

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

July 9, 2025

The full meeting is available to view on the CWDB YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNBSusF4ckg>

Full meeting documents, public comments, agenda, and future meeting dates may be found on the [CWDB website](#).

Members Present in Sacramento:

- Chairperson Joanna Rees
- Chancellor Sonya Christian, represented by Designee Anthony Cordova
- Jamil Dada
- Diane Factor
- Director Nancy Farias, represented by Designee Javier Romero
- Jennifer Haley
- Secretary Stewart Knox, represented by Designee Abby Snay
- Stephen Monteros
- Janus Norman
- Nicole Rice
- Director Kimberly Rutledge, represented by Designee Mark Erlichman
- Angel Sanchez
- Fabrizio Sasso
- Honorable Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, represented by Designee Ravi Kahlon
- Jeremy Smith
- Anette Smith
- Bruce Stenslie
- Superintendent Tony Thurmond, represented by Designee Carolyn Zachary

Members Present in San Francisco:

- Dean Fealk
- Leonard Gonzales
- Hala Hijazi

- Gloria Young

Members Present in Southern California:

- Laurence Frank
- Jason Haider
- Robert Redlo
- Avin Sharma
- Amelia Tyagi

CWDB Staff:

- Kaina Pereira, Executive Director
- Emily Sunahara, Deputy Director of Operations
- Ross Villegas, Communications Analyst
- Brooke Barnum-Roberts, Chief Counsel
- Ben McDonald, Deputy Counsel & Board Meeting Clerk

AGENDA

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- A. Roll Call & Call to Order
- B. Introduction of New Board Members and New Chairperson

B. Action Items

- A. Approve March 26, 2025, Meeting Summary
- B. Vote on the Resolution on Standards for Infrastructure-related Funds

C. Updates and Discussion

- A. Updates and Discussion
 - a. Labor & Workforce Development Agency
 - b. Budget Report
 - c. Legislative Report
 - d. California Jobs First
 - e. California Master Plan for Career Education
 - f. Advisory Groups
 - g. Local Board Engagement
 - h. State Rehabilitation Council Report

- D. Other Business
- E. General Public Comment
- F. Adjournment

1. Opening Remarks

- A. **Introduction of New Chairperson**
 - a. The Executive Director called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. and turned the meeting over to the new Board Chairperson, Joanna Rees (Chair). The Chair introduced herself to the Board and highlighted her extensive background in venture capital, entrepreneurship, and nonprofit leadership; as well as her passion for diversity in the boardroom setting. The Chair also discussed her interest and concern for the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI).
 - b. The Executive Director introduced the Chair to the Board Meeting Clerk and discussed the roll call procedure.
- B. Roll Call & Call to Order
 - a. CWDB Deputy Counsel conducted a roll call and found 27 members present and advised the Chair that a quorum was present.
- C. Introduction of New Board Member
 - a. The Executive Director introduced new board member, Angel Sanchez, CEO of Phenix Technology in Riverside. Member Sanchez discussed his devotion to the Riverside community, his workforce development experience, and his excitement to serve on the board.
- D. No public comment.

2. Action Items

- A. Approve March 26, 2025, Meeting Summary
 - a. The Board motioned to approve the March 26, 2025, Meeting Summary prepared by CWDB staff, and it was seconded.
 - b. Vote Taken: Approve March 26, 2025, Meeting Summary
 - i. Yes: Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by Designee, Jamil Dada, Diane Factor, Dir. Nancy Farias represented by Designee, Dean Fealk, Laurence Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Jennifer Haley, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by Designee, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Robert Redlo, Joanna Rees, Nicole Rice, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by Designee, Angel Sanchez, Fabrizio Sasso, Honorable Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo represented by Designee, Avin Sharma, Jeremy Smith, Anette

Smith, Bruce Stenslie, Superintendent Tony Thurmond represented by Designee, Amelia Tyagi, and Gloria Young.

- ii. No: None.
- iii. Abstentions: None.
- c. Motion to approve March 26, 2025, Meeting Summary passed.
- d. No public comment.
- B. Vote on the Resolution on Standards for Infrastructure-related Funds
 - a. Bruce Stenslie presented the background on a resolution aimed at establishing high-road standards for labor, equity, and climate in infrastructure fund investments, inspired by California Senate Bill 150. The resolution seeks to codify the board's commitment to qualify jobs and responsible investment of public workforce dollars, aligning with state and federal policy. Extensive discussion between the Board Members followed with a consensus to expand the working group to include more voices and revisit the resolution language before final adoption to ensure alignment with board objectives and federal/state funding realities.
 - b. Vote Taken: No Vote Taken.
 - c. No public comment.

3. Updates and Discussion

- A. Labor & Workforce Development Agency
 - a. Designee Abby Snay updated the Board on federal workforce funding uncertainties due to proposed budget cuts and restructuring, including potential elimination of education of adult education and specific workforce programs. The Labor & Workforce Development Agency is developing contingency plans and working closely with local boards to mitigate impacts, including efforts around Medicaid and food stamp work requirements to better support vulnerable populations.
 - b. No public comment.
- B. Budget Report
 - a. The budget update included allocations such as \$10 million for HIRE, \$5 million for wildfire recovery workforce efforts in LA and Ventura counties, and \$20 million for the San Pedro Training Center, which is focused on port-related jobs.
 - b. No public comment.
- C. Legislative Report
 - a. Three active bills (SB-638, SB-534, AB-228) and seven others on a two-year track are being monitored, with details to be shared with the Board.
 - b. No public comment.

D. California Jobs First

- a. California Jobs First is receiving ongoing programs and awards with \$80 million remaining for investment. The Board is engaging with the 13 regions focused on strategic investments in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, technology, semiconductors, space, and defense sectors, among others.
- b. No public comment.

E. California Master Plan for Career Education

- a. The California Master Plan for Career Education is supported by budget allocations for a new state workforce and education council along with the career passport digital tool, which aims to map skills and credentials to improve employer-employee matching. There is an emphasis on integrating community colleges with local workforce development efforts and advancing credit for prior learning to accelerate career pathways.
- b. No public comment.

F. Advisory Groups

- a. The discussion focused on plans to strengthen two-way communication between State Board Members and Local Boards through industry advisory groups. Staff liaisons will be assigned to facilitate engagement and information flow. The goal is to enhance responsiveness to employer needs and regional workforce challenges.
- b. No public comment.

G. Local Board Engagement

- a. The Board is prioritizing collaboration with all 45 Local Workforce Boards, fostering alignment with state initiatives, and addressing unique regional economic and workforce development needs.
- b. No public comment.

H. State Rehabilitation Council Report

- a. No report for this meeting due to Board Member Hilary Lentini's absence.
- b. No public comment.

4. Other Business

- A. Chair and Board Members expressed enthusiasm about board collaboration and accessibility, proposing an AI-focused discussion for the October Full Board Meeting to explore AI's rapid impact on the workforce, including potential disruptions to entry-level jobs and opportunities for AI to enhance workforce training and systems. Board Members supported this idea, noting the urgency given AI's immediate effects on jobs across sectors.
- B. No public comment.

5. General Public Comments

A. No public comment.

6. Adjournment

A. All CWDB business having concluded, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.