MINUTES

County of Inyo
Board of Supervisors

October 27, 2026

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 2:00 p.m., on October 27, 2026, at the Tecopa Community Center, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Trina Orrill, presiding, Will Wadelton, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Roeser and Scott Marcellin. Also present: Assistant CAO Denelle Carrington, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Works Facilities Operations Supervisor Shane Rily led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment I

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and comment was received from Michael Sumpter, Larry Levy, Lance Hamrick, an unidentified gentleman, Jim Copeland and Pam Bold from High Sierra Energy Foundation.

County Department Reports

Treasurer-Tax Collector Christy Martindale reported that she and Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector Meghan O'Keefe are currently performing property inspections on Tecopa tax default properties and provided information on the upcoming auction.

Public Works Senior Civil Engineer Marc Lucas provided an update on the Connecting Tecopa Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Corridor project.

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton shared updates on upcoming election activities and announced a special Halloween wedding event taking place in her office. She also made a statement about election security being a non-partisan issue.

Employee Service Milestone

The Board and Assistant HHS Director Gina Ellis recognized Shelley Scott for 10 years of service with Inyo County.

Introduction

Treasurer-Tax Collector Christy Martindale introduced Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector Meghan O'Keefe to attendees.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the minutes from the special Board of Supervisors meeting of October 12, 2026 and the regular meeting of October 13, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO-Information Services – Grant Application Letter of Support

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter of support for Inyo Networks, Inc. (dba Onward)'s application to the California Public Utilities Commission's California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account, to extend fiber-to-the-home service to the community of Aberdeen. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO – Tecopa Hot Springs Concessionaire Operations and Fee Update

Deputy CAO Meaghan McCamman Ostrander introduced Tecopa Hot Springs and Campground Concessionaire Lance Hamrick, who provided an update on current operations and outlined the need to revise the facility's fee structure to better support its service offerings.

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve a revised rate structure for services at the Tecopa Hot Springs and Campground, as proposed by the Concessionaire, Flippin Happy Campers & Lance Hamrick LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Department – Bonanza Peak Solar

Planning Department staff conducted a workshop to update the Board and the community on the status of the proposed Bonanza Peak Solar Project and provided a review of project documents.

Project Update

Public comment was received from Michael Sumpter, Patrick Donnelly, Laura Cunningham, Billy Eichenbaum, Bill Helmer, Larry Levy, Vernon Lee, Lynn Boulton, Wynne Benti, a gentleman from Charleston View, and Matt Kingsley.

Assistant County Counsel Stacey Simon, Planning Director Cathreen Richards, Planning Associate Cynthia Draper, Bonanza Peak Solar Senior Director of Permitting Stephanie Lauer, and Helix Environmental Planning Consultant Robert Edgerton answered Board and constituent questions.

Planning Department – ZTA 2026-02/Update to County Code

The Chairperson opened a public hearing at 4:09 p.m. and with no one wishing to provide comment, closed the public hearing at 4:11 p.m.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

A) Approve the ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors Amending Section 21.20.020 of the Inyo County Code Pertaining to Renewable Energy Impact Determinations and Renewable Energy Permits with Regard to Development Standards;" and
B. Waive further reading of and enact said ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Workshop

The Board received updates from the following entities and organizations:

- Death Valley National Park, Superintendent Mike Reynolds and Deputy Superintendent Abby Wines;
- Tribes of the Eagle Mountain (TOTEM) representative Vernon Lee;
- Friends of the Amargosa Basin committee members Matt Kingsley, Cameron Mayer, and Susan Sorrells;
- Amargosa Conservancy Vice President Patrick Donnelly;
- Southern Inyo Fire Protection District Fire Chief Bill Lutze and SIFPD Board President Robin Flinchum;
- Community Advocates for South East Inyo representative Susan Sorrells; and
- Inyo Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melissa Reinig.

Public Comment II

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

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 3, 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