

UNADOPTED MINUTES

Monterey County Workforce Development Board Special Meeting

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

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Members Present: Cesar Lara (2nd Vice Chair), Alma Diaz, Omar Perez-Sandoval, Casey Van Den Heuvel, Justin McIntire, Paula Calvetti, Roger Gilbert, Kimberly Schnader, Efrain Aguilera, and Salvador Munoz

Members Absent: Erik Cushman (Chair), Michael Gutierrez, Mark Faylor, Arpi Tanilian, Larry Hartman, Josh Metz, and Supervisor Luis Alejo

Staff Present: Chris Donnelly, Elizabeth Kaylor, Vanessa Kor, and Daisy Fernandez

Public Comment: None

Call to Order/Introductions: Cesar Lara called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and asked for introductions. A quorum was established.

Changes to Agenda: None

Consent Calendar:

1. **ACTION:** Consider approval of minutes from the Special Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) meeting of October 30, 2025.
2. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's January 15, 2026, recommendation to ratify the appointment of Cynthia Benitez, representing Labor, to the MCWDB.
3. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's January 15, 2026, recommendation to ratify the reappointment of Casey Van Den Heuvel, representing Labor, to the MCWDB.
4. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's February 12, 2026, recommendation to approve the reappointment of Erik Cushman, representing Business, to the MCWDB, and forward the appointment to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
5. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's February 12, 2026, recommendation to approve the reappointment of Arpi Tanilian, representing Business, to the MCWDB, and forward the appointment to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
6. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's February 12, 2026, recommendation to approve the reappointment of Efrain Aguilera, representing Labor, to the MCWDB, and forward the appointment to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
7. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's February 12, 2026, recommendation to approve the reappointment of Justin McIntire, representing the State's Department of Rehabilitation, to the MCWDB, and forward the appointment to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
8. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's January 15, 2026, recommendation to ratify its approval of the proposed amendments to the MCWDB's Bylaws.
9. **ACTION:** Concur with the Executive Committee's February 12, 2026, recommendation to consider and approve the following Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) policy:
 - #2026-01: Supportive Services Policy and Guidance

A motion was made by Casey Van Den Heuvel to approve all items on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Paula Calvetti. ALL AYES. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion or Review of Business Calendar Action Items:

1. A presentation was provided by Deputy County Counsel Anne Brereton on Senate Bill 707, the Brown Act Modernization Act of 2025.
2. **ACTION:** Authorize the MCWDB, as an Eligible Subsidiary Body, to teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.6.

A motion was made by Casey Van Den Heuvel to authorize the MCWDB to teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.6, seconded by Alma Diaz. ALL AYES. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Management Analyst Elizabeth Kaylor provided an update to the Committee on Assembly Bill (AB) 339 implementation.
4. The Executive Director provided an update on AB 642 and local area Rapid Response activities.
5. Management Analyst Vanessa Kor provided an update on the Pajaro Small Business Assistance program.
6. Finance Manager Daisy Fernandez provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2025-26 2nd Quarter budget and expenditures.
7. 2nd Vice Chair Cesar Lara discussed the California Workforce Development Board Executive Director's visit to the workforce development boards of the central coast.
8. Lucy Iracheta, Lourdes Luviano, and Michael Artalejo provided an update on the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs.
9. Cesar Lara led a discussion on MCWDB's 2026-2028 Strategic Plan.
10. Board members provided updates on their workforce and business activities.

Adjournment: Mr. Cesar Lara adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.