

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
February 18 to 19, 2026

February 18, 2026

Meeting called to order at 11:05 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, Chappell, Garland, Kozel, Minor, Ndudim, O’Meara, Purcell, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Sharrieff, and Sheffield were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Commissioners Cassady, Dobbs, Long, Muniz, Schneider, Thornton, and Weiss were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2026 Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Parole Consideration Hearings and Backlog Report for February 2026.
4. Public Comment on the consent calendar. There were no public comments.

Commissioner SHARRIEFF moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner GARLAND seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Barton	Aye
Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Dobbs	Aye
Garland	Aye
Kozel	Aye
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
O’Meara	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Sargent-Burns	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye

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Sheffield	Aye
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

REPORTS

Report from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer SCOTT WYCKOFF stated that, on January 23, 2026, he, Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN, and Chief Psychologist DR. JASMINE TEHRANI attended an event at the Central California Women’s Facility. WYCKOFF stated they met with two groups of women and answered questions regarding the Board’s expectations for parole suitability, the Comprehensive Risk Assessment process, and parole grant rates for incarcerated women.

Report from Jessica Blonien, Chief Counsel

Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN stated that, on January 21, 2026, the Board filed its opening brief in the Criminal Justice Litigation Foundation (CJLF) litigation. The answering brief is due on March 23, 2026.

BLONIEN stated that the Board amended the text of the proposed commutation and resentencing regulations. On February 20, 2026, the amended regulations will be mailed to those on the Board’s notice registry and those who timely submitted a comment during the public comment period or at the public hearing. The amended regulations will also be posted on the Board’s website. The comment period for the amended regulations opens on February 20, 2026, and closes on March 7, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

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

Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI stated that, on February 3, 2026, she attended an event at the University of Southern California School of Law, organized by supervising attorney HEIDI RUMMEL, to discuss the CRA process and the FAD’s work with the Board’s Americans with Disabilities Act unit.

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

Chief Deputy, Investigations and Reentry Screening Division RYAN YOUTSEY stated that JOSE DE LA CRUZ and STEPHEN VELLEZ have joined the Board as Parole Agent IIIs.

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

Manager SILVIA ACEVES stated that the Board is providing interpreters for victim impact statements at parole hearings, and OVSRS is trying to secure more language access for victims for the rest of the hearing. ACEVES stated that OVSRS's call center is still experiencing technical difficulties, but OVSRS is working to resolve the issues. Those who need to contact OVSRS can leave a message by phone, send an email to victimservices@cdcr.gov, or use the live chat function on the OVSRS website.

ACEVES thanked Heidi Rummel and Parole Justice Works for providing a training to OVSRS staff.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed concern that comprehensive risk assessments with a higher risk rating than previous assessments often lack an evidentiary basis for the higher rating. NELSON-SLOANE requested that panels use their independent judgement of an incarcerated person's current risk of dangerousness, based on all the available evidence, particularly the incarcerated person's participation in meaningful programming.

ANGELICA CANDERALRIA-GONZALEZ and ERNESTO GONZALEZ shared their experience working with people who have mental health and medical needs, they also shared their positive experience having JAIME GONZALEZ home on parole.

JAIME GONZALEZ described his experiences on parole, advocated for incarcerated persons with mental health concerns, and expressed interest in assisting the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services.

MICHELE GARCIA stated that many incarcerated persons spend years earning qualifications and attending self-help programs. GARCIA requested that hearing panels give significant weight to their achievements.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Chappell, Garland, Kozel, Minor, Ndudim, O'Meara, Purcell, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Sharrieff, and Sheffield were present in person.

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

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EN BANC REFERRALS

Referral pursuant to Penal Code section 3041 when there is a tie vote. Public comment is prohibited pursuant to Penal Code section 3041, subdivision (e).

12. ROBINSON, DANIEL (P20691)

No public comment permitted.

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.

13. BROWN, RODNEY (D22973)

BROWN's family, friends, and attorney, MICHAEL PARENTE recommended ordering a rehearing.

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.

14. ALVAREZ-MURGA, LINO (BC9409)

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

15. BARRIENTOS, NANCY (WE5167)

BARRIENTOS's friends supported the parole grant. BARRIENTOS's statement was read.

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

16. BATH, AMANPREET (AU0225)

BATH's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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17. FUNSTON, DAVID (P37790)

FUNSTON's friend and attorney, MAYA EMIG, supported the parole grant.

18. GRANADOS, WILLIAM (H76438)

GRANADOS's family and friends supported the parole grant.

Representatives of the Los Angeles County and Riverside County District Attorneys' Offices recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

19. JONES, EFREM JR. (AK8690)

No speakers.

20. NOWLING, KYLE (AG3683)

NOWLING's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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

Open session recessed at 12:45 p.m.

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Meeting called to order at 9:01 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, Dobbs, Garland, Kozel, Muniz, O'Meara, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Taira, Thornton and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Commissioner Long was online via TEAMS, with his camera turned on.

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

EN BANC REFERRALS

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.

22. NAVARRO, LEOPOLD (K65826)

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

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.

23. NELSON, SAMUEL (G12688)

A representative of the Orange 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.

24. CRESCI, CARLO (AZ6742)

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

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25. GUTIERREZ, JOSE (F92215)

No speakers.

26. HAYNES, CLIFTON (G00575)

No speakers.

27. HAYTHORNE, EDDIE (B52213)

No speakers.

28. MARTINEZ, EMILIO (AU6912)

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

29. MCMURPHY, MARVIN (B66941)

MCMURPHY's family, friends, and representatives of the Marin County Public Defender's Office supported the parole grant.

The victim's family and a representative of the Marin County Sheriff's Department recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

30. SANTOYO, ROCIO (X20884)

SANTOYO's friend supported the parole grant.

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

31. SCHOPPE-RICO, JOHN (V11328)

SCHOPPE-RICO's family, friends, attorney, REBECCA RABKIN, and a representative of the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office supported the parole grant.

32. SOBALVARRO, DIEGO (V42998)

SOBALVARRO's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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OPEN COMMENTS

No commissioner requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

RAPHAEL QUIROZ described his experiences after being released on parole.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, summarized the work of the organization since its inception 16 years ago. NELSON-SLOANE offered to provide the Board with information on when and where programs are occurring at institutions throughout California.

ANGELICA CANDELARIA-GONZALEZ and ERNESTO CANDELARIA stated that many incarcerated persons with mental health issues have difficulty articulating their state of mind. They stated that the needs of such persons are better addressed in mental health facilities rather than by their continued incarceration.

JAIME GONZALEZ expressed concern that many incarcerated persons are reluctant to attend programs that address their mental health issues because of the stigma attached to such programs.

Open session recessed at 10:32 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 12:32 p.m.

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

Open session adjourned at 12:33 p.m.



Board of Parole Hearings Scheduled and Backlog Hearings Report Penal Code Section 3041(d) March, 2026

