




# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**July 18, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:31 a.m., on July 18, 2023, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Jennifer Roeser, presiding, Trina Orrill, Scott Marcellin, Matt Kingsley, and Jeff Griffiths. Also present: County Administrator Nate Greenberg, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis.

- Closed Session*                      The Chairperson asked for public comment related to closed session items and there was nobody wishing to speak.
- Public Comment*
- Closed Session*                      Chairperson Roeser recessed open session at 8:31 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; No. 3 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: HHS Director; No. 4 **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation** - Significant exposure to potential litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) Government Code §54956.9: one potential case; and No. 5 **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 Nate Greenberg, Assistant County Administrators Sue Dishion and Meaghan McCamman, Deputy Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington, Health and Human Services Director Marilyn Mann, and Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson.
- Open Session*                      Chairperson Roeser recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:12 a.m. with all Board members present.
- Pledge of Allegiance*                  Chairperson Roeser led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session*                      County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under items 3 and 4 and by unanimous action by all members presented, voted to appoint Anna Scott as the Director of Health and Human Services upon the retirement of current Director Marilyn Mann. He added that a contract with the terms and conditions of employment will be forthcoming at a future meeting. Vallejo said the Board would reconvene in Closed Session for items 2 and 5 later in the meeting.
- Public Comment II.*                  Chairperson Roeser asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was given by Lauralyn Hundley.
- County Department Reports*                      Sheriff Stephanie Rennie introduced Correctional Officer Tammy McDevitt to the Board and announced Tammy's retirement from the department after 20 years of committed service as a Correctional Officer.  
  
HHS Director Marilyn Mann thanked the Board for choosing Anna Scott to replace her as HHS Director. She reported that August is Breastfeeding Awareness Month, noting that HHS will be hosting an event in Bishop City Park to celebrate on August 4, 2023.  
  
Child Support Services Director Amy Weurdig shared news that the Eastern Sierra CSS

Department was recently recognized by Mr. David Kilgore, the State Director of Child Support, for demonstrating “outstanding performance” in 2022 and for establishing child support orders in 96.4 percent of its cases. She added that August is Child Support Awareness Month.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson thanked his staff and read aloud a list of qualities and accomplishments of Inyo County’s probation professionals in observance of California Pre-Trial Probation and Parole Services Week.

Emergency Services Manager Mikaela Torres reported on recent training exercises, provided a status report on the March Spring runoff disaster, announced plans to collaborate with CalOES to borrow an earthquake simulator for the Great American Shakeout in October, and gave an update on the status of the transitioning to a new emergency alert system.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of July 11, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

*County Counsel –  
Gibbs Giden Locher  
Turner Senet &  
Wittbrodt LLP  
Sole-Source Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Declare Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP, a California limited liability law partnership (the "Firm"), a sole-source provider of legal services;
- B) Approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the Firm for the provision of legal services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 contingent upon the Board’s approval of future budgets; and
- C) Authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Behavioral  
Health –  
2022-2025 Mental  
Health Services Act  
Plan*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Integrated Three Year Plan (FY 22/23 through FY 24/25) in order to access funds under the approved MHSA Agreement, and authorize the HHS Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Division, as the County’s Mental Health Director, to sign the plan, County Certification Form, and fiscal attestation form. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
McLaren Lane Road  
Closure*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the closure of McLaren Lane in Bishop between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 31, 2023, for the purpose of Southern California Edison workers replacing a utility pole. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
REACH Air Medical  
Commercial Hangar  
Lease Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve and ratify the lease agreement between the County of Inyo and REACH Air Medical Services, LLC DBA Cal-Ore Life Flight, LLC of Sacramento, CA for the real property described as 770 Airport Rd., Bishop CA, for an amount in year one of \$3,800 per month for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027, with four two-year options to extend through December 31, 2035, and authorize the Public Works Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO - Bishop  
Chamber of Commerce  
and Visitors Bureau  
Marketing Update*

Chamber Executive Director Tawni Thomson and Creative Designer Julie Faber reported on the results of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Marketing campaign for Inyo County, noting upcoming events, collaborative advertising projects for the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, and a sample brochure of the Eastern Sierra Tour Road Trip brochure.

*CAO-Emergency  
Services & HHS –  
Coast 2 Coast Public  
Safety EMS Service  
Update*

HHS Director Marilyn Mann provided a brief timeline of events which led to the need for a new EMS service provider in the greater Bishop area and introduced interim EMS provider Coast 2 Coast’s Sarah Morris to the Board.

Morris gave a status report on the last 90 days of EMS services provided by Coast2Coast and noted key areas of concern regarding the companies’ ability to meet bottom-line costs for operations. Morris proposed a temporary subsidy until an Exclusive Operating Area is established to prevent continued loss of revenue to local competitors. She said without the subsidy, Coast 2 Coast will eventually have to give the County a 90-day notice with services being limited to one ambulance.

The Board asked questions and discussed possible solutions with the understanding that a more permanent solution for EMS services will take time and the short-term interim solution must first be given attention in order to prevent a gap in ambulance services.

Public comment was provided by City Administrator Deston Dishion, Big Pine Fire Chief Damon Carrington, and Mike Patterson with REACH Air Medical Services and the Emergency Medical Care Committee. Discussions ensued and scheduling a workshop was suggested in order to expand discussions.

*Recess/Reconvene*

Chairperson Roeser recessed the meeting at 11:55 a.m. to attend the Grand Jury swearing-in ceremony, with a plan to continue discussion on the EMS issue after the break. Chairperson Roeser reconvened in regular session with all Board members present at 1:05 p.m.

*Attendance  
Change/CAO-  
Emergency Services &  
HHS –  
Coast 2 Coast Public  
Safety EMS Service  
Update  
(continued)*

Supervisor Kingsley let the Board know that he would have to leave at 1:30 p.m.

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was any additional comment on the item and public comment was given by Northern Inyo Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Allison Partridge, Lisa and Mike Patterson with REACH, and Olancha-Cartago Fire Chief Chelsea Benbrook.

Supervisor Orrill reminded everyone that the contract with Coast2Coast is set to expire on July 24 and asked what needed to happen to ensure that there was no interruption in services after this date.

Supervisor Griffiths reminded everyone that this item was not set up to function as an action item with nothing, including a subsidy, having been agendaized for approval.

After additional discussion on what bullet points would need to be addressed, the Board directed County staff to meet with the City of Bishop, Bishop Tribe, and the EMS Communities Countywide to come up with a plan for interim EMS service to bring back to Board by August 1.

*Recess/Reconvene*

Chairperson Roeser recessed the meeting for a break at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened in regular session at 2:42 p.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley.

*Water Department –  
LORP 2023-2024  
Annual Work Plan,  
Budget, and Schedule*

Water Director Holly Alpert presented the LORP Annual Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule.

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was anyone wishing to speak and public comment was given by Philip Anaya and Nancy Masters. The Board also received a written letter from Lynn Boulton of the Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to adopt the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Lower Owens River Project Annual Work Plan, contingent upon approval by LADWP. Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Public Works –  
Eastern Sierra Water  
Association/Water  
Meter Grant  
Agreement*

Deputy Public Works Director John Pinkney presented information on the grant agreement with Eastern California Water Association for automatic-read water meters and explained how the funding will assist with the cost of infrastructure improvements required by the State.

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was anyone wishing to speak, and public comment was given by Dr. Holly Alpert and Nancy Masters, who spoke on behalf of herself and Mary Roper.

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Authorize acceptance of the allocation of the \$558,000.00 grant for the Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine Meter Replacement Project;
- B) Approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Eastern California Water Association (ECWA) of Coleville, California for the provision of grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$558,000.00 for the period of June 14, 2023 to April 1, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained; and

C) Authorize the Public Works Director to sign any documents required to accept these grant funds on behalf of the County of Inyo.  
Motion carried 4-0 with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

CAO –  
*Draft Eastern Sierra  
Comprehensive  
Economic Strategy*

The Board received a presentation from Assistant CAO Meaghan McCamman on the Draft Eastern Sierra Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) prepared by TPMA, Inc.

McCamman brought attention to information on the CEDS requiring edit and Board members provided additional feedback to be conveyed to TPMA.

*Public Comment III.*

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was any public comment and there was no one wishing to speak.

*Board Member & Staff  
Reports*

CAO Greenberg said he has been primarily working on the EMS issue and Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

*Closed Session*

Chairperson Roeser recessed open session at 3:35 p.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 – Title: County Administrator.**

*Open Session*

Chairperson Roeser recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 4:40 p.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley.

*Adjournment*

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday August 1, 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*