

# MINUTES



## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**August 25, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 11:00 a.m., on August 25, 2023, in the Consolidated Office Building – Downstairs Meeting Room, 1360 N. Main St., Bishop California, with the following Supervisors present: Trina Orrill, Scott Marcellin and Jeff Griffiths. Also present from this location: County Administrator Nate Greenberg. Supervisor Roeser, presiding, attended the meeting remotely via Zoom from 850 Black Rock Springs Rd., Independence, CA, pursuant to California Government Code 54953(b)(1). Also present remotely via Zoom, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis. Supervisor Matt Kingsley and Office Technician Hayley Carter attended the meeting remotely from the County Administrative Center in Independence, California.

CAO –  
*Tropical Storm Hilary  
Update & Local  
Emergency  
Proclamation/  
Reso. No. 2023-24*

CAO Greenberg introduced the emergency item, providing a briefing on severe damages sustained throughout the County as a result of the recent Tropical Storm Hilary, and explained that he declared a State of Emergency on Monday, August 21, 2023, that now needs to be ratified by the Board.

Sheriff Stephanie Rennie said that evacuation orders are currently in place for the Oak Creek area of Independence and residences located north of Mt. Whitney Portal Road in Lone Pine and reported major flooding with damage to residential structures.

Public Works Director Mike Errante and Deputy Public Works Director-Roads Shannon Platt reported moderate to severe flood damages and widespread road closures from the Big Pine area south to Death Valley. Errante noted that initial damage assessment reports are being completed for submittal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and the California Department of Transportation.

Death Valley National Park representative Jeannette Jurado said that an administrative closure of the park has been implemented due to significant damage/destruction of roads and infrastructure, repairs needed for utility system failures, and downed land line phone service to the area.

Acting Health & Human Services Director Anna Scott said that the department is monitoring isolated communities affected in the southeast county and providing outreach to those in need of access to essentials such as food, water, medication, and temporary shelter.

Emergency Services Manager Mikaela Torres said she has been in contact throughout the week with CalOES to get information on obtaining additional assistance and working on updates to the Ready Inyo website.

The Chairperson asked if there were any first responder agencies wishing to speak and updates were provided by Olancho Fire Chief Chelsea Benbrook, Big Pine Fire Chief Damon Carrington and Independence Assistant Fire Chief Michael Capello.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak and comment was given by Shoshone resident Judy Palmer, Lone Pine Tribal representative Mel Joseph, and Margaret Padilla.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Resolution No. 2023-24, ratifying the Inyo County Director of Emergency Service's local emergency proclamation of August 21, 2023. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Supervisor Kingsley abstaining.

*Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. to Tuesday, September 5, 2023, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG  
Clerk of the Board*

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Darcy Ellis, Assistant*