State of California, County of Siskiyou
Board of Supervisors Minutes, September 15, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 15th day of September 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 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 and In Home Supportive Services Public Authority. Chair Haupt led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Jim Crabtree provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

SEIU IHSS Union organizer Jamie Butcher appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the County negotiating a contract with In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers and sharing concerns that the County would be subject to a penalty should an agreement not be reached by the September 30, 2026 deadline.

IHSS provider Jayson Krin appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the County coming to an agreement with IHSS providers to increase wages and sharing concerns that a potential annual penalty would be better spent supporting IHSS providers.

IHSS provider Laticia Guerrero appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the County coming to an agreement with IHSS providers to increase provider wages.

IHSS provider Paula Johnson appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the County coming to an agreement with IHSS providers to increase provider wages.

County Librarian Teresa Johnson, also representing the Siskiyou County Library Vestal Foundation appeared before the Board and requested that the Board consider increasing its budget contribution to the Library and Foundation or divide the contribution between the twelve County Library branches.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham's request, item 5B, County Administration's Proclamation recognizing National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 26, 2026, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, 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

Ratify the September 4, 2026 letter in support of the Scott River Tailings Off-Channel Habitat Connectivity Project.

County Administration

Approve contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for the High Mountain Lakes Feasibility Study in an amount not to exceed $125,000, with a contract end date of November 30, 2027; authorize the Chair to sign the contract; and find that approval of the contract for the feasibility study is Statutorily Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, and Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15306, Information Collection.

Continued…

Consent Agenda – *(continued)*

County Administration

Approve the Master Services Agreement with Humboldt Moving & Storage dba Hemsteds, as well as authority for the County Administrator, or their designee, to approve departmental requests to utilize the Agreement as needed during the term of the contract.

County Administration

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the USDA Forest Service supporting Alternative 2 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule.

County Administration - Personnel

Approve and adopt Proclamation congratulating and recognizing Jeffrey Varnell for 21 years of dedicated service and contributions to the community upon his retirement from Siskiyou County.

General Services - Sanitation

Approve the contract with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. for electronic waste and universal waste transportation, de-manufacturing, and recycling at Happy Camp Transfer Station, Oberlin Transfer Station, and Black Butte Transfer Station. This Agreement is a rate agreement with an initial term of three (3) years and includes a not to exceed amount of $450,000.

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 Gary Ernst for the term commencing September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - $107,974. Resolution 26-133 adopted.

County Administration - Adopt Proclamation recognizing National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 26, 2026. Proclamation adopted.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham's request, who requested clarification regarding the recommended motion to adopt a Resolution or adopt a Proclamation recognizing National Hunting and Fishing Day. Ms. Winningham advised that the item being considered was a Proclamation, although the recommended motion requested adoption of a Resolution.

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan recommended the motion be changed to adopt a Proclamation.

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 ABSENT to adopt the Proclamation recognizing National Hunting and Fishing day on September 26, 2026.

Public Requests - Office of California State Senator Megan Dahle - Presentation recognizing Angela Davis for her service as Siskiyou County Administrator. Presentation and discussion only.

California State Senator Megan Dahle's District Coordinator Alice Bennett appeared before the Board and read a Resolution from Senator Dahle recognizing Siskiyou County's Administrator Angela Davis upon her retirement into the record.

County Administrator Angela Davis participated via teleconference phone.

Members of the Board congratulated Ms. Davis on her retirement and thanked her for her efforts working for the County.

Ms. Davis commented on the Resolution and thanked the Board and Ms. Bennett for the presentation.

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Public Requests - Local Transportation Commission/Siskiyou Transportation Agency - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution approving General Services Department administrative oversight of Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE). Resolution 26-134 adopted.

Local Transportation Commission (LTC) Executive Director Hailey Lang appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to return Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE) staff and administration to the County's General Services Department. Ms. Lang advised of ongoing efforts by the LTC to work on the Siskiyou Transportation Agency (STA) dissolution and that only staff and administration was affected by the request and that no assets were to be considered at this time.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, 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 adopt Resolution 26-134 approving General Services Department administrative oversight of Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE).

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Public Health Solid Waste Hearing Panel, Member At Large position, for a four-year term ending September 12, 2030. Steven D. Neill appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbent Steven D. Neill was interested in reappointment.

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 appoint Steven D. Neill to the scheduled vacancy on the Public Health Solid Waste Hearing Panel, Member At Large position, for a four-year terms ending September 12, 2030.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancies on the Mayten Fire Protection District for a full term ending August 15, 2030. Patricia Embury appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbent Patricia Embury verbally confirmed to the Clerk's Office that she was interested in reappointment.

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 appoint Patricia Embury to the scheduled vacancy on the Mayten Fire Protection District, for a full term ending August 15, 2030.

Appointments - County Clerk/Board of Supervisors - Appointment of one Delegate and an Alternate from the Board of Supervisors to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors for the 2026/2027 Association year. Supervisors Valenzuela and Ogren appointed Delegate and Alternate, respectively.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that Supervisor Valenzuela and Harris were appointed Delegate and alternate for the 2025-2026 California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Association year.

Following brief discussion between members of the Board, it was moved by Supervisor Haupt, 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 appoint Supervisor Valenzuela as Delegate and Supervisor Ogren as Alternate to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors for 2026/2027.

Public Hearings - Budget Hearing - County Administration - Public hearing to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Adopted Budget. Resolutions 26-135 and 26-136 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Adopted Budget.

Chair Haupt opened the public hearing.

Deputy County Administrator - Chief Fiscal Officer Sherry Lawson appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the 2026/2027 Adopted Budget, advising of an approximate $15.4 million increase in Non General Fund revenues and expenditures and a $9.6 million General Fund deficit to address.

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Public Hearings - Budget Hearing - County Administration – *(continued)*

Ms. Lawson further advised that the budget was balanced by utilizing one-time funds and shared concerns regarding the need to increase measures to reduce expenditures and address the underlying structural deficit. Ms. Lawson recommended a County-wide hiring freeze, a 50% reduction in overtime and extra help expenses and a freeze on General Fund funded training and travel and advised that other, Non General Funds were being monitored closely.

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

Brief discussion followed between the Chair and Ms. Winningham regarding an earlier public comment made by the County Librarian regarding the budget contribution to Library branches and the Siskiyou County Library Vestal Foundation.

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

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Lawson regarding the proposed hiring freeze, the anticipated process to evaluate each new recruitment before approval/denial, the need to support public safety/Sheriff's Department staffing, concerns regarding the impact of the hiring freeze on overtime expenditures, the large percentage of costs associated with staff wages and benefits, the need for an update regarding Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) applicability with regard to non-profits and/or religious organizations.

Ms. Lawson advised of ongoing efforts being made to work with the County Treasurer regarding TOT and non-profits and/or religious organizations and County Counsel F. Dean Morgan advised that County Counsel's Office would review the issue as well.

Further discussion followed regarding the need to explore options for increasing revenues to recover the County's actual costs of doing business (i.e. rate structures), the need to evaluate Sheriff specialty/service contracts and associated policies with regard to recouping actual costs, the need to evaluate options to utilize digital technologies (i.e. media, appointments, etc.) within County departments to increase the County's efficiency and effectiveness and decrease costs and the need to research Non-Profit events with regard to eco-tourism.

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 Resolution 26-135, which adopts the FY 2026/2027 Siskiyou County Budget and approve all additions and deletions to the Recommended Budget for FY 2026/2027, of which includes financing uses by unit, intrafund transfers by unit, transfers out by fund, appropriations for contingencies by fund, provisions for restricted and committed accounts by fund and purpose, and financing sources; adopt Resolution 26-136 amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedules, Personnel allocation list and new job classifications; adopt the County Statement of Allocated Positions and Salary Schedules, authorize the Auditor to establish budget for vacant positions, upon approval by County Administration, implement a Countywide hiring freeze to be re-evaluated during the mid-year budget evaluations and implement a General Fund training and travel freeze, to be re-evaluated during the mid-year budget evaluations.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Continued public hearing to consider Resolution amending the Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts. Public hearing continued to November 10, 2026.

This was the time set for a continued public hearing to consider a Resolution amending the Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts, having been opened and continued from August 11, 2026.

Chair Haupt opened the public hearing.

Community Development Director Hailey Lang appeared before the Board, providing an overview of updates being made to the Draft Agricultural Preserve/Williamson Act Guidelines following discussions with County Counsel and other County staff.

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Public Hearings - Community Development – *(continued)*

Ms. Lang advised that language related to Breach of Contract – Material Breach had been discussed and modified, additional language related to Public Acquisition was added to the Draft Guidelines and that verification of commercial agricultural activity language had been modified to remove required verification by the County's Agriculture Department/Agricultural Commissioner.

Deputy Director of Planning James Phelps appeared before the Board, clarifying revised Material Breach language and requesting Board input with regard to compatible uses on agricultural preserves 40 acres or less and those 40 acres or more.

Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding the negative impact of the nine/ten year timeframe for non-renewal of Williamson Act contracts, which is set in Government Code, and possible 'gift' of public funds (loss of property tax revenue during that time period). Supervisor Haupt additionally shared concerns regarding the County's late notification when the State and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) purchase property (public acquisition).

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Lang, Mr. Phelps and County Counsel F. Dean Morgan regarding the need to research possible options for penalties during the non-renewal time period, to research possible remedies should the State and/or NGOs violate the County's Williamson Act contract language upon purchase of private lands and language within the Draft Guidelines related to the County's ability to provide comments to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) concerning a proposed public acquisition of land within Williamson Act contract/Agricultural Presereve.

Ms. Lang advised that she would work with County Counsel toward language to be added to the Draft Guidelines with regard to the County needing to be notified when State funds are anticipated to be used to purchase land within Williamson Act contract/Agricultural Presereve in order for the County to comment on the proposed purchase.

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 a continue the public hearing to Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

Board and Staff Reports

There were no board or staff reports given.

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), two cases, commenced at 10:25 a.m., concluded at 11:36 a.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel F. Dean Morgan announced that closed session concluded at 11:36 a.m., with no reportable action taken.

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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