

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, March 3, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 3rd day of March 2026; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Nancy Ogren 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 Michael N. Kobseff 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 Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. County Counsel F. Dean Morgan led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

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

Presentations from the Public

There were no presentations from the public.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Valenzuela's request, item 5B, County Administration's letter to Senator Laura Richardson expressing opposition to Senate Bill 1305: Wildlife: Bears, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

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, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

County Administration

Approve the purchase of 35 BKR5000 portable radios, in the amount of \$108,528.51. Authorize the declaration of the portable radios as surplus and authorize the donation of 35 BKR5000 portable to the fire districts in need of radios listed above (Dunsmuir, Mt. Shasta City Fire, McCloud CSD Fire, Weed City Fire, Hammond Ranch Fire, Lake Shastina Fire, and Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District).

County Administration - Personnel

Adopt the Resolution P 26-31 amending the Siskiyou County position allocation list for positions in County service effective March 15, 2026.

County Library

Retroactive approval to accept the donation of the items outlined above, with a total valuation of \$9,066.13, to be utilized at the Yreka Library in connection with the Rural Health Connection Program.

Public Defender

Approve acceptance of funds for the Holistic Defense in Siskiyou County Grant and authorize execution of the MOU in partnership with Partners for Justice.

Sheriff

Approve the service contract between the Sheriff and Cyber Consulting & Digital Forensic Investigations, LLC for the services outlined in Exhibit "A" for the term December 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028. Allow the Auditor to make appropriations.

County Administration - Approve letter to Senator Laura Richardson expressing opposition to Senate Bill 1305: Wildlife: Bears with regard to the potential reintroduction of the California grizzly bear. Approved.

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

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Supervisor Valenzuela voiced opposition to the proposed letter.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Ogren, Harris and Haupt voting YES, Supervisor Valenzuela voting NO and Supervisor Kobseff ABSENT to approve the letter to the Honorable Laura Richardson opposing Senate Bill 1305: Wildlife: bears.

County Administration - Discussion, direction and possible action re the FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget Review and FY 2026-27 Budget Principles and Budget Calendar. FY 2026-27 Budget Principles and Budget Calendar adopted.

County Administration Chief Fiscal Officer Sherry Lawson appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the current budget principles with the addition of Principle #10: delete County positions that have been vacant for 12 months or more. Ms. Lawson summarized the status of the Mid-Year budget, including revenue, expenditures and condition the General Fund. Ms. Lawson advised that an estimated budget deficit of approximately \$6 million was expected to be balanced by available fund balance and other one-time funding as of fiscal year end on June 30, 2026.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Lawson and County Administrator Angela Davis regarding the additional Budget Principle regarding vacant positions, the fiscal impact of deleting positions versus freezing positions, efforts made to balance the budget by all other means before considering changes to staffing levels and the need to address economic development to improve the County's financial position.

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 FY 2026-27 Budget Principles and approve FY 2026-27 Budget Calendar.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Review status of local emergency due to the presence and impact of gray wolves in Siskiyou County as declared by Resolution 25-200, adopted on November 18, 2025; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

County Administration Project Coordinator Joanne Johnson appeared before the Board, advising that meetings regarding wolf activities continue and of recent, probable depredations within the County.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, 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 extend the local emergency due to the presence and impact of gray wolves in Siskiyou County as declared by Resolution 25-200.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of three members to the scheduled vacancies on the Local Child Care Planning Council for terms ending February 28, 2028. Carla Charraga, Ronya Merel and Tammy Jaime appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) supported the reappointment of incumbents Carla Charraga, Ronya Merel and Tammy Jaime and that no other letters of interest had been received in the Clerk's Office.

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 appoint Carla Charraga, Ronya Merel and Tammy Jaime to the scheduled vacancies on the Local Child Care Planning Council for terms ending February 28, 2028.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appoint one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Scott Valley Fire Protection District for a short-term ending December 3, 2027. No action taken.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Board of Supervisors were being asked to fill a position on the Special District as the District was unable to fill the position within their timeframe. Ms. Winningham additionally advised that there were no letters of interest received in the Clerk's Office and that the Board would be unable to fill the vacancy after March 3, 2026.

No action was taken.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appoint one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Dunsmuir Fire Protection District for a short-term ending December 3, 2027. No action taken.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Board of Supervisors were being asked to fill a position on the Special District as the District was unable to fill the position within their timeframe. Ms. Winningham additionally advised that there were no letters of interest received in the Clerk's Office and that the Board would be unable to fill the vacancy after March 3, 2026.

No action was taken.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appoint one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Hornbrook Community Services District for a short-term ending December 3, 2027. No action taken.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Board of Supervisors were being asked to fill a position on the Special District as the District was unable to fill the position within their timeframe. Ms. Winningham additionally advised that there were no letters of interest received in the Clerk's Office and that the Board would be unable to fill the vacancy after March 3, 2026.

No action was taken.

Minute Approval - February 17, 2026. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Harris and Haupt voting YES, Supervisor Ogren ABSTAINING and Supervisor Kobseff ABSENT to approve the February 17, 2026 minutes as presented.

Public Hearings - Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division - Public hearing to consider update to and possible adoption of the FY 2025-2026 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update. FY 2025-2026 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider update to and possible adoption of the FY 2025-2026 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard and Behavioral Health Services Division Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordinator Sarah Evans appeared before the Board.

Ms. Collard provided an overview of the request, advising that this was the final year of the 3-year MHSA Plan with development of a new Behavioral Health Services (BHSA) Plan anticipated in the spring 2026. Ms. Collard advised that the Department had not received comments to the MHSA Plan during the public comment period.

In response to the Chair, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had received no correspondence related to this item.

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

Following discussion between members of the Board, Ms. Collard and Ms. Evans regarding the anticipated process for gathering data and soliciting public input from community partners for the upcoming BHSA Plan development, 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 adopt the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Plan Update for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-25-28 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Burrone Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2528) project located south and east of the community of Greenview. Resolutions 26-32 and 26-33 adopted.

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

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-25-28 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Burrone Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2528) project located south and east of the community of Greenview.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an Agricultural Preserve and a Williamson Act Contract in order to include property solely under the Proponent's ownership. Ms. Cizin advised that the project would not increase the number of acres within Agricultural Preserve and recommended that the project be considered exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easement or contracts.

In response to the Chair, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had received no correspondence related to this item.

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

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 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 26-32 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 26-33 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 an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-25-27 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the W. Criss Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2527) Project located north and east of the community of Macdoel. Resolutions 26-34 and 26-35 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under APA-25-27 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the W. Criss Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2527) Project located north and east 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 amend an Agricultural Preserve and a Williamson Act Contract in order to include property solely under the Proponent's ownership. Ms. Cizin advised that the project would not increase the number of acres within Agricultural Preserve, that two new Williamson Act Contracts would be created and recommended that the project be considered exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easement or contracts.

In response to the Chair, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had received no correspondence related to this item.

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

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, 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 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 26-34 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserves and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 26-35 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contracts.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Harris advised of his attendance at a wolf coalition meeting, a TMDL meeting, a First 5 meeting and the Lion Pride Dinner.

Supervisor Valenzuela reported on various meetings he attended in Washington DC.

Supervisor Ogren advised of her attendance at a Continuum of Care (CoC) meeting, an Air Pollution Control District meeting, a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting, an Earn to Learn conversation with educators related to possible funding opportunities with regard to the Collier Interpretive and Information Center (CIIC).

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance at a California Licensed Foresters' Association meeting, a meeting with recently appointed Judge Hannon and a DARE graduation in Etna.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), two cases, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), four cases, commenced at 9:33 a.m. and concluded at 11:47 a.m.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan announced that closed session concluded at 11:47 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

