

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, March 17, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 17th day of March 2026; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, 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.

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. Public Works Director Garrett Richardson 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

Audience member Bob Johnson appeared before the Board and presented a six-page packet, including a letter from Siskiyou County Agriculture Department and written conversation timeline. Mr. Johnson shared concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with losing a Forest Service bid for gravel/aggregate base delivery due to the Department's inspection and notification timing.

Audience member Tom Louie appeared before the Board, advising that he, as the gravel pit operator, was also negatively impacted by the Agriculture Department's inspection and notification timing.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that an email regarding this issue was received by the Board and located within the County Clerk's correspondence file and was available for public viewing and inspection.

Also in response to Supervisor Kobseff, County Administrator Angela Davis advised that inquiries regarding the Forest Service bid had been made.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Haupt's request, item 5C, County Administration's letter to the California Fish and Game Commission expressing support for the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission's petition to amend Section 251(a), Title 14, CCR, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

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

County Administration

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter supporting the National Forest Foundation's application for the South Fork Sacramento Meadow Restoration Project located in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

County Administration

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter supporting the Art of Survival Century and Gravel Grinder Bicycle Event on Memorial Day Weekend, May 22-24, 2026.

County Administration

Authorize the County Administrator or his/her designee to negotiate the potential acquisition of the Happy Camp Transfer Station located in Happy Camp, CA.

County Administration

Acknowledge receipt of letter from the Tri-Counties Workgroup to Elizabeth Nielsen, Executive Director of the Klamath Water Users Association, recognizing the benefits of Tule Lake flow through.

Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

Facilities Management – Communications

Approve the 1st Addendum to the License Agreement between the County and Plass Communications, and authorize the Board Chair to sign.

Facilities Management - Courthouse and Grounds

Accept the Notice of Completion for the Siskiyou County Government Center IT Upgrades, by World Telecom & Surveillance, Inc., authorizing the Board Chair to sign and directing the Clerk of the Board to record the notice with the Assessor-Recorder within five days.

Sheriff

Approve the Sheriff's Fourth Addendum to the Contract with A&P Helicopters, Inc. to provide helicopter services through December 31, 2026 at the rates identified in the new Exhibit "A".

Sheriff

Approve the donation of one Motorola XTL5000 surplus radio, identified above, to the Etna Fire Department.

Transfer of Funds - Courthouse and Grounds - \$35,000. Resolution 26-36 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Oil Grant - \$20,686. Resolution 26-37 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Public Works - Automotive - \$6,635. Resolution 26-38 adopted.

County Administration - Approve letter to the California Fish and Game Commission expressing support for the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission's petition to amend Section 251(a), Title 14, CCR with regard to the use of trail cameras during hunting seasons. Dropped from the agenda.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Haupt's request. Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding the proposed amendment to the California Code of Regulations as it could impact federal land grazing/range permittees' ability to monitor their herds. In addition, Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding the private/public checkerboard landscape and potential difficulties in enforcing a prohibition on real-time trail camera usage.

Supervisor Harris shared opposition to the letter/petition due to potential removal of predator (i.e. bear) management tools.

Brief discussion followed regarding the need to refine the draft letter and bring back before the Board for consideration at the next regular Board meeting.

In response to Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham, Chair Haupt advised that the item was dropped from the agenda as a new letter would be presented.

Public Requests - First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission - Discussion, direction and possible action re Siskiyou Child Abuse Prevention Council Collaborative Proclamation proclaiming April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 11 -17, 2026, as the Week of the Young Child in Siskiyou County. Proclamation adopted.

First 5 Siskiyou representatives Michelle Harris, Karen Pautz and Mackenzie Bolls appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request. In addition, a 30-page packet of informational flyers was distributed to the Board, Clerk and public.

Ms. Bolls provided an overview of various programs and events related to child and family support provided by First 5.

Ms. Pautz summarized various partnerships that support First 5 Siskiyou's mission to support children and their families.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to sign to adopt the 2026 Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation.

Sheriff - Discussion, direction and possible action re Master Service Agreement with Lexipol, LLC to provide law enforcement and correctional services specified in Exhibit B - Description of Services, in an amount not to exceed \$172,634.27 for the term March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2031. Approved.

Administrative Services Manager Courtney Greenley appeared before the Board and provided a brief overview of the request. Ms. Greenley advised that the initial term end date of February 29, 2031 on the Agreement page one was incorrect, although the Agreement's Exhibit A indicated the correct term end date of February 28, 2031. Ms. Greenley requested approval of the Master Service Agreement with Lexipol, LLC.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to approve the multi-year Contract for services from Lexipol, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$172,634.27 for the term of the Contract identified as March 1, 2026 - February 28, 2031. Allow the Sheriff to acknowledge the Master Services Agreement on Page 1 of the Contract, as the designated representative of our agency. Allow the Auditor to make appropriations.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division - Discussion, direction and possible action re Proclamation proclaiming the Month of March 2026 as National Social Work Month in Siskiyou County. Proclamation adopted.

Social Services Division Director Trish Barbieri appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request.

Social Services Division Deputy Director Susan Cervelli appeared before the Board and introduced Adult and Children Protection Program Managers Emily Tuholski and Cindy Brooks.

Ms. Tuholski appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the Adult Protective Services Unit, including statistics and the services provided.

Ms. Brooks appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the Child Protective Services Unit, including statistics and services provided.

Ms. Cervelli spoke in support of the Social Worker staff, advising of those in the audience and in support of the Proclamation honoring them during National Social Workers Month.

Members of the Board thanked those staff members for their efforts working with vulnerable members of the public.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to approve and accept the modified Proclamation by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, proclaiming March as "Social Worker Month" in Siskiyou County.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division - Discussion, direction and possible action re Draft FY 2026-2029 Behavioral Health Services Act Three-Year Integrated Plan. Draft BHSA Plan approved.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordinator Sarah Evans and Administrative Services Manager Joshua Stanshaw appeared before the Board.

Ms. Evans presented a powerpoint presentation regarding the transition from a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan to a Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Plan, including the BHSA expanded scope to encompass treatment for Substance Use Disorders, broader eligible populations, expanded housing for vulnerable populations and financial reporting requirements. Ms. Evans continued the powerpoint, including a summary of behavioral health goals under the BHSA, funding allocations and sources, and the anticipated community planning process, including outreach completed to various stakeholder groups. Ms. Evans additionally provided an overview of the funding and fiscal rules under the BHSA and the anticipated timeline for submitting the Draft and then the final Plan to the Department of Health Care Services.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff regarding development of the new BHSA program, Ms. Evans and Mr. Stanshaw advised that the Department of Health Care developed the policy and the state legislature developed the framework.

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

Supervisor Ogren encouraged members of the public to review and comment on the Draft Plan during the public comment period.

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 voting NO, to review the Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division Draft Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Three-Year Integrated Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2029 and authorize the County Administrative Officer to sign the plan for submission to the California Department of Health Care Service.

Community Development - Planning Division - Discussion and possible direction re White Paper concerning the Williamson Act Program, Policy Review and Recommendations. Presentation and discussion only.

Community Development Director Hailey Lang appeared before the Board and distributed a 33-page powerpoint presentation summarizing the Williamson Act White Paper. Ms. Lang provided an overview of the Williamson Act (WA) purpose and history to preserve agricultural land and prohibit sprawl by keeping farmland in commercial production. Ms. Lang advised that the WA is a voluntary program administered by counties with WA contracts being between the county and property owners and is not an entitlement or tax sheltering mechanism. Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Lang provided an overview of common misconceptions, the Program requirements and County Program issues, including acreage minimums, soils analysis, commercial viability and water use changes/agriculture viability. Ms. Lang summarized the financial impact of the WA Program, advising that the State eliminated subvention funding to counties in 2009, impacting Siskiyou County approximately \$613,000 lost revenue annually. Ms. Lang provided an overview of Assembly Bill (AB) 1265 and Senate Bill (SB) 1353 that allow counties to shorten WA contracts by one year (9 years versus stand 10 year), advising that Siskiyou County has not utilized that State law but could consider the option.

Ms. Lang continued the powerpoint, including a potential policy recommendation to supplement soils acreage thresholds with agricultural viability findings.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Lang regarding the recommendation, possible need to tailor guideline and/or contract language related to water usage to address conservation easements, water rights and state required return of irrigation water for instream flow and the need to consider the Scott Valley Area Plan when addressing WA contract and/or guideline revisions.

Ms. Lang continued the powerpoint, including potential policy recommendations related to clarifying standards for grazing uses and recommended restructuring the Ag Preserve Administrator process versus establishing an Ag Preserve Board.

Further discussion followed regarding examples related to the grazing recommendation and the need to address Timber Production Zone (TPZ) zoning and related soils definitions.

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Lang summarized the definition of breach of contract with regard to WA contracts and the need for clear standards and practices to minimize legal risks. With regard to the WA Program, Ms. Lang recommended that, the County not eliminate minimum acreage requirements entirely, not allow hobby/lifestyle farming, not allow automatic approvals without findings, not weaken enforcement or monitoring language and not allow for broad sub 40-acre eligibility. Additionally, Ms. Lang summarized options available to land owners should their property not qualify for the WA Program.

Discussion followed, including Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin regarding the need to continue working on the policy recommendations, the need to research potential impact of the Scott Valley Area Plan on the Program, the ability of the County's WA guidelines to be a 'living document', the potential tax liability for WA qualified property that includes infrastructure (residents/homes), the need to consider what the WA Program could look like in 10 or more years as agriculture properties are sold, the need to potentially revise WA contract language and the need to address actions taken impacting property outside of the property owners' control.

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.

County Administrator Angela Davis advised that Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone was unavailable and requested that the local emergency be extended.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, 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.

County Administrator Angela Davis advised that Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue was unavailable and requested that the local emergency be extended.

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

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of two members to the unscheduled vacancies on the Gazelle Fire Protection District, for short terms ending December 3, 2027. Patricia A Crechriou and James A Crechriou, Jr. appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that Patricia Crechriou and James Crechriou were interested and eligible to serve on the Special District Board.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to appoint Patricia A. Crechriou and James A. Crechriou, Jr. to fill the unscheduled vacancies on the Gazelle Fire Protection District, both short-term positions ending on December 3, 2027.

Minute Approval - March 3, 2026. Approved.

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 ABSTAINING, to approve the March 3, 2026 minutes as presented.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Valenzuela reported on his attendance at a PRISM (Excess Insurance Authority) meeting.

Supervisor Kobseff reported on his attendance for a virtual Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR) meeting and advised of attending a Klamath Water User lobby trip to Washington DC. Supervisor Kobseff additionally requested research into the development or establishment of an ad hoc committee regarding local animal predators (bears, wolves, bobcats, etc.) with representation from each Supervisorial District.

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), three cases, conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, commenced at 10:52 a.m. and concluded at 11:45 a.m.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan announced that closed session concluded at 11:45 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

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