

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
September 22-23, 2026

September 22, 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, Garland, Long, Muniz, Ndudim, Purcell, Sharrieff, Sheffield, Taira, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

Commissioners Chappell, Infante, Kusaj, Minor, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, and Stern were online via TEAMS, with their cameras turned on.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

Barton	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kusaj	Aye
Long	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muniz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Sargent-Burns	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 newly appointed Commissioner Brittiany Bearden was in attendance and observing the Executive Board Meeting, and that she and Commissioner Reye Diaz will be sworn in on October 12, 2026. WYCKOFF recognized Jeremy Valverde as the new Chief Deputy of Field Operations, who will be starting at the Board on October 1, 2026.

WYCKOFF participated in several outreach events in August, including meeting with members of the Criminal Victims Assistance Network: I-CAN along with Commissioners Julie Garland and William Muniz, attending the California District Attorneys Association conference, meeting with representatives from Homies Unidos, and traveling to Norway as part of a delegation team from California to engage in an immersive review of the Norwegian Correctional Service.

Report from Jessica Blonien, Chief Counsel

Chief Counsel JESSICA BLONIEN stated that of the numerous bills authored by the legislature this year, two bills have passed that impact the Board's work flow. Specifically, the legislature passed Assembly Bill 2727, which is pending Governor action. This bill creates a sexual dangerousness screening process and requires the Board to screen indeterminately sentenced incarcerated persons who are granted parole to determine if they meet the criteria for referral to the Department of State Hospitals for a sexually violent predator evaluation. BLONIEN stated that Assembly Bill 2727 also changes elderly parole eligibility for certain sex offenders by requiring an age of 65 years and 25 years of incarceration and is retroactive. BLONIEN also noted that the legislature passed Assembly Bill 1897, which makes changes to the Offenders with a Mental Health Disorder (OMHD) process.

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

Chief Psychologist Dr. JASMINE TEHRANI stated that she and Chief Counsel Blonien attended the San Quentin Mental Health Awareness Week. TEHRANI toured the college program at San Quentin and stated that it felt like any college campus that was wholly focused on learning.

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OPEN COMMENTS

No Board member requested an item for future meetings.

Public Comment

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance (LSA), invited Commissioners to a series of graduations for the classes LSA offers at institutions. NELSON-SLOANE stated that the graduations will take place at California Medical Facility in October, and at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center and California State Prison, Sacramento in November.

CONNIE LASKY, San Bernadino DDA, prior to COVID-19, during in-person hearings, incarcerated individuals were limited in the materials they could bring. LASKY noted that this is no longer the case and reported attending several hearings this year where master packets or ten-day submissions contained hundreds of pages. LASKY requested that the Board establish reasonable submission timelines and page limits for incarcerated individuals, consistent with those required of district attorneys.

JESSIE ADELA, stated that she would like the panels to further consider what transparency should encompass in a parole hearing. ADELA emphasized that a lapse in memory should not be interpreted as a lack of honesty.

Roll Call: Commissioners Barton, Garland, Long, Muniz, Ndudim, Purcell, Sharrieff, Sheffield, Taira, Thornton, and Weiss were present in person.

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

EN BANC REFERRALS

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

11. GOMEZ, TOBIAS (T80823)

GOMEZ and GOMEZ's friends supported the pardon application.

12. HECK, MICHAEL (P84808, H00792, J67611)

HECK and HECK's friends supported the pardon application.

A representative of the Orange County District Attorney's Office opposed the pardon application.

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

13. BAYNE, VERTIS (T08757)

BAYNE'S friend supported the commutation application.

14. ESPINOSA, JESUS (AR9611)

A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office did not oppose the commutation application.

15. MO, TIEN (W93622)

MO's friends supported the commutation application.

A representative of the Orange County District Attorney's Office opposed the commutation application.

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

16. BROWN, ALLIE (AY2227)

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

17. GREENLEE, CHRISTOPHER (T70674)

GREENLEE's friends supported the parole grant.

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

18. OLIVER, PAUL (V84319)

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.

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19. STORMENT, BRIAN (BG1140)

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

20. THOMAS, GERALD (F93930)

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

A representative of the San Joaquin 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.

21. MORALES, GABRIELA (WE4525)

MORALES's friends supported the parole grant.

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

Open Session Recessed at 1:02 p.m.

Open Session Reconvened at 1:12 p.m.

22. PACHECO, DANIEL (AY7890)

PACHECO's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

23. RUIZ, RICHARD (J27838)

RUIZ's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

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24. WILSON, MICHAEL (T45540)

WILSON's family, friends, and attorney, JOSEPH MAGAZZENI, supported the parole grant.

Open session recessed at 2:05 p.m.

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September 23, 2026

Meeting called to order 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, Chappell, Kusaj, Infante, Minor, Ndudim, Ruff, Sargent-Burns, Sheffield, Stern, and Thornton were present in person at 1515 K Street, Sacramento, CA.

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

EN BANC REFERRALS

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

26. MARSHALL, GARY

MARSHALL supported the pardon application.

27. REDDY, RAJESH (P20651)

REDDY and REDDY'S friends supported the pardon application.

A representative of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office opposed the pardon application.

28. SIDA, KHAMPHANG (V63496)

SIDA'S family and friends supported the pardon application.

A representative of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office opposed the pardon application.

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

29. PETTAWAY, UNDRAE (H42100)

PETTAWAY's friend supported the commutation application.

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A representative of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office opposed the commutation application.

30. SPARKS, WENDELL (C81539)

SPARKS's friend supported the commutation application.

The victim's family opposed the commutation application.

31. VILLEGAS, ALFONSO (K22544)

A representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office opposed the commutation application.

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.

32. BYARD, RICHARD (D95699)

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

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.

33. GONZALEZ, ERNESTO (E58611)

GONZALEZ's friends supported the parole grant.

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

34. LARA, MANUEL (G27117)

LARA's attorney, NICHOLAS AGBO, supported the parole grant.

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

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35. LEVIN, JOHN (AI3643)

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

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

36. LOZANO, ALFONZO (AM5738)

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

37. RILEY, AMBER (WA3123)

RILEY's family and friends supported the parole grant.

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

Open Session Recessed 10:59 a.m.

Open Session Reconvened 11:13 a.m.

38. SULLIVAN, MICHAEL (D14877)

SULLIVAN's family, friends, and attorney, NICHOLAS AGBO, supported the parole grant.

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

39. VELAZQUEZ, JUAN (G61223)

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

40. WALKER, DAVID (BK0714)

WALKER's family and friends 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.

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41. WILLIAMS, KARL (V47242)

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 (LSA), stated that the August grant rate was under 20 percent and noted that some commissioners gave no grants during the month. NELSON-SLOANE reported that LSA has heard from incarcerated persons of wanting to stipulate in hopes that the hearing atmosphere will improve. NELSON-SLOANE asked the Board to explore what factors may be contributing to the low grant rate.

JESSIE ADELA stated that if racial disparity data is provided, then commissioner-level data should also be made available to promote accountability and allow the public to identify patterns or disparities in decision-making.

Open session recessed at 12:06 p.m.

During the closed session, the Board made decisions on the cases noticed on the agenda and discussed pending litigation.

The meeting concluded at 1:45 p.m.



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

