MINUTES

County of Inyo
Board of Supervisors

November 3, 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 November 3, 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: Assistant 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 8:35 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 – Acting County Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich; No. 3 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 –** Title: County Administrator; No. 4 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 –** Title: Public Works Director; No. 5 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 –** Title: Planning Director; No. 6 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 –** Title: Public Defender; and No. 7**Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9 -** Name of case: *Southern California Edison Company v. California State Board of Equalization, et al.* Case numbers: 30-2022-01258109-CU-MC-CJC; 30-2022-01258057-CU-MC-CJC; 30-2023-01328239-CU-MC-CXC; 30-2024-01403215-CU-MC-CXC; 30-2025-01534286-CU-MC-CXC.

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 Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under all Closed Session items and said that no action was taken that is required to be reported.

Public Comment II

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and comments were received from Linda Chapman, Eastern Sierra Community Relations and Sustainability Manager Kendra Knight, and Environmental Director for the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe Mel Joseph.

Pet Adoption Spotlight

Animal Services Manager Kelton Maston introduced Shadow, an adoptable dog at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, and highlighted other animals available for adoption. He noted that ASPCA grant funding allowed the shelter to offer free adoptions during the month of October, resulting in 17 animals finding new homes.

Board Member Reports

Supervisor Roeser said that she attended constituent meetings and toured the Bishop Community Garden. She noted that the County renewed leases with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, including the lease for Mendenhall Park, which will allow

the County to seek grant funding for improvements. Roeser also announced a community meeting next Tuesday in Big Pine.

Supervisor Wadelton reported attending the Board meeting in Tecopa, a Southern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee (SIAAC) meeting, a tour of the former wastewater system at Furnace Creek, the 100th anniversary celebration of Stovepipe Wells, and an Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) meeting in Olancha. He highlighted upcoming activities, including Operation Green Light in observance of Veterans Day, noted that burn permits are now being issued, and discussed the recent designation of Census Tract 8 as an Opportunity Zone, which he said will benefit many communities in his district.

Supervisor Marcellin reported attending the SIAAC and Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meetings. He thanked Transportation Planner Justine Kokx for her work on a successful grant application to fund improvements for the Bishop Paiute Tribe and expressed appreciation to the Tribe for its participation in the community engagement process.

Supervisor Orrill thanked Supervisors Marcellin and Wadelton for their service on the LTC. She reported attending the Board meeting in Tecopa, the Trunk or Treat event in Bishop, an Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) meeting, and an Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) meeting. Orrill thanked Supervisor Roeser for donating hay bales for the Trunk or Treat event and recognized staff for organizing the event.

Supervisor Griffiths announced his recent appointment as Interim Chief Executive Officer of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and said that he will be resigning from his position as Inyo County District 2 Supervisor effective November 8. Griffiths noted that this would be his final Board meeting and reflected on his public service, following 14 years as Supervisor and two prior terms on the City Council. He said the community will always remain close to his heart, expressed excitement for the next chapter in his career, and emphasized that while he is stepping into a new role, it is not goodbye.

Chairperson Orrill, on behalf of the entire Board, congratulated Griffiths on his appointment and wished him success in his new role.

County Department Reports

Veterans Services Officer Gordon Greene announced *Operation Green Light*, recognizing the nationwide initiative to honor and support military veterans during the week of November 4-11. Supervisor Roeser thanked Greene and noted that she frequently receives positive feedback from constituents regarding the assistance he provides as the County's Veterans Services Officer.

Deputy CAO Meaghan Ostrander provided updates on mobile service coverage in the Big Pine-Wilkerson area and the recently announced 2026 State Parks and Recreation Park and Community Revitalization Program (SPP Round 5) grant opportunity. She said the County plans to pursue funding for improvements at Mendenhall Park and explained the benefits of applying. Ostrander also requested that public comment be reopened to accommodate Steven Suderman of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz), who was arriving late from a Mono County Board meeting. The Chair granted the request. Steven Suderman, with the Go-Biz Business Investment Services team, introduced himself, provided an overview of the program, and shared his contact information with the Board.

Assistant HHS Director Gina Ellis reported on the success of the Trunk or Treat event held October 29 at the Bishop Quilter Consolidated Office Building, which drew approximately 700 attendees. Ellis thanked staff, volunteers, and participants for helping create a fun and welcoming community event.

NIHD Update

Dr. Christian Wallace provided a presentation with updates on the Northern Inyo Healthcare District.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of October 27, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS – Regents of UC Davis, CA Agreement Amendment No. 1

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and the Regents of the University of California, UC Davis of Davis, CA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed $448,418.75 and modifying the scope of work to include Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) support, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works-Recycling & Waste Management – 2,000-Gallon Water Truck Purchase

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to declare One Nation Distribution of Volant, PA the successful bidder for a new 2,000-Gallon Water Truck and authorize a purchase order in an amount not to exceed $148,777.29, including sales tax and free delivery. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works-Recycling & Waste Management – Budget Amendment

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

A) Amend the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Solid Waste General Budget (045700) as follows: increase Equipment Object Code 5650 by $650,000.00, by transfer of funds from Solid Waste fund balance (*4/5ths vote required*);
B) Declare Empire CAT of Sparks, NV a sole-source provider of Caterpillar-brand equipment repairs and rebuilds; and
C) Authorize the issuance of a purchase order for the rebuild of the Bishop-Sunland Landfill Caterpillar 826K Compactor for an amount not-to-exceed $650,000.00 to Empire CAT of Sparks, NV.

Motion carried unanimously.

County Counsel – Public Defender Program Workshop

County Counsel Vallejo introduced Deputy State Public Defender Jason Gundel. Vallejo explained that the County is experiencing a range of challenges common to many rural jurisdictions and noted that it is at a pivotal moment in evaluating its Public Defender system, as all current public defender contracts are set to expire on June 30, 2027.

Mr. Gundel provided a presentation with legal perspective on the challenges created by Inyo's current model of public defender services and the benefits of exploring alternative service delivery models.

Joining remotely, Mono County Counsel Christopher Beck and Mono County Public Defender Jeremy Ibrahim shared their experiences in addressing similar challenges in Mono County and offered insights into their approach to providing public defense services.

Public comment was received from District Attorney Dana Crom and Public Defender Gerard Harvey.

Following discussion, the Board directed staff to continue to evaluate options for restructuring and to work with the State in identifying the model best suited for Inyo County's needs.

County Counsel Vallejo said he anticipates bringing potential proposals to the Board within the next few months.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:16 p.m. with all Board members present.

Planning Department – Mineral Exploratory Drilling Workshop

Associate Planner Ryan Standridge presented information on proposed Zoning Code provisions related to mechanized mineral exploratory drilling. Following the presentation, the Board conducted a workshop to discuss how Inyo County Code Title 18 should address these activities.

Staff outlined four potential options for amending the Zoning Code to establish a formal policy framework for mechanized mineral exploratory drilling and reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the current process, which relies on the threshold levels established under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) as a guiding standard, should remain in place. The Board directed staff to return at a future meeting with proposed Zoning Code amendments for further consideration.

Public comment was provided by Anthony Marquerite, president of K2 Gold Mojave Precious Metals, and Jim Norman.

Agricultural Commissioner – 2025 Crop and Livestock Report

The Board and attendees received a presentation on the 2025 Annual Crop and Livestock Report from Agricultural Commissioner Nate Reade.

CAO-Personnel – Personal Services Contract-CAO/ Reso. #2026-40

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

A) Appoint Christine Bouchard as the County Administrative Officer;
B) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Christine Bouchard for the provision of personal services as the County Administrative Officer at Range 34, Step C $20,231.46 per month effective November 12, 2026, and authorize the Chairperson to sign;
C) Approve Resolution No. 2026-40 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2026-05 and Setting Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment III

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

Supervisor Roeser expressed her appreciation to Supervisor Griffiths for his years of dedicated service to Inyo County.

Supervisor Wadelton also extended his well wishes to Supervisor Griffiths and reported that he had attended the grand opening of the new Independence Travel Plaza at the Fort Independence Indian Community, an item he had inadvertently omitted from his earlier Board report.

Supervisor Marcellin thanked Supervisor Griffiths as well and said that it has been a pleasure serving alongside him as a member of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 17, 2026, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Christine Bouchard

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *CHRISTINE BOUCHARD*
Clerk of the Board

by: _____
Darcy Israel, Assistant