

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

September 29, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at 8:34 a.m., on September 29, 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 comment was received from David Tanksley.

Closed Session

Chairperson Orrill recessed open session at 8:37 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. 3 **Conference with Real Property Negotiators – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Government Code §54956.8** – Property: County Service Area No. 2. Agency Negotiators: Denelle Carrington, John-Carl Vallejo. Negotiating parties: Inyo County and U.S. Forest Service. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment; No. 4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Health & Human Services Director; No. 5 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; No. 6 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: *Matthew Blankers v. Inyo County, Shaw HR Consulting, Inc. and Does 1-25 Inclusive* (Case No. 1:25-cv-01005-JLT-CDB); No. 7 **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. 8 **Conference with Real Property Negotiators – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Government Code §54956.8** – Property: 1360 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514. Agency Negotiators: Denelle Carrington, John-Carl Vallejo, Amy Shepherd. Negotiating parties: Inyo County and Western Alliance Business Trust and Wolverine/Inyo LLC. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment; No. 9 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Works Director; and No. 10 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Planning Director.

Open Session

Chairperson Orrill recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:02 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Wadelton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo said that the Board received staff reports and authorized his office to move forward with engaging outside counsel to support the real property negotiations under Item No. 8.

Public Comment II

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and comments were received from Leslie Chapman, Becky Taylor, Mary Roper, an unidentified gentleman from the community of Aberdeen, Trevor Warner, Sandy Lund, Nat

Rumph, Felicia Ranard, Lauren Rose, and Jen Roeser.

Board Member Reports

Supervisor Orrill reported attending the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Strategic Planning meeting as well as the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Annual Conference.

Supervisor Marcellin stated that he attended meetings of the Inyo Associates and the Local Transportation Commission (LTC), along with the Integrated Preparedness Planning (IPP) Workshop, the RCRC Annual Conference, and the Pabanamanina Pow Wow hosted by the Bishop Paiute Tribe. He also said he got to ride on a hydrogen bus being considered by the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA).

Supervisor Wadelton reported attending meetings of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the LTC, along with the RCRC Annual Conference, a meeting of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Veterans Working Group, an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) SGMA Working Group. He also participated in the Lone Pine Toiyabe Suicide Awareness Walk, and attended the Second Annual Lone Pine Youth Chess Tournament, the Olancha Community Potluck, and the Pabanamanina Pow Wow. He shared information on several upcoming events, including a local film shoot, and the Lone Pine Film Festival.

Supervisor Roeser reported attending several constituent meetings, the RCRC Conference, a NACo Public Lands Committee meeting, and both the RCRC and California State Association of Counties Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) meetings. She expressed appreciation to staff for assembling Inyo's gift basket for the RCRC Charity Auction as well as all who contributed items and thanked County Counsel Vallejo in advance for his upcoming presentation at the RCRC SGMA Working Group meeting. She also announced that the After-Action Review meeting for the Cinder Fire will take place tomorrow.

County Department Reports

Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd reported on the Bureau of Land Management's geothermal lease auction, noting that if the lease is successfully awarded, the County is expected to receive at least 25% of the bid amount through rents and royalties, with minimum projected revenues of approximately \$11,000.

Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters Danielle Sexton provided election updates, stating that voter information guides have been mailed and ballots will be mailed on October 5. She also announced the installation of a new ballot drop box in Independence and noted that the department will host a Halloween marriage event on October 31.

Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman-Ostrander offered a follow-up to the Ag Activation Plan presentation given at the August 11 Board meeting with Plena Planning & Design consultant Lindsay Gucker and provided copies of the final plan to the Board. She also announced a workshop series scheduled for October 27 through November 10 aimed at turning ideas into actionable, collaborative efforts informed by the UC system's work.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

The Assistant Clerk of the Board reported the need for a correction to page 5 of the August 25, 2026 minutes. Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of August 25, 2026 – as amended – and September 8, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Recorder – Special District in-lieu of Election Candidate Appointments

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to appoint, in-lieu of election, nominees who filed Declarations of Candidacy during the filing period for the November 3, 2026, General Election, and/or interested qualified candidates who did not submit Declarations of Candidacy as indicated on the attached Clerk's Certificates, pursuant to Elections Code §10515. Motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Health – Annual Fee Schedule Adjustments

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to adopt the revised Environmental Health Fee Schedule for calendar year 2027, reflecting a 3.4% CPI-U/COLA (cost-of-living) adjustment. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Health &

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve payment of

***Prevention –
PATH Round 3
Reduction of Funding***

the invoice between the County of Inyo Health and Human Services and Public Consulting Group for recoupment of Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved (JI) Round 3 funds in the amount of \$439,414.10. Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS-Behavioral
Health –
HHAPP Round 2
Amendment No. 3***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Amendment No. 3 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and California Department of Housing and Community Development of Sacramento, CA, extending the term end date from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget, and authorize the Health and Human Services director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –
Bishop Airport
Perimeter Fencing
Project/ Bryte Valley
Construction Contract***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Award the contract for the Bishop Airport Perimeter Fencing Replacement Project to Bryte Valley Construction of Tehachapi, CA as the successful bidder;
- B) Approve the construction contract between the County of Inyo and Bryte Valley Construction of Tehachapi, CA in the amount of \$167,500, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon the approval of the Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget; and
- C) Authorize the Public Works Director to execute all other project contract documents, including contract change orders, to the extent permitted by Public Contract Code Section 20142 and other applicable laws.

Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works –
Parcel Map 433***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Parcel Map No. 433. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works-
Recycling & Waste
Management –
Owens River Cleanup
Event Fee Waiver***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to consider approval of waiver of solid waste disposal and gate fees up to \$100 for trash and litter removed at the Lower Owens River Cleanup event on October 3, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

***Public Works-
Recycling & Waste
Management –
Tire Amnesty Event
Fee Waivers***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Waive all gate and disposal fees associated with the Tire Amnesty Events; and
- B) Authorize payment from Recycling & Waste Management to American Refuse, the County's tire hauler, for pickup for these events only, in addition to their existing contract for tire hauling for waste management.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the temporary road closure of Tuttle Creek Road, just west of U.S. 395, to allow Deadpan Productions LLC to stage and use the area for filming on October 5, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

***HHS-Behavioral
Health –
FY 25-26 BHAB
Annual Report***

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the filing and acceptance of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's (BHAB) Fiscal Year 2025-2026 annual report. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO –
FY 26-27 Budget
Adoption/Resolution
No. 2026-35***

Acting CAO Carrington provided a brief overview of the Final Approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Chairperson Orrill opened the floor for Board discussion.

Supervisor Roeser said she had revisited the September 9 budget discussion, particularly the recommendation to consider using Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds for community contributions. She proposed directing Board members' TOT funds toward the Bishop High School Rodeo Association and the Bishop Chamber's fish planting efforts and asked Board members whether they would support contributing \$2,000 each to both initiatives.

Following discussion, the Board reached consensus on the following allocations:

- A total of \$4,000 from Supervisor Griffiths' District 2 TOT funds and \$4,000 from Supervisor Roeser's District 4 TOT funds will be contributed to the Bishop High

- School Rodeo Association to help cover fairgrounds rental and ambulance fees.
- A total of \$10,000 from Supervisor Wadelton's District 5 TOT funds will be contributed to the Bishop Chamber to support fish planting in the Bishop Creek area.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:

- Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget as recommended by the County Administrator and as amended at the direction of the Board of Supervisors; and
- Approve Resolution No. 2026-35, titled "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Adopting a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Assessor –
Proposed Vessel Tax
Ordinance**

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to waive the first reading of a proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, to Repeal and Replace Ordinance 1195 Exempting Low Value Personal Property from Property Taxation," and set adoption for October 13, 2026 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 224 N. Edwards St., Independence. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sheriff –
Lenco Bearcat
Purchase/ Budget
Amendment**

Sheriff Rennie requested authorization to purchase the Lenco Bearcat, noting that the armored vehicle is critically needed and would be shared by the Inyo County Sheriff's Office, the Mono County Sheriff's Office, and the Bishop Police Department.

Supervisors Griffiths and Roeser requested that Sheriff Rennie continue efforts to secure contribution funding from Mono County and the City of Bishop.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- Amend the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Sheriff General Budget (Budget 022700) as follows: increase estimated revenue in operating transfers in Revenue Code No. 4998 by \$34,973.00 and increase appropriation in Equipment Object Code 5650 by \$34,973.00 (4/5ths vote required);
- Declare Lenco Armored Vehicles of Pittsfield, MA a sole-source provider of Lenco Bearcat Armored Vehicle; and
- Authorize the issuance of a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$484,973.00 payable to Lenco Armored Vehicle of Pittsfield, MA for Lenco Bearcat Armored Vehicle.

Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS-Behavioral
Health –
Sierra Health
Foundation Agreement**

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management of Sacramento, CA for the provision of Prop 36 Implementation of Behavioral Health Requirements in an amount not to exceed \$263,582.40 for the period of March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Health and Human Services Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**HHS-First 5 –
Small Population
County Funding
Augmentation Grant
Award Notification
Amendment**

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and Griffiths to ratify and approve the amended agreement between the County of Inyo and First 5 California of Sacramento, CA for the provision of Small Population Count Funding Augmentation services in an amount not to exceed \$565,585 for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028, contingent upon the Boards' approval of future budgets, and ratify authorization for the Health and Human Services director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**CAO-Personnel –
Personal Services
Contract/Resolution
No. 2026-36**

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- Ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Juan Martinez for the provision of personal services as the Undersheriff at Grade U SE, Step F, \$15,634.66 per month effective, August 27, 2026, and authorize the Chairperson to sign;
- Approve Resolution No. 2026-36 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2026-18 and Setting Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Management

- Employees Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- C) Approve the new Undersheriff salary structure and direct staff to update the publicly available pay schedule accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –
2026-2027 CSAC
Board Appointments*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin to appoint Supervisor Orrill as director and Supervisor Griffiths as alternate to serve on the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors for year 2026-2027. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Supervisor Roeser thanked Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel for her work in preparing the letter to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as requested at the September 8 Board meeting.

Supervisor Griffiths informed the Board and attendees of his intention to abstain from voting, noting his belief that wildlife management decisions should be made by wildlife managers and that government, local or otherwise, should avoid overreach.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to approve a letter from the Board of Supervisors to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the "Three Strikes Rule" related to mountain lion depredation permits. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Supervisor Griffiths abstaining.

Public Comment III

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

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 11:34 a.m. to return to closed session and reconvened in regular session at 3:37 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Report on Closed
Session*

County Counsel Vallejo reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 13, 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