

CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Vice-Chair Lent called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.
PRESENT	Melissa Best-Baker, Chair David Lent, Vice-Chair Maggie Egan, Secretary Laura Smith, Treasurer Jean Turner, Member at Large Adam Hawkins, Chief Medical Officer Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Business Development Officer Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial Officer
ABSENT	Recused from closed session: Melissa Best-Baker, Chair Absent from closed session: Laura Smith, Treasurer Absent from entire meeting: Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer
TELECONFERENCING	Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS	Vice-Chair Lent reported that at this time, audience members may speak only on closed session agenda items. Public Comment: None
ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION	Adjourn to closed session at 3:30 pm.
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION	Return to open session at 4:20 pm.
BREAK	Break 4:20-5:00 pm.
REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION	Attorney Giragosian stated there was no reportable action.
PUBLIC COMMENT	Chair Best-Baker reported that at this time, audience members may speak on any items not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Board. Public Comment: None
CONSENT AGENDA	Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Motion by Lent to approve the consent agenda.

2nd: Turner

Pass: 5-0

The following items were approved:

Approval of minutes for June 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

California Public Records Act – Information Requests

Compliance Program for Northern Inyo Healthcare District

Governmental and Regulatory Agency Access Policy

Just Culture Policy

Language Access Services

Record Retention and Destruction Policy

Sanctions for Breach of Patient Privacy Policies

Service and Therapy Animals and Pets in District Buildings

Standardized Protocol – Minor Surgical Policy for the Physician Assistant

CONSIDERATION OF
CREDENTIALING
ACTIONS
RECOMMENDED BY THE
MEDICAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Motion by Egan to approve the credentialing actions recommended by the
Medical Executive Committee

2nd: Smith

Pass: 5-0

The following credentials were approved:

Medical Staff Initial Appointments 2026-2027 (*action item*)

Holly Wilbur, NP (*women's health nurse practitioner*) – Advanced
Practice Provider Staff

David Sarver, MD (*diagnostic radiology*) - Telemedicine Staff (GTR)

MEDICAL STAFF
OFFICERS 2026-2027

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Motion by Smith to approve the Medical Staff Officers for 2026-2027

2nd: Turner

Pass: 5-0

The Board approved the following Medical Staff Officers for July 1, 2026
through June 30, 2027.

Chief of Staff: Samantha Jeppsen, M.D.

Vice Chief of Staff: Anne Wakamiya, M.D.

Immediate Past Chief of Staff: Sierra Bourne, M.D.

Member-at-large: David Lichtenfeld, M.D.
Member-at-large: Chelsea Robinson, M.D.
Chief/Chair of Emergency Services: Samantha Jeppsen, M.D.
Chief/Chair Inpatient Medicine: James Tur, M.D.
Chief/Chair Outpatient Medicine: Anne Wakamiya, M.D.
Chief/Chair Radiology: Bradley Clark, M.D.
Chief of Obstetrics: Martha Kim, M.D.
Chief of Pediatrics: Lindsey Ricci, M.D.
Chief of Surgery: Connor Wiles, M.D.
Chief of Orthopedics: Brian Gilmer, M.D.
Chief of Anesthesia: Theodore Rasoumoff, M.D.
Chair of Peri-peds: Lindsey Ricci, M.D.
Chair of SITA: Theodore Rasoumoff, M.D.

MEDICAL STAFF BYLAW
AMENDMENTS

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Motion by Egan to approve the Medical Staff Bylaw amendments

2nd: Lent

Pass: 5-0

RESOLUTION 26-02
FINDING OF EXEMPTION
FROM APPROPRIATIONS
LIMIT

Best-Baker recused herself from consideration of this item. Vice Chair Lent presided over the discussion.

Consultant Scaglione presented Resolution 26-02, explaining that the District qualifies for an exemption from the Gann Appropriations Limit because its share of the one percent property tax was less than 12.5 percent in 1979. He reported that the District had continued submitting Gann limit calculations to Inyo County since 1995, resulting in property tax credits to taxpayers and corresponding withholdings from the District. He stated that the proposed resolution would discontinue the unnecessary calculations going forward and eliminate future tax withholdings.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The Board clarified that the proposed action applies prospectively and does not address recovery of previously withheld funds. Board members thanked Scaglione for identifying the issue and conducting the research supporting the recommendation.

Motion by Turner to approve Resolution 26-02

2nd: Smith

Pass: 4-0

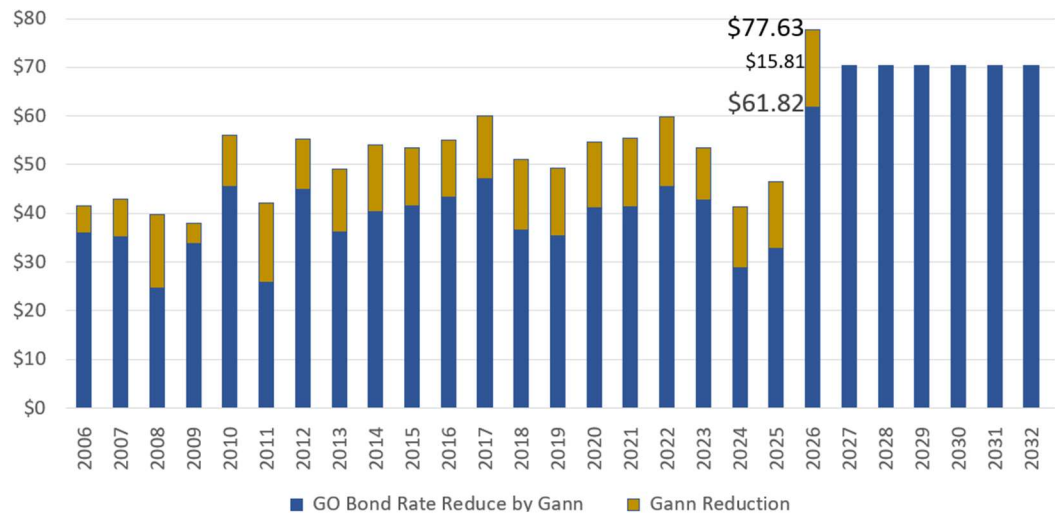
Recused: Best-Baker

RESOLUTION 26-03
REQUESTING THE LEVY
OF TAX ON THE
TAXABLE PROPERTY OF
THE DISTRICT TO BE
COLLECTED ON THE TAX
ROLLS OF THE COUNTY
OF INYO FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2026-27

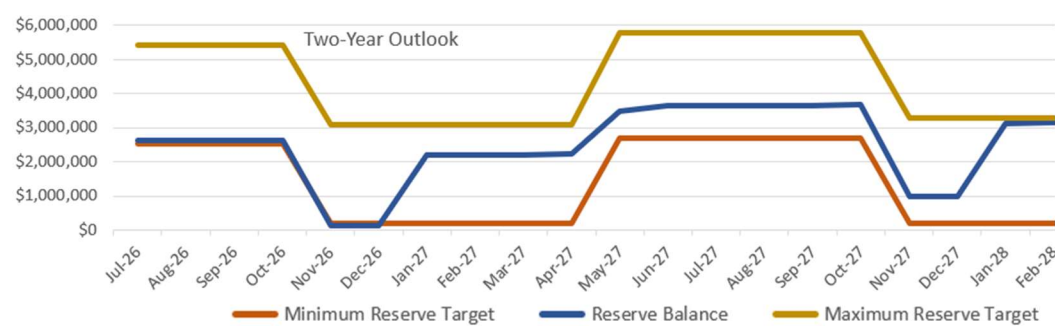
Best-Baker recused herself from consideration of this item. Vice Chair Lent presided over the discussion.

Consultant Scaglione presented the proposed General Obligation (GO) Bond tax levy for fiscal year 2026–2027, providing an overview of the District's outstanding GO bonds, the statutory requirement to levy property taxes sufficient to meet debt service obligations, and the methodology used to evaluate tax rate options. He reviewed several scenarios designed to balance long-term financial stability with minimizing the impact on taxpayers, discussed reserve funding projections and underlying financial assumptions, and recommended adopting option 3, a stable tax rate of \$74.05 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation to fully fund reserves over a five-year period.

Option 3 – Fully Fund Reserve in Five Years



Option 3 shown above fully funds the GO Bond reserve maximum target within five years and results in a decrease of \$7.31, -9.4%.





Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Motion by Smith to approve Resolution 26-03 using option 3

2nd: Egan

Pass: 4-0

Recused: Best-Baker

CHIEF OPERATION
OFFICER / CHIEF
NURSING OFFICER
REPORT

Capital Update

CNO/COO Partridge reported that capital purchases had been prioritized and scheduled across all four fiscal quarters and that several first-quarter projects were underway, including procurement of an ultrasonic cleaner for Sterile Processing, evaluation of a new arthroscope set for surgical services, and initiation of asphalt repairs throughout the District campus. She also reported that planning had begun for the District's MRI replacement project, which will include installation of a temporary mobile MRI unit during construction. The new MRI system is expected to provide advanced imaging capabilities, improve patient comfort through reduced scan times, and increase appointment capacity.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Inpatient Dialysis

CNO/COO Partridge reported that the contract for the District's inpatient dialysis program had been fully executed following resolution of legal and regulatory requirements. She stated that equipment procurement would be the next phase of the project and noted that the District anticipates receiving grant funding to offset a significant portion of the equipment costs. She emphasized that the inpatient dialysis program will complement, Toiyabe's Renal Care outpatient dialysis services by allowing hospitalized patients to receive dialysis locally.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Board members expressed support for the program, recognizing its benefit to patients by providing inpatient dialysis services within the community and reducing the need for travel.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Strategic Growth Wipfli/WOLD Update

CNO/COO Partridge reported that Wipfli/Wold continues to analyze healthcare utilization data received from HCAI, supplemented by patient utilization data provided by Renown Health, to identify service line expansion opportunities that best meet community needs. She stated that planning for the proposed medical office building is progressing, including refinement of preliminary cost estimates and financing considerations. She also reported that Wipfli/Wold assisted the District in developing a transitional plan to reconfigure the existing PMA building, increasing exam room capacity to support expanded specialty services while planning for the future medical office building

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Board members requested a copy of the current draft PMA building layout, noting that multiple versions had been circulated within the community.

RHTP (Rural Health Transformation Project)

CNO/COO Partridge reported that the District is preparing applications for several upcoming grant opportunities, including an accelerator grant focused on recruitment and retention of maternal health providers. The proposed regional partnership includes Mammoth Hospital and Southern Inyo Hospital. She also reported that additional grant opportunities related to health information technology and electronic health record advancements are being pursued as funding opportunities become available.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Tele-nephrology Equipment Update

CNO/COO Partridge reported that the District anticipates receiving grant funding to support the purchase of tele-nephrology equipment for the inpatient dialysis program. She stated that the funding would offset a significant portion of the equipment costs and support implementation of the new service.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

**Grant Update
Telemedicine Equipment (USDA)**

CNO/COO Partridge reported that the District is pursuing a USDA grant to assist with funding telemedicine equipment. She stated that the grant would support the District's efforts to expand access to specialty care through telemedicine services and help offset equipment costs

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Financial and Statistical Report

CFO Mossman reported favorable financial results, with net income exceeding budget due to strong orthopedic surgical volumes, a favorable payer mix, supplemental revenue, and higher-than-expected interest income. She noted that operating expenses exceeded budget primarily due to unbudgeted salary increases and higher service volumes, while the District continues to improve operational efficiency, strengthen physician recruitment, manage labor costs, and enhance revenue cycle performance. She also reported continued improvement in the District's financial position, including increased cash reserves, reduced accounts receivable days, compliance with bond covenants, and positive cash flow, while noting that the one-time Employee Retention Credit contributed significantly to year-to-date results.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Motion by Lent to accept the Financial and Statistical Report

2nd: Egan

Pass: 5-0

GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE

Advocacy Update

Presentation:

Legislative Advocate Madden provided an update on the 2026 legislative session, State budget, and priority healthcare legislation.

- **AB 1923** – Continues to advance and establishes loan forgiveness criteria for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program. Funding for the program was included in the State budget.
- **AB 2353** – Would have required fiscal impact analyses for new hospital mandates but is no longer moving forward following an agreement between the California Hospital Association and SEIU.
- **AB 2208** – Aligns California Medi-Cal law with H.R. 1 by addressing Medi-Cal copay requirements and maintaining retroactive eligibility provisions.
- **AB 1607** – Extends the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund to continue supporting reimbursement for uncompensated emergency care.
- **H.R. 8209** – Would establish a federal grant program to support school-based health centers.

- **SB 101** – Includes funding for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program and Distressed Hospital Grant Program and delays several proposed Medi-Cal program reductions.
- **SB 110** – Establishes a new Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax consistent with updated federal requirements. Madden reported the tax will not apply to the District's self-funded employee health plan.
- **SB 132** – Applies California sales tax to digital prewritten software beginning January 1, 2027. District staff are evaluating the potential financial impact.
- **AB 177** – Requires the Department of Finance to develop options for employer contributions toward Medi-Cal costs. Madden reported that any future funding structure would require additional legislative action.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Board members discussed the potential impact of the Fair Share from Big Corporations Act on Medi-Cal funding. Madden explained that any future revenue distribution methodology has not yet been established and would require additional legislative action before the details of the proposal are known.

Media Policy

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Motion by Egan to approve the Media Policy

2nd: Turner

Pass: 5-0

**GENERAL INFORMATION
FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members recognized the life and legacy of Judd Symons, acknowledging his decades of service to emergency medical services throughout the Eastern Sierra and his lasting impact on the community. Members reflected on his commitment to patient care, his leadership in developing local ambulance services, and his later work supporting air medical transport. Several members also noted the strong community attendance at his memorial service and recognized the District staff who attended in support of his family and legacy.

Director Smith reported attending a community meet-and-greet with Congressman Tom McClintock and noted that the small attendance provided an opportunity to discuss healthcare-related issues affecting the region.

Director Turner also reported participating in the Association of California Healthcare Districts Education Committee, which continues planning for the upcoming annual conference. She noted that a proposed presentation on the District's General Obligation Bond work was not selected because it was

considered unique to the District's circumstances.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 6:30 pm.



Melissa Best-Baker
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Chair

Attest:



Maggie Egan
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Secretary