

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

April 28, 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 April 28, 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 8:33 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; and No. 4 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)** – Name of case: *Inyo v. Wolverine/Inyo, LLC et. al.* (Case No. 23UC70164).
- 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** Lone Pine Student Body President Brenna Leon led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session** County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 through 4 and said that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.
- Pet Adoption Spotlight** Inyo County Animal Services Manager Katie Byrd introduced Riley, a dog currently available for adoption at the Inyo County Animal Shelter.
- 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, Ike Dzhrag, and David Foroudi.
- Supervisor Roeser requested that the Board adjourn today's meeting in memory of former Supervisor Jim Bilyeu and Lone Pine resident Gary McCoy, both of whom recently passed away, and offered condolences to their families.
- County Department Reports** HHS Director Anna Scott provided an update on the Requests for Proposal for EMS services in the Bishop Operating Area, noting that the County is working with the City of Bishop and the Bishop Paiute Tribe to review the proposal received. She also said that HHS will end April's Child Abuse Awareness Month with a Resilience Symposium at the Tri-County Fairgrounds on April 29 and will shift focus to Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Director Scott added that she and Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman recently attended a meeting at Northern Inyo Hospital with State and Legislative representatives to discuss recent impacts on rural hospitals.

*Agricultural
Commissioner –
ATV Surplus Auction*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Declare the ATVs listed in Attachment 1 as surplus;
- B) Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to offer the ATVs for sale utilizing the Public Surplus auction site;
- C) Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to utilize either the previously approved consignment auction agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management or another auctioneer for the removal and sale of vehicle Public Surplus process; and
- D) Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to dispose of assets unable to sell as scrap.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the minutes from the regular April 14, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Behavioral
Health –
CalMHSA Agreement
Amendment No. 4*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Declare the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) a sole-source provider of remote supervision services;
- B) Approve Amendment No. 4 to the participation agreement between the County of Inyo and CalMHSA, extending the contract term to end June 30, 2027, increasing the contract by \$171,990 to an amount not to exceed \$300,990, and modifying the rates of services including an administrative fee of 15%, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget; and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-ESAAA –
FY 26-27 Area Plan
Update*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) 2026-2027) Area Plan Update;
- B) Set minimum percentages for the Supportive Services subcategory as recommended by the ESAAA Advisory Council at 50% for the Access category—Transportation, 10% for Legal Services, and 5% for In-Home Services; and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson and HHS Director to sign the required Transmittal Letter.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning Department –
Roux Associates, Inc.
Contract Amendment
No. 5*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve Amendment No. 5 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Roux Associates Inc. (Andy Zdon) to amend Section 2 – Term, to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2027; Term to July 1, 2021–June 30, 2027 on Attachments A-E as applicable; and Attachment D – Insurance Requirements;
- B) Find that the Approval of this Contract is exempt from CEQA under the common-sense rule (CEQA Guidelines 15061(B)(3)); and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning Department –
Helix Environmental
Planning Inc, and
Bonanza Peak Solar,
LLC Contract
Amendments No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Helix Environmental Planning, Inc., extending the term to May 31, 2027 and increasing the contract amount by \$10,000.00, for a total not to exceed \$65,550.00, and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Bonanza Peak Solar, LLC, increasing the deposit from \$66,600.00 to \$76,600.00, and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works-
Recycling & Waste
Management –
Lone Pine Cemetery
Cleanup/Waiver of*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to waive the solid waste disposal and gate fees for the Lone Pine Pioneer Cemetery cleanup event, Saturday, May 9, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Fees

Public Works – 2026 Maintained Mileage Certification/ Resolution #2026-13

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve Resolution No. 2026-13, titled, "Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Annual Certification of the 2026 Maintained Mileage Log," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- B) Authorize the Department of Public Works to file the resolution with the District 9 Office of the State of California Department of Transportation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works – Caltrans Agreement/ Resolution #2026-15

The item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for further discussion. County Counsel Vallejo brought it to attention that the recommended action on the agenda should have also included accompanying Resolution No. 2026-15.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the 2025-2026 Federal Apportionment Program Federal Exchange and State Match Program Agreement No. X26-5948(115) between the County of Inyo and California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$673,353, plus a State match of \$100,000, for a total not to exceed amount of \$773,353, as well as Resolution No. 2016-15, and authorize the Chairperson to sign both. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works – Pagenkopp Construction, Inc. Change Order No. 1

The item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for discussion. Public Works Senior Civil Engineer Marc Lucas explained that a discrepancy was discovered in the countertop trim material selected for the project and requested the Board approve Change Order No. 1 with Pagenkopp Construction Inc., to maintain design consistency in the historic courthouse building and complete the project.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to authorize the Inyo County Assistant CAO to sign Change Order No. 1 for \$6,879.61 to Pagenkopp Construction, Inc. for additional scope-of-work inside the Recorder's Office for the countertop replacement project. Motion carried 4-1 with Supervisor Marcellin opposed.

CAO-Personnel – 2025 CSAC Leadership Academy Graduation Ceremony

Inyo County Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney and California State Association of Counties Director Paul Danczyk recognized the following graduates of the 2026 Leadership Academy: Courtney Bos, Jessica Burton, Carri Coudek, Travis Dean, Cynthia Draper, Paulette Erwin, Kelsey Gonzalez, Rebecca Graves, Yolanda Haro, Darcy Israel, Allison Krohn, Gordon Moose, Caroline Nott, Carl Olsen, Griselda Ortiz, Marissa Silvas, Heather Williams, and Sarah Wilson.

Assistant Director Oney also congratulated Nathan Reade and Lisa Vetter, additional Inyo County graduates who were unable to attend the ceremony, as well as Laura Cruz and Salvador Montanez, graduates of Mono County.

CAO-Personnel – CSAC Update

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Senior Legislative Advocate Justin Garrett thanked Supervisors Griffiths and Orrill for their leadership, then provided updates on recent advocacy efforts. He reported that CSAC representatives traveled to Washington, D.C. last week to meet with members of Congress and key administrative officials regarding major issues, including H.R. 1 ("Big Beautiful Bill"), and changes to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement rates, both of which will have a direct impact on Inyo County. Bradley said more will be discussed at next month's CSAC Legislative Conference.

Board of Supervisors – H.R. 1 Discussion

CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate Justin Garrett and Senior Legislative Analyst Danielle Bradley provided an overview of H.R.1, which was signed into law on July 4, 2025. They explained that the legislation significantly changes the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and SNAP (CalFresh) Programs and shifts most of the fiscal responsibility for safety net programs from the federal government to the State. Counties could expect to face \$6-9.5 billion in added costs, with the greatest impact to County Indigent Care, Public Hospital Systems, County Employment & Eligibility Operations, and County Behavioral Health. They noted that the CalFresh program will now require a county cost-sharing match tied to error rates and said that the best way to lower the likelihood of error is to have a fully staffed and trained Eligibility

workforce.

Garrett outlined anticipated funding needs for each of the impacted programs and said that the budget request developed by CSAC and member counties in its entirety will include \$1.9 billion for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and \$4.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2027-2028. He said CSAC staff will continue to advocate at the legislative and administrative levels and acknowledged Inyo's contributed letter of support.

The Chairperson asked for input from HHS Director Scott, who said that the department's priority is maintaining safety-net services, but its immediate focus is training staff for H.R.1 implementation. She provided a one-page handout outlining projected impacts for FY 2027-28, including the cost of indigent care for disenrolled Medi-Cal clients (\$7,590 per person) and scenarios showing impacts at 33% disenrollment (185 residents) and 100% disenrollment (561 residents) for those likely to shift to county indigent care.

Chairperson Orrill asked about which general County services could theoretically be impacted as a result of the safety net cuts. Garrett said that the cost shift will significantly affect County budgets which means reduced or complete cuts to funding for public safety, homeless services, parks, libraries and other General Fund-supported programs. Director Scott added that programs such as the Maternal Child Adolescent Health (MCAH), children's dental and specialty care, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition assistance, immunization and communicable disease clinics (Public Health), and disaster preparedness are all potentially at risk.

Chairperson Orrill asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to speak and public comment was received from Owens Valley High School/Middle School Teacher Stephanie Morse.

*Public Works –
Inyo County Airports
Fee Structure/
Resolution #2026-14*

Deputy Public Works Director of Airports Ashley Helms provided information on a proposed fuel fee structure for the Bishop and Lone Pine-Death Valley airports and noted the Northern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee's (NIAAC) request to direct the additional revenue to maintenance and eventual replacement of airport fuel trucks. Helms requested direction from the Board on whether to divert the \$0.10 per-gallon fuel markup to a vehicle repair and capital replacement fund.

County Counsel Vallejo highlighted a correction needed in the final paragraph of the proposed resolution, replacing the word "ordinance" with "resolution."

Chairperson Orrill opened the public hearing at 12:00 p.m. and with no one wishing to provide public comment, closed the public hearing at 12:00 p.m.

The Board discussed potential discounts and fees, agreeing that current fuel prices in Inyo remain competitive, but also taking into consideration that this may change. The Board accepted the NIAAC's request and added the following clause, under subsection D of Resolution #2026-14:

"For every gallon of full-service fuel sold at Inyo County airports, \$.10 per gallon shall be placed in a fuel vehicle repair/replacement fund. Funds may be withdrawn from this fund to cover engine or fuel delivery system repairs or upgrades; tire and fuel hose replacement; the purchase of used vehicles; or loan payments for new vehicles."

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Resolution No. 2026-14, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Establishing Guidelines for Setting Airport Fuel Prices," with the discussed correction and added language, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning Department –
Precision Civil
Engineering Contract
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to ratify and approve contract Amendment No. 1 with Precision Civil Engineering to extend the time of the contract from November 5, 2024 to December 31, 2026, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Behavioral Health – Kings View Agreement Amendment No. 1

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Kings View Professional Services of Fresno, CA, for the provision of Electronic Health Record Information System and All Pay Sources Billing Services, increasing the contract amount by \$44,149 to an amount not to exceed \$1,239,893 for the term July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, contingent upon the Board’s approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO-Personnel – ICDSA Side Letter

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the side letter between the County of Inyo and the Inyo County Deputy Sheriff’s Association and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Reports

County Counsel Vallejo reported receiving a letter from the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) which proposes the purchase of Little Lake Ranch surface water rights and said the Board will review the matter at a future meeting. He also noted a smooth start to the season for fishing opener, with continued Golden Mussel prevention efforts, the launch of WID.com for anglers, and a Forest Service grant available for the support of decontamination stations.

Supervisor Marcellin said he attended the Bishop Paiute Tribe Earth Day celebration and visited the Local Transportation Commission (LTC) booth, the Mule Days fundraiser barbecue, a Crystal Geyser plant tour, a Southern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee (SIAAC) meeting, the Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, the Fishmas Eve Party and Media Reception, and the Bishop Chamber Mixer and Farm Tour at Blue Heron Farm.

Supervisor Wadelton said he attended a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting, two separate Earth Day celebrations in Bishop and Lone Pine, the Inyo Associates and SIAAC meetings; toured the Crystal Geyser Plant; and attended the Lone Pine Fishing Derby and the Judge candidates forum.

Supervisor Griffiths said he attended the Middle Mile Connected Light-Up Event hosted by the Bishop Paiute Tribe and the Bishop City Council meeting, met with Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) senior staff, volunteered at the Bishop First United Methodist Church Soup kitchen, and traveled to Washington, D.C. with CSAC for a Congressional delegation luncheon and meetings with the White House, Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Health & Human Services (HHS), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Studies (CMS), and the Senate Banking Committee (SSBK). He said he also attended a CSAC Board retreat with Supervisor Orrill, an Earth Day celebration, and a Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee meeting.

Supervisor Orrill said that she attended the Fishmas Media Reception and meetings of the Eastern Sierra Transportation Authority (ESTA) and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG).

Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel reported that the recruitment for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board vacancy is complete and that one letter of interest was received.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for a break at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:02 p.m. with all Board members present.

Water Department – 2026-2027 LADWP Annual Operations Plan Presentation and Workshop

Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert provided an overview of the draft 2026-2027 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s Annual Operations Plan and highlighted LADWP’s proposed groundwater pumping range of 54,310-81,360 acre-feet, as well as the Water Department’s recommended response (due within 10 days of receipt) of a minimum pumping amount of 51,460 acre-feet. Additionally, Dr. Alpert proposed pumping amounts below the LADWP’s proposed minimum for three wellfields: Laws at 6,000 acre-feet, Taboose-Aberdeen at 4,000 acre-feet, and Symmes-Shepherd at 2,600 acre-feet.

Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel noted that twelve written public comments were received and will be included in the official meeting record. Oral comments were received from Lauren Rose, Environmental Director for Big Pine Tribe Sally Manning, and Randy Short.

Board members received input from Water Commission Chairperson Paul Huette and commissioners Terry Red Owl, Randy Keller, Vikki Glinski, and Matt Kingsley. Chairperson Huette and the Commission has proposed a total pumping amount of 46,540 acre-feet and requested reduced pumping in two wellfields: Taboose-Aberdeen to 480 acre-feet and Symmes-Shepherd to 1,200 acre-feet, enough for in-valley uses only in both locations. Additionally, Commissioners requested more information about the use of the water at the Laws wellfield to fully consider LADWP's recommended pumping amount of 6,000 acre-feet at that location.

Public comment was received from Karen Palley, Santeena Pugliese, Sierra Club Conservation Chair Lynn Boulton, Indian Wells Valley Water Commission member Neveah Burrows, Bishop Paiute Tribal member Noah Williams, Eastern Sierra Water Alliance member Nor Baskevitch, Maya (last name unknown), Edie Trimmer, Conner Everts, Sally Manning, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Environmental Director Mel Joseph, and Michele McLaughin-Zamora.

Following lengthy discussion, three out of five of the Board members landed in favor of the Water Commission's recommended numbers and the following decision was made: Keep all of the LADWP recommended pumping numbers including the Laws wellfield amount of 6,000 acre-feet but change the amount of acre-feet of pumping at Taboose-Aberdeen to 480 acre-feet and Symmes Shepherds to 1,200 acre-feet, making the total requested pumping amount of 46,540 acre-feet.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for a break at 3:39 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 3:45 p.m. with all Board members present.

Inyo County Water Commission Presentation

Water Commission Chairperson Paul Huette provided an overview of the March 15 Commission meeting and noted that, based on the public input received at the meeting, the Commission is requesting the following actions:

- 1) Direct the Inyo County Water Department to prepare a priority list of vegetation parcels that fall below baseline cover, and/or conduct further analysis of below-baseline numbers.
- 2) Request that LADWP provide detailed reasoning behind its proposed numbers at each wellfield in the Plan.
- 3) Request the Board ask LADWP to add an agenda item to the Standing Committee meeting agenda to resume meeting discussions among the Technical Group regarding the "On-Off" program.

Concerns were raised about parcels that remain below baseline vegetation levels and the need for further discussion with LADWP. Commissioner Teri Red Owl said that the on/off provisions of the Long-Term Water Agreement are ineffective and contributing to the below-baseline vegetation conditions seen today.

The Board asked how the Water Department's current analysis differs from what the Commission is requesting. Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert explained the general well monitoring process and said that from what she has gathered, the Commission would like additional data gathered to include all of the wells in order to know for sure which parcels to prioritize, then bring the information back to Board with their recommendations.

Public Comment was received from Santeena Pugliesi, Lauren Rose, Sally Manning, and Lynn Boulton.

The Board provided the following directions to staff:

- Do some additional research and planning to determine the best plan for proceeding with the creation of the requested list and staffing capacity challenges.
- Request that LADWP provide detailed reasoning behind its proposed numbers at each wellfield in the Plan.
- Research what happened to the on-off program, the interim management plan, and the cooperative study and bring the information back to Board at a future meeting with information about reviving the study.

Public Comment III

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to provide public comment for subject not included on the agenda and comments were received from Santina Pugliesi and Lauren Rose.


Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting in memory of former Supervisor Jim Bilyeu and Gary McCoy at 4:45 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, 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