

UNADOPTED MINUTES

**Monterey County Workforce Development Board
Executive Committee Meeting**

America's Job Center of California, 344 Salinas Street
Suites 205 & 206, Salinas, CA 93901

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Members Present: Erik Cushman (Chair) and Cesar Lara

Members Absent: Paula Calvetti

Staff Present: Christopher Donnelly, Elizabeth Kaylor, Pearl Sanchez, Vanessa Kor

Public Comment: None

Call to Order/Introductions: Erik Cushman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

Changes to Agenda: A motion was made by Cesar Lara to table Items 10 and 11 for consideration at a future meeting, seconded by Erik Cushman. Motion passed.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **Action:** Consider approval of minutes from the Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) Executive Committee meeting on November 20, 2025.
A motion was made by Cesar Lara to approve the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting on November 20, 2025, seconded by Erik Cushman. Motion passed.

Discussion or Review of Business Calendar Action Items:

1. **ACTION:** Consider and approve the appointment of Cynthia Benitez, representing Labor, for a three-year term, and that the MCWDB forward the reappointment to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
A motion was made by Cesar Lara to approve the appointment of Cynthia Benitez to the Workforce Development Board, seconded by Erik Cushman. Motion passed.
2. **ACTION:** Consider and approve the reappointment of Casey Van Den Heuvel, representing Labor, for a three-year term, and that the MCWDB forward the reappointment to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
A motion was made by Cesar Lara to approve the reappointment of Casey Van Den Heuvel to the Workforce Development Board, seconded by Erik Cushman. Motion passed.
3. **ACTION:** Consider and approve the proposed amendments to MCWDB's Bylaws. Upon hearing this agenda item and reviewing the materials, the Executive Committee requested copies of the current MCWDB Bylaws with the changes in redline to be provided to the Executive Committee via email following the meeting.
A motion was made by Cesar Lara and seconded by Erik Cushman to approve the proposed amendments to MCWDB's Bylaws. Motion Passed.
4. The Executive Director provided an update on MCWDB's 2025-26 2nd Quarter budget.
5. Item 8 was heard out of order at the request of the Chair. The Executive Committee discussed the recruitment of a Board member for the Executive Committee.
6. Management Analyst Vanessa Kor provided an update on Item 5, the Pajaro Business Relief Program.
7. Executive Director Christopher Donnelly provided an update on Item 6, the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD) annual program, fiscal, and procurement monitoring for Program Year 2024-25.
8. Under Item 7, Lucy Iracheta from Equus's Adult/Dislocated Worker program and Michael Artalejo from Turning Point's Youth program provided updates on the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs.
9. The Executive Director and the Committee discussed the California Workforce Development Board Executive Director's visit to the central coast anticipated for February 18 and 19, 2026.
10. Item 12, Updates on Executive Committee members' workforce and business activities, was deferred to a future meeting.

Adjournment: Chair Erik Cushman adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:57 a.m.