

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
February 5, 2026**

ROOM 525, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners, Vice-Chair Everard called the Commission meeting to order at 10:38 am.

**2. OF APPROVAL COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES**

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Benjamin Everard  
Aaron Greenberg  
Jordan Greer  
Jacob Haik  
Cathy Hood  
Steven Lei  
Katherine McKeon  
Dora Sandoval  
Irene Shandell-Taylor  
John Anthony Schmitz  
Connie Sullivan  
Vasken Yardemian  
Cesar Zaldivar-Motts

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

Teresa Dreyfuss  
Thomas Liu  
Peter Lyons  
Stephen Pritchard  
Craig Taubman  
Jennifer Williams

**3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2026, MINUTES**

Vice-Chair Everard asked if there were any objections or changes to the minutes of the January 8, 2026, Commission meeting. Hearing no changes, the motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the January 8, 2026, Commission meetings were approved.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER**

Joshua Yahr stated that he is an accomplished global business leader with over a decade of leadership experience across the consumer products, agriculture, technology, and manufacturing sectors. He stated that he currently serves as Director of Marketing for The Wonderful Company. He stated that in this capacity, he oversees marketing operations for Wonderful Citrus, the United States' largest integrated grower, packer, and shipper of citrus fruits. He also stated that prior to joining The Wonderful Company, he spent several years living and working in Asia, where he led international marketing initiatives for a prominent Taiwanese electronics manufacturer and subsequently held an international leadership role at Land O'Lakes, Inc.

He stated that a longstanding commitment to public service is rooted in his early career, with experience serving at the local, state, and federal levels of government. He expressed his eagerness to serve on the Commission and looks forward to gaining further insights into the work of the Commission.

### **REPORTS**

#### **i. CCJCC**

There was nothing new to report.

#### **ii. E&E COMMISSION PROJECTS**

Administrative Assistant Pittmon will send out a date and time for upcoming task force meetings with each task force. Administrative Assistant Pittmon stated that the task force meetings would be on MS Teams. She also noted that each task force will rotate in-person meetings after the Commission meetings.

**AI Task Force:** Cathy Hood (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Schmitz (2<sup>nd</sup>), Steven Lei (3<sup>rd</sup>), Thomas Liu (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ben Everard (5<sup>th</sup>), Connie Sullivan (4<sup>th</sup>), Aaron Greenberg (2<sup>nd</sup>), Irene Shandell-Taylor (CGJ).

Commissioner Hood announced that the task force is scheduled to convene next week and has incorporated additional members. She indicated that the task force will revisit its initial plans to determine the thesis statement and the scope of work. She emphasized her commitment to advancing efforts regardless of the level of support, expressing her desire to maintain momentum.

**Rental Assistance Task Force:** Jennifer Williams (2<sup>nd</sup>), Craig Taubman (1<sup>st</sup>), Cathy Hood (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Schmitz (1<sup>st</sup>), Dora Sandoval (4<sup>th</sup>), Katie McKeon (2<sup>nd</sup>), Aaron Greenberg (2<sup>nd</sup>).

Administrative Assistant Pittmon stated that there was nothing new to report.

**Hiring & Onboarding Task Force:** Katie McKeon (2<sup>nd</sup>), Connie Sullivan (4<sup>th</sup>), Thomas Liu (3<sup>rd</sup>), Jordan Greer (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Commissioner McKeon gave the Commission a presentation on the draft report on The Review of Los Angeles County Hiring Process 2.0, which was a follow-up to the 2017 report. She presented and highlighted the findings and recommendations of the report. Commissioner McKeon requested the Commission's approval so the final report can be distributed to the Board Offices.

Vice-Chair Everard asked the Commission for a motion to approve the report. The report was approved by the commission contingent on minor changes submitted by various Commissioners. Commissioner McKeon reported that she will email the changes and updates to all Commissioners within the next couple of weeks for final approval.

**Return to Work Task Force:** Connie Sullivan (4<sup>th</sup>), Peter Lyons (5<sup>th</sup>)

Commissioner Sullivan briefly summarized what the task force has done thus far. She stated that in the past, the task force has conducted interviews with the Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources, the Department of Public Works, the Los Angeles City Department of Personnel, and the Public Works Department. She stated that interviews were also conducted with personnel from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). She stated that the Human Resources Department has been consulted regarding their disability management programs, specifically concerning protocols related to light-duty work during the recovery process prior to employees being declared permanently stationary and eligible to return to work. It was noted that the Public Works Department and the City of Los Angeles maintain a notably comprehensive program, whereby employees in those departments are generally expected to return to some form of light-duty assignment when injured, provided it is feasible.

Commissioner Sullivan also indicated that there exist several compelling reasons to endorse light-duty programs, including improved productivity and benefits to employee well-being. She remarked that reinstating employees to the workplace mitigates feelings of isolation and promotes social support, which are advantageous for recovery. She further mentioned that an initial draft report, which delineates these findings and recommendations, has been prepared. The report proposes four principal recommendations. Commissioner Sullivan expressed that the implementation of these measures is expected to substantially enhance the effectiveness of the program and foster increased support from department leaders and employees alike.

Administrative Assistant Pittmon stated that she is currently awaiting the completion of the Hiring Process Report before the task force proceeds with disseminating the report for approval by the Commissions.

**6. PRESENTATION**

There was no presentation.

**7. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENT**

There is nothing new to report.

8. **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Administrative Assistant Pittmon reported that, in accordance with the bylaws, E&E will be electing a new Chair for the year 2026. She further stated that part of the selection process involves the formation of a Nominating Committee, which will be composed of one representative from each Board District. Additionally, Administrative Assistant Pittmon emphasized that members of the Nominating Committee will be ineligible to run for Chair.

The Nominating Committee for Chairperson 2026 consists of:

1. Commissioner Schmitz-1<sup>st</sup> District
2. Commissioner Greer-2<sup>nd</sup> District
3. Commissioner Lei-3<sup>rd</sup> District
4. Commissioner Sullivan-4<sup>th</sup> District
5. Commissioner Lyons-5<sup>th</sup> District

Administrative Assistant Pittmon stated that she will send out an email to each District representative of the Chair Nominating Committee with contact information for each of the appointed Commissioners in their respective districts. She stated that she will also send out an email setting up a conference call between the Nominating Committee to discuss the 2026 Chair Nominations.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Everard adjourned the meeting at 11:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Executive Assistant, Aisha Pittmon