELLE CARRINGTON
Interim Clerk of the Board*

by: 
Darcy Israel, Assistant