BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
August 18, 2020

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Meeting called to order at 10:13 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Cassady, Castro, Chappell, de la Torre, Dobbs, Grounds, Long, Minor, Ruff and Taira present. Commissioners Gutierrez, Schneider, Sharrieff, San Juan, and Thornton absent.

In compliance with Executive Order N-28-20, and to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, the meeting was conducted by telephone.

Commissioner ANDERSON stated that the majority of the currently-appointed commissioners are present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Motion for Hearing with Procedural Errors.

A. JONES, COTTON
H87387

Motion: Vacate the panel's July 9, 2020 decision and schedule a new hearing, in order to comply with the recording requirement in Penal Code section 3041.5, subdivision (a)(4).

Commissioner BARTON moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner GROUNDS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Report from Executive Officer, Jennifer Shaffer
Chief Counsel, JESSICA BLONIEN presented SHAFFER'S report. BLONIEN stated that attorney MICHAEL SATRIS died recently. She expressed the Board's appreciation for his years of working on parole cases and condolences to his family.

BLONIEN stated that the Governor signed Senate Bill 118 on August 6, 2020, two of whose provisions affect the Board. The Bill has ended the Board's role in recommending recall and resentence under Penal Code section 1170. The Secretary will now perform that function. The parole lengths for lifer parolees have been changed, with the exception of sex offenders.

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Report from Chief Counsel, Jessica Blonien
BLONIEN introduced two new Attorney IIIs, MICHAEL SANTIAGO and ROXANNA GOMEZ.

Report from Chief Deputy, Program Operations, Sandra Maciel
Staff Services Manager, TARA DOETSCH presented the report. The Board will continue conducting hearings by videoconference until August 22, 2020. The Board will seek another extension. From April 1, 2020 to August 14, 2020, the videoconference hearings resulted in 454 grants, 872 denials, 116 stipulations, 90 postponements, 14 continuances, 1 tie vote and 0 cancellations. The grant rate of 34% is similar that of in-person hearings.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed amendments implementing parole denial lengths to be consistent with Penal Code section 3041.5, presented by Chief Counsel, Jessica Blonien
BLONIEN summarized the proposed amendments and stated that the Board will post the text of the amendments with next month's agenda. The Board will consider public comment on the amendments.

EN BANC REFERRALS

Referral by Chief Counsel, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041 (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2042 to assure complete, accurate, consistent and uniform decisions and the furtherance of public safety.

A. MURPHY, MICHAEL
D43034

No speakers.

Referral by the Governor, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b), to request review of a parole decision by the full Board

B. BURZA, PETER
K00891

DONNA LEBOWITZ, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, RICH LAMONT, LINDA LAMONT, TINA KRIEGER and RON KRIEGER recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

C. MALONEY, ALFREDO
C20463

DONNA LEBOWITZ, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

D. MESSENGER, MICHAEL
C90648

DEAN ARCHIBALD, Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

F. RIDEOUT, LENNY
T65154

MICHAEL JACKSON and AYRIA VILLARD supported the parole grant.

RICHARD SACHS, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing. ERICKA MENDOZA read an opposition letter from the victim, KAREN JOHNSON.

G. ROWE, JOHN
V87135

BYRON DAVIS supported the parole grant.

CYNTHIA BREWER, Riverside County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

RUBIO, FRANCISCO
T89385

BENJAMIN HANNA, Shasta County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

H. WHITE, ROMEL
P80416

WILLIE WHITE and JOSEPH SWEENEY supported the parole grant.

ROBERT BROWN, ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT, JOHN WATSON, JASMINE BROWN, STEPHANIE BURTON, TAMMY JOHNSON, KEONNA EVANS AND STEVE BURTON recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

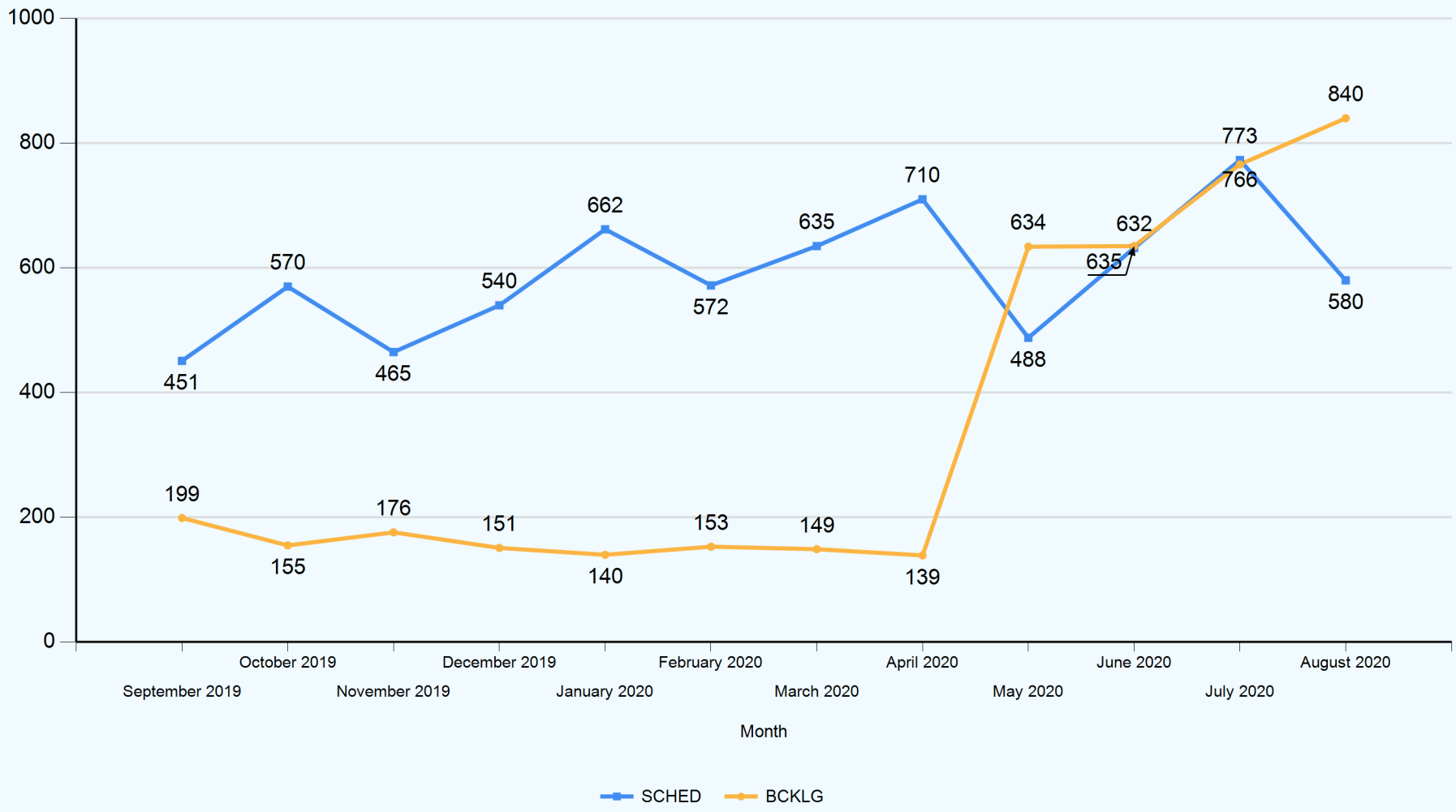
Referral, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041, when there is a tie vote.

I. GONZALES, JOE
P17500
No public comment permitted.

OPEN COMMENT

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, stated that there is an error in the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation produces the mental health materials, not Life Support Alliance. Life Support Alliance distributes the materials, upon request. Seven institutions are making them available. The Life Support Alliance newsletter will be published quarterly and NELSON-SLOANE invited comments from stakeholders.

CHRISTINE WARD, Crime Victims Alliance and I-Can, commended the Board's compassion towards victims who appear at its hearings. However, there have been occasions when victims have been hurt by comments made at the hearing and WARD requested that panels show sensitivity when addressing victims.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Board of Parole Hearings
Scheduled and Backlog Hearings Report
Penal Code Section 3041(d)
September, 2020