

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
August 18-19, 2026

August 18, 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.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Kusaj, Minor, Ndudim, Purcell, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Sheffield, Stern, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioners Garland, Infante, Long, Muniz, Sharrieff, and Taira were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the July 21-23, 2026, Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Parole Consideration Hearings and Backlog Report for August 2026.
4. Public Comment on the Consent Calendar. There were no public comments.

Commissioner WEISS moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner RUFF seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Barton	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kusaj	Aye
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Sargent-Burns	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye
Sheffield	Aye
Stern	Aye

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Taira	Aye
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

REPORTS

Report from Scott Wyckoff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer SCOTT WYCKOFF stated that he, assembly members, and commissioners recently toured the California Medical Facility and Folsom State Prison, where they had the opportunity to observe and speak with staff from different units and programs. WYCKOFF stated that he and Commissioner Kusaj attended a graduation ceremony for the Arms Down program at California State Prison, San Quentin and participated in a panel discussion with incarcerated persons.

WYCKOFF welcomed Jeremy Valverde as the new Chief Deputy of Field Operations. WYCKOFF announced that Commissioner Schneider will be leaving the Board at the end of August and thanked him for his service.

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

Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI stated that she provided a webinar on the science of risk assessments to the Association of Paroling Authorities International, which included the attendance of representatives from other states, Canada, and Hong Kong.

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

Chief MARIAM EL-MENSHAWI reported that the OVSRS phone center is active, and representatives are taking calls Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. An interpreter line is also available to assist callers if needed. EL-MENSHAWI reminded the public that the OVSRS BPH reservation portal is active for submitting requests to attend parole hearings. EL-MENSHAWI stated that 10 OVSRS employees have completed the 40-hour victim advocate training, and efforts are being made to get the full staff certified.

OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance (LSA), noted that despite recent public concern regarding the paroling of sex offenders, commissioners should be mindful that the recidivism rate for this population remains low. NELSON-SLOANE stated that

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LSA is monitoring parole grant decisions for sex offenders and will provide updates on any emerging trends. NELSON-SLOANE also thanked Commissioners Schneider and Ndudim for attending the Community Healing event at the California State Prison, Solano.

CONNIE LASKY, San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney, stated that at a recent hearing, an incarcerated person submitted last-minute parole plans and handwritten documents which had another incarcerated person's name crossed out and parole plans for another geographical area. LASKY stated that when the hearing panel asked about this, the incarcerated person stated they worked on the documents with their attorney using a template. LASKY asked whether the trainings provided to incarcerated persons' attorneys include writing parole plans for their clients, and if so, perhaps a new provider for these trainings should be considered.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Kusaj, Minor, Ndudim, Purcell, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Schneider, Sheffield, Stern, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

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

EN BANC REFERRALS

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

10. CHAVEZ, HUMBERTO (C39160)

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

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.

11. HIDALGO, JOSE (H43269)

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

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12. SIMONTON, JAMES (T45023)

A representative of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office recommended affirming 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. Members of the public may speak for two (2) minutes.

13. BURRIS, TYRRELL (BD7555)

BURRIS's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

14. HANNA, DENNIS (AE8938)

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

15. OWENS, CLAUDE F06356

OWENS's family and friend supported the parole grant.

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

Open session recessed at 12:18 p.m.

August 19, 2026

Open session opened at 12:47 p.m.

Chief Counsel BLONIEN stated that during the closed session, the Board made decisions on the cases noticed on the agenda and discussed pending litigation. BLONIEN thanked everyone who participated.

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.



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

