

# MINUTES



## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**February 3, 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 February 3, 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 8:32 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **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; No. 3 **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 (ICPOA); 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; No. 4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Environmental Health Director; No. 5 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; No. 6 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; and No. 7 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Works Director.
- Open Session* Chairperson Orrill recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:03 a.m. with all Board members present.
- Pledge of Allegiance* Chairperson Orrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Vallejo said that the Board received staff reports with no action required to be reported and will 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.
- Board Member Reports* Supervisor Griffiths reported attending several meetings, including sessions with Congressman Kevin Kiley, Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert and representatives from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Executive Committee of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Superintendent of Schools Barry Simpson; the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee; and an Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) orientation with Health & Human Services Director Anna Scott. He thanked Sheriff's Office staff for their response to an incident in Lone Pine involving an assault on an Eastern Sierra Transit Authority bus driver. Griffiths also announced the recent passing of Kathy Jefferson Bancroft, former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe, whose leadership and advocacy for land, water, and cultural education left a lasting impact on the community. He offered his condolences and requested that today's meeting be adjourned in her honor.

Supervisor Wadelton reported attending a wide range of community meetings and events, including sessions with the Keeler Community Center and Fire Prevention group, the Keeler Community Services District, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD), the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA), Inyo Associates in Death Valley, and the Southern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee (SIAAC). He also participated in the 25th anniversary ceremony for the signing of the Timbisha-Shoshone Homeland Act, a community potluck at the Timbisha-Shoshone village, and a cleanup at the Olancho-Cartago transfer station. Wadelton highlighted several upcoming Fifth District events, including the Dark Skies Festival, the Salt Creek Boardwalk reopening tour with Friends of the Amargosa Basin (FAB), and a meeting with Crystal Geyser in Olancho.

Supervisor Marcellin said that he attended meetings for First 5, SIAAC, and the Northern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee (NIAAC), and noted he has an upcoming Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting.

Supervisor Roeser reported attending an RCRC Board of Directors meeting where an ad hoc committee was formed to address the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and she thanked Water Director Dr. Alpert and County Counsel Vallejo for their technical support. She also participated in sessions with Sierra Jobs First, the OHV and Buttermilk working groups, the Eastern Sierra Wildlife Stewardship Team, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Coalition, and a preparation session for the NACo Public Lands Subcommittee Recreation Advocacy Team. In addition, she took part in a collaborative meeting with Community Service Area 2 (CSA2) and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as discussions with GBUAPCD, Bishop City Administrator Pam Foster, and Northern Inyo Hospital Executive Director Christian Wallace. Roeser said she provided testimony for the Outdoor Recreation Advocacy Coalition and noted she has an Inyo-Mono Conservation District session this evening. She also expressed appreciation to CAL FIRE for recent controlled burns.

Chairperson Orrill shared that she partnered with Veterans Services Officer Gordon Greene to volunteer in the annual Point-in-Time Count and attended meetings of the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Board Committee and NIAAC. She also announced the passing of Troy Oney, a beloved Bishop community member and owner of Manor Market and offered heartfelt condolences to his family.

***County Department Reports***

Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert provided information on an upcoming Water Commission meeting on February 9.

Planning Director Cathreen Richards provided information for two public scoping meetings related to the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Crystal Geyser bottling plant south of Olancho: one in Lone Pine on February 11 and the other in Olancho on February 10.

HHS Director Anna Scott said that the Request for Proposals for the Bishop exclusive operating area for EMS services has been reissued, that a mandatory bidders conference will be held on February 19, and that all proposals are due by March 31.

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

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the minutes from the special January 16 and regular January 20 Board of Supervisors meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk-Recorder – Consolidation of Elections/Resolution #2026-03***

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Resolution No. 2026-03 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Approving the Consolidation of Certain City and District Governing Body Elections with the Statewide General Election and Approving the Provision of Related Services by the Inyo County Registrar of Voters/Elections Official," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS – EMCC Committee Appointments***

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:  
A) Reappoint the following individuals to the Emergency Medical Care Committee, to unexpired two-year terms ending December 31, 2027: Pete Schlieker, representing the Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department; and Chief Brett Russell, representing the

- Bishop Volunteer Fire Department; and
- B) Appoint the following individual to the Emergency Medical Care Committee, to an unexpired member-at-large two-year term ending December 31, 2027: Captain Eric Abrahms, representing CalFire. (*Notice of Vacancy resulted in requests for appointment from Eric Abrahms*).

Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS –  
Progress House CCE  
Program Expansion/  
Resolution #2026-04*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Resolution No. 2026-04, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California Formally Committing Progress House to Serve the Community Care Expansion (CCE) Target Population," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS –  
CDSS Privacy and  
Security Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Privacy and Security Agreement No. 25-17 between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Social Services with a termination date of September 2028, to ensure the security and privacy of Medi-Cal Personally Identifiable Information contained in multiple databases used to determine client eligibility and authorize the Health & Human Services Director to sign the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
ICOE Millpond Fee  
Waiver*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to authorize a fee waiver to Inyo County Office of Education for the reservation of the gazebo area at Millpond Park on May 9, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$50, for the reservation fee set in the "Facility Use Permit." Motion carried unanimously.

*County Counsel –  
Golden Mussel  
Workshop*

County Counsel Vallejo introduced California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Supervisor Nick Buckmaster, who provided a presentation on Golden Mussels and the serious threat they pose to Eastern Sierra fisheries, aquaculture, and the economy. He discussed the mussel's rapid reproduction rate, its unusual resistance to water conditions that don't support other invasive species, and its fast spread throughout California. He noted that a partnership between local agencies is the only hope for preventing an infestation, which would be virtually irreversible.

County Counsel Vallejo noted that the County has been meeting with key agencies, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Mono County, to develop a reciprocal vessel inspection and decontamination ordinance in both counties. He outlined key elements of the proposed ordinance, noting that it will likely apply to all trailered boats and include language complementary to Mono County's developing ordinance and added that the system or program developed in tandem should clearly address levels of enforcement, a potential sticker program, inspection and contamination services, and staffing needs.

Additional comment and input was received from staff and various agency representatives, including Fish & Wildlife Commission member Doug Brown, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Watershed Resource Specialist Jason Morgan, and Southern California Edison Government Relations Manager Matthew Paruolo. Approaches to collaboration with partner agencies and the possibility of criminal sanctions were also discussed.

Chairperson Orrill opened the floor for public comment and received input from Lynn Greer, Marcella Rose from Mono County, Dan Johnson of Trout Unlimited, Marrina Nation of California Trout, Brianda Hernandez of the Bishop Paiute Tribe; and Tawni Thomson from the Bishop Chamber of Commerce.

The Chair thanked Mr. Buckmaster and directed staff to continue coordinating with Mono County and return with a draft ordinance on February 17.

*Recess/Reconvene*

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for a break at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:34 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Sheriff –  
Axon Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Sheriff General Budget (022700) as follows: increase estimated revenue in C.O.P.S. Revenue Code No. 4488 by \$3,740 and

**Amendment**

- Federal Grants Revenue Code No. 4555 by \$14,560.00; and increase appropriation in Professional Services Object Code 5265 by \$18,300 (*4/5ths vote required*); and
- B) Approve Amendment No. 01 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Axon Enterprise, Inc. of Scottsdale, AZ, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$805,231.00 and add ten (10) body cameras and tasers to the contract, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Sheriff or designee to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Planning Department – Residential Infill Project Workshop**

Planning Director Cathreen Richards opened the final Residential Infill Project workshop with a presentation from Jenna Chilingirian of Precision Civil Engineering.

Chilingirian summarized the project's findings and highlighted infill housing opportunities in Lone Pine, Big Pine, and Independence, supported by an inventory of potential sites, expanded ADU capacity, and strong adaptive reuse potential along highway corridors. Recommendations included aligning zoning with the General Plan, reducing front and rear yard setbacks, encouraging ADU development through ordinance cleanup and preapproved resources such as plans and guidebooks, and pursuing adaptive reuse by creating an inventory of vacant buildings, offering incentives, and discouraging abandonment through registration or fee programs, along with incorporating greater parking flexibility.

Chilingirian confirmed she would begin preparing code language based on Board feedback to be brought back to the Board at a later date.

**HHS-EMCC – CARESTAR Grant**

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the CARESTAR Foundation for the provision of activities to build a sustainable Emergency Medical Services infrastructure for rural Inyo County in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the period of September 1, 2025 to February 29, 2029, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Health & Human Services Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS – CoC Grant Agreement**

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of San Francisco, CA for the provision of Continuum of Care planning activities in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Health & Human Services Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS – Addiction Counselor Trainee Classification**

- Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:
- A) Approve the creation of a new classification, Addiction Counselor Trainee at Grade 4;
  - B) Approve the job description for Addiction Counselor Trainee;
  - C) Authorize the department to hire either the Addiction Counselor Trainee or Addiction Counselor I-III level, depending on qualifications; and
  - D) Direct staff to update the publicly available pay schedule accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS-Health & Prev. – CDPH Tobacco Control Program**

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Public Health of the State of California for the provision of operation of the local Tobacco Control Program in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and authorize the Health & Human Services Director or appointed designee to sign the Allocation Agreement CTCP-21-14 and quarterly Prospective Payment Invoices. Motion carried unanimously.

**CAO-Personnel – CAO Personal Services Contract and Resolution # 2026-05**

- Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:
- A) Appoint Jay David Fraser as the County Administrative Officer;
  - B) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Jay David Fraser for the provision of personal services as the County Administrative Officer at Range 34, Step C \$19,661.29 per month effective February 3, 2026, and authorize the Chairperson to sign;
  - C) Find that the best interest of the County will be served by waiving eligibility

- requirement set forth in Government Code Section 24001; and
- D) Approve Resolution No. 2026-05 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2024-46 and Setting Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Comment*

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and there was no one wishing to speak.

Supervisor Roeser congratulated the winners of the Community Project Sponsorship Program (CPSP) grants and thanked Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel for her hard work on the project.

Supervisor Marcellin said that Troy Oney's passing is a huge loss as he was a pillar of the community and offered condolences to his family.

*Recess/Reconvene*

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to return to Closed Session at 1:45 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:34 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Report on Closed Session*

County Counsel Vallejo reported that Interim Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington has been given notice that her job has been satisfactorily performed and can now move back to the Assistant position in light of the hiring of Mr. Fraser.

Chairperson Orrill thanked Assistant CAO Carrington for stepping into the position when needed and expressed appreciation as the County moved forward.

*Adjournment*

Per Supervisor Griffiths's earlier request, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Kathy Jefferson Bancroft, former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, at 2:34 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *DAVID FRASER*  
Clerk of the Board

by:   
*Darcy Israel, Assistant*