



Joanna Rees, Chair

Kaina Pereira, Executive Director

Gavin Newsom, Governor

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AD HOC MEETING SUMMARY

January 14, 2026

The full meeting is available to view on the [CWDB YouTube channel](#).

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

Members in Attendance:

- Chairperson Joanna Rees*
- CWDB Executive Director, Kaina Pereira
- Alysia Bell*
- Chancellor Sonya Christian, represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova
- Jamil Dada*
- Diane Factor*
- Dir. Nancy Farias, represented by designee Javier Romero*
- Dr. Angelo Farooq*
- Laurence Frank*
- Hala Hijazi*
- Secretary Stewart Knox, represented by designee Abby Snay*
- Robert Redlo*
- Angel Sanchez*
- Honorable Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, represented by designee Ravi Kahlon*
- Superintendent Tony Thrumond, represented by designees Mindi Parsons and Carolyn Zachry*

* indicates member participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom

CWDB Staff Participants:

- Michael Wiafe, Assistant Deputy Director, Workforce Policy and External Affairs

Regional and State Partner Presenters:

- Jamil Dada, Chair, Riverside County Workforce Development Board (CWDB Board Member)
- Angel Sanchez, Vice Chair, Riverside County Workforce Development Board (CWDB Board Member)
- Jason Tang, Development Manager, Riverside County
- Matthew Mena, Executive Director, Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity
- Robert Chavez, Assistant Director, San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department
- Brad Gates, Director, San Bernadino County Workforce Development Board
- Anthony Cordova, Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- Abby Snay, Deputy Secretary, Workforce Strategy, Labor & Workforce Development Agency (CWDB designee for Secretary Stewart Knox)
- Allison Frenzel, Education Programs Consultant, California Department of Education
- Michael Watanabe, Deputy Executive Officer, California Department of General Services

Agenda

- A. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- B. Inland Empire Regional Update
 - A. Overview of Tour from Kaina
 - B. CWDB Staff Report
 - C. Regional Leader Report
 - D. Board Member Discussion
 - E. Public Comment
- C. CA Master Plan for Career Education and K-16
 - A. Presentation
 - B. Board Member Discussion
 - C. Public Comment
- D. General Public Comments
- E. Adjournment

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Executive Director called the meeting to order and outlined the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee will meet to receive regional updates and host topical discussions on items related to California Jobs First, the Master Plan for Career Education, and other initiatives.

2. Inland Empire Regional Update

The Committee received an update on the Inland Empire, including staff and regional perspectives. The Inland Empire population, which includes Riverside and San Bernadino counties, is growing at a fast pace. From 2010-2020, there has been a ~11 percent increase. Social services and healthcare sectors are booming due to this growth. Key issues are efforts to meet the expectations for hiring, and how to attract companies given this growth. One example of current investment for attracting companies is job training in green tech.

Regional representatives shared information on local workforce projects. For example, there is a joint project training incumbent clean energy workers, a railway project that connects with the highspeed rail project running from Las Vegas to Rancho Cucamonga, and partnership with a local hospital to grow the supply of trained nurses. The region is targeting various population segments to ensure priority service. For example, more foster youth are reached and served through partnerships and automatic referrals.

3. California Master Plan for Career Education and K-16

CWDB staff and state partners provided an update on the California Master Plan for Career Education (Master Plan) and K-16 alignment efforts. The California Community Colleges shared information on elements of the Master Plan and a focus on regional coordination for implementation. The career passport will build out a digital foundation of verified credentials. Credit for prior learning will, for example, help emergency medical services workers earn academic credit for their currently non-credited training. Workforce Pell is a new resource that will help students access stackable credentials.

The Labor & Workforce Development Agency explained it is creating a credential list or registry to inform the career passport. The California Community Colleges will sign on. Credentials will be measured along the following criteria: opportunity, return on investment, economic mobility, job stability, academic advancement, and reliability. Workforce Pell grants will tie in to the credential list. It is expected to softly roll out in July.

The California Department of Education is doing a curriculum standard update. It will be focused on K-12, but broadly applicable, and performed in collaboration with state partners, industry, labor, local boards, and training providers.

The Department of General Services is the grant administrator for the K-16 program. They have contracted with the Foundation for California Community Colleges to administer \$250 million in funding to assist collaboratives in completing pathways and provided a status update on the effort.

4. General Public Comments

No general public comments were received.

5. Adjournment

All CWDB business having concluded, the Executive Director adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:40 a.m.