

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

February 5, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:32 a.m., on February 5, 2019, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Rick Pucci, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, Mark Tillemans, and Matt Kingsley.

- Public Comment* Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the first public comment period and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.
- Closed Session* Chairperson Pucci recessed open session at 8:32 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following items: No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – [Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9]** – Los Angeles Department of Water and Power v. County of Inyo, Kern Superior Court Case No. BCV-18-101513-KCT (CEQA); No. 3 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – [Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9]** – County of Inyo v. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Kern Superior Court Case Nos. BVC-18-101260; BVC-18-101261; and BVC-18-101262; No. 4 **CONFERENCE WITH COUNTY’S LABOR NEGOTIATORS [Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6]** – Regarding employee organizations: Deputy Sheriff’s Association (DSA); Elected Officials Assistant Association (EOAA); 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 – Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, and Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo; and No. 5 **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT [Pursuant to Government Code §54957]** – Title: Public Works Director.
- Open Session* Chairperson Pucci recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:07 a.m. with all Board members present.
- Pledge* The Assistant Clerk of the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session* Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.
- Public Comment* Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the second public comment period and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.
- County Department Reports* Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson gave an update on the State budget.
- Sheriff Hollowell reported on a prescription takeback program, and the issuance of CodeRED alerts over the weekend due to severe storm activity.
- HHS Director Marilyn Mann distributed flyers regarding Triple P Program activities.
- Child Support Services Director Susanne Rizo gave an update on the State budget.
- Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie reported on the results of the first round of the most recent online tax-defaulted property auction. She said remaining unsold properties will go back up for auction beginning March 24.

Supervisors Kingsley and Griffiths reported on taco dinners in Lone Pine and Bishop held to benefit local federal employees impacted by the government furlough, and thanked the community groups and members who contributed to and organized the events.

*Presentation –
Smokey Bear 75th
Birthday Rose
Parade Float*

Employees with Inyo National Forest, including Lee Roeser, Angela Avela and Levi Ray, and volunteer Jen Roeser gave a presentation on their efforts to organize, construct, and guide/accompany a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade that celebrated Smokey Bear's 75th Birthday, despite the federal employees being furloughed. They distributed photos from the parade as well as decorations from the float. Lee Roeser noted that in addition to the Forest Service volunteers, the operation included 19 mules in the parade itself, two on standby, and two longtime Forest Service permittees. He said Smokey and the firefighters following behind the float received louder applause from spectators than most other entries. David Anderson, acting District Ranger for the Mt. Whitney Ranger District, introduced himself to the Board, as did Philip DeSenze, new District Ranger for the White Mountain Ranger District.

Introductions

Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo introduced new Deputy County Counsel Grace Chuchla to the Board and HHS Director Marilyn Mann introduced new Integrated Case Worker I Jolie Bostick.

*Employee Service
Recognition – 4th
Quarter 2018*

The Board of Supervisors recognized the following employees who reached service milestones during the 2018 Fourth Quarter, as well as those who have served more than 25 years:

- Health & Human Services – Natalia Luque, 5 years; Laura Cortez Barrientos, 5 years; Eryn Clark, 5 years; Hailey Thomas, 5 years; Gail Zwier, 25 years
- Public Works – Shannon Williams, 5 years; Twila Koepp, 38 years
- Sheriff's Office – Dennis Salque Jr., 10; Michael Durbin, 10 years; Brian Howard, 15 years; Shane Scott, 15 years
- Child Support Services – Ursula Black, 10 years
- Library – Joe Frankel, 10 years
- Auditor-Controller – Ivonne Bunne, 25 years
- Personnel – Sue Dishion, 27 years
- Probation – Mark Olsen, 31 years
- Environmental Health – Kathe Barton, 25 years

*Auditor-Controller –
Office Tech II*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley for the Board to find that, consistent with the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Board Approved Budget: A) increase the authorized strength in the Auditor-Controller's Office by adding one (1) full-time Office Technician II, Range 59; and B) find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: 1) the availability of funding for one (1) Office Technician I exists in the Auditor-Controller budget, as certified by the Auditor and concurred with by the County Administrator; 2) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled by an internal recruitment; and 3) approve the hiring of one (1) Office Technician II, Range 59 (\$3,526 - \$4,285). Motion carried unanimously.

*Info Services –
GIS Analyst I-II*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Geographic Information Systems Analyst I-II exists in the Information Services budget, as certified by the Information Services Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled by an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified candidates apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Geographic Information Systems Analyst I-II, Range 68 (\$4,357 - \$5,294) – Range 72 (\$4,787 - \$5,815), depending upon qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

*Road Department –
Four Seasonal
Workers*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) approve the Road Department seasonal worker schedule from April 1 through October 30; and B) find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: 1) the availability of funding for four (4) seasonal workers exists in the Road Budget, as certified by the Public Works Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; 2) where due to the seasonal nature of the positions it is unlikely that they could be filled by internal candidates meeting the qualifications for the positions, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and 3) approve the hiring of four (4) seasonal workers at Range

50PT (\$15.35/hr. to \$18.63/hr.) from April 1, 2019 to October 30, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff –
Office Tech I-II*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Office Technician I-II exists in the Sheriff's General budget, as certified by the Sheriff and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified candidates apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Office Technician I at Range 55 (\$3,213 - \$3,907) or Office Technician II at Range 59 (\$3,526 - \$4,705), depending upon qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax
Collector –
Office Tech I-III*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Office Technician I-III exists in the Treasurer-Tax Collector budget, as certified by the Treasurer-Tax Collector and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified candidates apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Office Technician I-III at Range 55-63 (\$3,213 - \$4,705), depending upon qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

*Water Department –
5 Seasonal Field
Assistants*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for five (5) Seasonal Field Assistants exists, as certified by the Water Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where due to the seasonal nature of the positions it is unlikely that they could be filled by internal candidates meeting the qualifications for the positions, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of five (5) Seasonal Field Assistant I's at Range 050PT (\$15.35/hr. - \$18.63/hr.), from June 3, 2019 through August 30, 2019, contingent upon the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.

*CAO-Advertising
County Resources –
Final FY 17-18
Payments*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the following final payments from the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Advertising County Resources Budget: \$1,000 to the Death Valley '49ers for the 2018 Encampment; \$2,000 to the Eastern Sierra Artists for the 2018 First Friday Night Markets in Bishop; and \$1,592 to the Museum of Western Film History for the 2018 Lone Pine Film Festival. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.

*CAO- Advertising
County Resources –
CA Visitor Guide Ad
Payment*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a \$12,280 payment from the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Advertising County Resources Budget to Meredith Corporation for a one-third page advertisement for Inyo County in the 2019 California Visitor Guide. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.

*Motor Pool –
Surplus Vehicle
Declaration & Auction*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) declare the vehicles identified in Exhibit A as surplus; B) authorize Motor Pool to offer the vehicles for sale utilizing the Public Surplus auction site; and C) authorize Motor Pool to utilize either the previously approved consignment auction agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management or another auctioneer for the removal and sale of any vehicles remaining unsold after the Public Surplus process. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.

*Motor Pool –
Increase Bishop
Automotive Blanket
P.O.*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve an increase in the amount of the blanket purchase order with Bishop Automotive Center by \$20,000, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 from the Motor Pool budget for preventative maintenance and repairs. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.

*Motor Pool/
Recycling/Parks &
Board of Supervisors MINUTES*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve an increase in the amount of the blanket purchase order with Western Nevada Supply by \$15,000, for a total

<i>Rec – Increase Western Nevada Supply Blanket P.O.</i>	not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000 from the DMSP (Department Motor Pool, Solid Waste, and Parks and Rec) budgets for purchase of irrigation and general supplies. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.
<i>Clerk-Recorder – Voting System Replacement Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the Voting System Replacement Contract of 2018 (No. 18G30114) between the California Secretary of State and County of Inyo in the amount of \$73,500, and authorize the Clerk-Recorder to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.
<i>Public Works – Storage Container Project N.O.C./Reso # 2019-04</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution No. 2019-04 titled, “A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Accepting the Work of Improvement Known as the County Storage Container Roof Sealing Project and Authorizing the Recording of a Notice of Completion with Respect to Said Work.” Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.
<i>Sheriff – Dooley Enterprises Ammunition Sole-Source</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) declare Dooley Enterprises, Inc. of Anaheim, CA a sole-source provider of ammunition; and B) authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$35,000 for the purchase of ammunition from Dooley Enterprises, Inc. of Anaheim, CA. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.
<i>Sheriff-VSO – FY 18-19 Certificates of Compliance</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Medi-Cal Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and the Certificate of Compliance for Subvention for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley out of the room at the time of the vote.
<i>Recess/Reconvene</i>	The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 11:06 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:13 a.m. with all Board members present.
<i>CAO-Public Works – Inyo Trails Extension Discussion</i>	CAO Quilter presented a request for the Board to consider whether it wanted to request Public Works staff to request and support legislation to extend the Inyo Trails Pilot Project for another 5 years beyond its sunset date. Supervisor Kingsley explained that placeholder legislation has been developed Chairperson Pucci noted that the Board had received 18 public comments via email that would be made part of the record.

The Chairperson opened the floor to public comment and heard from the following individuals:

- John Louth of Bishop, who said the ATV program is going to encourage further trespassing and damage to the environment at the expense of other income-producing activities; the routes are not being used as originally intended; a 5-year extension is extreme and a 2-year extension seems more reasonable; and the program altogether is a waste of taxpayer money.
- Dan Connor of Bishop, who wondered whether taxpayers knew how much money had been spent on the program; suggested the ATV program is attracting the wrong kind of tourist for Inyo County; and said the program has already been tried twice and this is not the time for internal combustion worship.
- Linda Arcularius, former District 1 Supervisor, who provided history on the purpose of the program; said important data collection for the program has been delayed; said there will always be unfounded and unsubstantiated reports of ATV abuse because of people’s negative opinions and hoped that wouldn’t become part of the decision-making process; and reminded the Board that the legislature will give the program a full review in its consideration of the legislation.
- Paul Fretheim of Independence, who said he has never seen an ATV on any of the posted routes but does degradation in the canyons and more frequently now in the foothills; said he doesn’t think it is right for one group of users to get special treatment from the Supervisors and law enforcement; and believes there should be a delay in giving ATV users what they want until a plan is developed to enforce respect of the environment.
- Randy Gillespie, one of the original project proponents, who reminded the Board that the Environmental Impact Report identifies 38 routes but the program only includes 7, only two of which have the economic benefit of connecting to goods and services; said

the proponents will settle for an extension but ideally would want more routes added; and pointed to similar programs' success in other communities.

- Sydney Quinn of Big Pine, who expressed disappointment in the lack of education, policing, and monitoring as promised, as well as annual status updates from the County; noted a lack of infrastructure funding at federal agencies to accommodate increased tourism on public lands; would support a 2- to 3-year extension, if any, rather than a 5-year extension; did not want the area advertised as an ATV playground; and wanted to know how much staff time and money the County has expended on the program, and whether other user groups are getting the same consideration.
- Mike Johnston of Bishop, who noted one of the priorities for the County as established at the 2020 Forum was supporting and expanding tourism in Inyo, and that is what the ATV Trails issue boils down to; said the program has been handicapped by being reduced to 7 routes, with minimal access to goods and services; said OHV groups are self-policing and glad to address problems when notified; and said a lot of the money for this program comes from greensticker money, from OHV users themselves.
- Julie Fought of Lone Pine, who shared her experiences of living and operating multiple businesses near the terminus of one of the Adventure Trails routes, describing increased illegal activity, one specific negative run-in with rude OHV users, potential liability to the County when riders drive past locked gates on County roads, and enforcement issues with the Sheriff's Department.
- Philip Anaya of Bishop, who noted incongruity between County webpages describing the stunning local scenery and OHV marketing on television showing OHVs tearing up landscapes; said he opposed OHV use off-street until riders learned to temper their use; and urged the Board to actively support no extension of the program.
- Jen Roeser of Independence, who offered a 10,000-foot view of tourism and recreation in Inyo County as permittee of multiple federal agencies; and noted changes afoot in federal agencies' budgets and attitudes with regard to outdoor recreation.
- Jaque Hickman of Lone Pine, who said visitors to her RV park who ride ATVs are just as respectful as those who hike, bike, or boulder; concurred with Mr. Gillespie that one of the bill's failings is lack of access to goods and services as originally envisioned; and compared the current program to having baked a slice of pie rather than a whole pie; and asked the Board to support both the extension of the program and addition of routes.
- Joanne Parsons of Bishop, who asked the Board to support an extension; said she personally uses the trails respectfully as does the group she rides with, and also runs on trails and has not had a problem because of ATV use.
- Dr. Tom Boo of Bishop, who said ATVs in particular are divisive and not needed in the current climate; said the Board should let the program sunset and maintain the status quo; and did not believe it wise public policy to support the program's extension.

Supervisor Griffiths asked the Sheriff to address Ms. Fought's comments, and said the department will send a deputy to respond when it receives calls regarding trespassing. Regarding calls about individuals going beyond locked gates, he said if deputies are not close enough to respond, they will ask CHP to respond if they are in the vicinity. He also noted that residents may request extra patrol.

Supervisor Griffiths asked CAO Quilter to provide information on money and staff time expended on the program. CAO Quilter provided a detailed breakdown that showed the majority of the funding came from grants and other state funding, including greensticker monies that are paid by OHV users.

The Board engaged in lengthy discussion about the Inyo Trails Program and a possible extension.

Supervisor Totheroh said OHVs are an appropriate use when they are used in abeyance of the law, and most riders do obey the law but the 1% that doesn't can cause significant damage that lasts decades and unfortunately, policing that 1% is difficult. He said it's clear the County hasn't done as much public education as it should have and he had hoped there would be more community outreach in the year before the project sunsetted, as he had hoped the project would reduce some of the contention around OHVs. He added that the 7 routes in the program were selected by the proponents, not the County, which was told would be enough to

gather adequate data. Supervisor Totheroh also noted that not extending the program does not mean ending OHV use, which is already an authorized use. He said he would want to know at what expense extending the program would be to other users, and would only support a short-term extension with better education and monitoring.

Supervisor Griffiths said he knew four years ago that the County would be in the same situation it is today, but was hopeful it would have clear evidence with which to determine the success of the pilot program. He said today he sees neither a lot of use nor a lot of damage as a result of the program, though opponents have rightly pointed to degradation outside of the Adventure Trails system. He said by the same token, supporters have rightly pointed out that economic benefits have not materialized because of the limited 7 routes, and that most OHV users are respectful. He added he is both disappointed there is not a more robust system in place to discourage off-trail ATV use and that project opponents are conflating this off-trail use with the program. He said he doesn't think extending the program will result in any more information than the County has today, and suggested instead extending the program but also doing an advisory ballot measure to gauge public sentiment.

Supervisor Tillemans said the program hasn't worked because there hasn't been a sufficient system, and the businesses in town have not benefited as intended because the OHV riders cannot get into town to access goods and services. He said the County supported the program in an attempt to prevent resource damage by directing people to designated routes. He said he supported extending the program, but with additional routes that will the collection of data to determine the viability of the system long-term; otherwise, the uncertainty will continue. He also said an advisory question is a waste of time and taxpayer money.

Supervisor Kingsley said he appreciated the respectful tone of the discussions, with the exception of some unfair and blanket characterizations of OHV users. He reminded those present that the program is designed to allow OHV users to ride on existing paved roads, and that there was damage on the trails before the program and will probably be damage after. He said the program has actually eliminated some of the misuse and improved the situation in the foothills from what it used to be, and noted that there is illegal placement of carabiners in boulders in the Alabama Hills but nobody is advocating getting rid of climbers. He added that greensticker money is a great source of revenue for the program, for which data has only been collected the past two years. He said extending the program another five years is not a long time and there are residents in the Southeast County who want trails designated in their area so they can direct riders to County roads to lessen the impact elsewhere. He said he supported an advisory ballot measure, even though there is an associated cost. He also suggested the County could apply for grant funding for educational activities.

Chairperson Pucci said he believed writing a ballot question would be a difficult task, and felt it was a cop-out. He said he believed the Adventure Trails program provided a means of controlling OHV use and directing it to legal routes, and said the proponents have done an excellent job with signage. He added that there will nevertheless always be those who violate the rules, but the goal of the program is to balance tourism and environmental protection.

The Board discussed the advisory question more, with questions and concerns raised and with Supervisor Tillemans adamantly opposed. It was explained that the Board was only being asked to provide staff direction today, and the Board would have an opportunity to approve or deny an advisory question if one was brought forth at a later date.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to direct staff to work with RCRC on an extension of the Inyo Trails pilot program, to investigate advisory ballot measures regarding extension of the program, and investigate possible educational activities and enforcement related to the program. Motion carried unanimously.

*Recess for
Lunch/Reconvene*

Chairperson Pucci recessed the meeting for lunch at 1:17 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Planning – Census
2020 Complete
Count County
Optional*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards presents for Board consideration a resolution approving the County's opting into a County-Optional Agreement to Conduct Outreach Related to the California Complete Count, which was prepared at the direction of the Board. She noted Inyo County will receive a \$25,000 grant for opting in. Supervisor Griffiths reiterated his belief that there might be an opportunity to partner with IMACA on outreach efforts. Richards said she has

*Agreement/Reso #
2019-05*

been in touch with the organization. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Formalizing the County of Inyo's Support and Partnership with the California Complete County Census 2020 and the United States Census Bureau in Working to Ensure a Complete and Accurate Population Count for Census 2020; and Agreement to Opt-In to the County-Optional Outreach Agreement with the California Complete Count Census 2020;" B) authorize the Chairperson to sign the County's Opt-In Letter; and C) direct staff to send both documents to the California Complete Count – Census 2020 office by February 8, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Behavioral
Health –
Dr. Zwier Program
Administrator
Appointment*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to appoint HHS Deputy Director Dr. Gail Zwier as the Inyo County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator, consistent with California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 11800. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax
Collector – Ratify
Inyo-Mono Title
Company Payment*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify a payment to Inyo-Mono Title Company in the amount of \$10,625 for title search services provided for the tax-defaulted land auction, and authorize the Auditor-Controller to approve the payment. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works – Town
Water Systems Rate
Study Presentation*

Acting Public Works Director Mike Errante introduced a presentation of the results of a rate study for the Lone Pine, Independence, and Laws town water systems conducted by consulting firm Raftelis. Sanjay Gaur of Raftelis went through a PowerPoint presentation that included a rate design recommendation based on input from stakeholders: fixed flat rates for both residential and non-residential customers based on meter size, with increases for overages. The recommendation included two scenarios for rolling out the proposed adjustments, one with larger bill increases out at the outset but with both ending up at the same dollar amount in 2024, and bimonthly billing with annual meter readings. It was noted that none of the Town Water Systems are subsidized by the County's General Fund. Gaur also noted that fire services charges still needed to be factored into the study. He said the recommended next steps included meeting with additional stakeholder groups and holding community meetings and then reporting back to the Board with a finalized recommendation; holding a Prop 218 public hearing; and implementing the new rates on July 1, 2019. The Board engaged in discussion about the rate study, and the need to increase rates, ultimately agreeing with the recommended steps moving forward as presented by Gaur. CAO Quilter thanked Gaur for his services and expertise, explaining Gaur is a noted expert in this field who does not normally work for jurisdictions as small as Inyo County.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Pucci recessed the meeting at 3 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 3:06 p.m. with all Board members present.

*CAO – Update from
The Ferguson Group*

Kristi More of The Ferguson Group provided a federal legislative update to the Board, as well as updates on negotiations with the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill. There was some discussion about the public lands legislation that includes the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area designation and its chances of passage in both houses of Congress. More then presented a draft version of the "Inyo County, CA 2019 Legislative Platform and Priorities," which combines the legislative platform updated by staff and the Board last fall and a set of priorities identified and distilled into main categories by More and CAO Quilter. Supervisor Griffiths said the priorities look to be an accurate and concise list. Supervisor Kingsley suggested adding something to the document to address the cannabis banking issue, and Supervisor Griffiths said it could be added to the priorities portion. Chairperson Pucci said More did a great job. Supervisor Tillemans recognized the work of the Assistant Clerk of the Board in compiling the legislative platform and the Board in providing feedback, and said was glad to see all of the efforts coming together. More noted she will be in D.C. as part of the NACo conference and scheduling additional meetings for Inyo County's delegation and would have the Platform and Priorities document included as part of a package for distribution. CAO Quilter said the addition would be made to the document as requested by the Board and brought back for approval at the next Board meeting.

Public Comment

The Chairperson asked for public comment as part of the final public comment period. There

was no-one wishing to address the Board.

Board Member and Staff Reports

Supervisor Griffiths noted Supervisor Kingsley was installed as President of the Rural County Representatives of California. He reported attending a sit-down with new Bishop City Administrator David Kelly, a ribbon-cutting for the new Grocery Outlet in Bishop, First 5 Board meeting, an IMACA Board meeting, the annual Search and Rescue dinner, and a meeting with the local group working on the veterans housing project.

Supervisor Kingsley reported attending the Search and Rescue dinner, an Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting, and a public meeting with constituents in Darwin, and said next week he would miss the Board of Supervisors meeting in order to attend the International Ag Expo.

Supervisor Totheroh reported attending an HHS quality assessment meeting, the benefit dinner for federal employees in Bishop, and a meeting of the Northern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee.

Chairperson Pucci reported he missed Supervisor Kingsley's installation as RCRC Chair, but did attend the Search and Rescue dinner, federal employee benefit dinner, and Airport Advisory Committee meeting. He also announced the funerals this weekend for former Bishop City Administrator Jim Tatum and retired, long-time Inyo County employee Virginia McLeod, and noted plans for the upcoming 50th anniversary Mule Days Celebration.

County Counsel Rudolph reported he is happy with his new Deputy County Counsel.

CAO Quilter reported meeting with the new Bishop City Administrator, as well as meetings with NIH Administrator Dr. Kevin Flanigan and Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care.

Adjournment

Chairperson Pucci adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: CLINT G. QUILTER
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant