

**BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
March 17 to 18, 2026**

March 17, 2026

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.

Statement from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer, SCOTT WYCKOFF, stated that California's parole system operates under laws enacted by the legislature and interpreted by the courts. The law requires that hearing panels apply the same legal standard to each case, and the nature of the crime does not, in and of itself, provide evidence of current dangerousness. Hearing panels conduct detailed reviews of risk factors, rehabilitation, and parole planning and use evidence-based tools to assess risk and determine whether the person currently poses an unreasonable risk of danger to society. The success of the Board's decisions on parole suitability is demonstrated by the lowest recidivism rate in the nation. WYCKOFF welcomed comments from the public, thanked those who participate in the parole process, and expressed that attacking public servants undermines the integrity of the processes that keep California safe.

Roll Call: Commissioners Cassady, Chappell, Dobbs, Kozel, Long, Muniz, Purcell, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioners Infante, Minor, Ndudim, O'Meara, Ruff, Sharrieff, Sheffield, and Taira were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the February 18 and 19, 2026 Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Parole Consideration Hearings and Backlog Report for March 2026.
4. Public Comment on Consent Calendar. There were no public comments.

Commissioner KOZEL moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner MUNIZ seconded the motion, which carried, with Commissioner Infante abstaining.

Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye

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Dobbs	Aye
Infante	Abstain
Kozel	Aye
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
O'Meara	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Sargent-Burns	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye
Sheffield	Aye
Taira	Aye
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

REPORTS

Report from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer SCOTT WYCKOFF stated that on February 20, 2026, he attended a ribbon cutting for the Learning Center at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, which provides reentry and rehabilitative services for incarcerated people and wellness spaces for staff. On March 4, 2026, WYCKOFF attended a meeting with I-CAN Crime Victims Assistance Network and answered questions about parole processes. On March 5, 2026, WYCKOFF attended a graduation ceremony at California State Prison Solano for 32 graduates of the Occupational Mentor Certification Program, all of whom are now studying for a state certification assessment.

Report from Jessica Blonien, Chief Counsel

Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN stated that RICKY WILLIAMS and MATT MUNOZ have been hired as Attorney I's with the Legal Division.

BLONIEN provided an update on proposed legislation that would impact the Board: Assembly Bills 1782 and 1897 would change the processes of the Board's Offenders with a Mental Health Disorder unit; Assembly Bill 1545 would allow Sexually Violent Predator screening for indeterminately-sentenced incarcerated people; and Assembly Bills 47 and 2727 and Senate Bills 356 and 1278 would change the criteria of those eligible for elderly parole. BLONIEN stated the Legal Division is reviewing and preparing to summarize and respond to public comments regarding the Board's commutation and recall of sentence regulations.

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

Chief Deputy RYAN YOUTSEY stated that LOUIS KISSANE has been hired as a Parole Agent III with IRSD.

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

Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI stated that she presented at the University of California, Irvine Center for Psychology and Law to speak about the responsibilities of the Board's Forensic Assessment Division. TEHRANI thanked Elizabeth Cauffman for extending the invitation.

Report from Mariam El-Menshawi, Chief of the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS)

Chief MARIAM EL-MENSHAWI stated that she participated in an event at California Institute for Women called "Responsibly Driven," which highlighted the importance of accountability in the rehabilitative process. OVSRS managers attended a California Crime Victims Assistance Association training with district attorney advocates from across California. EL-MENSHAWI provided general updates highlighting the issues with OVSRS's phone line and encouraged the public to leave a voice message or send a chat through OVSRS's website. EL-MENSHAWI reported that National Crime Victims' Rights Week is from April 19 to April 25, 2026.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance (LSA), stated she appreciates the work of the commissioners and believes the Board's low recidivism rate gives veracity to the process. NELSON-SLOANE extended an invitation to commissioners to attend the LSA Lifer Picnic.

CARLOS WILSON, LSA, stated he received the opportunity through LSA to go into prisons to present information to the incarcerated population and facilitate programs. WILSON informed the Board that there is an ongoing concern among the incarcerated population that transferring to a Sensitive Needs Yard is being treated as a prerequisite for parole suitability.

JAIME GONZALES expressed gratitude to Governor Newsom for providing programming for the incarcerated population. GONZALES stated he volunteers at food banks and

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presents to organizations about his journey. GONZALES thanked the commissioners for their work.

CONNIE LASKY, San Bernardino District Attorney, expressed concern regarding the recent technical difficulties with WatchDox. LASKY suggested sending documents added to the 10-day packet directly to hearing participants via email.

KEITH WATTLE, UnCommon Law, expressed concern that the scope of permitted testimony at rescission hearings is extremely varied across commissioners and encouraged the commissioners to review the order *In re Osborne*.

JAIME GONZALES, JR. stated that he understands the Board must make hard decisions and appreciates the hope that the parole process provides to incarcerated people. GONZALES, JR. stated families will offer support to incarcerated people upon release.

Roll Call: Commissioners Cassady, Chappell, Dobbs, Kozel, Long, Muñiz, Purcell, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person.

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

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

EN BANC REFERRALS

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

12. GONZALEZ, ERNESTO (E58611)

No public comment permitted.

Referral by a hearing panel member under Penal Code section 3041(a)(5) and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044(a) to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners

13. WEAVER, RONALD (V99024)

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

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,

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consistent, and uniform decisions, and continued public safety. Members of the public may speak for two (2) minutes.

14. FLORES, JOSEPH (BC0039)

No speakers.

15. KRENITZKY, ALLAN (E21478)

KRENITZKY's family, friends, and attorney, KATEY GILBERT, recommended vacating the parole denial and ordering a new hearing.

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

16. ROMERO, GERARDO (F05653)

The victim's family and a representative from the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rehearing.

A representative from the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services provided information about victim registration for this case.

Referral to consider for a rescission hearing under California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2450 et seq. Members of the public may speak for two (2) minutes.

17. NICHOLS, DAVID (F99945)

A representative of the Placer 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. Members of the public may speak for two (2) minutes.

18. BERMUDES, TEODOLO (K14863)

BERMUDES's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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

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19. FLORESCASTRO, HORACIO (BI7942)

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

20. MARTIN, TYREL (AV0871)

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

21. SALAZAR, JUAN (F61944)

No speakers.

22. VILLALOBOS, ROBERT (AE4241)

VILLALOBOS's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

Open session recessed at 1:19 p.m.

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Meeting called to order at 9:00 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 Barton, Infante, Long, Minor, Ndudim, O'Meara, Purcell, Ruff Sargent-Burns, Sharrieff, Sheffield, and Taira were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

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

EN BANC REFERRALS

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

24. RICCHIO, LINDA (W32549)

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. Members of the public may speak for two (2) minutes.

25. DEW, DAVID (C67417)

DEW's family, friend, and attorney, REBECCA RABKIN, supported the parole grant.

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

26. HERN, SHAWN (D12518)

No speakers.

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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. Members of the public may speak for two (2) minutes.

27. BERGNE, PETER (E57901)

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

28. BERNAL, RYAN (J68424)

BERNAL's attorney, KEITH WATTLEY, supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

29. GOMEZ, WILVER (BF4114)

No speakers.

30. KLEIN, ARTHUR (BI3892)

No speakers.

31. TARAMONA, WILVER (H83259)

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

Item number 32 was called after item number 34.

Commissioner Kozel joined the meeting via TEAMS with her camera turned on.

33. WHITEHEAD, PAUL (F02061)

WHITEHEAD's family and friend supported the parole grant.

A victim representative recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

34. WOLFE, KELLY (WF3644)

WOLFE's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

32. VOGELSANG, EVAN (P55114)

A representative of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office supported the parole grant.

Representatives of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, the victim's family, and members of the public recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

Open session recessed at 10:15 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

Additional members of the public recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, LSA, stated LSA provides training six days a week at five institutions. NELSON-SLOANE provided the number of people who have successfully completed the curriculum and training with LSA at various CDCR institutions and extended an invitation to BPH staff to attend the classes with LSA.

JAIME GONZALES expressed that he had a difficult childhood, which led to drug use and a negative path culminating in murder and a life sentence. GONZALES stated that he did not have much hope when he first came to prison, but things changed under Governor Newsom. GONZALES stated he now volunteers and gives back to his community and thanked the commissioners for their work.

LAUREN CARDINELI stated that she is running for the Board of Supervisors and wants people to enjoy the right to be happy, which requires arresting bad people.

SU KIM, UnCommon Law, expressed concern regarding the amount of political pressure being placed on the Board to deny parole based on the commitment offense. KIM stated that those released under elderly parole have the lowest recidivism rates in the nation with no cases of sexual reoffending. KIM stated there are many Californians who support the elderly parole policy.

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JANICE BELLUCCI, Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws, thanked the Board for implementing the elderly parole program and reminded the public that the program was passed through legislation. BELLUCCI noted that the elderly parole program does not guarantee parole; rather, it provides people with an opportunity to be considered for parole.

REBECCA WEIKER, Mend Collaborative, offered her condolences to the survivors of child sexual abuse. WEIKER works with restorative justice programs and urged survivors to contact OVSRS and explore resources. WEIKER stated the incarcerated population cannot initiate contact, so survivors must initiate the action.

JANE DOROTIK stated she was formerly incarcerated for 20 years and was exonerated. DOROTIK expressed support for the elderly parole program, noted the low recidivism rate, and asked that commissioners not be swayed by political influence.

SHIVANI NASHAR, Initiate Justice, stated that many Californians, including Initiate Justice, support the elderly parole program. NASHAR opined that resources used to incarcerate individuals who do not pose a public safety risk should be directed toward services for victims and other community needs. NASHAR expressed concern about unreliable drug tests affecting parole consideration and stated that such test results should be used only by health care professionals. NASHAR urged the Board to stop considering drug test results in parole suitability decisions and emphasized the importance of treating addiction as a health issue.

Open session recessed at 11:44 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 1:53 p.m.

Commissioner RUFF 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 1:53 p.m.



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

