

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

January 20, 2026

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 January 20, 2026, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Trina Orrill, presiding, Will Wadelton, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Roeser and Scott Marcellin. 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 Orrill 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 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Environmental Health Director; No. 3 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Works Director; No. 4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; No. 5 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; and No. 6 **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.
- Open Session* Chairperson Orrill recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:04 a.m. with all Board members present.
- Pledge of Allegiance* Retired Supervisor Matt Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board convened under Item Nos. 2, 4, 5, and 6, and stated that no reportable action was taken, but 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 Lauralyn Hundley and Matt Kingsley.
- Board Member Reports* Chairperson Orrill said that she attended the Laws Board meeting, a workforce training on the new Copilot application, and an Environment, Energy, and Land use committee meeting.
- Supervisor Wadelton said that he attended the annual Olancho-Cartago Fire Department Banquet, a Bishop Veterinary Hospital vaccine clinic, and meetings of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Environmental Protection Agency joint meeting with the Inyo County Water Department, and the annual Search and Rescue (SARS) fundraiser dinner. Wadelton said he has an upcoming Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) meeting.
- Supervisor Marcellin said that he attended the SARS dinner and a project presentation event from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) leadership group and has upcoming meetings for GBUAPCD and First 5.

Supervisor Griffiths said he attended a Drug Court graduation, the Copilot staff training, a public safety committee meeting for the National Association of Counties (NACo), and a Bishop City Council meeting.

***County Department
Reports***

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton announced that her office will offer special limited public hours on Valentine's Day from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. for marriage services and shared information on how to schedule an appointment.

Public Works Deputy Director of Roads Shannon Platt informed the Board that the sewer ponds at Bishop Landfill are full.

Health & Human Services Director Anna Scott said that this Thursday, staff will conduct the annual Point in Time Count to measure homelessness, provided information on how to volunteer, and noted that spaghetti dinners will be served at both the Bishop and Lone Pine Community Wellness Centers. Additionally, Scott highlighted preliminary State budget items expected to change or affect HHS provided services and potential impacts to the cash assistance program CalWorks due to federal fraud allegations against the State, but said negative impacts to the CalFresh nutrition assistance program are not expected.

Supervisor Griffiths noted that the preliminary budget excludes implementation funding for Prop 36 (Drug and Theft Crime Penalties and Treatment-Mandated Felonies Initiative) as well as similar reductions to the Health Career Access Program (HCAP).

***Auditor-Controller –
Price Paige and
Company Audit Service
Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Declare Price Paige and Company Certified Public Accountants LLP of Clovis, CA, a sole-source provider of Auditing services; and
- B) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Price Paige and Company Public Accountants LLP of Clovis, Ca for the provision of Auditing services in an amount not to exceed \$480,767.00 for the period of the term of the contract, February 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028, with a two one year options to extend through December 31, 2030, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the minutes from the regular January 6 Board of Supervisors meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk of the Board –
Fish & Wildlife
Commission
Reappointments***

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Reappoint Ms. Gaye Mueller, Mr. Warren Allsup, and Mr. Jared Smith to unexpired regular-member four-year terms on the Inyo County Fish and Wildlife Commission, ending October 6, 2029; and
- B) Reappoint Mr. Nick Lara to an unexpired alternate-member four-year term ending October 6, 2027.

Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS-Fiscal –
Eastern Sierra
Continuum of Care
MOU***

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Inyo, County of Mono, and the Eastern Sierra Continuum of Care to reaffirm the responsibilities of each party as they relate to the Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plan incorporated into applications for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding for the period of March 26, 2024 to April 1, 2030, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS –
BHSAOC Agreement
Amendment No. 2***

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 2 of the standard agreement between the County of Inyo and Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, recognizing that the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSAOC) has been renamed the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSAOC) and the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) has been renamed the Behavioral Health Student Services Act (BHSSA), and extending the term end date from June 30, 2026 to December 31, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works-Parks &
Rec. –
Portuguese Joe
Campground
Reservation*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve request from Allan Johnson to reserve all campsites at Portuguese Joe Campground from Thursday, October 8 through Sunday, October 11, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

*Water Department –
Water Commission
Reappointment*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to reappoint Mr. Randy Keller to a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Motion carried unanimously.

*Board of Supervisors –
DVNP Land Acquisition
Letter of Support
Request*

Death Valley National Park Acting Deputy Superintendent Abby Wines reported that the park has the opportunity to accept a 3,209-acre land donation from U.S. Borax, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto, and requested the Board's approval of a letter of support. She noted that while the Governor has already provided such a letter, a Department of the Interior Secretarial Order also requires written support from the local county government.

Rio Tinto Land Manager Nathan Francis explained that the company has long permitted public access to its private property, creating liability concerns, and that transferring the land to the National Park Service would allow for more effective resource protection and improved visitor recreation. He noted that the Park Service would assume full ownership and management of the land, except for the retained mineral rights. Board members requested clarification on the purpose of retaining mineral rights, which Francis explained Rio Tinto doesn't intend to use.

Deputy Superintendent Wines and National Parks Realty Officer Truda Stella highlighted time sensitivity of the proposal, noting that Rio Tinto is in the process of merging with another company and said delays could alter future contract terms related to recreational use or even jeopardize access to the private land entirely.

Chairperson Orrill asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to provide comment and remarks in opposition were received from Matt Kingsley, Mark Lacey, Dr. Kevin Flanigan, and George Lozito. Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel added for the record, that written opposition was received from Matt Kingsley and Barry Simpson. All expressed concern for the removal of land from private hands and subsequent loss of property tax revenue.

After extensive discussion, the Board concluded that additional information was necessary to fully evaluate the proposed land donation and possible alternatives that wouldn't eliminate property tax proceeds for special districts and therefore chose not to move forward with a vote at this time.

*HHS-EMCC –
EMS RFP Update and
Reissuance*

Board members received updates from HHS Director Scott and discussed the status of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to establish an Exclusive Emergency Medical Services Operating Area 1 contract for the provision of EMS services in the Bishop area.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to reissue the RFP for an Exclusive Operating Area 1 contract, in order to better advertise the RFP and encourage more market participants to submit competitive bids. Motion carried unanimously.

Attendance Change

Supervisor Griffiths excused himself from the meeting at 11:35 a.m. because he was feeling unwell.

*CAO-Advertising
County Resources –
Film Commissioner
Quarterly Report*

Board members received an update from Film Commissioner Jesse Steele on current and upcoming filming projects, and developments on the new permitting program.

*Water Department –
Inyo County Drought
Resilience Plan
Workshop*

Water Department Director Dr. Holly Alpert and Registered Environmental Health Specialist Sarah Petersen provided a presentation on the draft Inyo County Drought Resilience Plan. Dr. Alpert said that the public review period for the plan is open through January 31 and noted that findings will be incorporated into the final plan document for Board review in

March.

**CAO –
Legislative Platform
Amendment and FEMA
Reimbursement Rates
Opposition Letter**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve a letter opposing any decreases in FEMA's Schedule of Equipment Rates, an amendment to the Legislative Platform, and a one-sheet on the issue. Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Griffiths absent.

**CAO-Emergency
Services –
CALFIRE Grant
Agreement Approval**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve two grant agreements between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), effective through February 15, 2029, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreements and any related documents: (1) fuel reduction projects in County parks and campgrounds, in an amount not to exceed \$202,976; and (2) green waste landfill voucher programs, in an amount not to exceed \$119,005.60. Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Griffiths absent.

**Public Works-Roads –
Purchasing Policy
Bidding Requirement
Waiver Request**

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Waive the Purchasing Policy requirement to obtain three bids and choose a vendor before seeking Board approval for the purchase of a used Pneumatic Tire Asphalt Roller; and
- B) Authorize the purchase of a used Asphalt Roller from Coastline Equipment Company of Las Vegas, NV for an amount not to exceed \$145,462.50.

Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Griffiths absent.

**Sheriff –
Hire and Retroactive
Pay Request**

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to authorize the hiring of one (1) Lateral Sheriff's Deputy, Grade D-SD (\$7,028.53 - \$9,129.55), at Step F (\$9,129.55), retroactive to the date of hire, January 15, 2026. Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Griffiths absent.

**HHS –
Tobacco Evaluator
Contract**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and TDS Research Group/Travis Satterlund, and declare TDS Research a sole source provider, for the provision of external evaluation of the Inyo County Tobacco Education program in an amount not to exceed \$19,200.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Griffiths absent.

Public Comment

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

Recess/Reconvene

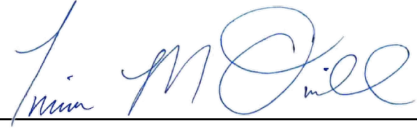
Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to return to Closed Session at 12:36 p.m. with all Board members present except for Supervisor Griffiths. Chairperson Orrill reconvened the meeting at 1:38 p.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Griffiths.

**Report on Closed
Session**

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board unanimously voted to direct staff to draft a contract with Mr. Jay David Fraser to provide services as the County Administrative Officer. He said the contract, which will outline the terms of Fraser's employment, will be presented at the next meeting for approval.


Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 3, 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