

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

## March 17, 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 March 17, 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 **Existing Litigation – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: *City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles v. Inyo County Board of Supervisors, et al.* Inyo County Superior Court Case No. 12908; No. 4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Counsel; No. 5 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Planning Director; No. 6 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Planning Director; No. 7 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Eastern Sierra Child Support Director; and No. 8 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator.

*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* Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met in closed session, received staff reports, took no action requiring public disclosure, and 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 Ronald Owens Jr., Lauralyn Hundley, Julie Threet, and Renata DeMello.

*Introductions* The following new employees were introduced to the Board:

- **Public Works:** Groundskeeper Carlos Castillo, Engineer Associate Johan Hoek, Road Maintenance Worker Gabriel Mesquitez, Compliance and Project Manager Richard Shore, and Solid Waste Maintenance Worker Jaden Wilson.

*Board Member Reports* Supervisor Griffiths reported attending an Eastern Sierra Transportation Authority (ESTA) meeting, participating in interviews for the ESTA Executive Director vacancy, joining a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) regional meeting, and taking part in an

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) meeting.

Supervisor Roeser reported that she recently hosted a Big Pine Town Hall meeting. She also requested that the Board schedule a workshop on municipal service reviews. In addition, she recognized the thirteen American service members who were recently killed in action during Operation Epic Fury.

Supervisor Wadelton said that he attended meetings of the Community Advocates for Southeast Inyo (CASI) and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD), planted mesquite trees at Timbisha-Shoshone Village, and attended webinars for the Department of Water Resources. He also reported on a recent fire in the Alabama Hills and a vehicle-versus-livestock accident in the Lone Pine area. Wadelton added that the Behavioral Health Awareness Committee meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum, but he was able to attend the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority meeting instead.

Supervisor Marcellin said that he attended the grand opening of the Toiyabe Dialysis Center and a memorial service for former Bishop Fire Chief Phil Moxley.

County Counsel Vallejo said that he attended the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority meeting.

CAO Fraser reported that he participated in several meetings, expressed appreciation for the warm welcome he has received, and wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Supervisor Orrill reported that she had various meetings with constituents, staff, joint power authorities, and community services districts, attended the ESTA meeting and the CSAC regional meeting, and announced several upcoming community events, including a blood drive at the Elks Lodge, a youth chess tournament, and the Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance Blue Ribbon Walk at Millpond.

***County Department Reports***

Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser reported that staff recently learned how to utilize the OpenGov platform for documenting temporary food events, then provided information on projected funding cuts from the State Water Resources Control Board for hazardous algae testing, and a brief legislative update on a proposed mandatory program for micro enterprise home kitchen operations.

Water Department Director Dr. Holly Alpert reported on last night's Water Commission meeting and provided the Board with copies of the 2024-2025 Water Department Annual Report.

HHS Director Anna Scott provided an update on the recent community health event, "LIFE Night" (Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment). She noted that the Public Health and Prevention Division will continue hosting the event monthly, with the next gathering scheduled for April 2 at the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Office.

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

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the minutes from the regular March 3, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Emergency Services – 2025 EMPG Program Application/Reso. #2026-09***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve the submittal of the Fiscal Year 2025 EMPG Program Application and authorize the County Administrator, as the designated Authorized Agent, to sign the grant application, as well as any and all accompanying documents, by approving the "Governing Body Resolution (No. 2026-09);" and
- B) Authorize the Chairperson to sign the resolution and resolution addendum letter.

Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Risk Management – 2026-2027 Renewal of Coverage MOUs***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve the program-specific memorandums of understanding (MOUs) as required to renew coverage for the 2026-2027 coverage term and beyond for Master Crime Insurance Program, Cyber Liability Program, Pollution Liability Insurance Program, and Optional Excess Liability Insurance Program, between the County of Inyo and Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and

Management (PRISM) of Folsom, CA, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets and continued purchase on an annual basis of these programs, and authorize the Chairperson to sign all four MOUs. Motion carried unanimously.

***County Counsel –  
Groundwater Transfer  
Ordinance 1327***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve 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);" and
- 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," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS-Behavioral  
Health –  
Generations Health  
Care of Upland  
Contract Amendment  
No. 1***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Generations Health Care of Upland SNF, LLC, DBA Heritage Park Nursing Center for the provision of Hospital Inpatient Psychiatric Services, increasing the contract amount by \$62,000 to an amount not to exceed \$102,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and authorize the Health and Human Services Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –  
Interim County  
Surveyor Appointment***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint Benjamin Egan as Interim County Surveyor. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works-  
Recycling & Waste  
Management –  
Green Waste Waiver of  
Fees***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve a Free Green Waste weekend for the public on March 21-22, 2026 at all County landfills. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –  
Road Department  
Vehicles and  
Equipment Auction***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Declare the vehicles listed in Attachment 1 as surplus;
- B) Authorize the Road Department to offer the vehicles and equipment for sale utilizing the Public Surplus auction site; and
- C) Authorize any unsold vehicles and equipment to be disposed of as scrap metal.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –  
Asphalt Purchase for  
Tecopa Road Repairs***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Declare Granite Construction of Bakersfield, CA, the successful bidder for 640 Tons of Cold Mixed Asphalt per Bid No. RD25-09 in the total amount not to exceed \$113,512.00; and
- B) Authorize issuance of a purchase order payable to Granite Construction in an amount not to exceed \$113,512.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Treasurer-Tax  
Collector –  
Tobacco Settlement  
Fund Transfer  
Authorization Update/  
Reso. #2026-10***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2026-10, titled, "Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California Substituting Officers Authorized to Direct Transfer of Tobacco Settlement Funds," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works-  
Recycling & Waste  
Management –***


At the request of Supervisor Wadelton, the item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for further discussion.

<i>High-Wind Operations and Temporary Closure Policy</i>	Public Works Project Manager Richard Shore explained that the policy update was long overdue, and that approving it today will address compliance issues with both CalRecycle and the County Environmental Health Department.  Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to adopt the attached <i>High Wind Operations and Temporary Closure Policy</i> for the Inyo County Landfills and authorize the Public Works Director, Assistant Public Works Director, and Landfill Compliance Manager to implement the policy and make non-substantive administrative updates (contact numbers, signage, notification methods, etc.). Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Item Pulled: Report on Upcoming 2026 Mule Days Celebration</i>	Chairperson Orrill announced that the agenda item is postponed and will be discussed at the March 31 Board of Supervisors meeting:  <b>28) Report on Upcoming 2026 Mule Days Celebration</b> Community Organization   Bishop Mule Days 15 minutes  <b>Recommended Action:</b> Receive a report on plans for the upcoming 2026 Bishop Mule Days Celebration and other news related to the event and organization.
<i>Southern Inyo Healthcare District Update</i>	Southern Inyo Healthcare District CEO Dr. Kevin Flanigan provided updates on the district's financial condition and operational status since finalizing the loan agreement with the County last October.  Dr. Flanigan said that staff have been heavily focused on maintaining 10 days of cash on hand for routine operations and expenses and reserving two weeks of payroll, including paid time off. He reported that the district has built its Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) account to \$1.3 million and can now self-fund Medicaid intergovernmental transfers.  Public comment was received from Ronald Owens Jr. and Jon Klusmire.
<i>Inyo Council for the Arts – State of the Arts Report</i>	Inyo Council for the Arts Executive Director Sharon Freilich provided a presentation of ICA's 2025 programs and events, highlighting investment in local artists and collaboration with various community groups to provide free or low-cost arts opportunities. Freilich announced that local artist Sage Romero, nominated by Inyo ICA, was selected as one of only nine recipients of the California Arts Council award and will be honored at the Council's 50th Anniversary Celebration on April 19 in Sacramento.
<i>CAO – LADWP Lease Renewals</i>	Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve 13 leases with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for airports, campgrounds, and parks, and authorize the Chairperson to initial Section 7.2.4 of each lease and sign each lease. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Comment III</i>	Chairperson Orrill asked if there was anyone wishing to provide public comment and comment was received from Renata DeMello. County Counsel Vallejo directed Ms. DeMello to the appropriate agency (Superior Court) regarding her concerns.
<i>Recess/Reconvene</i>	Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to return to Closed Session at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:45 p.m. with all Board members present.
<i>Report on Closed Session</i>	County Counsel Vallejo said that there was no reportable action taken during Closed Session.
<i>Adjournment</i>	The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2026, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: DAVID FRASER  
Clerk of the Board*

by:   
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*Darcy Israel, Assistant*