

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
June 17 and 18, 2025

June 17, 2025

Meeting called to order at 11:00 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 Cassady, Infante, Kozel, Long, Ndudim, Nwajei, Purcell, Ruff, Schneider, Sharrieff, Sheffield, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioners Barton, Chappell, Garland, Minor, Muniz, O'Meara, Taira, and Thornton were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the May 20-21, 2025 Board of Parole Hearings' Executive Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Parole Consideration Hearings and Backlog Report for June 2025.
4. Public Comment on Consent Calendar. There were no comments.

Commissioner NWAJEI moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner CASSADY seconded the motion, which carried by a majority vote.

Barton	Aye
Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kozel	Aye
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Abstain
Nwajei	Aye
O'Meara	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Schneider	Aye

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Sharrieff	Aye
Sheffield	Aye
Taira	Abstain
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

REPORTS

Report from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer SCOTT WYCKOFF stated he and Chief Counsel Jessica Blonien attended the Association of Paroling Authorities International Conference on May 19-21, 2025. On May 12, 2025, WYCKOFF met with representatives of the I-CAN Foundation, Crime Victims Assistance Network to discuss the Board's communication with victims and how to improve the process. WYCKOFF stated on May 29, 2025, he toured the California Medical Facility with Dr. Michele DiTomas and attended a memorial service for incarcerated persons who had passed.

WYCKOFF reported the Board has started a systematic review of cases that may have been impacted from the potentially false positive drug tests for opiates. The Board is looking at the timeframe of March 29, 2024, to the present where the incarcerated person was in the Medication Assistance Treatment program and received a denial of parole, an administrative review, or a petition to advance, to determine whether the potentially false positive test impacted the decision.

Report from Jessica Blonien, Chief Counsel

Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN stated that, on June 4, 2025, she presented to a group of judges and staff from the San Diego County Superior Court on the parole hearing process, who is eligible for parole consideration, the structured decision-making framework, and statistics on the Board's decision-making.

BLONIEN stated DEVON BREWSTER has been appointed as Staff Attorney I with the Board's Legal Division.

BLONIEN provided clarification regarding questions at rescission hearings. BLONIEN stated incarcerated persons are permitted to ask questions through counsel at rescission hearings for an improvident grant, so as the questions help clarify or explain what is already in the record for the hearing panel.

BLONIEN reported the Board updated the policy regarding submission of graphic photographs. This policy provides that photos may be submitted so long as they are in a separate attachment clearly labeled as "graphic photos."

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

Chief Deputy RYAN YOUTSEY stated that, on May 30, 2025, Parole Agent III Martin Figueroa met with the RISE group at the California Medical Facility to share information regarding reentry housing, parole expectations, services, and other topics related to long-term incarcerated individuals.

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

Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI stated that, in May, FAD clinicians received training from the Department of State Hospitals in recognizing and reversing burnout in forensic and correctional studies. Dr. TEHRANI reported some FAD clinicians will attend suitability hearings to observe the use of Comprehensive Risk Assessments in the hearing process. Dr. TEHRANI stated it is a priority for the FAD to attend outreach in the community and visit institutions.

Report from the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS)

Chief MARIAM EL-MENSHAWI stated that to overcome barriers with the victim registration process, OVSRS piloted projects in two counties to increase registration and participation in post-conviction processes. EL-MENSHAWI stated OVSRS is currently working to update the registration form to keep victim information updated and working with the Board to ensure victims have language accessibility. EL-MENSHAWI stated OVSRS is ready to launch the OVSRS web-based reservation portal housed on their website.

EL-MENSHAWI reported her team presented to the Orange County and Los Angeles County District Attorneys' Offices about the victims' role in the parole hearing process.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

SUSAN DETWILER suggested notifying incarcerated persons regarding the Board's awareness of the false positive drug tests and expressed concern that relying on drug tests in parole decisions discourages incarcerated persons from seeking treatment.

JANE DOROTIK expressed concern regarding the low grant rate of elderly incarcerated persons.

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VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed concern regarding the Board's consideration of restitution circumvention when determining suitability for parole.

SU KIM, UnCommon Law, encouraged the Board to stop relying on treatment records when evaluating parole suitability because it discourages incarcerated persons from seeking treatment.

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

Commissioner KOZEL stated a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present in person.

EN BANC REFERRALS

Referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 4802 to review a pardon application.

12. THOMPSON, KEVIN (C08109, C12414, C48317)

THOMPSON, THOMPSON's friend, and a representative of the Butte County District Attorney's Office supported the application.

13. VIOTTI, MARC (T83647)

VIOTTI supported the application.

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office expressed concern about the process and asked for additional information.

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

14. GERONIMO, PABLO (F34230)

No speakers.

15. THOMAS, WALTER (V00246)

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

A representative of the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office recommended vacating the decision.

Referral to consider for a rescission hearing under California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2450 et seq., and 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.

16. RAMIREZ, PAUL (P77328)

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

17. WILSON, STEPHEN (AP8624)

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

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

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.

18. BLACK, EARLY (H25299)

BLACK's attorney, JOHNYWILLY OSUJI, supported the parole grant.

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

19. CALVILLO, RENE (BH9941)

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

20. DELASHMUTT, JACOB (K89394)

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DELASHMUTT's friend supported the parole grant.

Representatives of the San Luis Obispo County and Riverside County District Attorneys' Offices recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

21. HERN, SHAWN (D12518)

No speakers.

22. JACKSON, ELBERT (P49590)

JACKSON's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

Open session recessed at 12:57 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 1:07 p.m.

23. LOPEZ, JORGE (F91998)

LOPEZ's family, friends, and attorney, JOSEPH MAGAZENNI, supported the parole grant.

Victim representatives and representatives of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

24. NGUYEN, JORGE (F91998)

NGUYEN's family, friend, and attorney, CHARLES CARBONE, supported the parole grant.

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

25. ORTIZ, MARIO (AF8499)

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

26. TATUM, IRVIN (E20208)

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TATUM's family and friend supported the parole grant.

The victims and a representative of the Marin County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

27. THOMPSON, ALBERT (H20780)

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

28. WILLIAMS, CHARITY (WF8212)

WILLIAMS's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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

Open session recessed at 2:18 p.m.

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Open session reconvened 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, Cassady, Chappell, Garland, Infante, Minor, Muniz, Ndudim, Nwajei, O'Meara, Taira, and Thornton were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioner GARLAND stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present in person.

EN BANC REFERRALS

Referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 4802 to review a pardon application.

30. MUNFORD, WILLARD

MUNFORD supported the application.

A representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office neither supported nor opposed the application.

A representative of the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office opposed the application.

31. STERLING, AUGUST (W18018)

STERLING's family and a representative of Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office supported the application.

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

32. ALIKSANIAN, SILVA (WE3920)

ALIKSANIAN's family and friends supported the parole grant.

The victim and a representative of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office recommended vacating the decision.

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33. MONTALBOMARIO-RODRIGUEZ, MOSES (T41518)

No speakers.

34. POWELL, MARCUS (T40272)

A representative of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office recommended vacating the decision.

Referral by the Chief Counsel to consider ordering a rescission hearing pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2450 et seq.

35. GONZALEZ, ANGEL (K30337)

No speakers.

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.

36. ARANA, PEDRO (F95440)

ARANA's family supported the parole grant.

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

37. CARVALHO, JOSEPH (T84572)

CARVALHO's family supported the parole grant.

38. CASADOS, RICHARD (E37375)

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

39. GARCIA, ALFRED (H11896)

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

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40. GUADARRAMA, JORGE (P54739)

GUADARRAMA's attorney, ANANDA HART, supported the parole grant.

41. HALL, ALFONSO (AL3164)

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

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

Open session recessed at 10:36 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

42. HART, MICHELLE (WF5414)

HART's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

43. JACKSON, ALEX (AV0947)

JACKSON's family supported the parole grant.

44. MCCURDY, GREGORY (K07553)

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

45. MCDONALD, CHRISTOPHER (G66692)

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

46. NAVARRO, JUAN (AL1662)

NAVARROS's family supported the parole grant.

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47. NOGUERA, WILLIAM (D77200)

NOGUERA's family and friends supported the parole grant.

48. RUIZ, IGNACIO (AP7368)

RUIZ's attorney, JASON CAMPBELL, supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

49. SCAFFIDI, KELLY (H09314)

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

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

Open session recessed at 12:30 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

50. SHERER, CLIFTON (V29247)

No speakers.

51. SINGLETARY, ELLIOTT (K46006)

SINGLETARY's family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office neither supported the grant nor recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

The victims and victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

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52. SMITH, JAMES (F38116)

SMITH's family and friends supported the parole grant.

The victim's family, friends, and a representative of the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed gratitude for the training and assistance the Board provides to those preparing for parole suitability hearings and extended a general invitation to the Life Support Alliance Lifer Picnic on Saturday in Southern California.

ROBERT KNOX, San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney, expressed concern regarding the lack of complete translation of documents and simultaneous word-for-word translation for incarcerated persons.

Open session recessed at 2:02 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 4:52 p.m.

Commissioner GARLAND stated that during the closed session, the Board made decisions on the cases noticed on the agenda and thanked everyone who participated.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



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

July, 2025

