

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

**Wednesday, July 8th, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

Meetings of the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) are open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The board may take action regarding any item listed on the agenda unless listed as information only. Times are approximate and subject to change. Agenda items may be taken out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum. This meeting may be canceled without notice.

All meeting agendas are posted to the CWDB website ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and a full packet with additional details regarding the scheduled agenda items may be available at any physical meeting locations, and at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the CWDB website meeting page at: <https://cwdb.ca.gov/cwdb-home/about-us/our-board/2026-board-meetings/>

Public Viewing and Comments

The public is welcome to comment on any agenda item. Here are several ways the public may participate in our meetings.

1. The meetings will be live-streamed for public viewing on the CWDB YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8j2IMLyol-6ifdLHGTXLiQ>. Comments can be posted on the platform and should identify the agenda item being addressed and be submitted prior to or during the discussion of that agenda item.
2. The public may attend the meeting in person and provide comments or questions at the following locations:
 - a. **Sacramento:** 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1-213 Multi-Purpose Room, Sacramento, CA 95814
 - b. **Bay Area:** 49 South Van Ness, Room 194, San Francisco, CA 94103

c. **Southern California:** South Bay Workforce Investment Board, 11539 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 500, Hawthorne, CA 90250

3. Members of the public not physically present at the board meeting may submit public comment to be read during the meeting by emailing BoardPublicComment@cwdb.ca.gov. In the subject line, please identify the agenda item being addressed.

Emailed comments are monitored during the meeting and will be read during the allotted time at the meeting. Please note: This email box will only be monitored 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time. Comments or questions in between meetings dates should be directed to CWDBinfo@cwdb.ca.gov.

The public will be allowed to comment or ask questions during the appropriate public comment periods of the meeting if they attend in person. Public comments timely received from email or the CWDB YouTube channel may be read aloud during the public comment period for the agenda item specified. Failure to submit a timely comment or identify the agenda item being addressed may prevent your comment from being read at the meeting.

Any and all written comments provided to the CWDB, including the commentator's identity and contact information, and all contents of emails, will be available to the public in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Government Code section 11125.1 and the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1).

Accommodations

Individuals who require accommodations for their disabilities (including interpreters, sign language translation, alternate document formats, or other auxiliary aids) are requested to contact the California Workforce Development Board staff at (916) 657-1440 at least five business days prior to the meeting in order to ensure the availability of the requested accommodation. Please visit the California Workforce Development Board website at <http://www.cwdb.ca.gov> for additional information.

Contact Person

If you have any questions concerning the agenda, you may contact:

California Workforce Development Board
1416 Ninth Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento CA 95814
T: 916-657-1440
BoardPublicComment@cwdb.ca.gov

**CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, July 8th, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Call to Order

2. Action Items
 - a. Approve April 8, 2026 Meeting Summary
 - b. Approve residual Subsequent Designation and Recertification of Local Boards
 - i. Verdugo Workforce Development Board

3. Briefing & Discussion
 - a. Northern San Joaquin Region Update
 - i. Overview of Tour from CWDB Executive Director
 - ii. CWDB Staff Report
 - iii. Regional Leader Report
 - iv. Board Discussion
 - b. Central San Joaquin Region Update
 - i. Overview of Tour from CWDB Executive Director
 - ii. CWDB Staff Report
 - iii. Regional Leader Report
 - iv. Board Discussion
 - c. Dialogue on Email Communication with the Board

4. Updates & Discussion
 - a. Labor & Workforce Development Agency Report
 - b. Budget Report
 - c. Eligible Training Provider List Update
 - d. State Rehabilitation Council Report
 - e. California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Update
 - f. California Department of Education Update

5. General Public Comments

6. Adjournment

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

April 8, 2026

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMDd9FBD_y8

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

Members Present in Sacramento:

- Chairperson Joanna Rees
- Alysia Bell
- Chancellor Sonya Christian, represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova
- Dir. Nancy Farias
- Dr. Angelo Farooq
- Leonard Gonzales
- Secretary Stewart Knox, represented by designee Kevin Matulich
- Hala Hijazi
- Magda Menendez
- Stephen Monteros
- Janus Norman
- Mayor Rex Richardson
- Dir. Kimberly Rutledge, represented by designee Victor Duron
- Angel Sanchez
- Fabrizio Sasso
- Anette Smith
- Superintendent Tony Thurmond, represented by designee Mindi Parsons

Members Present in San Francisco:

- Gloria Young

Members Present in Southern California:

- Kamyar Amiri-Davani
- Laurence Frank
- Jason Haider
- Hilary Lentini
- Avin Sharma

CWDB Staff:

- Kaina Pereira, Executive Director
- Michael Wiafe, Assistant Deputy Director, Workforce Policy and External Affairs
- Kerry Chang, Regional Specialist
- Emily Sunahara, Deputy Director of Operations
- Myranda Love, Executive Analyst
- Ross Villegas, Communications Analyst
- Ashley Anglesey, Legislation, State Plan, and Policy Manager
- Brooke Barnum-Roberts, Chief Counsel
- Ben McDonald, Deputy Counsel & Board Meeting Clerk

Regional and State Partner Presenters:

- Evan Schmidt, CEO, Valley Vision
- Caitlin Blockus, Senior Project Manager, Valley Vision
- Dr. Marc Facciotti, Faculty Director/Professor, Biomedical Engineering and Genome Center, UC Davis NexGenBio
- Dr. Amy Schulz, Executive Dean, Workforce and Strategic Initiatives, Sierra College
- Theresa Milan, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Online Engagement, Los Rios Community College District

Agenda:

- A. Welcome & Opening Remarks
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Call to Order

- B. Action Items
 - a. Approve October 8, 2025, Meeting Summary
 - b. Approve CWDB Bylaws Amendments
 - c. Approve WIOA Regional Plans
 - d. Approve WIOA Local Plans
 - e. Approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification

- C. Briefing & Discussion
 - a. FreeWorld Presentation
 - b. Ad Hoc Committee Meetings Update
 - c. Capital Region Update

- i. Overview of Tourt from CWDB Executive Director
- ii. CWDB Staff Report
- iii. Regional Leader Report
- iv. Board Discussion
- d. Apprenticeships Update

D. Updates & Discussion (Time Permitting)

- a. Labor & Workforce Development Agency Report
- b. Budget Report
- c. Eligible Training Provider List Update
- d. State Rehabilitation Council Report
- e. California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Update
- f. California Department of Education

E. General Public Comments

F. Adjournment

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks:

A. Roll Call & Call to Order

- a. Board Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am.
- b. CWDB Deputy Counsel conducted a roll call and found 21 members present and advised the Chair that a quorum was present (two members joined after roll call).
- c. Board Chair welcomed and introduced newly appointed Board Members, Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson and long-time workforce leader, Magda Menedez.

B. No public comment.

2. Action Items:

A. Approve October 8, 2025, Meeting Summary

- a. The Chair motioned to approve October 8, 2025, Meeting Summary prepared by CWDB staff, and it was seconded.
- b. Vote Taken: Approve October 8, 2025, Meeting Summary
 - i. Yes: Alysia Bell, Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova, Dr. Angelo Farooq, Laurence Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox

represented by designee Kevin Matulich, Hilary Lentini, Magda Menendez, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Mayor Rex Richardson, Fabrizio Sasso, Avin Sharma, Anette Smith, and Gloria Young.

ii. No: None

iii. Abstentions: Kamyar Amiri-Davani, Dir. Nancy Farias, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Victor Duron, Angel Sanchez, and Superintendent Tony Thurmond represented by designee Mindi Parsons.

c. Motion to approve October 8, 2025, Meeting Summary passed.

d. No public comment.

B. Approve CWDB Bylaws Amendments

a. Staff presented on amendments to the CWDB bylaws. The Chair motioned to approve the Local Workforce Board Regional Plans, and it was seconded.

b. Vote Taken: Approve CWDB Bylaws Amendments

i. Yes: Alysia Bell, Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova, Kamyar Amiri-Davani, Dir. Nancy Farias, Dr. Angelo Farooq, Laurence Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Kevin Matulich, Hilary Lentini, Magda Menendez, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Mayor Rex Richardson, Angel Sanchez, Fabrizio Sasson, Avin Sharma, Anette Smith, Superintendent Tony Thurmond represented by designee Mindi Parsons, and Gloria Young.

ii. No: None

iii. Abstentions: Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Victor Duron.

c. Motion to approve CWDB Bylaws Amendments passed.

d. No public comment.

C. Approve WIOA Regional and Local Plans

a. Staff presented on WIOA Regional and Local Plans. The Chair motioned to approve the plans, and it was seconded.

b. Vote Taken: Approve WIOA Regional and Local Plans

- i. Yes: Alysia Bell, Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova, Kamyar Amiri-Davani, Dir. Nancy Farias, Dr. Angelo Farooq, Laurence Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Kevin Matulich, Hilary Lentini, Magda Menendez, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Mayor Rex Richardson, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Victor Duron, Angel Sanchez, Fabrizio Sasso, Avin Sharma, Anette Smith, Superintendent Tony Thurmond represented by designee Mindi Parsons, and Gloria Young.
- ii. No: None
- iii. Abstentions: None

c. Motion to approve WIOA Regional and Local Plans passed.

d. No public comment.

D. Approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification

a. Staff presented briefly on local area designation and local board recertification. The Chair motioned to approve the Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification, and it was seconded.

b. Vote Taken: Approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification

- i. Yes: Alysia Bell, Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova, Kamyar Amiri-Davani, Dir. Nancy Farias, Dr. Angelo Farooq, Laurence Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Kevin Matulich, Hilary Lentini, Magda Menendez, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Mayor Rex Richardson, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Victor Duron, Angel Sanchez, Fabrizio Sasso, Avin Sharma, Anette Smith, Superintendent Tony Thurmond represented by designee Mindi Parsons, and Gloria Young.
- ii. No: None
- iii. Abstentions: None

- c. Motion to approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification passed.
- d. No public comment.

3. Briefing & Discussion:

A. FreeWorld [Presentation](#)

- a. FreeWorld's Founder and CEO, Jason Wang, described FreeWorld as a tech-enabled nonprofit that trains and places people with criminal records into living-wage careers, currently focused primarily on trucking, supported by wraparound services and a mobile-first platform. He emphasized that the organization provides end-to-end support—from intake and case management through training, job placement, and retention—and that it tracks outcomes over multiple years. Board discussion highlighted practical considerations such as background-check barriers in some work settings, the dynamics of entry and retention in trucking (especially the difficult first year or two), port credentialing requirements for some roles, and questions about worker classification and industry practices.
- b. No Public Comment Received.

B. Ad Hoc Committee Meetings Update

- a. CWDB staff provided an update on the board's ad hoc committee meetings. Staff described them as shorter, topic-focused sessions held between full board meetings, generally organized around "one region and one topic," and solicited member input for future sessions. Board member Angel Sanchez suggested a future discussion focused on effective practices for supporting individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, particularly approaches that help employers move past perceived risk barriers to inclusive hiring.
- b. No Public Comment Received.

C. Capital Region Update

- a. [CWDB staff provided a snapshot of the Capital Region](#) as an eight-county area spanning urban and rural communities and facing shared challenges such as rising housing costs, limited childcare access, environmental risk, and job-access barriers driven by the mismatch between where jobs are concentrated and where workers live.

- b. Evan Schmidt, CEO of Valley Vision and the regional convener for California Jobs First in the Capital Region, and Caitlin Blockus, Senior Project Manager at Valley Vision, described a co-investment strategy with local workforce boards that supports regional industry advisories bringing together employers, community college faculty, and training partners to identify skill gaps and align education and training with labor-market demand.

The [presentation](#) highlighted biosciences, healthcare, and precision manufacturing as priority industries, with the following partner examples:

- Dr. Marc Facciotti, Faculty Director and Professor in Biomedical Engineering and the Genome Center at UC Davis NextGenBio, described a catalyst-funded effort to build student awareness of bioscience careers through programming connected to Aggie Square, and noted the need to strengthen pathways and wraparound supports beyond the introductory experience.
- Dr. Amy Schulz, Executive Dean of Workforce and Strategic Initiatives at Sierra College, described investments in precision manufacturing, including CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machining, welding, and mechatronics scaled through dual enrollment pathways to meet technician demand tied to Bosch in Roseville.
- Theresa Milan, Associate Vice President of Workforce and Online Engagement at Los Rios Community College District, described an industry-led approach to critical healthcare occupational needs, including surgical, cardiovascular, and radiologic technology, supported by new labs and industry-aligned curriculum.

The discussion also addressed how America's Job Centers of California connect to this work, including colocation and staff presence at community colleges across parts of the region and ongoing efforts to deepen integration.

- c. No Public Comment Received.

D. Apprenticeships Update

- a. [Adele Burns, Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, provided an apprenticeship update](#) focused on funding strategies and scaling apprenticeships beyond the building and fire trades. She highlighted Apprenticeship Innovation Funding as a formula-style model intended to expand apprenticeships in sectors such as healthcare and advanced manufacturing, described how funding is structured to support active apprentices and completions, and discussed the practical realities of integrating apprenticeship pathways with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act system, including the generally low co-enrollment rates seen nationally. The update emphasized

practical steps to strengthen connections, such as ensuring frontline staff know how to find apprenticeship opportunities using available search tools, and reinforced the value of leveraging existing apprenticeship standards and infrastructure rather than recreating them.

- b. No Public Comment Received.

4. Updates and Discussion (Time Permitting):

- A. Labor & Workforce Development Agency Report

- a. This update was skipped for time considerations.

- B. Budget Report

- a. This update was skipped for time considerations.

- C. Eligible Training Provider List Update

- a. This update was skipped for time considerations.

- D. [State Rehabilitation Council Report \(YouTube\)](#)

- a. Board Member Hiliary Lentini, speaking on behalf of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), reported that during the SRC's March 11–12 meetings the Council discussed fair hearings and mediations, delays in paying vendors, the effects of government shutdowns, the Department of Rehabilitation's language access policy, and "Independence 101," a course for SSI and SSDI beneficiaries that provides essential information about Social Security benefits and work incentives. She also explained that the SRC continued strategizing about how to shorten meetings and use meeting time more productively, how to increase engagement on committees, and how to revitalize inactive committees. In addition, she stated that the SRC passed a recommendation asking the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to keep Category 1 and Category 2 open when DOR implements an Order of Selection. Ms. Lentini concluded by asking whether SRC updates and reports must be entered into the minutes in full and suggested that, similar to public comment documents, the minutes could instead include a link to the SRC materials, requesting that this approach be implemented starting with the minutes for the current meeting.

- b. No public comment.

5. General Public Comments:

- A. No General Public Comments Received.

6. Adjournment:

- A. All CWDB business having concluded, the Executive Director adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

California Workforce Development Board of Directors Briefing: Policy July 8, 2026

Under Agenda Item 2.b.i (Approve residual Subsequent Designation and Recertification of Local Boards — Verdugo Workforce Development Board), the Board of Directors will be voting to approve one item:

Subsequent Designation & Recertification

Background

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Sections 106 and 107 provide criteria for subsequent designation of Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Area) and recertification of Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Board). Specifically, WIOA Section 106 requires the Governor to designate Local Areas within the state and WIOA Section 107 requires the Governor to certify one Local Board for each Local Area.

According to WIOA Section 106, a Local Area must have performed successfully, sustained fiscal integrity, and engaged in the regional planning process to receive subsequent designation. According to WIOA Section 107, a Local Board must have performed successfully, sustained fiscal integrity, and met membership requirements to receive recertification.

The CWDB and the Employment Development Department (EDD) published [Workforce Services Directive 24-10](#), dated January 16, 2025 which contains the required criteria, associated definitions, and an application to request subsequent designation as a Local Area and recertification as a Local Board.

Current Status

The majority of Subsequent Designation & Recertification applications, effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027, received formal Board of Directors approval in October 2025. The Subsequent Designation & Recertification application listed below has been evaluated and met the requirements as identified, and is now put in front of the Board of Directors for final approval:

- Verdugo Workforce Development Board