

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 8, 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

Lacking a quorum of commissioners, Commissioner McKeon called the Commission meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

2. OF APPROVAL COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Aaron Greenberg
Steven Lei
Katherine McKeon
Irene Shandell-Taylor
John Anthony Schmitz
Connie Sullivan
Jennifer Williams
Vasken Yardemian

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Teresa Dreyfuss
Benjamin Everard
Jordan Greer
Jacob Haik
Cathy Hood
Thomas Liu
Peter Lyons
Stephen Pritchard
Dora Sandoval
Craig Taubman
Cesar Zaldivar-Motts

3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 4, 2025, MINUTES

Commissioner McKeon stated that no corrections or amendments to the December 4, 2025, minutes could be made without a quorum of commissioners.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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 (3rd), John Schmitz (2nd), Steven Lei (3rd), Thomas Liu (3rd), Ben Everard (5th), Connie Sullivan (4th), Aaron Greenberg (2nd), Irene Shandell-Taylor (CGJ).

Administrative Assistant Pittmon reported on behalf of Commissioner Hood that she and Cathy met with the former E&E Director, Ed Eng, in December to obtain a refresher and guidance regarding his initial vision for the AI committee. She indicated that during that meeting, Mr. Eng stated that, given that Los Angeles County is the largest county in the world, there are questions about why funds have been allocated to other initiatives but not to AI. The objective of the AI committee is to prepare a thesis report from the County's perspective, with particular emphasis on the commission boards as a case study.

Administrative Assistant Pittmon articulated that the report should emphasize how AI could serve as a tool to free up resources and potentially reduce costs. Key questions include: What void does AI fill? What proportion of the county's budget is allocated to AI? How does AI ultimately economize for the county? These questions should be explored in the report.

Administrative Assistant Pittmon stated that your assistance is requested. If you are interested in joining the AI committee or have previously expressed interest, please contact Commissioner Hood directly via email. She stated the following actionable steps are necessary to advance the task force efforts:

1. Develop and distribute a survey to the commission boards.
 - a. The aim is to engage with at least fifteen commission boards and encourage their members to complete the survey to provide feedback. We will participate in and speak at their monthly meetings.
2. Jacob will draft and send a formal letter to the Executive Office to seek approval for Ed's support of the AI report.
3. Engage with the CIO's office to understand their perspectives on AI, including reasons for its non-adoption or current status.
4. Continue to invite guest speakers to our meetings.
5. Prepare and finalize a comprehensive report by the second quarter of this year.

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

Commissioner Williams indicated that the task force is currently awaiting a response from the DCBA regarding the list of questions forwarded to them a few months prior. She communicated that she sent an email to the DCBA before the Commissioner meeting today. She expressed concerns that they are engaging in gatekeeping behavior and persistently inquire about the potential use of information, specifically questioning how the information will be utilized if they provide a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with some of the nonprofits involved in administering the program and managing contracts with various community partners.

Commissioner Williams further stated that she responded by indicating that the task force intends to use the MOU to review the contractual terms against the expected program outcomes. She added that the Chief Deputy also inquired about requests for a list of case managers categorized by years of employment and tenure. She noted that the department is attempting to ascertain the relevance of these questions.

In response, Commissioner Williams asserted that the Commission considers this information pertinent, as case managers' experience could influence program outcomes. She also mentioned that the purpose behind this request was not explicitly clarified.

Additionally, Commissioner Williams reported that Administrative Assistant Pittmon had already shared the board motion concerning the program with her. She remarked that the department perceives the intent of the request as lacking clarity.

She further explained that her response was to reiterate that the Board of Supervisors requested that the Commission evaluate the program to ensure alignment with the mission of supporting the county's economic development and efficiency.

Commissioner Williams expressed her belief that Aisha's response, along with the board motion, sufficiently supports the broader justification for the report on the program. She concluded by stating that, with these responses, the task force is optimistic about receiving a reply to their inquiries and requests in the near future.

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

Commissioner McKeon informed that the task force has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, January 13, 2026, to discuss the finalization of the report. She indicated that the report should be prepared for submission to the Commission for review by the following week. Commissioner McKeon requested that all Commissioners review the report promptly to allow her to make any necessary revisions before her upcoming meeting with DHR.

Return to Work Task Force: Connie Sullivan (4th), Peter Lyons (5th)

Commissioner Sullivan reported 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.

She stated that the City of Los Angeles has a comparatively limited program, offering light duty only when an unfilled position exists. She stated that there appears to be an absence of a defined emphasis on reintegrating injured employees into the workforce or differentiating their treatment from those on short-term disability. She also stated that metrics regarding the number of employees on light duty at any given time, or the average duration of such assignments, are not readily available, despite claims of the existence of such practices.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the City of Los Angeles can provide relevant metrics because it uses a separate pay code for employees on light-duty assignments. She stated that the County's Public Works Department outlined an interactive process mandated by the ADA. She stated this process involves meetings between the employee, their representative, and the employer's representative to determine suitable light-duty work based on medical restrictions. She also stated that challenges often arise when employees decline the proposed work restrictions, citing the potential risk of further injury and the need to re-engage with healthcare providers to obtain revised restrictions. She stated this process can be prolonged, particularly if healthcare providers fail to respond promptly to department requests for updated restrictions. She stated that the Public Works Department works with a claims adjuster to obtain these new restrictions, which tend to be more effective because physicians are less likely to ignore requests from claims adjusters than from employees or departmental representatives.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that a definitive study conducted by the RAND Corporation in 2010 indicates that employees placed in light-duty roles return to their permanent or stationary status three to four weeks sooner than those recuperating at home. She stated that it was reported that employees in light-duty roles experience less lifelong wage loss.

Commissioner Sullivan also stated that there are multiple compelling reasons for supporting light-duty programs, including enhanced productivity and benefits to employee well-being. She stated that returning employees to the workplace alleviates feelings of isolation and fosters social support, which are beneficial for recovery.

She stated that an initial draft report outlining these findings and recommendations has been prepared and is under review by Commissioner Lyons. She stated that the report proposes four main recommendations:

1. The establishment of a separate pay code for light-duty assignments by the Auditor-Controller, enabling the County to evaluate performance and identify areas for improvement.
2. Collaboration with claims adjusters to obtain medical restrictions directly from healthcare providers, streamlining the process.
3. Exploration of the feasibility of creating a transitional light-duty job bank, which would facilitate the rapid placement of injured employees into suitable roles.
4. The adoption by the Board of Supervisors of a policy mandating departments to reinstate employees with work-related injuries to transitional light-duty roles whenever feasible.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that implementing these measures is anticipated to significantly enhance program effectiveness and foster greater buy-in from department heads and employees alike.

Commissioner Yardemian asked if the Unions are usually involved in the interview process? Commissioner Sullivan stated that it may require a meet-and-confer.

Commissioner McKeon inquired about the anticipated timeline for the release of the draft report by the task force. Commissioner Sullivan stated that she is currently awaiting a further discussion with Commissioner Lyons, after which the report will be forwarded to the Commissioners for their approval.

5. PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

6. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Liu stated that he attended Commissioner Vincent Wong's funeral on behalf of the Commission. He mentioned that the Supervisor was present, and described the service as beautiful. Commissioner McKeon expressed appreciation to Commissioner Liu for his attendance.

Commissioner Liu stated that the American Society of Public Administration is convening its annual conference in Hollywood in March of this year, featuring approximately five thematic tracks, one of which is dedicated to Artificial Intelligence. Therefore, attending this conference may also be considered worthwhile.

7. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Administrative Pittmon stated that, for the purposes of county cost efficiency and effective use of county time, if the Commission lacks a quorum, it cannot continue to meet. The Commission must have a quorum to approve minutes, agendas, and upcoming reports.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Haik adjourned the meeting at 11:37 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Executive Assistant, Aisha Pittmon