

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

November 3, 2025

Commissioner Red Owl called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Inyo County Water Department, Independence, CA. Water Commissioners in attendance were Paul Huette, Vikki Glinskii, and Matt Kingsley. Commissioner Red Owl attended remotely. Commissioner Keller was absent. Present from the Water Department were Holly Alpert, Laura Piper, Tim Moore, Tyler Starbard, and James Mills.

Welcome and Introduction

Commissioner Red Owl thanked Dan Berry for the time he dedicated to the Water Commission. The Board and Water Department staff introduced themselves and the Chairperson welcomed the new Water Commissioner, Matt Kingsley, and members of the public to the meeting. Commissioner Kingsley provided his view on the Water Commission's role and stated he was excited to stay engaged and to be serving as a commissioner. Commissioner Keller was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Red Owl led the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

The Chairperson opened public comment.
Mary Roper acknowledged the contribution of Mike Carrington who had recently passed.
Lauren Rose requested the Water Department be more proactive with the annual pumping recommendation.
Sally Manning inquired if Randy Keller was attending remotely.
Mike Prather via Commissioner Kingsley asked if the Water Commissioners would request the Water Trail be put on the November 11, 2025, Standing Committee agenda.

Approval of minutes From April 28, 2025

The Commissioners requested this item be tabled to next meeting pending additions and format changes.

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for Remainder of 2025

The Commissioners tabled this item.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Glinskii attended meetings with staff of Owens Valley Indian Water Commission and Friends of the Inyo.
Commissioner Kingsley would like to meet with members of interested organizations on water issues.
Commissioner Huette was pleased the Board went with the Commission's pumping plan recommendation.
Commissioner Red Owl stated the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission website will house a monthly virtual series on education around water and land, public is invited to attend.

Director's Report

Dr. Alpert stated the Inyo County Water Dept. reviewed and provided comments on the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Deep Rose Geothermal as well as Conglomerate Basin's draft final EIS.

Commissioner Glinskii inquired what in Conglomerate Mesa would come before the Commission?
Commissioner Red Owl asked for a copy of the comments on the above.
Commissioner Huette inquired about discharge.
Commissioner Kingsley asked if Dr. Alpert could provide notice to the Commissioners when making comments on documents related to water issues.

Public Comment – Sally Manning stated it is not LADWP but Coso Geothermal operating the Hay Ranch. Wendy Schneider asked why the comments on Conglomerate Mesa are not public.

Owens Valley Groundwater Conditions

Tim Moore provided a presentation and detailed overview of precipitation conditions, predicted vs. actual runoff for the runoff year, groundwater levels, LADWP pumping to date, and on/off status.

Commissioner Red Owl – shared concern over the 7.8 ft water level decline on average in the Laws wellfield
Commissioner Glinskii - questioned the wells below baseline
Commissioner Huette - expressed his concern about bringing the water levels up in those wells below baseline
Commissioner Kingsley – questions should be directed to the Commissioners, not Water Department staff; the Water Agreement is very complex and complicated using so much data making it hard for a lay person to understand.

Public Comment – Lynn Boulton requested a format change to one of the graphs presented, several of the parcels in Laws are becoming shrubby and not at baseline, water tables should be at a level to reach the root zone
Sally Manning stated she would like to see predictions and what is expected this spring
Nancy Masters mentioned the impact of diversion structures on recharge
Santeena Pugliese reiterated Sally's comment that she would like to see projections and that all the data is confusing
Lauren Rose asked if DWP corrected course on Taboose-Aberdeen based on discussions last spring
Jon Klusmire stated he would also like to see data on water being pumped from exempt wells

Water Trail Update

Larry Freilich provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated the Owens River Water Trail is approximately six miles, slow moving, good for non-motorized boats, children, and disabled veterans. He stated next steps are an agreement for land use with LADWP, permits, design & engineering for the put-in and take-out, construction, grant support, and finalizing CEQA.

Commissioner Glinskii – inquired when CEQA would be finalized
Commissioner Huette - was concerned with the lost grant funding
Commissioner Kingsley – discussed the flooding of that area in 2017 and 2023

Public Comment – Nancy Masters inquired if some of the tulles were taken out with the high runoff of 2023
Lynn Boulton asked if they would also allow inner tubes and not just non-motorized boats

Water Agreement Overview

The Chairperson tabled this item.

Future meeting Schedule

The next Water Commission meeting was scheduled for January 26, 2026.

Public Comment

Santeena expressed her disappointment that the LTWA overview was tabled and that ideas from the previous meeting was not reflected in the minutes.
Wendy Schneider stated this group has come a long way since they were trying to disband it.
Sally Manning stated she has not seen a Standing Committee agenda

Adjourn

The Vice Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.