

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, February 17, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 17th day of February 2026; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel F. Dean Morgan and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham. Supervisor Nancy Ogren was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Haupt. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the In Home Supportive Services Public Authority. Supervisor Harris led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Keith Bradley provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

Yreka resident Daniel Simon appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a one page document concerning Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the Federal Government and States related to the mining of critical minerals.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

Auditor-Controller

Approve the 2025/2026 Siskiyou County Auditor-Controller AB 2788 (Chapter 886/94) Maintenance-of-Effort Certification Form for the 2025/26 fiscal year and authorize the Auditor-Controller to sign the certification.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division and CalMHSA for the term commencing January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029.

Health and Human Services - Public Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Governing Board Resolution 26-15 and authorize the Public Health Director to submit an application for the award. If the bid with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Program (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is awarded, authorize the County Administrator to act on behalf of the County to accept the award and execute any and all program award documents as outlined in Section 2 of the Resolution and authorize the Auditor to establish budget appropriation and set expenditures per the agreement amendment guidelines, for the award of \$150,000 with spending authority through October 31, 2029.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division

Approve and the Chair sign the second addendum to the Lease schedule between the Siskiyou County HHSA, Social Services Division and Canon Solutions America, Inc. for the term January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029 with a not to exceed amount of \$195,725.88 addendum to copier lease contract with Canon U.S.A., Inc., increasing compensation by \$1,745.82 to a total not to exceed \$195,725.88 due to sale tax rate increase.

Local Child Care Planning Council

Approve Annual Certification regarding composition of Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) membership.

Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

Office of Emergency Services

Approve (adopt) Resolution 26-16 authorizing the County Administrative Officer, Deputy County Administrative Officer, Director of Emergency Services, or Auditor Controller to apply and/or execute programs through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for any existing or future grant program.

Probation Department

Approve Siskiyou County Auditor's office to establish budget and budget transfers on Path 3 grant funds for Siskiyou County Probation Department. This grant has already been approved by the BOS dated 12/9/2025.

Sheriff

Approve the Assignment of Contract, appointing Janus Acquisition Company as the parent agency to services performed at Girdner's Funeral Chapel, in place of Janus Advisor, set forth in Exhibit "A-1" attached, at the rates identified in the Contract as Exhibit "A", through June 30, 2030.

Transfer of Funds - Siskiyou Airport - \$60,000. Resolution 26-17 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Scott Valley Airport - \$55,000. Resolution 26-18 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Courthouse and Grounds - \$35,000. Resolution 26-19 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Janitorial - \$12,000. Resolution 26-20 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Pandemic Influenza - \$60,639. Resolution 26-21 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Public Health HPP Base - \$124,184. Resolution 26-22 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Public Health CDC Base - \$107,956. Resolution 26-23 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - \$12,000. Resolution 26-24 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - County Library - \$500. Resolution 26-25 adopted.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division - Presentation of an update re the "Defend the Spend" initiative and proposed funding freeze for federally funded Health and Human Services programs. Presentation and discussion only.

Social Services Division Director Trish Barbieri appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint presentation, including an overview of the Federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) "Defend the Spend" initiative and the letters sent to five states, including California, concerning plans to freeze/suspend certain federal funding for family assistance and childcare programs with California's potential loss of \$5 billion. Ms. Barbieri cited the reason for the funding freeze as allegations of widespread fraud in state-administered programs and advised that the five states were requested to turn over documents associated with the state's implementation of the federal programs. Ms. Barbieri shared concerns regarding the potential for program participant's personally identifiable information to be contained in those requested documents. Ms. Barbieri advised that states are responsible for following federal regulations and the federal government is responsible for determining compliance via federal audits and reviews.

Deputy Director of Administrative Services Kirk Hendricks continued the powerpoint, providing an overview of the County's potentially impacted programs, the associated federal funding sources and the numbers of cases/clients potentially impacted should funding in the amount of \$350,000 be frozen/suspended. (330 cases/844 clients). Mr. Hendricks additionally summarized recent actions that have taken place to pause the federal funding freeze, including a Temporary Restraining Order and an Injunction that will continue to pause the funding freeze until the matter is resolved in the Courts.

Ms. Barbieri continued the powerpoint, including an overview of the potential harm that could impact low and moderate income families should federal funding be suspended once the Court issue is resolved and the possible contingency options being explored by the State and County.

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Health and Human Services - Social Services Division – (continued)

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Barbieri and Mr. Hendricks regarding the funding that the County could see frozen/suspended, the percentage of administration costs within that funding, an anticipated update with regard to the funding freeze following Social Services' monthly meeting in Sacramento and the anticipated federal audit process to determine states that are compliant and able to access the federal funding.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division - Presentation regarding Welfare Fraud activities in various Social Services Division programs. Presentation and discussion only.

Social Services Division Director Trish Barbieri appeared before the Board, presenting a powerpoint presentation concerning the County's welfare fraud activities, which are required of all California County Welfare Departments. Ms. Barbieri advised that the Social Services Division (SSD) contracts with the District Attorney's Office for the investigation and prosecution of welfare fraud through the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and provided an overview of the various SSD programs and which unit would investigate possible fraud. Ms. Barbieri additionally provided an overview of the various types of welfare fraud, both client, internal (department staff) and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) fraud.

Deputy Director of Social Services Division Corey Watson appeared before the Board and continued the powerpoint, including an overview of the types of EBT fraud (i.e. scamming and skimming of EBT cards and EBT trafficking) and the efforts being made to fight fraud and safeguard clients' benefits.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Watson, Ms. Barbieri and District Attorney Investigator Jesus Fernandez regarding EBT card usage, the process for deactivation and/or reactivation of dormant/inactive cards, SSD's benefits reevaluation process, money management assistance provided to SSD clients, SSD collaboration with other County departments (i.e. child support, etc.) in determining eligibility for benefits and the State's Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) to assist SSD and SIU in identifying possible 'red flags' with regard to welfare fraud.

Continuing the powerpoint, Mr. Fernandez appeared before the Board, providing an overview of efforts being made to identify possible fraud, staff training to recognize internal and external fraud and the alerts provided by the IEVS system.

Ms. Watson and Mr. Fernandez continued the powerpoint, including an overview of fraud investigations referral categories, the legal definition of fraud and the criminal and administrative routes to prosecute welfare fraud.

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Watson summarized various disqualification penalties for the CalFresh and CalWORKs programs and the fraud referrals and prosecutions made in 2025.

Further discussion followed regarding the various fraud referrals and cases, clients that continue to receive benefits while fraud investigations take place, the length of time to investigate and prosecute fraud cases and potential restitution for payback of fraudulently received benefits.

Mr. Fernandez continued the powerpoint, including an overview of three recent welfare fraud prosecutions and Ms. Barbieri summarized various SSD and SIU achievements concerning welfare fraud investigations and prosecutions.

Ms. Barbieri advised that a recent Senate Bill that would increase the felony designation for welfare fraud from \$950 to \$25,000 did not pass due to efforts made by various Social Services and Welfare Departments statewide.

In response to Chair Haupt, Ms. Barbieri advised that SSD would include welfare fraud data in their quarterly reports to the Board.

Chair Haupt requested information regarding the number of recipients and benefits be broken down by Supervisorial District.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the unscheduled vacancy on the Lakeview Cemetery District, for a short-term ending January 3, 2028. Kerry Criss appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that Macdoel resident Kerry Criss was interested and eligible to serve on the Cemetery District Board.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to appoint Kerry Criss to the unscheduled vacancy on the Lakeview Cemetery District, for a term ending January 3, 2028.

Minute Approval - February 3, 2026. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to approve the February 3, 2026 minutes as presented.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider two Resolutions approving amendments to existing Agricultural Preserves and one Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-23-13 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Masson Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2313) Project for properties located south of the City of Montague and west of the Town of Fort Jones. Resolutions 26-26, 26-27 and 26-28 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider two Resolutions approving amendments to existing Agricultural Preserves and one Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-23-13 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Masson Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2313) Project for properties located south of the City of Montague and west of the Town of Fort Jones.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to create a Williamson Act Contract under one property owner, as the property was currently under two owners. Ms. Cizin additionally recommended creating two new Agricultural Preserves (Ag Preserves) by incorporating neighboring property parcels in order to bring those Ag Preserves to the 100 acre minimum required size. Ms. Cizin further recommended that the Board find the project exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Open Space Easements or Contracts.

In response to Chair Haupt, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that two of the public hearing notification letters were returned undeliverable under the name Michael and Angela Lytken.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

Supervisor Harris shared concerns regarding the creation of new Ag Preserves including neighboring property and suggested that all of Siskiyou County be considered under Ag Preserve.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Cizin regarding Government Codes concerning Ag Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts that have changed over the years, a recent Moratorium on processing of Williamson Act Contract processing that had been rescinded, Community Development's efforts to 'clean up' and address existing non-compliant Williamson Act Contracts, the non-impact of creating Ag Preserves which include neighboring property in order to meet the 100 acre (contiguous) minimum size set in the County's Guidelines, property restrictions that are set by a Williamson Act Contract rather than by an Ag Preserve designation and a request that each Supervisor be notified when Williamson Act Contract projects within their districts are forthcoming.

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Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division – (continued)

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 26-26 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve consisting of the Masson and Shannon properties; and adopt Resolution 26-27 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve consisting of the Sousa and Hayden properties; and adopt Resolution 26-28 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act Contract.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to existing Agricultural Preserves and one Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-25-09 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Heim Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2509) Project located south of the community of Macdoel. Resolutions 26-29 and 26-30 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to existing Agricultural Preserves and one Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-25-09 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Heim Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2509) Project located south of the community of Macdoel.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to create a Williamson Act Contract under one property owner, as the property was currently under four owners. Ms. Cizin additionally recommended amending the existing Agricultural Preserve (Ag Preserve) by incorporating neighboring property parcels in order to bring the Ag Preserve to the 100 acre minimum required size. Ms. Cizin further recommended that the Board find the project exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Open Space Easements or Contracts.

In response to Chair Haupt, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had not received any correspondence related to this item.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 26-29 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 26-30 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act Contract.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Kobseff advised of participating in a ZOOM call with Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) regarding interviews with candidates for California Governor and advised of his attendance at an Air Pollution Control District (APCD) meeting, a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting, various County wolf meetings, a Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission meeting, a Tri-Counties meeting via ZOOM, a Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR) Board meeting and the Gazelle 4-H spaghetti dinner.

Supervisor Harris advised of his attendance at a meeting with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Supervisor Kobseff, a TMDL (water) meeting in Montague, a Tulelake Volunteer Fire dinner, a Shasta Producers meeting, various County wolf meetings, a Dorris Lions Club meeting, a Conservative Republicans lunch and a Farm Bureau meeting.

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Board and Staff Reports – (continued)

Supervisor Valenzuela advised of his attendance at California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Executive Board meeting, a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting, a CSAC Board of Directors meeting and advised of an upcoming trip to Washington DC and anticipated meetings.

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance at an Air Pollution Control District (APCD) meeting, a Conservative Womens Forum luncheon, a Scott Valley 50th wedding anniversary event and a teleconference meeting with Forest Supervisors regarding mining law.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), one case, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), two cases, commenced at 11:09 a.m., concluded at 11:49 a.m.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan announced that closed session concluded at 11:49 a.m., with no reportable action taken.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ray A. Haupt, Chair

By: _____
Deputy