

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

June 23, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:02 a.m., on June 23, 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 8:03 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 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9** – Potential case: one - claim for damages submitted by William Michael Morris; No. 4 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** - Title: County Administrative Officer; No. 5 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Works Director; and No. 6 **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 10:06 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Marcellin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met in Closed Session and, regarding Litigation Item No. 3, voted to deny the submitted claim and authorized County Counsel to initiate a defense should a lawsuit be filed.

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 Marcellin said that he attended the First 5 meeting and a Local Transportation Commission meeting.

Supervisor Wadelton reported that he attended meetings of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) and the Local Transportation Commission, the first annual Olancho-Cartago Fire Department "Safety Days" event, and the Concert in the Rocks. He also noted that he has an upcoming Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting.

Supervisor Roeser said that she attended several constituent meetings and requested that a workshop on broadband in Inyo County be agendized.

Supervisor Griffiths reported attending a California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

regional meeting in Kings County, the Tri-County Fairgrounds Board meeting, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new CSAC Tech building, and the Bishop City Council meeting and also made a visit to Yolo County.

Supervisor Orrill said that she attended an Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) Advisory Committee meeting and reported that the Bishop Senior Center has reopened following repairs of flood-related damage. She also reported attending a Rural Action Caucus meeting, the Mustang Mesa Firewise Community cleanup, and the Elks Flag Day Celebration with Supervisor Roeser, thanking her for the great speech she gave at the event. Additionally, she reported resubmitted a policy proposal to the National Association of Counties (NACo), which is currently progressing through legislation as the "Fire Smart Act of 2026" (S4 812).

CAO Fraser reported that passenger numbers at Bishop Airport have been very strong, and that the airline has recently shown interest in discussions about offering year-round service.

***County Department
Reports***

Deputy Public Works Director Ashley Helms provided an additional briefing about air service at the airport and said that United Airlines has made an initial offer to carry services through the fall season and explained that flights out of San Francisco will operate daily until September then shift to a 4-day per week schedule.

Supervisor Roeser requested an update from H.W. Lochner Inc., the air service consultants contracted with Inyo County. Deputy Director Helms noted that a presentation is planned for later in the summer once the Terminal Demand Study is completed.

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

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the minutes from the regular June 9, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk of the Board –
Bishop Fire Protection
District Board of
Commissioners
Appointments***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to reappoint Ms. Suzanne Butler and Mr. Donald Kunze each to a four-year term on the Bishop Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners ending July 1, 2030. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO –
Veterans Services
Office Annual
Compliance Forms***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to authorize the Chairperson to sign the California Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the California Department of Veterans Annual Subvention Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS-Behavioral
Health –
North American Mental
Health Services
Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:

- A) Declare North American Mental Health Services of Redding, CA a sole-source provider of mental health tele-psychiatry services;
- B) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and North American Mental Health Services of Redding, CA for the provision of mental health tele-psychiatry services in an amount not to exceed \$198,432 for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget; and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract and Business Associate Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Planning Department –
LAFCo Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the Inyo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for the provision of executive officer, staff, and county counsel services in an amount not to exceed \$22,414 for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Amendment No. 2 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Geo-Logic Associates of Grass Valley, CA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$936,959, contingent upon the Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, and authorized the Chairperson to

**Geo-Logic Associates
Contract Amendment
No. 2**

sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Works –
Bishop Airport
Perimeter Fence
Replacement Project
Plans and Specs.**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the plans and specifications of the bid package for the Bishop Airport Perimeter Fence Replacement Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Works –
Carroll Creek Bridge
Replacement Project
Plans and Specs.**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the plans and specifications for the Carroll Creek Bridge Replacement Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sheriff –
Jail Security Project
N.O.C. and Reso.
#2026-23**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Resolution No. 2026-23, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California Authorizing the Recording of a Notice of Completion for the Inyo County Jail Security and Camera Project," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**CAO-Emergency
Services –
Authorized Applicant
Agent Authorization/
Reso #2026-24**

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Governing Board Resolution No. 2026-24, rescinding Resolution No. 2026-11 and designating the Inyo County Administrative Officer, Assistant County Administrator Officer, or Deputy County Administrative Officer as the authorized applicant agent for the County of Inyo with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) for the purpose of obtaining federal financial assistance for any existing or future grant program; and authorize the Assistant Clerk of the Board to certify the resolution by signature. Motion carried unanimously.

**Clerk of the Board –
2026 Board Meeting
Calendar Revision**

The item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda at the request of Supervisor Wadelton for further discussion. He advised the CAO that he was unaware of the nature of the special meeting when contacted by a constituent. CAO Fraser explained the purpose of the meeting.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the addition of a special meeting, set for Monday, June 29 in Bishop, to the 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

**CAO –
Southern Inyo
Healthcare District
Update**

Southern Inyo Healthcare District CEO Dr. Kevin Flanigan updated the Board on the recent announcement by Assemblyman David Tangipa and Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil that the SIHD has been awarded \$400,000 through California's Distressed Hospital Small Grant Program. Additionally, Dr. Flanigan provided information on an upcoming health fair at Southern Inyo Hospital on June 27.

**Probation –
Serrano Advisors, LLC
Invoice**

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve payment of invoice number 0184 to Serrano Advisors, LLC of El Dorado, CA for the provision of consulting services for prior-year services in the amount of \$49,875.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Works –
Electric Vehicle
Charging Infrastructure
Network Plan**

The Board received a comprehensive presentation by David Tokarski and Owen Wang of DKS Associates on the county's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Network Plan.

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Accept the completed Inyo County Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Network Plan and direct staff to incorporate any minor revisions requested by the Board; and
- B) Authorize staff to submit the final Plan to Caltrans to satisfy the requirements of the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the meeting at 11:56 a.m. for a lunch break and reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. with all members present.

*Planning Department –
Appeal 2026-01/Falzon
of Variance No. 2025-
05/Bradford*

Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, who was present to represent the Planning Department, introduced the parties involved including applicant property owner Mr. Bradford, Planning Associate Cynthia Draper, Planning Director Cathreen Richards, appellant Mr. Ed Falzone, and his counsel, Jennifer Oden.

Milovich said that the variance approved by the Planning Commission on January 28 granted Mr. Bradford permission to build a 6-foot fence in an area where the standard allowance is 3.5 feet – along his property located in the 40 Acres neighborhood – and that his request was granted due to special specific unique characteristics of the property. Milovich explained that in order to proceed, the Board would need to make 7 required findings which were noted on page 6 of the staff report and that they must be supported by substantial evidence in the record, also taking into consideration, public health and safety, any hardships applicant would endure if held strictly to code and any special privileges that the variance would grant to the applicant that other neighbors would not also be able to enjoy. Milovich noted for the record that additional correspondence has been received from the appellant, that staff have spent a significant amount of time addressing them, and requested the opportunity to respond to any comments from the appellant today.

County Counsel Vallejo noted that the Board at the conclusion of the hearing will have options to sustain, modify or overrule the action of the Planning Commission or refer the matter back to them.

The Chairperson opened a public hearing at 12:38 p.m. on Appeal No. 2026-01/Falzon of Variance No. 2025-05/Bradford. Board members received testimony and documentary evidence.

Planning Cynthia provided a presentation on the aforementioned 7 findings and recommended that the Board deny Appeal 2026-01/Falzon and uphold the Planning Commission's approval of Variance Number 2025-05/Brandford, subject to the conditions of approval.

Attorney Odin argued that the variance should have been categorized relative to both height and yard setbacks required under Inyo County code and additionally would not meet the requirements of granting a variance given the strict conditions required. She argued that the property does not meet the conditions as it does not present as unique or exceptional in comparison to the neighboring properties.

Appellant Mr. Eddie Falzon provided a statement and applicant Mr. David Bradford provided a statement.

Assistant Counsel Milovich responded that the property does meet the conditions of a variance based on multiple challenges presented to Mr. Bradford by wildlife access on multiple sides of the property as well as a creek and pond and mature vegetation.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to provide public comment and there was no one wishing to speak.

Board discussion ensued and concerns were raised with regard to the pond on the property, the right of the property owner to protect his property from wildfire and protecting the feature for the collective safety of the neighboring area. Questions were answered collectively by County Counsel and Planning staff.

The public hearing was closed at 2:06 p.m.

Supervisor Marcellin requested that an additional condition be placed on the variance that would ensure reasonable access to the pond by emergency personnel for the purpose of fire suppression.

Assistant County Counsel Milovich noted there are necessary changes to the required findings as presented by staff. County Counsel Vallejo said this would need to occur prior to the Board vote as the findings are supporting backup.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the meeting at 2:08 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 2:21 p.m. with all members present.

***Planning Department –
Appeal 2026-01/Falzon
of Variance No. 2025-
05/Bradford***

Assistant Counsel Milovich read aloud changes that were made to the language in the findings.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to deny Appeal No. 2026-01/Falzon; find that the required findings for approval of Variance No. 2025-05/Bradford are supported by substantial evidence; adopt findings 1-7 as set forth in the staff report; find the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3; and uphold the Planning Commission's approval of Variance No. 2025-05/Bradford, with the added condition as follows:

The property owner shall allow reasonable access to emergency personnel to the existing pond on the property for fire suppression purposes during a fire emergency. This condition shall run with the land and shall apply to all future property owners unless modified by a subsequent discretionary approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the meeting at 2:31 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 2:39 p.m. with all members present.

***Planning Department –
LAFCo. Presentation
and Municipal Service
Reviews***

The Board received an overview of the California Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) from Planning Director Cathreen Richards.

Public Comment III

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to comment on items not included on the agenda and comment was received from Karen Kong.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the meeting at 3:20 p.m. to return to Closed Session and reconvened the meeting at 4:20 p.m. with all members present.

***Report on Closed
Session***

County Counsel Vallejo said that no action was taken during Closed Session that is required to be reported.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. Monday, June 29, 2026, in the Cardinal Village Resort Meeting Hall in Bishop.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: **DAVID FRASER**
Clerk of the Board

by: 
Darcy Israel, Assistant