



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SIERRA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

Lee Adams, District 1

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Peter W. Huebner, District 2

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Paul Roen, Chair, District 3

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Terry LeBlanc, District 4

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Sharon Dryden, Vice Chair, District 5

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The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on February 15, 2022 at the Loyalton Social Hall, Loyalton City Park, Loyalton, CA. This meeting was recorded for posting on the Board of Supervisors' website at www.sierracounty.ca.gov.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Supervisor Huebner

ROLL CALL

Present: Lee Adams, Supervisor, District #1
Peter W. Huebner, Supervisor, District #2
Paul Roen, Supervisor, Chair, District #3
Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, Vice Chair, District #5

Staff: Heather Foster, County Clerk-Recorder
David Prentice, County Counsel
Van Maddox, Auditor/Treasurer Tax Collector
Tim Beals, Director of Planning/Public Works/Transportation/OES
Lea Salas, Director of Behavioral Health
Vickie Clark, Director of Health and Social Services
Jeremy Miller, Chief Technology Officer
Celia Sutton-Pado, County Health Officer

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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of the Clerk, Consent Item 9.G. was pulled from the agenda.

9.G. Minutes from the regular meeting held on February 1, 2022. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

APPROVED as amended. Motion: Huebner/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.A. First amendment to Agreement 2021-060 between the County of Sierra and California Association of Environmental Health Administrators for the provision of professional environmental health services. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2022-014

9.B. Resolution authorizing the Sierra County Auditor to make certain changes to the 2021-2022 final budget regarding the Stabilization and Social Services fund and CalAIM Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2022-015

9.C. Resolution approving termination of Agreement 2020-039 dated May 5, 2020, and approving new license agreement between the County of Sierra and Pacific Gas and Electric Company for use of county property in Downieville during PSPS events. (PUBLIC WORKS)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2022-016

APPROVED, Agreement 2022-015

9.D. Agreement for Indemnification and Reimbursement for Extraordinary Costs for Linda Sanford, applicant and landowner: Consideration of a parcel merger for property located at 30 Strang Ranch Road, Sattley APN's 013-090-039 and 013-090-040. (PLANNING)

APPROVED, Agreement 2022-016

9.E. Minutes from the special meeting held on November 16, 2021. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

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- 9.F. Minutes from the regular meeting held on January 18, 2022. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda.

APPROVED. Motion: Huebner/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

REGULAR AGENDA

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

At 9:04 a.m. Chair Roen opened and closed the public comment opportunity with no persons addressing the Board.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Yuba River District Ranger Lon Henderson provided an update on staffing, an upcoming community meeting in Camptonville, and the status of the Chapman and Sierra Campgrounds.

Acting Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchison provided an update on staffing within in the district.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Dryden reported on an upcoming meeting in March with Health and Social Services' staff and Supervisor Adams to discuss a collaborative approach in response to Agency on Aging Area 4 and working on gaps in service and ways to provide better service to seniors.

Supervisor Dryden also reported on the FEMA public meeting to be held at the Sierra Brooks Lodge at 5:00 p.m. tonight.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Director of Public Health reported on staffing issues in the department.

In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry regarding whether the Public Guardian position needs to be a local, the Director responded that they are looking for a hybrid situation as they need someone on the ground. The Director further expressed concerns over not being able to fill the Financial Officer position.

The Director of Planning reported on funding through federal legislation passed through to the state for electronic vehicle stations and questioned if the Board is

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interested in pursuing a public station at Health and Humas Services in Loyaltan and the Courthouse.

The Director continued to report on the LEAP and REAP programs, and discussions with Liberty Utility regarding a project in Sierra Brooks using the Rule 20A program funding.

Personnel Analyst Judi Behlke reported on staffing levels for the county and the Supplemental Sick Leave legislation which takes effect on February 19, 2022, is retroactive to January 2022, and expires June 30, 2022.

6. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 6.C. Continued discussion/action on submitting comments on the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Draft "Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature". (CHAIR ROEN)

Tracy Schohr, UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, commented on the 30x30 plan and the proposed letter which highlights the challenges where the plan can have a negative impact to the county's economy, specifically agricultural communities.

Supervisor Dryden commented on the draft letter hitting all the main targets she's aware of and thanked Mrs. Schohr for working with Chair Roen on this.

Public comment was received by Rick Roberti on the proposed plan expressing concerns with who is going to pay for it and encouraging the Board to oppose the plan.

Chair Roen expressed concerns with the existing conservation easements that are in perpetuity, as it appears they are going to create more restrictive easements and pit the Board against their constituents.

Additional comments were received by Mr. Roberti pertaining to the 30% in existing conservation easements which are not included in the plan.

Supervisor Adams expressed his support of Mr. Roberti's comments.

The Board moved to approve the letter commenting on the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Draft "Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature".

The Director of Planning suggested additional agencies to send the letter to and adding language to the letter regarding the Williamson Act Program and the impacts to counties from the state suspending the Open Space Subvention Program, and the large number of lands tucked away in a 20-year TPZ.

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The Board amended the motion to authorize the Director to work with Chair Roen and the Clerk to incorporate the Director's suggested comments.

APPROVED. Motion: Adams/LeBlanc/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 6.A. CONTINUED COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY UPDATE: Report from Sierra County Public Health, County Office of Emergency Services, County Department Managers, Forest Service Representatives, and other local agencies on recent developments relating to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and possible action/direction to staff.

The Director of Health reported on the current COVID-19 case rates, and hospital and ICU admissions throughout the state; the current masking requirements; an increase in Sierra County COVID-19 cases; the County Health Officer's masking order to align with the California Department of Public Health's recent order; vaccination clinics; and delayed vaccinations for children aged 6 months to 4 years old.

The County Health Officer commented on the County Health Department not issuing vaccines to children aged 6 months to 4 years old as they are not licensed to issue vaccines to this age group.

The Director continued to report on testing availability, and the impacts of COVID-19 to businesses and the public as it is more contagious and deadly than the flu.

- 6.B. Discussion/action regarding conducting meetings of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors in accordance with AB 361 and Sierra County Resolution 2021-140. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Following brief discussion and by consensus, the Board directed continuing to conduct hybrid meetings in accordance with AB 361 and Sierra County Resolution 2021-140.

- 6.D. Discussion/action on request from Northern California EMS, Inc. for a donation to the Dan Spiess Certification Assistance Fund established to reduce Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) certification costs. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Supervisor Adams recommended allocating up to \$2,000 of COVID funding since this impacts EMTs and First Responders.

The Auditor clarified the \$2,000 is currently available in the budget, but he will also mark it as a potential use of COVID funding.

The Board moved to authorize \$2,000 to Northern California EMS, Inc. for a donation to the Dan Spiess Certification Assistance Fund established to reduce Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) certification costs.

APPROVED. Motion: Huebner/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

7. PUBLIC WORKS/TRANSPORTATION - TIM BEALS

7.A. Discussion and direction on current discussions of the North Yuba Forest Partnership.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the controversy brewing with respect to the Nature Conservancy's recent position on the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Forest Service, which is viewed as a breach of trust within the partnership.

Chair Roen commented on some of the recommended changes that came from a recent meeting regarding this issue.

In response in Supervisor Dryden's inquiry regarding what the controversy is over, Chair Roen clarified that it is over tree size as the Nature Conservancy doesn't want to cut anything over 30". Chair Roen further explained that there has been some significant input from several professional agencies on what is considered a sustainable forest based on the recent catastrophic events as there are a lot of models to show there are too many trees irrelevant of the size.

Chair Roen continued to comment that if Sierra County is going to support the project, we want to make sure it will provide a positive outcome and Danielle Bradfield (County Forester) is willing and ready to support our position.

Supervisor Adams indicated he is willing to give the Chair the authority to threaten Sierra County's leaving the partnership if the county's wishes are being ignored.

Considerable discussion ensued with the Board.

Following discussion and by consensus, the Board directed the Chair to represent the County's best interest with respect to the North Yuba Forest Partnership.

7.B. Resolution rescinding Resolution 2021-145 and approving expenditures under the Fiscal Year 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Director provided considerable background on the 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program expenditure priorities previously adopted by the Board and the proposed changes to upgrade systems within the Sheriff's office, which expenditures are eligible under the Homeland Security Grant Program.

Board discussion ensued.

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In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry regarding the potential impacts to the Information Technology Department, the Director clarified that the additional work falls to the vendor.

The Chief Technology Officer clarified the impacts to his department which will be approximately 80% on external agencies and 20% falling to his department as they are the first line of defense.

Supervisor Dryden further questioned if the Office of Emergency Services should be transferred to the Sheriff's office and suggested adding this discussion to a future agenda.

Following discussion, the Board moved to adopt the resolution rescinding Resolution 2021-145 and approving expenditures under the Fiscal Year 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2022-017. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

7.C. Resolution rescinding Resolution 2021-146 and approving expenditures under the Fiscal Year 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution rescinding Resolution 2021-146 and approving expenditures under the Fiscal Year 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2022-018. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

7.D. Discussion and direction on identified repairs needed at the Kentucky Mine Trestle to preserve its structural status and to allow continued use during mine tours by the public.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the structural issues with the trestle, which repairs are estimated to cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The Director continued to explain that this is a looming expense that must be accommodated, and he is continuing to look for external funding sources.

In response to Supervisor Huebner's inquiry, the Director indicated that the Historical Society has not discussed whether the Kentucky Mine will be open this summer, but the trestle will not operate.

Supervisor Adams commented on the importance of the trestle as an integral part of the tour at the Kentucky Mine and would support keeping this going.

No action taken.

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- 7.E. Discussion and direction on SB 552 (Hertzberg) requiring that the County create a "Drought and Water Shortage Task Force" among other requirements for water systems serving in excess of 1000 service connections and for water systems serving less than 1000 service connections.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the requirements of a drought task force under SB 552 and suggested appointing a drought draft task force.

Following discussion and by consensus, the Board directed the Director to bring back an item on the suggested organization/membership of the drought task force for advertising.

- 7.F. Discussion and direction on proposed rulemaking of the Department of Conservation impacting surface mining operations and permitted mines.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the legislation signed into law last year that requires all state and local agencies to purchase specific software to be able to translate and submit documentation to the state, which will be at a cost of \$18,000 to \$25,000 to the county. The Director further suggested discussing this with the department managers prior to moving forward.

No action taken.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER REPORTS continued

The Director of Planning reported on PG&E's grant program for projects \$100,000 or less, due March 4th for clearing utility right of ways.

Chair Roen suggested discussing this program with the Sierra County Fire Safe Council at their meeting this Friday to determine a project.

8. CLOSED SESSION

- 8.A. Conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, David Prentice Negotiator, Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) bargaining unit.

CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT

The Board met in closed session from 10:56 a.m. to 11:27 a.m.

County Counsel reported that information and direction was given to staff.

ADJOURN

At 11:27 a.m., with no further business, Chair Roen adjourned the meeting.

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PAUL ROEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD