

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

August 25, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:34 a.m., on August 25, 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 8:35 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, Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, HHS Director Anna Scott, Community Services Solutions Executive Director Amanda Philips, and Liebert, Cassidy, Whitmore Partner Jack Hughes; No. 3; **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: 2; 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); No. 5 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Agricultural Commissioner; No. 6 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Defender; No. 7 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Planning Director; No. 8 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Environmental Health Director; and No. 9 **Public Employments and 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 10:22 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, received reports from staff, and said that no reportable action was taken. He added that the Board would reconvene to address the remaining closed session items later in the meeting.

Public Comment II

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comments were received from Tracy Weaver and Brent Underwood.

Pet Adoption Spotlight

Sheriff Rennie introduced the August Pet Adoption Spotlight and new employee, Shelter Assistant Christian Carrington.

Mr. Carrington and Animal Control Officer Kelton Masterson introduced two dogs, Taquito and Maxine, and shared details about other animals currently available for adoption at the shelter.

Introductions

The following new employees were introduced to the Board:

- **Health and Human Services:** Social Worker Cassandra Kemp, Program Supervisor Xochitl Martinez, and Secretary Administrative Stephanie Rock
- **Sheriff's Office:** Shelter Assistant Christian Carrington.

Board Member Reports

Supervisor Griffiths reported that he attended a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board meeting, as well as a meeting of the CSAC Executive Board.

Supervisor Orrill said that she attended the CSAC Board meeting and met with Assemblyman Tangipa. She also expressed appreciation to Senator Alvarado-Gil's office for the recognition certificate she recently received.

Supervisor Wadelton said he participated in a collaborative meeting with the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Inyo County Water Department, attended meetings of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) and the CSAC Sustainable Groundwater Management Act working group, and met with Fifth District constituents. He also provided information about the upcoming Health Fair hosted by the Southern Inyo Hospital District.

Supervisor Roeser announced that a community debriefing meeting regarding the Rock and Cinder Complex fires will be held on September 11 in Big Pine.

Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel reported that the County is seeing increased interest in the recently advertised vacancies on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

County Department Reports

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton provided an update on Elections activities.

Health and Human Services Director Anna Scott announced that the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is celebrating Breastfeeding Awareness Month by hosting a community baby shower this Friday at the Consolidated Office Building. She also thanked Supervisor Wadelton and Public Works Facilities Operations Supervisor Shane Rily for their assistance in establishing a cooling center in Tecopa following a recent power outage.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of August 11 and special meeting of August 12. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk of the Board – Assessment Appeals Board Appointment

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Accept the resignation of Ms. Jenifer Castaneda from the Inyo County Assessment Appeals Board; and
- B) Appoint Ms. Randi Pritchard to an unexpired three-year term ending September 2, 2027.

Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Recorder – Mesa Community Service District Election Consolidation Request

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Order consolidation of the election for the Mesa Community Services District *Special Parcel Tax for Fire Protection Services* Measure provided within Resolution # 2026-1 with the November 3, 2026 General Election, including the canvass of the election results, in accordance with Elections Code Division 10, Part 3 (EC 10400-10418); and
- B) Direct the County Auditor to review the measure and determine if the substance of the ballot measure, if adopted, would affect the revenues or expenditures of the county (EC 9160[c]).

Motion carried unanimously.

District Attorney – CalOES Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant Acceptance

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to authorize District Attorney Dana Crom, Assistant District Attorney David Christensen, and Administrative Operations Analyst Morgan Maillet to submit, accept, approve, and sign all grant applications, agreements, and/or other documents, as needed on behalf of the Inyo County District Attorney's Office for the 2026-2027 Cal OES Victim Witness Assistance Program (VW26029001) Grant on behalf of the County, including any extensions or amendments thereto. Motion carried unanimously.

***Sheriff –
FY 26-27 ASPCA
Grant Award***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to authorize acceptance of grant-awarded funds from the ASPCA Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Program in the amount of \$10,000.00 to support spay and neuter services and essential animal shelter care needs. Motion carried unanimously.

***Agricultural
Commissioner –
Agricultural Pass
Program/
Reso. #2026-31***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve Resolution No. 2026-31, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Adopting an Agricultural Pass Program," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk-Recorder –
Office Fee Schedule/
Reso. #2026-32***

The Chairperson opened a hearing at 12:13 p.m. and asked whether any members of the public wished to provide public comment. With no one wishing to speak, the Chairperson closed the public hearing at 12:13 p.m.

Moved by Supervisor and seconded by Supervisor to approve Resolution No. 2026-31, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, authorizing adjustments to the fee schedule for the Inyo Recorder's Office to include the Recorder Notification Program Fee under AB 255 and anticipated Recording Fee increases under AB 2224," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Planning Department –
Ordinance 1330 for
Zone Reclassification
2025-05/ Fortney***

The Chairperson opened a hearing at 12:24 p.m. and asked whether any members of the public wished to provide public comment. Comment was received from Diane Fortney and the Chairperson closed the public hearing at 12:25 p.m.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve the proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Approving Zone Reclassification No. 2025-05/Fortney Biggs and Amending the Zoning Map of the County of Inyo by Rezoning a Three-Acre Parcel of Land Located in the Community of Independence (APN 022-080-13) from Multiple Family Residential Three Units and Above with a Three-Acre Minimum (R3-3) to One Family Residential with a One-Acre Minimum (R1-1);"
- B) Make all the necessary findings as stated in the staff report and ordinance, including the finding that the project, ZR 2025-05 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the Commonsense Exemption 15061(b)(3) that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment; and
- C) Waive further reading of and adopt the proposed ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Planning Department –
Ordinance 1331 for
Zone Text Amendment
2026-01/Inyo County
Residential Infill***

Jenna Chilingirian of Precision Civil Engineering provided an overview of the Residential Infill Project and proposed changes to the County Code.

Supervisor Marcellin noted for the record that he is opposed to the new allowable setback reduction in alleyways.

The Chairperson opened a hearing at 12:40 p.m. on proposed Zone Text Amendment (ZTA) No. 2026-01 and asked whether there was anyone wishing to provide public comment. With no one wishing to speak, the Chairperson closed the public hearing at 12:40 p.m.

County Counsel Vallejo noted corrections made to the title of the proposed ordinance.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:

- A) Make the requested findings and certify that the action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; and,
- B) Waive further reading of and enact said ordinance with the corrected title of, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Adding Inyo County Code Sections 18.06.023, 18.34.020 I, 18.44.020 Y, 18.45.020 D 4, 18.48.020 R, 18.51.020 K, 18.54.020 L; and Amending Inyo County Code Sections 18.30.030; 18.30.070; 18.30.110; 18.33.020; 18.33.050; 18.33.080; 18.34.050 H; 18.49.020; 18.78.150; 18.78.340."

Motion carried 4-1 with Supervisor Marcellin voting no.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the meeting at 12:43 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 1:19 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Health & Human
Services –
CoC Agreement*

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

*Health & Human
Services –
Health Care Program
for Children in Foster
Care*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the Letter of Allocation from the California Department of Health Care Services Children's Medical Services Branch for the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, in the total amount of \$374,958 for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Certification Statement. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Volunteer EMS,
Firefighter, and Search
& Rescue Leave Policy*

Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney presented an overview of the proposed Volunteer EMS, Firefighter, and Search and Rescue (SAR) Leave Policy, along with the accompanying draft leave forms. She explained that the policy would provide eligible employees with up to 40 hours of paid leave per calendar year when responding to local emergency incidents within Inyo or Mono counties. Oney noted that the policy's foundational framework establishes the core benefit while allowing for future adjustments to be brought back to the Board as needed until all details are fully finalized.

Oney and County Counsel Vallejo addressed Board questions related to timekeeping, other leave options, streamlining the approval process, and ensuring accountability.

Supervisor Roeser requested that the Chair extend the public comment period from three minutes to five minutes, and Supervisor Griffiths asked for open dialogue to help gather information from first responders.

Public comment was received from Big Pine Fire Chief Damon Carrington, who responded to Board and County Counsel questions regarding stipends and rates.

Following Board discussion and sharing of concerns, County Counsel provided recommendations for appropriate revisions to language in the policy.

Public comment was also received from volunteer firefighter Joey Peterson, who expressed opposition to the current draft policy.

Supervisor Roeser emphasized the value of out-of-area training for first responders, noting that the knowledge and resources they bring back to the County are invaluable and, essentially, mutual aid. She reiterated her concerns about the policy.

Supervisor Wadelton stated that he wants Inyo County to lead the way in supporting volunteer first responders, noting that such a policy would be the first of its kind in the state. He expressed his desire to ensure volunteers are supported in attending out-of-area training.

Supervisor Marcellin thanked Oney for her hard work and Chief Carrington for his valuable input, adding that he hopes the policy will serve as a meaningful start in supporting volunteer first responders.

Supervisor Griffiths proposed four adjustments to the policy which the majority of the Board found acceptable:

1. Clarify that leave may be used for official volunteer Firefighter, EMS and SAR activities.
2. Set the stipend threshold at \$200 per hour under the third-to-last bullet on page 3.
3. Add the following language to the second sentence under "Purpose:" "Inyo County

encourages, while maintaining operational capabilities, its employees to volunteer as first responders.”

4. On page two, under the first bullet point regarding obtaining written approval, include language allowing supervisors to establish predetermined guidelines, while still requiring written notice before leaving work (with text messages being acceptable).

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve the Volunteer EMS Firefighter SAR Leave Policy with discussed changes;
- B) Establish a new 40-Hour Leave Category — Volunteer EMS/Firefighter/SAR Leave; and
- C) Authorize Personnel to revise and update the associated forms as necessary to ensure they remain responsive to implementation needs and operational realities.

Motion carried 4-1 with Supervisor Roeser voting no.

*CAO-Personnel –
ICLEAA MOU*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Ratify and approve the July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028 Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Inyo and the Inyo County Law Enforcement Administrators' Association (ICLEAA); and
- B) Direct staff to update the publicly available pay schedule accordingly.

Motion carried 5-0.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the meeting at 3:29 p.m. to return to closed session and reconvened the meeting at 5:09 p.m. with all Board members present.

Public Comment III

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

*Report on Closed
Session*

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board has authorized his office to enter a settlement and noted that additional details will be provided if and when the court approves it.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2026, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *DENELLE CARRINGTON*
Acting Clerk of the Board

by: 
Darcy Israel, Assistant