

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

January 6, 2026

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 January 6, 2026, 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 8:32 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 – Acting Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich; No. 3 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; No. 4 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)** – Name of case: *Matthew Blankers v. County of Inyo et. Al*; No. 5 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Works Director; and No. 6 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)** – Name of case: *Sierra Club, a California Non-Profit Corporation; Friends of the Inyo, a California Non-Profit Corporation; Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, a Tribal Consortium v. City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners, DOES 1 through 20* (Case No. 25PT73099).

Open Session

Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:12 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 under Item Nos. 2 through 6 and will reconvene in closed session later in the meeting. Regarding Item No. 4, the existing litigation of *Blankers v. County of Inyo*, Vallejo stated that the County has been authorized to defend itself and, if deemed appropriate, to file a cross-complaint at a future time. In addition, under Item No. 6 concerning the existing litigation of *Sierra Club v. LADWP*, Vallejo reported that the County has been granted authority to participate in the lawsuit as an interested party.

Election of Officers

Chairperson Marcellin turned the meeting over to the Assistant Clerk of the Board for the election of officers.

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to elect Supervisor Orrill the Chairperson for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to elect Supervisor

Griffiths the Vice Chairperson for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment II

The Assistant Clerk of the Board introduced the public comment period for items not calendared on the agenda and reminded attendees that, per the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from responding to or taking action on items not included on the agenda.

Public comment was received from Lauralyn Hundley.

Supervisor Roeser announced the unexpected passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa, describing him as “a steadfast, strong voice for rural California,” and extended heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

County Department Reports

HHS Director Anna Scott announced the release of the Requests for Proposal for Emergency Medical Services in Operating Area 1. She noted that proposals will be accepted until February 18 and reminded interested parties that they must register through the OpenGov portal and attend a mandatory bidders’ conference tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Probation Chief Jeff Thomson reminded attendees that a Drug Court graduation will take place tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the Bishop Courthouse.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes from the Regular December 4 and Special December 22 Board of Supervisors meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk of the Board – Independence Cemetery District Board Reappointment

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to reappoint Mr. Richard Baker to the Independence Cemetery District Board of Trustees, to a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO-Inyo Mono VSO – Annual Compliance Forms

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to authorize the Chairperson to sign the California Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the California Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Subvention Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-ESAAA – Advisory Council Appointments

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Reappoint Ms. Rebecca Manross to a two-year term on the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, ending December 31, 2027; and
- B) Appoint Ms. Sally Clausen to a two-year term on the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, ending December 31, 2027.

Motion carried unanimously.

HHS- Behavioral Health – CalMHSA Remote Supervision Agreement Amendment No. 3

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Declare the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) a sole-source provider of remote supervision services; and
- B) Approve Amendment No. 3 to the participation agreement between the County of Inyo and CalMHSA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$129,000, and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Department – Commission Reappointments

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to reappoint Howard Lehwald and Todd Vogel to four-year terms on the Planning Commission ending January 4, 2030, representing the First and Third Supervisorial Districts, respectively. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works-Airports – Runway 12-30 Safety Area Improvement Project/Resolution No. 2026-01 and N.O.C.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2026-01, 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 Runway 12-30 Safety Area Improvement Project," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

<i>Public Works-Roads – CRAFCO Purchase Order</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to authorize a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$96,078.74, payable to CRAFCO of Chandler, AZ, for a 6-month Rental - Supershot 125D Kettle and 90,000 pounds of RoadSaver Low Tack Sealant. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Sheriff – Office of Traffic Safety FY 26-27 Grant</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to authorize the submission of the Office of Traffic Safety FY 2026-2027 grant program application. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Treasurer-Tax Collector – 2026 Statement of Investment Policy</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the 2026 Statement of Investment Policy. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Treasurer-Tax Collector – Resolution No. 2026- 02/Investment Authority Delegation</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2026-02, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo Delegating to the Inyo County Treasurer its Investment Authority Pursuant to Section 53607 of the Government Code," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Bishop Building Maintenance Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Bishop Building Maintenance of Bishop, CA for the provision of Floor Cleaning Services in an amount not to exceed \$203,673.83 for the period of three-and-a-half years, January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-Health & Prevention – DIS Workforce Development Grant</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to ratify and approve the grant agreement between Inyo County and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch (STD CB) for the provision of disease intervention specialty services in an amount not to exceed \$461,160.00 between July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS – Crisis Care Mobile Unit Vehicle/DHCS Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) for the use of DHCS property and vehicles purchased with Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2031, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Agreement and the Contractor Certification Clauses. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-Social Services – Seneca Family of Agencies/Payment of Prior-Year Invoices</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to authorize payment to Seneca Family of Agencies of Oakland, CA for prior-year invoices in the amount of \$34,000.68 for Wraparound Aftercare Services. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Clerk-Recorder – 2025 Legislation Review</i>	Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Danielle Sexton delivered an overview of several State Assembly and Senate Bills passed in 2025, which affect Recorder, Clerk, or Elections functions in Inyo County.
<i>BoS – SB 694 Letter of Support</i>	<p>Inyo Mono Veterans Service Officer Gordon Greene briefed the Board on Senate Bill 694, a bill designed to ensure veterans and their surviving spouses are not charged for services they are legally entitled to receive cost-free and prevent the misuse of veteran data.</p> <p>Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve a letter of support for Senate Bill 694, the Veteran Benefits Protection Act and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

***BoS –
Legislative Policy
Discussion***

Supervisor Roeser introduced the item and explained the need for enhanced advocacy for federal reimbursement of costs incurred by rural fire departments during natural disasters. The Board subsequently discussed updating Inyo County's Legislative Platform to oppose reductions in FEMA reimbursement rates and to support rates that accurately reflect the full costs of equipment ownership, operation, and maintenance.

Chairperson Orrill opened the floor for discussion, and Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd stepped forward to express the importance of requesting more timely reimbursements and noted that delays force rural fire departments to float costs associated with volunteer stipends and/or postpone critical safety equipment purchases and repairs.

Following the discussion, the Board directed staff to draft an advocacy letter for consideration on January 20 and to prepare a proposed amendment to the Legislative Platform for the Board's review as soon as possible.

***County Counsel –
Brown Act Review***

County Counsel Vallejo provided a presentation on the Brown Act and highlighted recent updates to that law created by Senate Bill 707.

***Assessor –
Homeowner Property
Tax Exemption
Presentation***

Assessor Dave Stottlemire presented a review of the California Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption and noted a significant decade-long decline in filings in Inyo County, due to a drop in home ownership due to rising mortgage rates, affordability challenges, stricter buyer qualifications, population decline, cultural and generational shifts, and foreclosures.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for a break at 12:39 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:14 p.m. with all Board members present.

***Environmental Health –
MEHKO Workshop***

At the direction of the Board, Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser provided a second-round presentation on the Micro Enterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) program, this time providing information gathered on statewide MEHKO ordinances. Oser concluded by noting that he does not recommend implementing the program at this time.

Chairperson Orrill asked if there was anyone wishing to provide comment and public comment was received from Lauren Wolfer on behalf of Cook Alliance and Environmental Health Operations Technician Jennifer Mills. Additionally, Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel noted for the record, that two email comments were received: one in opposition to MEHKOs from the Eastern Sierra Community Service District and one in support of MEHKOs from the Cook Alliance.

Board members provided input on program participation with Supervisors Wadelton and Griffiths in favor and Supervisors Marcellin, Roeser, and Orrill opposing. With the majority of the Board opposed, the decision was made to halt any further action on MEHKOs at this time.

***CAO –
2026 Board of
Supervisors Committee
Assignments***

Public Comment was received from Mel Joseph.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the 2026 Board of Supervisors committee assignments with the following changes as discussed: 1) Add Supervisor Roeser as the alternate to the Local Transportation Commission (LTC); 2) Update the Inyo Fish & Wildlife Commission appointment to replace Supervisor Marcellin with Supervisor Roeser; and 3) Add Supervisor Roeser as Member and Supervisor Marcellin as Alternate for the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment III

Chairperson Orrill 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 said she attended an Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) meeting with Supervisor Wadelton, as well as meetings of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and the Buttermilk Working Group and also went to the Public Works Christmas Barbeque with Supervisor Marcellin.

Supervisor Wadelton said he participated in several holiday events in Lone Pine, including a toy drive and a gathering at Spainhower Park, along with the Christmas Eve celebration in Independence. He also recognized Caltrans and the Inyo Road Department for their efforts to keep Highways 395 and 190 open and safe during the recent winter storms and noted his attendance at the EMCC meeting.

Supervisor Marcellin thanked Bishop Fire for responding to a structure fire on Wildrose Lane and the Sheriff's Office for subsequently apprehending a resident at the location for suspected illegal activity. He also expressed appreciation to the Road Department and Eastern Sierra Regional Airport staff for hard work done to maintain smooth operations during the winter storms.

Supervisor Griffiths said he attended a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) meeting and a ribbon cutting ceremony for "Jasmin's Closet," then spent the holidays in Saline Valley.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to return to Closed Session at 2:36 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 4:09 p.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session

No action was taken during Closed Session that is required to be reported.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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