

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
January 22 and 23, 2025

January 22, 2025

Meeting called to order at 11:01 a.m.

Board commissioners participated in person or virtually. Interested parties and members of the public participated in person, virtually, or by telephone.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Cassady, Infante, Kozel, Minor, Ndudim, Nwajei, Purcell, Ruff, Schneider, Sharrieff, Sheffield, and Thornton were present in person.

Commissioners, Chappell, Garland, Long, Muniz, O’Meara, Taira, and Weiss were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

Commissioner CASSADY stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the December 17, 2024 Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Parole Consideration Hearings and Backlog Report for January 2025.

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

Barton	Aye
Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kozel	Aye
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Nwajei	Aye
O’Meara	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye
Sheffield	Aye
Taira	Aye

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Thornton Aye
Weiss Aye

REPORTS

Report from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer, SCOTT WYCKOFF, introduced himself and stated that he looked forward to serving as the Board’s new Executive Officer.

Report from Jessica Blonien, Chief Counsel

Chief Counsel, JESSICA BLONIEN, stated that the Board is in the process of implementing the provisions of Assembly Bill 2310 and has translated the blank templates for specified notices and forms into the five most common languages spoken by incarcerated persons who are eligible for a parole hearing. The five most languages are Spanish, French, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The documents will be available on the Board’s website and in law libraries and the Board will seek to have them loaded onto tablets for the incarcerated population.

Report from Ryan Youtsey, Chief Deputy of Investigations & Reentry Screening Division (IRSD)

Chief Deputy of Investigations and Reentry Division, RYAN YOUTSEY, stated that Parole Agent III TRUESEE CHANG, Parole Agent III CAESAR JIMENEZ, Parole Agent II PETER TRAM, Parole Agent I JERMAINE BROOKS, and Parole Agent I COREY JOHNSON have joined IRSD.

Report from Dr. Jasmine Tehrani, Chief Psychologist, Forensic Assessment Division (FAD)

On behalf of Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI, Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN stated that, on January 14, 2025, BLONIEN gave a presentation at the California District Attorneys Association symposium on sexually violent predators.

BLONIEN stated that, on January 14, 2025, members of the Board’s legal division attended “Bridging the Gaps: Shaping Rehabilitative Programs Together” at California State Prison, Sacramento to discuss transforming rehabilitation in California.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

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JANE DOROTIK stated that she was incarcerated 22 years for a crime of which she was exonerated. She expressed concern that many elderly women are denied parole because they are unable to articulate their insight and remorse. DOROTIK requested that panels give great weight to the effects of aging on incarcerated persons and encouraged a higher suitability rate.

GEMA QUETZAL, UnCommon Law, welcomed the implementation of Assembly Bill 2310 and recommended that the Board promote greater awareness of the availability of the translated documents. QUETZAL shared that she works with the Spanish community, and none of those people were aware that Spanish forms were available.

ROBERT KNOX, San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, stated that he will be attending the monthly Board meetings in place of KATHY NORMAN, who has retired.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed concern regarding panels' use of restitution avoidance as a basis for denying parole, and the impact this may have on the parole grant rate. NELSON-SLOANE questioned whether, given the provisions of Assembly Bill 1186, restitution avoidance is a significant factor of unsuitability.

SOL MERCADO was granted parole and hopes to make the commissioners proud. MERCADO welcomed the translation of documents into other languages as articulating and capturing the correct language was difficult while navigating the parole process.

WILLIE WOODS, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, thanked the commissioners for their service.

SU KIM, UnCommon Law, expressed concern regarding panels' use of restitution avoidance as a basis for denying parole. KIM welcomed compliance with Assembly Bill 2310 and recommended that documents be translated into other languages.

EN BANC REFERRALS

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Cassady, Infante, Kozel, Minor, Ndudim, Purcell, Ruff, Schneider, Sharrieff, Sheffield, and Thornton were present in person.

Referral by the Chief Counsel under Penal Code section 3041(b) and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2042 to assure complete, accurate, consistent, and uniform decisions and continued public safety, and referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b).

11. CRAIG, MARIO (B75218)

No speakers.

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12. LYNN, EVERETTE (E20077)

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rehearing.

13. RAMIREZ, IVAN (AE9645)

No speakers.

14. SANCHEZ, GILBERTO (E40706)

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office supported the parole denial.

Referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b), to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners.

15. CORRALEJO, RICHARD (AK5358)

CORRALEJO's family and friends supported the parole grant.

The victim's family and a representative of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

16. GARIBAY, GONZALO (BF2080)

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

17. GUTIERREZ, JOSUE (AR1627)

GUTIERREZ's family, friends, and attorney, LYSA DARDEN, supported the parole grant.

18. HILL, MARK (P42542)

HILL's attorney, JOSEPH MAGAZENNI, supported the parole grant.

19. HODGE, RICHARD (K15642)

HODGE's family, friends, attorneys, SUSAN SANDS, CHRISTOPHER HAWTHORNE, and JOSEPH MAGAZENNI, and law student, GENEVIEVE ROMERO, supported the parole grant.

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The victim's family and a representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

Open session recessed at 12:51 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

20. MONTEJO, ROBERTO (T82491)

MONTEJO's family supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

21. ROSSES, FABIAN (AT6543)

ROSSES's family and attorney, LYSA DARDEN, supported the parole grant.

22. SHELTON, THOMAS (BB7183)

The victim's family and a representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

Open session recessed at 1:22 p.m.

**BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
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January 23, 2025

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board commissioners participated in person. Interested parties and members of the public participated in person, virtually, or by telephone.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Chappell, Garland, Infante, Long, Muniz, Nwajei, O' Meara, Sheffield, Taira, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person.

Commissioner CHAPPELL stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present.

EN BANC REFERRALS

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

24. ALANIZ, JOHNNY (V05630)

ALANIZ's family, friend, and attorney, KATEY GILBERT, supported the parole grant.

25. MCCLOUD, BOBBY (AZ1948)

A representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rehearing.

26. OSORIO, FRANK (K48872)

A representative of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rehearing.

27. YOST, AARON (D72781)

YOST's family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rehearing.

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Referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b), to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners.

28. BALBUENA, CARLINE (X33749)

BALBUENA's family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

29. BURR, STEVEN (G37732)

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

30. CRUZATA, ANGEL (T64792)

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

31. KHOTSOMBATH, KEVIN (AK2250)

A representative of the Orange County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

32. LITTLE, DARRIN (D21268)

LITTLE's family supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

33. NAVARRO, JOHN (T75240)

NAVARRO's family, friends, and attorney, CHARLES CARBONE, supported the parole grant.

34. TURNER, MICHAEL (F86453)

No speakers.

35. VALDEZ, ROY (K36375)

No speakers.

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36. VALLE, DONALD (BA8537)

No speakers.

37. VARGAS, MICHAEL (AP7872)

No speakers.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed she had heard statements that people convicted of sex offenses' risk does not decrease with age. NELSON-SLOANE stated that checked with psychologists who work with the incarcerated population, and they contend that age does reduce risk of recidivism for those convicted of sex offenses. This pattern applies to all incarcerated persons, and it is incorrect to indicate those convicted of sex offenses are an exception to elderly factors.

ANTONIO CALLES described his experiences after being granted parole and shared that he is very supported by the community, which has impacted how he views society.

ROBERT KNOX, San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, requested that hearing panels understand that the importance of insight should not be undervalued. KNOX emphasized the significance of restitution avoidance. KNOX asks the Board to continue the important work being done.

Open session recessed at 10:59 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 1:44 p.m.

Commissioner CHAPPELL stated that during the closed session, the Board made decisions on the cases noticed on the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.



Board of Parole Hearings Scheduled and Backlog Hearings Report Penal Code Section 3041(d) February, 2025

