

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
July 21 to 23, 2026

July 21, 2026

Meeting called to order at 11:02 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, Kusaj, Long, Muniz, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Stern, Taira, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioners Dobbs, Infante, Minor, Ndudim, Purcell, Sharrieff, and Sheffield, were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the June 16-17, 2026 Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Parole Consideration Hearings and Backlog Report for July 2026.
4. Public Comment on the Consent Calendar. There were no public comments.

Commissioner WEISS moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner GARLAND seconded the motion, which carried, with Commissioners Kusaj, Stern, and Taira abstaining.

Barton	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Dobbs	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kusaj	Abstain
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Sargent-Burns	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye

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Sheffield	Aye
Stern	Abstain
Taira	Abstain
Weiss	Aye

REPORTS

Report from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer SCOTT WYCKOFF stated that he, legal staff, and commissioners recently toured the California Medical Facility (CMF), where they had the opportunity to observe and speak with staff from different units and programs. WYCKOFF welcomed Dr. Clifford Kusaj and Rachel Stern to the Board as new Commissioners. WYCKOFF stated that Commissioner Kathleen O'Meara will be leaving the Board next month and thanked her for her service.

Report from Jessica Blonien, Chief Counsel

Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN stated that the Commutation and Recall of Sentence (C&R) Recommendation Assessment Process regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and are expected to go into effect October 1, 2026, with initial reviews starting in July 2027 and hearings following approximately one year later.

BLONIEN stated that the Board was served with a lawsuit regarding the C&R process, which is being handled by the Attorney General's Office. BLONIEN also stated that the *CJLF* litigation regarding Minimum Eligible Parole Dates has been fully briefed in the California Supreme Court and hopes oral argument will be scheduled in six to eight months.

BLONIEN announced Sandy Sinclair's retirement, Greg Lang's promotion to Attorney III, and Chandler Ayers's role as the new litigation coordinator.

BLONIEN stated that the Board has been tracking legislation regarding elderly parole eligibility, sexually violent predator screenings, and offenders with a mental health disorder.

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

Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI stated that Dr. Wendy Weiss and Dr. Jeanette Sanders have retired from FAD and that Dr. Kozel has returned to FAD as a senior psychologist. TEHRANI stated that she attended a picnic for Lifer Support Alliance (LSA), met with the families, spoke with the formerly incarcerated, and thanked Vanessa Nelson-Sloane for the opportunity. TEHRANI stated that she also provided training for the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole.

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Report from Mike Young, Assistant Chief of the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS)

Assistant Chief MIKE YOUNG stated that the OVSRS parole hearing reservation portal has been fixed, so victims and their families can go online and contact OVSRS to participate in hearings. YOUNG stated that the OVSRS phone line is still experiencing technical issues; however, victims can still call and leave a message. YOUNG stated that victims can also contact OVSRS via their website and email.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance (LSA), expressed concern regarding recent grant trends from 2025 to the first half 2026 indicating there have been little to no grants in the last several months. NELSON-SLOANE stated that LSA has been reviewing denials for the last few months and would like input on why the grant rate has been trending down.

CONNIE LASKY, San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney, expressed concern that OVSRS will now be sending district attorney's offices the attendance list of victims for a hearing one month prior to hearings rather than the usual two weeks' notice. LASKY also expressed concern that victims have been discouraged by OVSRS to use the district attorneys' offices' victim advocates. LASKY stated that district attorneys' offices want to be able to reach out to victims who register within the legal timeframe.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Chappell, Garland, Kusaj, Long, Muniz, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Stern, Taira, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioner MUNIZ 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).

11. BREWER, ALEXANDER (AM7772)

No comments permitted for tie votes.

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Referral by the Chief Counsel 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.

12. MEACHUM, JOHN (B55236)

No speakers.

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), to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners.

13. FIGUEROA, FELIX (E97977)

FIGUEROA's family 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.

14. BUTLER, MICHAEL (F19929)

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

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

15. CHAVEZ, GEORGE (AK6971)

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

16. CORONA, JOSE (AT1866)

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

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17. DENNER, JOSEPH (BF3901)

DENNER's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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

18. GAZZENY, ANDREW (T30217)

GAZZENY's friend supported the parole grant.

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

19. HOGG, MEGAN (W81913)

HOGG's family, friends, and attorney, REBECCA RABKIN, supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

20. LOPEZ, JOE (BN7721)

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

21. NGUYEN, JEFF (AK0908)

NGUYEN's friends and attorney, KATEY GILBERT, supported the parole grant.

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

Open session recessed at 1:07 p.m.

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July 22, 2026

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 Garland, Infante, Kusaj, Minor, Ndudim, Purcell, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Sharrieff, Sheffield, and Stern were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioner Dobbs was online via TEAMS, with her camera turned on.

Commissioner INFANTE 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).

23. OCHOA, PACIANO (H03961)

No comments permitted for tie votes.

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.

24. CARMONA, MARIO (D84212)

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recommended vacating the parole grant and ordering a new 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.

25. CASTILLO, JONATHAN (BJ1773)

CASTILLO's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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

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26. COPLEN, MICHELLE (X29962)

COPLEN's family supported the parole grant.

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

27. DODSON, TYUN (K04510)

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

28. GILBERT, JORGE (BM0213)

GILBERT's friends supported the parole grant.

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

29. HERNANDEZ, ESTEBAN (G12779)

The victim's family supported the parole grant.

30. LANDEROS, MAURQUICE (AM9391)

LANDEROS's friends supported the parole grant.

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

31. LONCARIC, SEBASTIAN (BG1138)

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

32. LOPEZ, MARIBEL (WA4439)

LOPEZ's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

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33. NELSON, HAROLD (BR8996)

NELSON's friend supported the parole grant.

34. RIOS, DAVID (BD9381)

RIOS's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

35. ROSALES, ALEX (V76601)

ROSALES's friends supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

36. VALENCIA, JOSE (K88144)

VALENCIA's attorney, KRISTINA FOX, supported the parole grant.

The victim's family and a representative of the Los Angeles 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 (LSA), stated that the Board should record the Comprehensive Risk Assessments (CRA) interviews for clarity and context. NELSON-SLOANE expressed her concern that the CRA may not always accurately reflect an incarcerated person's statements.

JAIME GONZALEZ, LSA, discussed his childhood and how he became incarcerated. GONZALEZ expressed the importance of body-worn cameras on officers in the institutions and requested the commissioners' assistance in supporting this initiative.

Open session recessed at 10:53 a.m.

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
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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, Chappell, Garland, Minor, Ndudim, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Sheffield, and Stern were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioners Dobbs, Infante, Kusaj, Long, Muniz, Purcell, Sharrieff, Taira, and Weiss were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

PRESENTATIONS

David Amaya, Johny Diaz, Destini Gray, and Terrance Harris, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, presented: **Hope in Action**

Ivan Strean, a Master Level Sign Language Interpreter for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, presented: **Effective Communication with Deaf Incarcerated Persons in Parole Hearings**

Open session recessed at 10:49 a.m.

Open session reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Thomas M. Nosewicz, Legal Director, Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, and Alissa Skog, Researcher, California Policy Lab, University of California, Berkeley, presented: **Recidivism of People Released Under Changes to California's Felony-Murder Law**

Susan Burton, SAFE Founder, and Pamela Marshall, Deputy Director, presented: **Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom & Equality (SAFE) Housing Network**

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

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VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance (LSA), stated that LSA has noted recurring transcript discussions regarding incomplete programming among incarcerated persons. NELSON-SLOANE highlighted several contributing factors, including capacity constraints, long waitlists, lack of staff sponsors, temporary program shutdowns, restricted ducats, and institutional transfers. NELSON-SLOANE expressed concern over inconsistencies across institutions and urged commissioners to consider these access limitations during programming discussions.

JAIME GONZALEZ, LSA, expressed his support for Ms. Nelson-Sloane's comments regarding programming access. GONZALEZ emphasized the ongoing challenges faced by both incarcerated persons and correctional staff and advocated for the implementation of body-worn cameras by all officers.

Commissioner RUFF thanked everyone who participated.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.



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

