

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

March 16, 2026

Commissioner Huette called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Inyo County Water Department in Independence, CA. Water Commissioners in attendance were Paul Huette, Teri Red Owl, Vikki Glinskii, and Matt Kingsley. Present from the Water Department were Holly Alpert, Laura Piper, Tim Moore, and James Mills.

Welcome and Introduction

The Commissioners introduced themselves.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Huette led the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

The Chairperson opened public comment.

Santina stated she would be recording/documenting this meeting.

Commissioner Kingsley made a statement regarding the previous Water Commission meeting; stated he is frustrated with the way the Water Commission operated in the past and his desire to be Chairperson centered around trying to run meetings in a more efficient manner. He stated threatening to quit the Board is not professional or a unifying action. He stated we can be effective if we organize ourselves in a better way. In closing, he stated he would like to be a positive and engaged Board member.

Approval of minutes from February 9, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Kingsley to approve the February 9, 2026, minutes, seconded by Commissioner Glinskii. Motion passed.

Presentation by ESWA

Wendy Schneider, Friends of the Inyo, provided the introduction to the presentation. Lauren Rose provided the presentation on the Eastern Sierra Water Alliance recommendations to realign with the LTWA.

They provided three recommendations they would like to go to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors: a report on vegetation conditions in each parcel below the 1984-87 baseline; request LADWP decrease groundwater pumping to the lowest possible level; to bring the on/off monitoring program to the Standing Committee and direct the Technical Group to improve the monitoring program. This item was discussed by the Commission and public in great detail.

Commissioner Kingsley stated hiring new staff doesn't necessarily mean less work and this needs to be viewed as a long-term project, reviewing the vegetation parcels. He stated including the on/off monitoring on the Standing Committee agenda is a good idea.

Commissioner Red Owl stated we are doing a disservice to the LTWA by not doing the vegetation analysis, this is the strongest tool we have to protect our environment. She stated she would be most supportive of doing the vegetation analysis.

Commissioner Glinskii stated she agreed with the importance of the vegetation analysis. She would like to see the on/off mitigation monitoring on the Standing Committee agenda every year.

Commissioner Huette stated much of this is going to create a heavy workload but really liked the on/off monitoring request.

Public Comment

Randy Keller stated on the Water Dept website you can click on a parcel and get all the data. The analysis of why these vegetation changes are occurring on these parcels is not. He stated it should be narrowed down to one or two parcels that are consistently in trouble. He stated there are 100 parcels meeting standards but 20 are not.

Wendy Schneider stated there is funding available for assistance such as a consultant.

Heider Hayner stated this is a great idea for vegetation to come back but what about fire safety.

Santina said with the third recommendation maybe we should be clearer on dates, goals, and deadlines.

David Fraser stated he appreciates they are narrowing down what is the most important task to bring forward, any of these will come with a cost to the Supervisors, political capital, human resources, financial resources, etc.

**Potential Action:
Water Commission**

a) Public Input on Recommendation for Issues to address in the Annual Operations Plan
Public is invited to present recommendations to the Water Commission
The Commission and the public discussed this matter in detail.

Public Comment

Krissy inquired if there is a reason LADWP isn't responsible for providing funding for the monitoring.
Nancy Masters stated there is a provision in the LTWA that data will be exchanged freely between the County and LADWP. OVC made a public records request during the drought on irrigated parcels and was denied. The County could request all that data and may be receiving it now. Tim Moore stated that data is on the OVGA website.
Lynn Boulton stated she looked at the various parcels and came up with a list of 40 that were not meeting goals and she would prioritize the wellfield that is doing the worst. She thought the Green Book was supposed to make this process much simpler.
Santina stated she supports the requests that were proposed.
David Fraser stated there is only so much political capital that we can bring to the table so we should be focused in what we are asking for.
Nor Baskovich stated she understands the need for strategically focused asks but if we are not asking because we think we know what the answer will be, that would be a mistake. You should still ask and not answer for them.

Recommendation to

A motion was made by Teri Red Owl to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it direct the Water Department to create a prioritization list of vegetation parcels for analysis and that a timeline for the analysis be included. Seconded by Commissioner Glinskii. Motion passed.

**The Board of
Supervisors**

A motion was made by Commissioner Glinskii requesting the Inyo Board of Supervisors ask LADWP to provide reasoning behind the pumping in each wellfield and include the data in their annual pumping plan, seconded by Commissioner Kingsley. Motion passed.
A motion was made by Commissioner Red Owl to request the Inyo County Board of Supervisors request the on/off monitoring program be added to the May 27, 2026, Standing Committee meeting agenda with possible direction to the Technical Group. Seconded by Commissioner Glinskii. Motion passed.

**Commissioner's
Report**

Commissioner Glinskii attended two presentations by Friends of the Inyo about the LTWA and on/off water table management.
Commissioner Huette praised Commissioner Glinskii for her dedication to the Water Commission.
Commissioner Red Owl stated she appreciated the public input. She stated they hosted a summit in Los Angeles and stated they will be putting together a calendar. She discussed water conservation efforts in LA.
Commissioner Kingsley stated on the Standing Committee, the strongest points he could have were those shared by the public.

Public Comment

Emily Ontiveros stated on ourwaterstory.org the date is listed for Lynn Boulton's talk on mitigation projects and then another for the annual operations plan process, both virtual workshops.
Randy Keller stated he's impressed by the data on the Water Department website. He stated AI could sort through some of the trends from the vegetation data.

**Future meeting
Schedule**

The next Water Commission was previously scheduled for April 23, 2026, in Bishop to review the pumping plan.

Public Comment

Nancy Masters thanked Laura Piper for all her years of service with Inyo County.

Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.