

# Board Meeting

## Governance Meeting - May 12, 2026

### Agenda

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### **Mission**

\* Strong Stewardship \* Ethical Oversight \*  
\*Eternal Local Access \*

### **Vision Statement**

To be an energized, high performing advocate for the communities we serve, our patients and our staff. The board governs with an eye on the future of health care and its effects on the District and patient care. The Board is committed to continuous evaluation, dedication to our mission, and improvements as a board.

### **Values**

\* Integrity \* Innovate Vision \* Stewardship \* Teamwork \*

## **NOTICE**

### **NORTHERN INYO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT Board of Directors' Governance Committee Meeting**

**May 12, 2026 at 2:00 pm**

The Governance Committee will meet in person at 150 Pioneer Lane. Members of the public will be allowed to attend in person or via Zoom. Public comments can be made in person or via Zoom.

TO CONNECT VIA ZOOM: (A link is also available on the NIHD Website)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86114057527>

Webinar ID: 861 1405 7527

Passcode: 898843

#### **PHONE CONNECTION:**

(669) 444-9171

(253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 861 1405 7527

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1. Call to Order at 2:00 pm
  2. Public Comment: At this time, members of the audience may speak only on items listed on this Notice. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes, with a total of thirty (30) minutes for all public comments unless modified by the Chair. The Board is prohibited from discussing or taking action on items not listed on this Notice. Speaking time may not be transferred to another person, except when arrangements have been made in advance for a designated spokesperson to represent a large group. Comments must be brief, non-repetitive, and respectful.
  3. Old Business
    - a) Advocacy Update – Information Item
    - b) Joint Board Meeting – Information Item
  4. New Business
    - a) Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2026 – Action Item
    - b) Values and Tag Lines – Action Item
  5. General Information from Board Members – Information Item

6. Adjournment

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require special accommodations to participate in a District Board Governance Committee meeting, please contact the administration at (760) 873-2838 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.*

Date Updated: 4/20/25

# NIHD Legislation Tracker

No.	Priority	Category	Legislation	Description	Status	Position			Action	Notes
						ACHD	NIHD	CSDA		
	1		AB 1923 - Soria	Distressed Hospital Loan Program - \$300 million	In Asm Appropriations	Support		Support		CHA is the sponsor
	1		AB 2353 - Pacheco	Requires review of any new mandate for hospitals	In Asm Appropriations	Support		Watch		CHA is the sponsor
	1		AB 1811 - Rogers	Health Professions Shortage Areas preservation	In Asm Appropriations	Sponsor		Support		ACHD is sponsor
	1		AB 1900 - Kalra	Single payer health system	In Rules	None		Watch		
	1		AB 2208 - Stefani	Puts in place co pays for Medi-Cal as required by HR-1	In Asm Appropriations	None		None		
	1		AB 1671 - Tangipa	Creates grant program for providers to serve in rural areas	In Asm Appropriations -Suspens	None		Watch		
	1		AB 2665 - Tangipa	Budget request for Northern and Southern Inyo HCDs	Pulled	None	Support	None	Letter Sent 4/7/26	
	2		AB 2282 - Alanis	Free Standing Emergency Department for Del Puerto HCD	In Asm Appropriations	None		Support		
	2		AB 2311 - Schiavo	Healthcare Districts hiring physicians	In Asm Appropriations	Sponsor	Support	Support	Letter Sent 3/16/26	
	2		AB 1607 - M. Gonzalez	Extension of sunset for Maddy Emergency Medical Services	In Senate	None		Watch		
	2		AB 2729 - Bonta	Employer fee for employees on Medi-Cal	In Asm Appropriations	None		Watch		
	2		SB 1422 - Durazo	status to apply for full scope Medi-Cal	In Sen Appropriations	None		None		
	3		SB 1187 - Durazo	Brown Act - Relates to what makes majority for a legislative b	In Local Government	None		Watch		
	3		AB 2131 - Rubio	facilities or hospices from seismic requirements.	In Asm Health - Dead for 2026	None		Support		
	1		HR 8209 - Tonko	Bipartisan legislation introduced to extend School-Based Hea	House Committee	None	Support	None		
	1		AB 2386 - Alvarez	Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program						

- CALL TO ORDER** Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Finance Committee Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.
- PRESENT** Maggie Egan, Finance Committee Chair  
Melissa Best-Baker, Finance Committee Vice-Chair  
  
Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer  
Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer  
Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial Officer  
Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Business Development Officer  
Patty Dickson, Compliance Officer
- TELECONFERENCING** Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Finance Chair Egan 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
- BUDGET UPDATE** CEO Wallis expressed, WE have finished the expense budget process and the revenue budget process. The next steps are to review both revenue and expense budgets next month and determine if/where we need to reduce expenses or add revenue. This is still on track for a May Board approval.  
  
**Public Comment:** None  
  
**Board Discussion:** None
- CAPITAL SPENDING** CFO Mossman presented an update on the capital spending plan, including the approved \$2 million capital budget and approximately \$843,000 spent to date. She reviewed completed and in-progress projects, identified approximately \$354,000 in funds available for reallocation, and noted increased costs for the medical air compressor replacement, while CNO/COO Partridge provided additional detail on equipment needs and replacement of diagnostic imaging machines.  
  
**Public Comment:** None  
  
**Board Discussion:**  
Board members discussed flexibility to reallocate capital funds within the approved budget, expectations for quarterly reporting, and clarification that the approved capital budget serves as a framework rather than a fixed itemized list. There was general agreement to maintain oversight through regular updates rather than requiring additional approvals for each adjustment.

CEO Wallis introduced consultant Tom to present a comprehensive update on the district's general obligation (GO) bonds, including debt structure, repayment trends, and historical financial performance. The presentation highlighted issues with prior debt structuring, including escalating debt service exceeding assessed value growth, resulting in an estimated deficit that required operating funds to cover bond obligations.

The consultant also outlined corrective strategies, including stabilizing tax rates, separating bond-related funds from operational accounts, improving financial reporting and disclosures, and exploring refinancing options. Emphasis was placed on strengthening long-term financial sustainability and aligning practices with the expectations of credit rating agencies.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed historical handling of bond accounts, including prior consolidation of funds, challenges in accessing older financial records, and the need to reestablish clear financial controls and transparency. There was also discussion of current efforts to isolate bond-related funds and improve tracking moving forward.

APPROVAL OF MEETING  
MINUTES

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:** None

**Motion by** Best-Baker to approve meeting minutes from March 10, 2026  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Egan**  
**Pass: 2-0**

ESEP CONTRACT

CEO Wallis presented information regarding the ESEP contract, outlining its purpose and role in supporting district operations and infrastructure planning. He provided an overview of the contract scope and how it aligns with current financial and operational priorities.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed the contract's scope, its value to the organization, and how it fits within broader strategic and financial planning efforts.

**Motion by** Best-Baker to forward ESEP contract to the full board  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Egan**  
**Pass: 2-0**

RURAL  
TRANSFORMATION  
PROGRAM

CEO Wallis presented an overview of the Rural Health Transformation Program, a state-supported initiative providing approximately \$233 million in funding for rural healthcare systems. He described ongoing efforts to collaborate with regional partners to submit a joint application focused on

projects such as EMR implementation, telehealth expansion, workforce recruitment and retention, and development of a clinically integrated network.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed regional collaboration, eligibility requirements, and potential project priorities, including cross-state partnerships and long-term operational impacts. There was general interest in positioning the district competitively for available funding.

USDA RURAL HEALTH  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM

CEO Wallis presented information on the USDA Rural Health Technical Assistance Program, which was introduced through outreach from federal representatives. He explained that the program offers a no-cost comprehensive consultant review of hospital operations and provides access to potential low- or zero-interest financing options, including extended-term loans, to support identified improvements.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed the potential value of participating in the program, including opportunities for external evaluation, financial support, and alignment with ongoing improvement efforts.

FINANCIAL AND  
STATISTICAL REPORT

CEO Wallis presented the financial and statistical report, providing an overview of current financial performance, including revenue, expenses, and key operational metrics. The report highlighted ongoing efforts to stabilize finances, improve cash flow, and monitor performance indicators across departments.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:** None

GENERAL INFORMATION  
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 9:50 am

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Maggie Egan  
Northern Inyo Healthcare District  
Finance Committee Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Best-Baker





DATE: May 2026  
TO: Board of Directors, Northern Inyo Healthcare District  
FROM: Christian Wallis, CEO  
RE: Values and Taglines

## MEMORANDUM

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### Background

At the March 2026 Board meeting, the Mission and Vision statements were reviewed and approved.

- **Mission:** Northern Inyo Healthcare District provides health care services to improve the quality of life and health for all we serve.
- **Vision:** Northern Inyo Healthcare District will be known throughout the Eastern Sierra Region for providing high quality, compassionate, comprehensive care in coordination with regional partners.

The next step in completing the District’s strategic framework is to finalize the organizational values and tagline.

### Discussion

Multiple versions of organizational values currently exist across the District:

- **NIH.org Website Values:**  
Core Values (Compassion, Integrity); Aspirational Values (Quality/Excellence, Innovation); Permissive Values (Team-Based Care, Safety)
- **NIH.org Board of Directors Values:**  
Integrity; Innovative Vision; Stewardship; Teamwork
- **2024 Strategic Plan Values (Recommended):**
  - Respect – Trust, engagement, courtesy, professionalism, and empathy
  - Compassion – Leading with empathy to preserve dignity
  - Stewardship – Mindful use of resources
  - Excellence – Pursuit of excellence in quality and safety
  - Accountability – Reliable access to exceptional care

Tagline options were reviewed. The current tagline, “One Team, One Goal, Your Health,” continues to resonate with staff and the community and is already incorporated throughout District marketing and communications materials. Maintaining the current tagline supports consistency in branding and organizational messaging moving forward.

## **Recommendations**

Approve adoption of the following values.

### **Values:**

- Compassion
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence
- Stewardship