State of California, County of Siskiyou
Board of Supervisors Minutes, September 1, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 1st day of September 2026; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff and Nancy Ogren, County Administrator Angela Davis who participated via telephone, 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 Ray A. Haupt was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Harris. 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 and In Home Supportive Services Public Authority. Supervisor Valenzuela 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

SEIU IHSS Union organizer Jamie Butcher appeared before the Board and read a statement from an In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provider regarding concerns over the lack of a contract between Siskiyou County and local IHSS providers.

SEIU IHSS Union organizer Sarah Cacia appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the lack of an IHSS union contract and potential State penalty should the County continue without a contract.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, County Counsel F. Dean Morgan advised that members of the Board could not discuss or take action on issues brought up during the Public Comment period, although direction to staff was permissible.

Local resident and IHSS provider Neal Aronson appeared before the Board and shared concerns regarding the amount of effort/time required to provide everyday basic tasks around a home.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham's request, item 5H, County Administration's request to ratify a letter to Dr. Jennifer Norris expressing opposition to funding for The Wildlands Conservancy acquisition of Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch), was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

At Supervisor Ogren's request, item 5V, the Sheriff's addendum to contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc., was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

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

Agriculture

Approve agreement for Nursery Inspections between the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture. Authorize the Auditor to establish budget.

Agriculture

Approve and ratify the new 5 year agreement, and Modification 1, between the Bureau of Reclamation and Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture for pesticide use enforcement activities for the term of September 1, 2026 through May 31, 2031 in the amount over the term of $424,097. Authorize Auditor to establish budget.

Animal Control

Approve the rate contract between Siskiyou Veterinary Services, Sole Proprietor and Siskiyou County Animal Control for a term of 3 years, July 1, 2026 through June 30 ,2029. Authorize Auditor to establish budget.

Continued…

Consent Agenda – *(continued)*

Auditor

Adopt Resolution 26-128 thereby approving the 2026/2027 property tax rates.

County Administration

Ratify the August 18, 2026 letter to Senate President pro Tempore Limón and Assembly Speaker Rivas opposing proposed wildfire liability reforms prompted by the SB 254 Report.

County Administration

Acknowledge receipt of letter from the Tri-Counties Workgroup to the Chair and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, respectfully requesting a hearing and support for S. 1306.

County Administration

Approve the County Administrator Employment Agreement, by and between the County of Siskiyou and Mr. Cole Bray, effective September 25, 2026 for a term of five years, ending September 24, 2031.

County Clerk

Adopt Resolution 26-129 updating the Conflict of Interest Code, designating members and employees in all County Departments, Special Districts and School Districts. and School Districts.

General Services - Sanitation

Approve contract with Climate & Waste Systems Advisory, Ltd. Co., to conduct a comprehensive solid waste disposal fee study in the amount of $52,000. The agreement shall be effective for a 9 month term beginning September 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

General Services - Sanitation

Approve this 13th addendum to the George Chambers contract with a term ending on June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed $2,890,894.76.

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 Sierra Health Foundation for the term commencing March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Second Addendum to the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division and Rose Smith d/b/a Rose Therapy for the term commencing September 17, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the 2nd Addendum to the Lease Agreement between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Thomas L. Spaulding, Trustee of the Spaulding Family Trust to extend the term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, for a total not to exceed amount of $132,000 and authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Second Addendum to the Lease Agreement between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Thomas L. Spaulding, Trustee of the Spaulding Family Trust to extend the term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, for a total not to exceed amount of $132,000 and authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Continued…

Consent Agenda – *(continued)*

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 Willow Glen Care Center, a non-profit Corporation for the term commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

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 DHCS for the term commencing January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division
Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Participation Agreement for Services and the QA/QI Analytics Program, between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division and CalMHSA for the term commencing July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division
Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Fourth Addendum to the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Sacramento Behavioral Healthcare Hospital, LLC., incorporating rate updates for FY24/25 & FY25/26. The contract term began July 1, 2022 and the Fourth Addendum extends the term through June 30, 2028. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division
Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and CalMHSA for the term commencing November 1, 2024 through March 18, 2029. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division
Approve and the Chair sign the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency and the University of California at Davis, for the effective term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - $6,100. Resolution 26-130 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - $9,000. Resolution 26-131 adopted.

County Administration - Approve request to ratify the August 21, 2026, letter to Dr. Jennifer Norris expressing that the Board of Supervisors oppose funding for The Wildlands Conservancy Acquisition of Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve (AP Ranch). Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham's request.

Ms. Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had received a letter from The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) that provided comments clarifying the TWC's proposed acquisition of the AP Ranch and proposing development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the TWC and the County.

Supervisor Kobseff advised of speaking with TWC representatives regarding the proposed MOU and desire to work with the County on the County's concerns.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting YES, Supervisor Valenzuela voting NO and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT, to ratify the August 21, 2026 letter to Dr. Jennifer Norris opposing the proposed allocation of $11.5 million in Wildlife Conservation Board funding to The Wildlands Conservancy for its purchase of AP Ranch.

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Sheriff - Approve addendum with Axon Enterprise, Inc. repealing and replacing Exhibit A, and adhering to Exhibit B, in an amount not to exceed $1,051,854.36 extending term through August 30, 2031. Approved.

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

Local resident Anastasia Sprout appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a one page letter regarding concerns related to the technology and artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities of systems utilized by the County and Sheriff's Office and the need for public education/awareness regarding that technology.

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan advised that various questions asked within the letter could be answered through submission of a Public Records Act (PRA) request.

Supervisor Ogren shared concerns and questions related to information on the contract addendum's page 15 concerning an outstanding invoice with the vendor Axon Enterprises.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board regarding the need for the Sheriff or staff to discuss the item with the Board.

Sheriff's Administrative Services Manager Courtney Greenley appeared before the Board, providing an overview of the process that the vendor utilizes for invoicing the Department and advising that the vendor was asked for a copy of the invoice in question.

Supervisor Ogren voiced possible opposition to approval of the agenda item until there is additional information regarding the status of the outstanding invoice.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Greenley regarding the timing related to how the Department is invoiced, sufficient FY 25/26 funding to cover the invoice, the timeframe associated with the vendor's quote and Board members' concerns regarding the outstanding invoice that should have been addressed prior to the item being agendized for approval.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff and seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela to approve the fourth addendum to the Master Services and Purchasing Agreement between the Sheriff's Office and Axon Enterprise, Inc., through August 2031, not to exceed $1,051,855 for the term of the Agreement, replacing year five (5) of Exhibit A with year one (1) of Exhibit B and authorize the Auditor to make appropriations.

Supervisor Valenzuela advised of an upcoming meeting to address similar concerns with the Department, voicing concerns that the item should not have come before the Board as presented.

The Vice Chair called for the question and the motion to approve the addendum to contract with Axon Enterprises Inc. carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Kobseff and Harris voting YES, Supervisor Ogren voting NO and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT.

Public Requests - City of Yreka - Presentation re City of Yreka's current initiatives and explore opportunities for the City and County to collaborate and support shared priorities. Presentation and discussion only.

City of Yreka Manager Will Ibershof appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint presentation regarding community interests, including housing, the anticipated new fire station, new police chief and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) efforts.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff regarding the type of housing being developed, Mr. Ibershoff provided an overview of the City's efforts to develop workforce housing.

Mr. Ibershof continued the powerpoint, including an overview of the efforts and associated funding opportunities to build a new fire station in Yreka and presented conceptual drawings of the proposed facility. Continuing the powerpoint, Mr. Ibershof provided an overview of the status of the Yreka Police Department, including appointment of a new Police Chief and efforts being made to fully staff the department and address community concerns and needs. Mr. Ibershof summarized the City's request to increase TOT taxes that would be on the November 3, 2026 ballot, with a focus on increasing events and overnight stays within the City and further summarized efforts being made to support local businesses and expand the City's water capacity via water rights to Fall Creek.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Ibershof regarding support for development of workforce housing, local animal shelter staffing and anticipated fire station staffing.

Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division - Presentation re the Behavioral Health Housing Continuum, including new BHSA housing funding requirements, current housing and treatment resources, service costs, and potential County fiscal impacts and cost avoidance. Presentation and discussion only.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint presentation regarding certain housing requirements under California law and the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) for individuals with mental health disabilities. Ms. Collard summarized BHSA housing requirements and associated funding requirements and the various types of housing in the County, including various statistics (i.e. daily/monthly/yearly costs and numbers of clients served) associated with each type of housing (i.e. shelters, interim/transitional housing, shared housing and board and care facilities).

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Collard advised that the costs summarized including administrative and provider costs.

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Collard summarized the costs differences associated with diversion housing versus incarceration and the processes associated with the Agency's Crisis Response System and the Agency's efforts to support fiscal stewardship and avoid higher costs when possible.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Collard regarding the Crisis Response System, the definition of 'crisis', efforts made toward harm reduction, efforts being made to address additional housing and the benefits associated with development of workforce housing, the need for additional information regarding statistics related to clients being served under the BHSA funding compared to costs associated with providing services to the public in general.

Further discussion followed the need to be proactive with regard to potential state and or federal funding sources and efforts being made to locate and research those funding opportunities.

Emergency Services - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution proclaiming a local emergency and requesting the Governor to proclaim a State of Emergency due to illegal pesticide chemical use for illicit cannabis grow operations. Resolution 26-132 adopted.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to update the County's local emergency proclamation related to illegal pesticides and illicit cannabis operations. Mr. Schenone advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently published a Public Safety Awareness Report (PSAR) that identified Chinese-labeled pesticide products a "Nationwide threat" due to health/environmental hazards, the same pesticides linked to Siskiyou County illegal cannabis operations. Mr. Schenone additionally advised that various information had been updated in the new, proposed emergency proclamation, including the efforts to coordinate with the County's Public and Environmental Health Divisions and the Agriculture Department.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting Yes and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT, to rescind the locate state of emergency declared by Resolution No. 26-109 and enact the updated declaration of a state of emergency due to hazardous conditions related to toxic pesticides at illegal cannabis cultivation sites by adopting Resolution 26-132.

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 26-83, adopted on May 19, 2026; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting Yes and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT, to extend the local emergency due to the presence and impact of gray wolves in Siskiyou County as declared by Resolution 26-83.

Supervisor Kobseff voiced concerns regarding potential negative impacts associated with gray wolves locally, citing a recent incident where a local rancher was injured by cattle as they were being moved due to the presence of wolves in the area.

Continued…

Board of Supervisors' Requests – *(continued)*

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan advised that the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would be in Siskiyou County and arrangements were being made to meet and discuss this and other issues.

County Administration/Supervisor Nancy Ogren - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to appoint Rick Dean as Alternate representative on the North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council. Rick Dean appointed as Alternate on the North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council.

Supervisor Ogren provided an overview of the request, advising that local resident Rick Dean was currently on the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Technical Committee and requested his appointment as Alternate representative to the NCRP Leadership Council.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting YES and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT to appoint Rick Dean as Alternate on the North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of three members to the scheduled vacancies on the Mayten Fire Protection District for full terms ending August 15, 2030. Monte Whipple and Jacki Zediker appointed; remaining vacancy continued to later.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbents Monte Whipple and Jacki Zediker were interested in reappointment. Ms. Winningham requested continuation of the remaining vacancy, requesting additional time to reach out to incumbent Patricia Embury regarding her interest in reappointment.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting YES and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT to appoint Monte Whipple and Jacki Zediker to the scheduled vacancies on the Mayten Fire Protection District, for full terms ending August 15, 2030.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment to various scheduled vacancies on two Cemetery Districts, for full terms ending January 7, 2030, as follows: Etna Cemetery – one and Happy Camp Cemetery – two. Dave Nelson appointed to Etna Cemetery District.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbent Dave Nelson expressed interest in continuing on the Etna Cemetery District Board and was eligible to serve.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting YES and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT to appoint Dave Nelson to the scheduled vacancy on the Etna Cemetery District, with a term ending January 7, 2030.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Dunsmuir Recreation and Parks District, for a term ending June 30, 2030. Thomas Shirley appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that local resident Thomas Shirley was interested and eligible to serve on the Dunsmuir Recreation and Parks District as a registered voter residing within the District.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting YES and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT to appoint Thomas Shirley to the scheduled vacancy on the Dunsmuir Recreation and Parks District for a term ending June 30, 2030.

Minute Approval - August 4, 11 and 18, 2026. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff and Harris voting YES and Supervisor Haupt ABSENT to approve the August 4, 11 and 18, 2026 minutes as presented.

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Closed Session - Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957 (b)(1), consider the Discipline, Dismissal or Release of a Public Employee, 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) one case, commenced at 10:35 a.m. and concluded at 11:00 a.m., with action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan announced that closed session concluded at 11:00 a.m., with reportable action taken.

With regard to item 13B, Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: In re: J.F., Siskiyou County Superior Court, Case No. 26cv09653, Mr. Morgan advised that is was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and passed unanimously to authorize County Counsel to respond and defend in the matter of In re: J.F., Siskiyou County Superior Court, No. 26CV09653, with no outside counsel necessary.

With regard to item 13A, Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957 (b)(1), consider the Discipline, Dismissal or Release of a Public Employee, Mr. Morgan advised that it was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren, with Supervisors Harris and Valenzuela voting in the affirmative to impose discipline upon the Agriculture Commissioner. The discipline does not include termination, nor are the alleged actions severe enough to support public disclosure.

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.

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Ray A. Haupt, Chair

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

By: _____
Deputy

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