

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, August 11, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 11th day of August 2026; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis (who participated via phone), 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 Michael N. Kobseff was present at 10:02 a.m.

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 Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. 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

There were no presentations from the public.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Ogren's request, item 5G, the Sheriff's Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Agreement with City of Yreka was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

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

County Administration

Ratify the letter to the Honorable Dave Cortese supporting SB 1392 - Smog Check: Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles.

County Administration

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the Klamath National Forest regarding the appointment of members to the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee.

County Administration - Personnel

Adopt the amendment to Section 5.1 – Compensation of the Personnel Policy to authorize Department Heads, within the first two (2) months of employment, to request an adjustment to a higher salary step for newly hired employees, subject to written justification and approval by the County Administrator and/or Deputy County Administrator of Personnel and Risk Management, effective immediately.

County Clerk

Adopt Resolution 26-125 setting compensation for Election Officials and Election Night Drivers.

County Counsel

Approve the First Addendum to Agreement for Services with Patrick Griffin amends Exhibit "A", and authorize the Board chair to execute same.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division

Approve and the Chair sign the Contract for Services between the Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency and Exemplar Human Services, LLC. for the amount of \$121,000.00 for the entire term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - \$1,381. Resolution 26-126 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Fuel Services - \$83,238. Resolution 26-127 adopted.

Sheriff - Approve Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Agreement with City of Yreka for services and rates specified in the agreement, for the term March 1, 2026 through May 30, 2026. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Ogren's request.

Administrative Services Manager Courtney Greenley appeared before the Board.

Supervisor Haupt voiced concerns regarding the supplemental law enforcement services agreement term (March 1, 2026 through May 30, 2026), the length of time taken to complete contracts and agreements to present before the Board and the lack of a payment schedule within the supplemental agreement.

In response, Ms. Greenley advised of the one-time, unanticipated request from the City of Yreka for staffing assistance while the City was short staffed.

In response to Supervisor Haupt regarding potential County liability when the County is assisting a jurisdiction without the benefit of a contract or agreement, County Counsel F. Dean Morgan advised that County Counsel's Office would work with the Sheriff's Office with regard to possible liability issues.

Members of the Board voiced concerns regarding the need for the Board to be informed of similar issues, possible work being done by County staff without a contract or agreement and possible negative impacts as the County is in a budget deficit.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Kobseff ABSENT, to approve the Agreement between the Sheriff's Office and the City of Yreka, to provide reimbursable, supplemental law enforcement services to the Yreka Police Department beginning March 1, 2026 through May 30, 2026. Authorize the Sheriff, or designee, and the Chair to sign the Agreement. Allow the Auditor to make appropriations.

Public Requests - Pacific Power - Presentation of an update re Pacific Power's system hardening/wildfire mitigation work throughout the County, specifically in Mt. Shasta, Weed, Yreka, Fort Jones, Etna and Happy Camp. Presentation and discussion only.

PacifiCorp Regional Business Manager Jill Drinkwater appeared before the Board along with Customer and Community Affairs Director Alan Meyer and Principal Project Manager Dave Schober.

Ms. Drinkwater presented a powerpoint presentation regarding Pacific Power's system strengthening and wildfire mitigation efforts, including an overview of Pacific Power's California service area and associated risk zones. Ms. Drinkwater advised that over 60% of the service area is in high fire risk.

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Drinkwater summarized key system strengthening activities, including replacing bare wire with covered conductor, replacing wooden power poles with fireproof structures and installing devices designed to determine areas needing to be de-energized at times and to locate faults in order to make repairs and lessen the impact to customers. Ms. Drinkwater provided an overview of various projects undertaken by Pacific Power in/around various jurisdictions, including Yreka, Mount Shasta and Weed, Fort Jones and Etna, Happy Camp and Crescent City. Ms. Drinkwater additionally provided an overview of accomplishments from 2023 through 2025, including development of a Wildfire Intelligence Center (WIC) located in Medford, Oregon and Fire & Emergency Response Manager teams for tracking and evaluating wildfire risks.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and those present regarding the covers on newly installed fireproof poles, the need to continue to work with other utilities to ensure that those utilities are transferred to the fireproof poles, the reliability of the covered conductor and related data collection efforts, Pacific Power's coordination efforts with the Forest Service (for necessary work on forest service lands) and the models used for determining wildfire risk areas.

Office of Emergency Services - Review status of local emergency regarding illegal pesticides and illicit cannabis operations declared by Resolution 25-109, adopted on July 1, 2025; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and requested extension of the emergency proclamation. Mr. Schenone advised of ongoing efforts to update the proclamation for consideration by the Board at a later date.

Following brief discussion between members of the Board and Mr. Schenone regarding the need for the Public Health Division's assistance with regard to the emergency, it was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Kobseff ABSENT, to extend the local emergency regarding illegal pesticides and illicit cannabis operations declared by Resolution 25-109.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Review status of local emergency related to the proliferation of illegal cannabis cultivation declared by Resolution 25-11, adopted on January 21, 2025; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board, advising that there was no update to provide regarding the ongoing emergency proclamation.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Kobseff ABSENT, to extend the local emergency related to the proliferation of illegal cannabis cultivation declared by Resolution 25-11.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Public hearing to consider Resolution amending the Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts. Public hearing continued to September 15, 2026.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution amending the Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Community Development Director Hailey Lang appeared before the Board and distributed a nine-page powerpoint entitled: Williamson Act Guidelines Update: Draft Review. Ms. Lang presented the powerpoint, including program clarifications and administrative updates (i.e. Primary Agricultural Use definition; Administrator authority for additional verification of commercial agriculture use; conservation activities, compatible use and Government Code §51238.1; and expanded grazing definition). Ms. Lang summarized various proposed changes related to commercial viability for commercial agriculture use standard, conservation uses with regard to commercial agriculture, breach of contract clarification and material breach standard, a standard for evaluating change in use and the compliance review process.

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

There were no public comments received.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Lang regarding the proposed additional commercial agriculture use verification from the Agriculture Commissioner, potential negative impacts associated with ag lands being purchased for conservation uses and the need for additional information and discussion regarding conservation easements and land trusts.

Supervisor Kobseff was present at 10:02 a.m.

Further discussion followed including Supervisor Kobseff regarding California government codes related to the purchase of land by the State, possible entities that could verify commercial agricultural uses under Williamson Act, soils classifications in the Scott Valley and the County's Resolution/policy regarding no net loss of private property by State or Federal acquisition.

The Chair advised that the public hearing was continued to September 15, 2026.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Public hearing for presentation on Code Enforcement authority regarding parked and abandoned vehicles on public roads, within County Road Rights-of-Way and on private property. Presentation and discussion only.

This was the time set for a public hearing for a presentation on Code Enforcement authority regarding parked and abandoned vehicles on public roads, within County Road Rights-of-Way and on private property.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Community Development Director Hailey Lang appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint regarding Code Enforcement authority, limitations and enforcement process concerning abandoned vehicles, including an overview of Code Enforcement authority through County and State laws, the complaint driven process to determine a code enforcement case and how to proceed, various code enforcement tools (i.e. investigation, Notice of Violation, administrative citations, civil action and nuisance abatement) and the process related to addressing abandoned vehicles on private property or on County or State property. Ms. Lang summarized what code enforcement cannot do (i.e. enter private property without permission, ignore due process, remove vehicles without legal basis and compel action outside of the County Code). Ms. Lang advised of a proposed program that would assist certain County residents in cleaning up around their property toward voluntary compliance. Ms. Lang briefly summarized the process to apply for the program and the eligible population demographics.

In response to the Chair, 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 closed.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Lang and Deputy Director of Planning James Phelps regarding the Highway Patrol's responsibility in abandoned vehicle cases, efforts made to work with private property owners toward vehicle removal and voluntary compliance, the benefits associated with vehicle crushing events and efforts being made to research grant funding to assist the County in abandoned vehicle removal efforts.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), one case.

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan advised that closed session was not necessary and requested its removal.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Harris and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Kobseff voting NO, to remove the closed session from the agenda.

Report On Closed Session

No closed session was held.

Board and Staff Reports

There were no board or staff reports given.

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