

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2025**

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, Chairman Haik called the Commission meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Robert Cole
Aaron Greenberg
Jacob Haik
Cathy Hood
Steven Lei
Thomas Liu
Katherine McKeon
Dora Sandoval
Irene Shandell-Taylor
John Anthony Schmitz
Connie Sullivan
Jennifer Williams
Cesar Zaldivar-Motts
Vince Wong

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Benjamin Everard
Peter Lyons
Craig Taubman

3. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2024, MINUTES

Chairman Haik asked if there were any objections or changes to the November 7, 2024 Commission meeting minutes. Hearing no changes, the motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the November 7, 2024, Commission meeting were approved.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Aaron Greenberg introduced himself to the Commission with the following highlights of his bio: Commissioner Greenberg is a nonprofit executive, former legislator, and academic with more than a decade of experience in the labor movement, public affairs, and higher education. He stated that he serves as Deputy Director of the Hospitality Training Academy (HTA), a labor-management workforce development organization that upskills current workers and places vulnerable and low-income individuals into high-road careers in Southern California's hospitality and food service industries.

Commissioner Greenberg previously was Executive Director of the American branch of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières, where he led partnerships with public libraries and community-based organizations to expand access to literacy tools in under-resourced communities nationwide. He stated that being appointed to the E&E Commission is an honor and looks forward to working with everyone. He also stated that he looks forward to joining some of the Commission's task forces.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

i. CCJCC

Nothing 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 Pittm stated that the task force meetings would be on MS Teams. She also stated that each task force will rotate meeting in-person after the Commission meetings. Chair-Emeritus Cole asked each task force chair to summarize what their task force is working on and the scope of work for the new commissioners.

AI Task Force: Cathy Hood (3rd), John Schmitz (2nd), Steven Lei (3rd), Jennifer Williams (2nd), Ben Everard (5th), Connie Sullivan (4th), (2nd) Aaron Greenberg

Commissioner Hood stated that Executive Director Ed Eng met with the Executive Office team, and they think this project would benefit all the Commissions since there are over 200 Commissions in the county. She stated that if the task force can focus on just the application of AI within putting agendas together, action items, and minutes, then we can standardize that across all the commissions. She also stated that this project could help the board office track action items rather than waiting for each commission to prepare minutes and agenda the week before.

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

Commissioner Williams stated that the project goal is to examine the rental assistance program and how the program supports renters in Los Angeles County. She noted that the original request came from the 1st District but that the question was raised regarding why the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs would be responsible for this program to support renters and rental assistance.

She stated that upon researching, she discovered that the county has a program that helps landlords recover some of the back rent from renters. She stated that the programs serve two different audiences, and the one assisting landlords is under the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

Commissioner Williams reported that the task force met before the commission meeting and has begun working on an outline. She stated that each task force member has been assigned a section to start working on, and the task force should be ready to report back at the next meeting.

Hiring & Onboarding Task Force: Katie Mckeon (2nd), Connie Sullivan (4th), Dora Sandoval (3rd), Cathy Hood (3rd)

Commissioner McKeon stated that the task force is working with the Department of Mental Health (and others) to identify and accelerate Los Angeles County's hiring for the Department's critical positions. She stated the goal is to identify weaknesses and develop recommendations for improvement. She also stated that the County's hiring and onboarding experience is vital because it helps employers retain new employees and create engaged employees who can improve the company's overall business outcomes. She stated that the task force had received a new report from DHR in response to the task force questions, and the task force is currently waiting to hear back and meet with the Department of Mental Health.

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

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the task force is looking to compare the County of Los Angeles' Return-to-Work program regarding light duty assignments with benchmarks and best practices to identify gaps, strengths, and opportunities for improvement. Commissioner Sullivan stated that the task force wanted to know how COVID-19 affected the county's workers comp system. She stated while interviewing human resources, the task force also asked if they generally return people to light-duty assignments while healing, and they said yes. Still, they couldn't provide any metrics on how many.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that out of that group's return-to-work task force, she knew that the city of LA had a very robust program for returning people to work in light duty assignments while they're healing.

She stated that the task force had an interview with the Department of Public Works, and they gave the task force their procedures. She stated that Commissioner Lyons had some connections with the city of Ventura and Simi. She also stated that the next step is contacting other large public sector agencies like LAUSD and maybe some other counties to see what their programs are doing.

She stated that the task force is now at a stage where they need to do some survey work, and she's not sure they can move forward until an Executive director is appointed.

6. PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

7. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no Commissioner announcements. However, there was a small discussion about whether or not to look at potential projects coming down the pipeline. Chair Haik asked the Commissioners to hold off on new projects or ideas until a new Director is in place.

8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no staff announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Haik adjourned the meeting at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Executive Assistant, Aisha Pittmon