



INYO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TRINA ORRILL • JEFF GRIFFITHS • SCOTT MARCELLIN • JENNIFER ROESER • MATT KINGSLEY

NATE GREENBERG
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DARCY ELLIS
ASST. CLERK OF THE BOARD



EMBARGOED UNTIL
September 1, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Public Relations Liaison Darcy Ellis, (760) 878-0292

Inyo County Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Recommended Budget Available Online

A searchable version of the entire Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Inyo County CAO Recommended Budget document is now available online at the County's webpage at <https://www.inyocounty.us/services/county-administrators-office/county-budget-analysis>. The document's publication presents an opportunity for the public to review the proposed \$156,244,001 spending plan, which will be brought before the Board of Supervisors for adoption later this month.

Budget Hearings are scheduled to commence at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, September 12, and will continue as necessary for consideration of adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 County Budget.

Publication of the budget was made possible by many weeks of analysis, calculation, research, meetings, planning, writing, and review by staff countywide. In particular, completion of the budget is owed to the painstaking efforts of the Inyo County Budget Team consisting of Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd, Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington, and County Administrator Nate Greenberg, with assistance from Administration staff.

The finished product reflects efforts by the Budget Team to achieve fiscal resiliency and stability in the face of fiscal uncertainty and the looming threat of a recession. The budget is balanced, as required by law, and relies on an estimated \$4.2 million in fund balance (essentially, money unspent in FY 22-23) to close budget gaps and avoid reduction of services. Auditor-Controller Shepherd will certify the exact amount of fund balance available at the September 12 hearing. Staff will recommend the Board approve a healthy contribution to reserves from any funding certified above and beyond the \$4.2 million. Doing so, Greenberg noted, will further place the county on stable footing should an economic downturn become reality over the coming year.

"The budget ... has been crafted through a team effort. This begins at the department level, demands the attention of the Budget Team, and extends all the way to the Board of Supervisors," CAO Greenberg writes in the budget's Executive Summary. "Collectively, we have taken a measured approach to financial planning for the coming fiscal year which strives to balance important ongoing efforts, supports new initiatives, and thoughtfully plans for the future – with all its uncertainty."

That said, the primary focus areas for this fiscal year are further stabilization of and improvements to the delivery of County services, and important infrastructure initiatives which leverage once-in-a-lifetime funding opportunities.

"I believe that, in many ways, Inyo County is entering its heyday. A number of significant initiatives on the horizon will likely shape the future of the region for decades to come," Greenberg writes. "Furthering a commitment to air service, investing in broadband infrastructure, focusing on housing development, and leveraging technology more effectively all stand to benefit the residents and visitors of Inyo County, and the Eastern Sierra as a whole."

The Executive Summary highlights the various ongoing and proposed initiatives recommended for funding, including:

- Continued progress toward the acquisition of the County landfills from LADWP and an initiative aimed at resolving land tenure issues;
- Design and construction of last-mile broadband projects funded by Local Agency Technical Assistance and Federal Funding Account grants;
- Award of a \$2 million Congressional Directed Spending (earmark) request to assist with the construction of a new terminal building at the Bishop Regional Airport;
- A pending Congressional Directed Spending (earmark) request to construct two new fire stations in Tecopa and Charleston View for the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District;
- Upgrades to the Independence Correctional Detention Facility security system;
- Creation of a new inmate-run laundry program;
- Continued investment in the delivery of commercial air service at Bishop Airport (BIH) which includes operational costs, a minimum revenue guarantee contribution, and allocating funds for the pre-construction activities associated with a new terminal building;
- Investment in new online permitting software in conjunction with the City of Bishop to streamline operations in Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement;
- Allocation of funds to stand up a new leadership development program in partnership with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Institute;
- Restructure of Correctional Officer program which will allow the Sheriff to put four additional deputies on patrol; and
- Creation of a new Emergency Medical Services budget unit to assist with the new costs associated with supporting 911 ambulance service throughout the County.

The Recommended Budget also allocates \$2.9 million from various funding sources towards deferred maintenance projects, including repairs and upgrades at the Historic Courthouse, Eastern California Museum, Inyo County Jail, the Animal Shelter, Bishop and Lone Pine senior centers, and the Big Pine Town Hall.

“Additionally, Inyo County will be focused heavily over the coming year on recovering from the impacts of a record-breaking winter, followed by significant spring weather events, as well as Tropical Storm Hillary which caused millions of dollars of damage to County roads and infrastructure from various other agencies,” Greenberg adds.

The Executive Summary offers concise information about the County’s income (from taxes, fees, and other sources), a breakdown of expenses by function (i.e., Public Safety, Roads, Public Assistance, Public Health, General Services, etc.), and notes the continuing hard work of many Department Heads to reduce expenses and make the most of available revenue sources.

The budget itself details all of the anticipated revenue and proposed expenditures for each of the County’s 19 departments and 130-plus budget units for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (On June 13, the Board of Supervisors adopted a modified version of the 2022-2023 Board Approved Budget to serve as the Preliminary 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget until a final version could be presented and approved this fall.)

The public is encouraged to take part in the upcoming Budget Hearings.

This meeting is accessible to the public both in person and, for convenience, via Zoom webinar. The Zoom webinar is accessible to the public at <https://zoom.us/j/868254781>. The meeting may also be accessed by telephone at the following numbers: (669) 900-6833; (346) 248-7799; (253) 215-8782; (929) 205-6099; (301) 715-8592; (312) 626-6799. Webinar ID: 868 254 781. Anyone unable to attend the Board meeting in person who wishes to make either a general public comment or a comment on a specific agenda item may do so by utilizing the Zoom "hand-raising" feature when appropriate during the meeting (the Chair will call on those who wish to speak). Generally, speakers are limited to three minutes.

Remote participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the remote participation connection malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access. Regardless of remote access, written public comments, limited to 250 words or fewer, may be emailed to the Assistant Clerk of the Board at boardclerk@inyocounty.us.

In addition to being posted online, the proposed budget documents are available for public review at the Clerk of the Board's Office, 224 N. Edwards St., Independence, during business hours.

For more information, contact the Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, P.O. Drawer N, Independence, CA 93526, dellis@inyocounty.us, and (760) 878-0373.