



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE REFORM TASK FORCE
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 W TEMPLE ST., ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025, 5:30 P.M.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Land Acknowledgment.

Interim Director Shadi Kardan called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Before starting the meeting, Interim Director Kardan addressed the abrupt end of the last GRTF meeting and outlined the immediate steps she had taken to prevent a recurrence, emphasizing her commitment to improving operations.

She also explained why the meeting was being held as a “Special GRTF Meeting,” citing the last-minute need to relocate due to a water main issue at the original venue, which had caused a complete water shutoff. Interim Director Kardan thanked the GRTF members, along with County Counsel and Executive Office staff, for their quick and unanimous agreement to relocate the meeting.

Jayson Chan, administrative staff, conducted roll. A quorum was established with 13 members present of 13 seats.

Present: Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, Nancy Yap, and Interim Director Shadi Kardan

Present: Liliana Campos, Assistant County Counsel; Norayr Zurabyan, Assistant County Counsel; and Peter Bollinger, Assistant County Counsel.

The Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement was played.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Action Item: Approval of the July 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes

John Fasana motioned to approve the July 23, 2025, meeting minutes.

1 member of the public in person addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

On motion of John Fasana, seconded by David Green, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 13 – Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Attachments: [July 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Nomination and Election of the Chair and Chair Pro Tem of the GRTF and Consideration of Related Actions

Interim Director Kardan confirmed no GRTF Members moved to modify the nomination and election of GRTF Chair and Chair Pro Tem process, as outlined in the bylaws.

Member Green motioned to nominate Member Rodarte to be the Chair of the GRTF.

Member Steele motioned to nominate Member Mockeridge as Chair of the GRTF. Member Mockeridge declined the nomination.

Member Steele motioned to nominate David Phelps to be the Chair of the GRTF. Member Phelps declined the nomination.

Member Fasana motioned to close nominations for the Chair of the GRTF, seconded by Member Hsieh. Assistant County Counsel Zurabyan commented that the motion is out of order per Robert's Rules because it could not be closed while other members are still making nominations.

Member Steele and Member Calderón Tabatabai raised concerns around the "politicization" of the GRTF processes, and impacts it has on a GRTF leadership position selection in relation to representation on gender and sex.

3 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item: 1 in person and 2 virtually.

Member Soto motioned to nominate Member Yap to be the Chair of the GRTF. Member Yap accepted the nomination "for discussion", seconded by Member Steele.

Interim Director Kardan confirmed that there would be no additional nominations before opening the floor to query the nominated members.

Member Soto inquired about Member Sadhwani's interest in serving as Chair. Member Sadhwani indicated she was not interested in being chair but would consider being chair pro tem.

Member Hsieh asked the nominated members to state their experience and background.

Member Yap shared her experience running meetings efficiently and how she is team oriented.

Member Rodarte shared that he is a non-partisan, military veteran with an educational background in leadership and looks to run the group efficiently. Additionally, he mentioned that he was not interested in being chair for 3 years.

Member Hsieh addressed how Marcel was appointed by a supervisor and asked about his involvement with California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) and whether they operate in all five Supervisorial Districts. Marcel Rodarte confirmed his involvement with CCCA and commented that he meets with all five Supervisors regularly. He noted that he advocates for policies that affect everyone, excluding those in the unincorporated areas of LA County.

Member Gironas ask Member Rodarte to explain what CCCA is for members of the public. Member Rodarte detailed the CCCA's purpose, scope, and structure. Member Gironas then prompted Member Yap to explain what changes she would like to see as chair. Member Yap stated that the meetings could be ran more efficiently.

Member Mockeridge asks the nominated members how they would handle communicating information to media outlets. Member Yap indicated that she is comfortable doing so. Member Rodarte indicated he is also comfortable and experienced in communicating information to the media.

Member Soto asked the nominated members how they would ensure an equity lens on the GRTF's public engagement process. Member Yap responded by sharing her passion for public engagement as a form of civic duty, and Member Rodarte agreed, emphasizing the importance of equity in the process.

Member Steele asked the nominated members to define what measurable success looks like to them. Member Yap responded by describing it in terms of successful inclusivity, while Member Rodarte defined success as the constituency "being heard" and "represented."

Interim Director Kardan proposed closing the nominations and moving to vote. Member Hsieh clarified that based on the GRTF bylaws, that the member nominated first would go to a vote first. The election would end if that member received 7 aye votes. Assistant County Counsel Zurabyan agreed, and administrative staff, Jayson Chan conducted a roll-call vote in reverse order.

Member Rodarte was elected as Chair with 7 aye votes.

Member Neal motioned to nominate Member Yap to be the Chair Pro Tem of the GRTF.

Member Rodarte motioned to nominate Member Phelps to be the Chair Pro Tem of the GRTF.

Member Yap motioned to nominate Member Sadhwani to be the Chair Pro Tem of the GRTF. Member Sadhwani declined the nomination.

Member Gironas motioned to nominate themselves to be the Chair Pro Tem of the GRTF.

Member Fasana motioned to take the election of the Chair Pro Tem to a vote, seconded by Member Mockeridge.

Member Gironas asked to reopen public comment before taking the election of the Chair Pro Tem to a vote. Hearing no objections, Chair Rodarte decided to reopen

public comments following remarks from the three nominated members.

Member Yap thanked the GRTF for recognizing the desire for an at-large member to potentially serve as Chair Pro Tem. Member Phelps indicated that he sees himself as a facilitator, having served as chair for multiple organizations over the past 25 years. Member Gironas indicated they are an active member of 3 ad hoc subcommittees and expressed confidence in their ability to be both productive and prepared.

8 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item: 3 in person and 5 virtually.

Member Yap was elected as Chair Pro Tem with 7 aye votes.

Attachments: [Governance Reform Task Force Bylaws](#)

4. Oral report by County Counsel, as requested at the July 9, 2025, GRTF meeting, on documents presented by Task Force Member, John Fasana (continued from the July 23, 2025, GRTF meeting).

Assistant County Counsel Bollinger provided updates on Measure J and G, highlighting efforts to address administrative errors. He stated that Measure J will remain in effect until 2028 and is subject to the Board decisions and potential Charter amendments. He further stated that the Board is directing actions to consider a draft ordinance to extend Measure J implementation beyond 2028; draft Board Policies to prevent future administrative errors (to be considered September 2, 2025); and a proposed a Charter amendment for 2026 ballot to incorporate Measure J into new governance structure.

Member Fasana questioned why the Board could not simply amend Measure G to reinsert Measure J protections, rather than layering new ordinances and amendments. Additionally, he raised concern about legislative clarity and whether courts might view the fix as insufficient.

Member Steele disapproved reliance on an ordinance, which can be changed by a simple Board majority, rather than a charter amendment, which requires voter approval. He also voiced skepticism about whether the Board's corrective plan truly preserves the original intent of voters.

Member Sadhwani emphasized the importance of public trust and credibility, noting that a drafting error that jeopardizes Measure J creates the perception of political maneuvering. She also called for greater transparency in explaining how both Measures will coexist until 2028 and beyond.

Member Neal voiced strong frustration that an "administrative oversight" placed years of community organizing and voter mobilization at risk. He also noted many community stakeholders feel "betrayed" that a Board-approved amendment effectively undermined Measure J even if unintentionally.

Member Gironas stressed the importance of equity-driven funding for Measure J

programs and asked how corrective actions would ensure funding continuity.

Member Green requested clarification on whether California State legislation or court declaratory relief could provide stronger protections for Measure J until 2028.

Assistant County Counsel Bollinger stated that the Board recognizes Measure J as distinct from the Care First, Community Investment (CFCI) ordinance and has indicated its intent to sustain both. He also stressed that the Board is in a receipt of a report discussing litigation options.

7 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item: 1 in person and 6 virtually.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)

5. Oral report by the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, as requested at the July 9, 2025, GRTF meeting, on the GRTF budget and staffing (continued from the July 23, 2025, GRTF meeting).

Deputy Executive Officer Zuleyda Santana provided an update on the Executive Office's budget process, including funding coordinated with CEO through supplemental budget phase, general dollar figures preliminarily allocated for meeting logistics, stipends, and staff support. Deputy Executive Officer Santana stressed fiscal constraints given County's current budget crisis.

Member Yap urged a comparative review of budgets for other commissions.

Member Gironas emphasized the importance of predictable funding for public engagement.

Member Sadhwani inquired about County discretionary funds. Deputy Executive Office Santana indicated that the EO did not have discretionary budget and does not know about the CEO's discretionary funds.

Member Green requested assurance that funding becomes part of annual recommended budget process.

Member Green motioned to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors addressing concerns about the lack of budget transparency, while also highlighting the GRTF's time constraints and its tasks. Assistant County Counsel Zurabyan mentioned that this item is regarding an oral report and suggested placing this request on the next agenda to allow notice to members of the public.

No members of the public address the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

Hearing no objections, an item for a written letter/report will be placed on the next GRTF regular meeting agenda.

6. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Budget Hearings and Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgency Legislation

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Budget Hearings and Five-Day Posting Requirement for Non-Urgency Legislation on their progress and work plan.

Member Gironas indicated that the Subcommittee watched the recent Public Budget Hearings. Member Sadhwani expressed the importance of having Public Budget Hearings that are purposeful and meaningful, and providing guidelines to County Departments on what to present at those meetings.

Member Yap also asked the subcommittee to consider language access in the future discussions.

No members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

7. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the establishment of an Independent Ethics Commission

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the establishment of an Independent Ethics Commission on their progress and workplan.

Member Mockeridge mentioned conducting outreach to subject matter experts (both inside and outside the County) to take their input and questions during presentations and then determine how to move forward.

Member Sadhwani recommended that future agendas group all ad hoc subcommittees under a single item to allow for more efficient public comment.

1 member of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

8. Update and Consideration of Potential Action: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Engagement

Report by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Public Engagement on their progress and workplan.

Member Gironas shared an interest in holding meetings in various locations across Los Angeles County, including unincorporated areas, and discussed the importance of meeting compliance standards. They proposed proceeding with the scheduled 2025 meetings and planned to gather public input for 2026 meetings in October/November 2025. They also emphasized the need to ensure locations have hybrid accessibility. They then suggested immediate next steps: publishing the 2025 meeting schedule, launching a public input process for 2026, and compiling venue suggestions. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of hosting educational "roadshow" meetings to inform the public about Measure G.

Member Fasana and Chair Rodarte expressed general concerns about the lack of written reports attached to agendas, and Chair Rodarte suggested a synopsis of all agenda items.

Member Phelps raised concerns about approving the meeting schedule, particularly given the work done in collaboration with California State University Northridge and other bodies to potentially host GRTF meetings. Member Gironas expressed their

interest working with Member Phelps on that initiative but also expressed concerns about the potential cost of parking.

Member Mockeridge highlighted the importance of accessibility for people with disabilities, particularly those who use power chairs, and offered her expertise as a physical therapist and advocate of the disability community.

Chair Rodarte and Members Fasana, Green, and Yap discussed the merits of using college and university campuses for meetings. They noted that it would be a great way to engage young people and allow them to provide input. Member Fasana suggested sending parts of the Task Force's work to other schools for review and reporting. Member Gironas then cautioned that not everyone has the opportunity for higher education, so the Task Force should be mindful of that.

2 members of the public virtually addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item.

Member Gironas encouraged members of the public who are interested in making presentations to reach out to info@measureg.lacounty.gov.

Member Sadhwani requested to move the agenda item regarding the County CEO position to an earlier spot, emphasizing its importance. Member Sadhwani also proposed a brainstorming session on the County Executive at the next meeting and suggested potentially forming an ad hoc subcommittee for the topic.

Chair Rodarte recommended that the Task Force educate themselves on the County's budget hearings and processes.

Member Hsieh motioned to follow the GRTF meeting schedule outlined for the rest of the year, with the locations identified as tentative and the ability of the Chair to move to alternate locations.

On motion of Member Hsieh, seconded by Member Steele, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 13 – Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

9. Review Measure G Long-Term Goals

Discussion and Potential Action: Review Long-Term Goals of Measure G and consider developing a work plan for key milestones, including:

- Elected County Executive (2028)
- Position of Director of Budget and Management (2028)
- Position of County Legislative Analyst (2028)
- Expansion of the Board of Supervisors from 5 to 9 Members (2032)

Member Sadhwani motioned to continue Agenda Item 9 to the next Governance Reform Task Force regular meeting.

2 members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force on this item: 1 in person and 1 virtually.

On motion of Member Sadhwani, seconded by Member Phelps, this motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 13 – Brian Calderón Tabatabai, Derek Steele, Sara Sadhwani, Marcel Rodarte, John Fasana, David Green, Derek Hsieh, Steve Neal, Gabriela Gironas, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Soto, and Nancy Yap.

Attachments: [Ordinance](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Governance Reform Task Force, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Governance Reform Task Force subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

Member Phelps reemphasized the designation or appointment of a chair for each subcommittee to provide reports at the regular GRTF meetings. Member Gironas agreed and further suggested that at the next ad hoc subcommittee meetings to designate a chair or spokesperson for reporting.

Member Phelps also suggested adding the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee on the expansion of the Board of Supervisors to the next regular meeting agenda. Member Soto commented that this topic is listed as a Measure G long-term goal and asked that this be discussed at the next regular meeting before potentially agendaizing.

Member Sadhwani indicated that she would be at Washington D.C. during the next GRTF regular meeting and would work with administrative staff to identify a way to attend the meeting virtually.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Governance Reform Task Force on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Governance Reform Task Force.

No members of the public addressed the Governance Reform Task Force.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Written Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

12. Adjournment of the August 13, 2025, Governance Reform Task Force meeting.

Chair Rodarte adjourned the meeting at 9:32 pm.