

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, March 18, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in special session this 18th day of March 2025; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ogren. Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Presentations from the Public

There were no presentations from the public.

County Counsel - Workshop for Brown Act basics and social media and public engagement best practices training. Presentation and discussion only.

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed appeared before the Board and distributed a 15-slide powerpoint presentation entitled: Brown Act Basics: Open and Public Meetings. Ms. Reed presented the powerpoint presentation, including an overview of the California Government Code §54950 meetings that shall be open and public with all persons permitted to attend any meeting, at locations that must be accessible to all members of the public. Ms. Reed additionally provided an overview/history of the Ralph M. Brown Act that applies to legislative bodies which must conduct their business only at public meetings for only items listed on agendas, including the definitions of legislative bodies and meetings (i.e. a quorum of legislative board members coming together). Ms. Reed defined prohibited serial meetings and the various methods by which serial meetings can occur (i.e. use of text messages, email and/or social media, discussions outside of scheduled meetings between legislative members) and summarized the associated exceptions to meetings and what would not constitute a meeting or serial meeting.

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Reed summarized the closed session exceptions to open meetings, the three types of meetings (regular, special and emergency), the associated public notice/agenda posting requirements for each and exceptions related to non-agenda items (i.e. response to public comments or questions, etc.). Ms. Reed summarized rules allowing for public comment at regular and special meetings and the use of recording equipment by the public within a meeting. Ms. Reed concluded the powerpoint by providing an overview of the civil and criminal actions/penalties associated with Brown Act violations and allowances for teleconference meeting participation by members of the Board.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Ali Kutzer appeared before the Board and distributed a 9-slide powerpoint presentation entitled: Social Media and Public Engagement. Ms. Kutzer presented the powerpoint presentations, advising that social media was a tool to provide government transparency and community engagement, with opportunities and responsibilities. Ms. Kutzer summarized social media General Standards and Best Practices with regard to verifying facts, differentiating between personal and official opinions and staying professional, to name a few. Ms. Kutzer recommended erring on the side of caution when posting to social media on personal or official outlets and advised that County Counsel's Office or Ms. Kutzer could be contacted with questions/concerns regarding social media and the Brown Act. Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Kutzer recommended she be contacted prior to interaction with members of the media and summarized various Best Practices related to media contact and public meeting conduct.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Nancy Ogren, Chair

By: _____
Deputy