

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

September 8, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:30 a.m., on September 8, 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: Acting CAO Denelle Carrington, 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 – Acting County Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich; No. 2A **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); and No. 3 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Health & Human Services Director.

Open Session

Chairperson Orrill recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:37 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under all of the closed session items and said that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

Public Comment II

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

Board Member Reports

Supervisor Wadelton reported attending recent meetings of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority Board of Directors (OVGA) and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors (GBUAPCD) and attended the Southern Inyo Healthcare District (SIHD) Health Fair. He announced that the jury in the David Miller murder case returned a guilty verdict for Brian Stange. He also shared that Inyo County has been awarded \$498,000 by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board for construction of the Owens Valley Water Trail.

Supervisor Marcellin relayed appreciation from the Bishop Tribe to the Public Works Department and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel for ensuring the road closure item was placed on the agenda ahead of the California Indian Day parade.

Supervisor Orrill reported attending meetings of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Artificial Intelligence Working Group, and the CSAC Homeland Security Advisory Committee. She also met with staff from Assemblyman Tangip's office and participated in the opening ceremony for the Demolition Derby at the Tri-County Fairgrounds.

Supervisor Griffiths said that he participated in a Sierra Nevada Conservancy tour and attended meetings for ESCOG and ESTA.

***County Department
Reports***

Water Director Holly Alpert thanked Supervisor Wadelton for sharing information about the Water Trail grant award and noted that the County is also awaiting the outcome of a California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant application. Alpert announced that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has proposed replacing a well in Lone Pine that serves as the town's primary water supply.

Public Works Deputy Director of Roads Gordon Moose reported on ongoing preparations for the upcoming winter season and noted that his department has been collaborating with Information Services on a new app designed to track storms and identify problem areas.

Assessor David Stottlemire provided an update on Senate Bill 1329, stating that the bill died on June 9. He credited this outcome to letters of opposition sent from the Board of Supervisors, other county boards across California, CSAC, the Rural County Representatives of California, and the California Assessors Association.

HHS Director Anna Scott and Behavioral Health Director Melissa Best-Baker announced that September is both Suicide Prevention Month and Recovery Month. They outlined activities planned in partnership with Toiyabe Indian Health Services, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, and Crossroads Recovery Center. Best-Baker also noted that Overdose Awareness Day was observed on August 31.

Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman-Ostrander shared a letter from the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of Environmental and Wastewater Services recognizing Public Works Senior Civil Engineer Marc Lucas for his efforts in preparing grant documentation for the Lone Pine Town Water System Project.

***Auditor-Controller –
Property Tax
Rates/Reso. #2026-33***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Resolution No. 2026-33, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, California Adopting Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, Pursuant to California Government Code Section 29100," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Auditor-Controller –
Gann Appropriation
Limit/Reso. #2026-34***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Resolution No. 2026-34, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, California Establishing Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Appropriation Limit under Article XIII of the California Constitution, and Establishing Period for Contesting Such Limits for the County and Board of Supervisors Governed Special Districts," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk of the Board –
Independence
Cemetery District
Appointment***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to appoint Karen Roberts to the Independence Cemetery District Board of Trustees, to a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Motion carried unanimously.

***Clerk of the Board –
Sierra Forever Funding
Request***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the request from the Inyo Fish and Wildlife Commission to provide Sierra Forever with \$3,000 in funding from the Inyo Fish and Game Fine Fund to support efforts to prevent infestation of the golden mussel in Eastern Sierra waters. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-Risk
Management –
AED Policy and
Procedures Update***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to acknowledge and approve the update to the County's policy and procedures for the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program. Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS –
HHAP Round 6
Funding Agreement***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve agreement number 25-HHAP-10018 between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the provision of Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program Round 6 (HHAP 6) in an amount not to exceed \$250,138.19 for the period commencing upon HCD approval of agreement through June 30,

2030, contingent upon approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the standard agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

***Planning Department –
USGS Joint Funding
Agreement***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for wells and springs monitoring in the Amargosa Desert in the amount of \$8,000 for the period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027 and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works-Parks &
Recreation –
Inyo Council of the
Arts' Millpond Music
Festival Fee Waiver***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve a fee waiver to Inyo Council for the Arts for the reservation of the entirety of Millpond Park for the 34th Annual Millpond Music Festival, in an amount not to exceed \$2,625.00, for the reservation fee set in Ordinance No. 1038, 12.16.192, Section IV, Subsection F; and
- B) Authorize closure of the park to accommodate the festival from 8 a.m. Thursday, September 17 to 3 p.m. Monday, September 21, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –
Temporary Road
Closure***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the temporary closure of a portion of North Pa Ha Lane, a portion of Diaz Lane, and a portion of North Barlow Lane (as indicated on the attached map), from 6:30 a.m.-noon on September 25, 2026 to accommodate the Annual 2026 California Indian Days Parade. Motion carried unanimously.

***Treasurer-Tax
Collector –
American Financial
Credit Services
Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve a contract with American Financial Credit Services for the provision of delinquent tax skip tracing, billing, and recovery services, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Treasurer-Tax
Collector –
Omnia Master Service
Agreement***

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Omnia Master Service Agreement Order Form for DebtBook Software as a Service Application and authorize the Treasurer-Tax Collector to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Planning Department –
Development
Agreement Overview
Workshop***

Assistant County Counsel Stacey Simon provided an overview presentation on Development Agreements (DAs), including Renewable Energy Development Agreements (REDAs) in preparation of the Bonanza Peak Solar Project in Charleston View.

Recess/Reconvene –

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 10:25 a.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. with all Board members present.

***CAO –
FY 26-27 CAO
Recommended Budget***

Acting CAO Denelle Carrington expressed appreciation to Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd and Budget Analyst Kelsey Gonzalez for their work in helping to develop the 2026-2027 CAO Recommended Budget.

Acting CAO Carrington and Auditor-Controller Shepherd delivered a presentation outlining the proposed budget, highlighting both the projects recommended for inclusion and those not proposed for funding, along with their rationale. Notably, the budget team did not recommend any personnel position changes for the upcoming fiscal year.

Supervisor Orrill requested that future presentations also include a facilities-related capital improvement project list. Acting CAO Carrington noted that the Public Works Department is developing a trackable system to support more comprehensive reporting going forward.

The Chairperson invited departmental comments. Sheriff Rennie reiterated the need to restructure a supervisory position within her department, noting that funding would come from the Cal-MMET Fund rather than the General Fund. Acting CAO Carrington explained that while this change would not affect the current budget, the Board should consider how

such adjustments to the career ladder may influence future budgets. She also clarified that personnel recommendations in the budget apply to both General Fund and non-General Fund positions.

Given the anticipated tighter-than-usual budget year, the Board agreed to move forward with the budget team's recommendations. Acting CAO Carrington highlighted that departments would have another opportunity to submit requests at mid-year.

Board members raised several concerns, including succession planning within the Planning Department and possible adjustments to grant contributions to provide more support for the High School Rodeo Finals. The budget team provided potential options, such as utilizing TOT funds. Supervisor Orrill requested a mid-year report on any existing unspent line-item grants.

Multiple Board members also voiced concerns about aging infrastructure, strategies for addressing these needs, and the uncertainty surrounding potential state and federal funding reductions.

The Chairperson opened the public hearing at 11:42 a.m. and, with no public comments offered, closed the hearing at 11:42 a.m.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget to include:
 - 1. Adding \$150,000 to the General Reserves budget;
 - 2. Adding \$150,000 to the Economic Stabilization Fund budget;
 - 3. Adding \$138,290 to the Contingencies budget; and
- B) Set adoption of the Final Budget for September 29, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Consort North America
Agreement
Amendment No. 3*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to ratify and approve Amendment No. 3 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Consort North America of Golden, CO for the provision of engineering design, environmental review, right-of-way acquisition, and limited construction support for the Carrol Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project, extending the term end date from June 30, 2026 to December 31, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –
USDA Loan and Grant
for the Lone Pine
Water System
Improvements Project*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve the loan and associated grant offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for financing the Lone Pine Water System Improvements Project;
- B) Authorize the Acting County Administrative Officer, or designee, to execute all USDA Rural Development loan and grant documents associated with the project, including but not limited to the Letter of Conditions, Loan Resolution, Grant Agreement, and all other required forms, with the concurrence of the County Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector; and
- C) Direct staff to complete all necessary actions to finalize funding acceptance and proceed with project implementation.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –
Fish and Wildlife
Commission Letter*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Authorize the Inyo County Fish and Wildlife Commission to send a letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Fish and Game Commission calling for the elimination of the "three strikes rule" pertaining to problem mountain lions; and
- B) Direct staff to draft a similar letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to be brought back to Board on September 29 for review and approval.

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.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 29, 2026, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. McKee", written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: DENELLE CARRINGTON
Acting Clerk of the Board*

by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Israel", written over a horizontal line.

Darcy Israel, Assistant