

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

March 3, 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 March 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: CAO David Fraser, 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 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 – County Administrative Officer David Fraser, Assistant County 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: County Administrator; and No. 4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Counsel.

Open Session Chairperson Orrill recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:08 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance Sheriff Stephanie Rennie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 through 4 and noted that no reportable action was taken during closed session. Vallejo added that the Board will reconvene later in the meeting.

Pet Adoption Spotlight Sheriff Rennie introduced the March Pet Adoption Spotlight and thanked Supervisor Griffiths for suggesting the idea to feature an adoptable pet at Board of Supervisors meetings.

Animal Services Manager Katie Bird introduced Coco the dog and shared details about the shelter's adoption program, as well as its fostering and volunteer opportunities. She also highlighted the animal training program held in partnership with students from Palisades High School.

Board members thanked staff for their time and for bringing Coco to the meeting.

Introductions The following new employees were introduced to Board:

- **Administration:** County Administrative Officer David Fraser
- **Clerk-Recorder:** Office Technician Shyann Harvey
- **Health & Human Services:** Residential Caregiver Kerrie Michele Bohunovsky, Social Worker James Piper, and Registered Nurse Anita Richardson
- **Personnel:** Office Technician Deisy Linares
- **Sheriff:** Deputy Richard Marchant and Food Cook Tamra Riesen.

<i>Public Comment II</i>	The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Lauralyn Hundley.
<i>Board Member Reports</i>	<p>Supervisor Orrill said that she attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Supervisor Roeser said that she also attended the NACo Conference and announced she will host a Big Pine Town Hall Meeting tomorrow with Emergency Services Manager Lisa Cox, Wildfire Coordinator Kristin Pfeiler, and Beth Burnham from Firewise USA.</p> <p>Supervisor Griffiths reported that he attended the NACo Conference, met with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Dr. Oz, visited the Farm to Table Market at the Methodist Church, participated in tree planting activities at the Bishop Elementary School Farm, and attended an Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) meeting.</p> <p>Supervisor Wadelton reported attending the NACo Conference, the Local Transportation Commission meeting, and several fire department board meetings. He recognized National Weights and Measures Week and noted that he will travel to Timbisha Village next week to help plant honey mesquite trees.</p> <p>Concluding his report, Supervisor Wadelton requested that the Board close today's meeting in memory of Dr. Milton Randle "Ben" Jones, Jr., a beloved South County physician known to some as "Dr. Death Valley" and whose 50-plus-year career and participation in the Badwater Ultramarathon earned him the respect and admiration of the communities he served.</p> <p>Supervisor Marcellin reported attending the NACo Conference and a meeting of the Local Transportation Commission meeting.</p> <p>County Counsel Vallejo said he will attend an Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority board meeting next week.</p>
<i>County Department Reports</i>	Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson announced new grant opportunities aimed at supporting at-risk youth and explained that the Probation Department, in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Council, has released a Request for Proposals for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Chief Thomson provided information on eligibility, how to apply, and emphasized a short application window.
<i>Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes from the regular February 3 and February 17 Board of Supervisors meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>County Counsel – Golden Mussel Infestation Prevention Ordinance</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Ordinance 1326, titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Creating Inyo County Code Chapter 10.70 Pertaining to the Establishment of a Mandatory Water Vessel Inspection and Decontamination Program." Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Health & Human Services – Alpine County Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and County of Alpine for the provision of Drinking Driver Program services in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 for the period of March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Willdan Engineering Contract Amendment No. 3</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Willdan Engineering of San Bernardino, CA increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 and extending the term end date from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>CAO-Motor Pool – Surplus Vehicle Donation</i>	Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Declare two (2) 2016 Ford Expeditions (Asset Nos. 9782 and 9783) surplus and no longer needed for County use; and

B) Approve the donation of said 2016 Ford Expeditions to Southern Inyo Fire Protection District pursuant to Government Code Section 25365 (4/5ths vote required).
Motion carried unanimously.

**County Counsel –
Inyo County
Groundwater Transfer
Ordinance Modification**

County Counsel noted language has been added to the draft ordinance since the agenda was published and provided the Board with a red-line copy of those changes. Vallejo explained that the revisions were made to clarify that references to the “City of Los Angeles” are actually referring to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power when discussions are being discussed.

Public comment was received from Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Environmental Director Mel Joseph.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Waive further reading of Ordinance 1327 titled, "An Ordinance of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Adding Chapter 7.02 of the Inyo County Code to Regulate the Transfer or Transport of Water from Groundwater Basins Located Wholly or Partially Within Inyo County and Suspending Inyo County Ordinance No. 1004 (Chapter 18.77 of the Inyo County Code) with the revisions presented;
- B) Approve Resolution No. 2026-07, titled, "A Resolution of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Modifying Resolution 99-43 to Expand the Water Commission's Duties and Authority to Include Reviewing and Deciding Upon Applications for A Water Transfer or Transport Permit Pursuant to Ordinance 1327,";
- C) Set enactment for March 17, 2026, in the County Administrative Center, 224 N. Edwards, Independence; and
- D) Determine that these actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs., §§ 15061(b)(3), 15307, and 15308.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for a break at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:59 a.m. with all Board members present.

**Clerk-Recorder –
New Online Resource
for Special District
Compliance**

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton unveiled a new resource webpage designed to support local special districts.

Board members thanked Sexton for developing the helpful tool and requested that additional resources be added from the Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector's offices.

**Planning Department –
General Plan
Amendment/
Reso. # 2026-08**

Planning Director Cathreen Richards provided a presentation on General Plan Amendment (GPA) 2025-06/Environmental Justice Element.

The Chairperson opened the public hearing at 11:15 a.m. and asked if there was anyone wishing to provide comment. Public comment was received from Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Environmental Director Mel Joseph. The Chairperson closed the public hearing at 11:18 a.m.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Resolution No. 2026-08, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Certifying that the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Have Been Met and Making Certain Findings with Respect to and Approving General Plan Amendment No. 2025-06/Inyo County – Environmental Justice Element," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Planning Department –
2025 General Plan
Progress Report**

Planning Director Richards provided an overview presentation of the General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR). Staff was directed to submit the APR to the State Department of Housing and Community Development and the Office of Planning and Research.

Public Comment III

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

Recess/Reconvene Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to return to Closed Session at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session County Counsel Vallejo said that no reportable action was taken during closed session.

Adjournment The Chairperson adjourned the meeting in memory of Dr. Milton Randle "Ben" Jones, Jr. at 12:41 a.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