

M A D E R A C O U N T Y
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S

July 9, 2025

MINUTES

The Madera County Economic Development Commission meetings are open to the public. Members of the public were advised at the posting of the agenda that the meeting was available for public viewing and participation through Zoom.

PRESENT: *Rob Poythress, Ollia Ridge, Jordan Wamhoff, Maiknue Vang, Waseem Ahmed, Elsa Mejia, John McCann, Adam Olivares, Laura Young, Dennis Haworth, Melissa Jones*

ABSENT: *Nathan Alonzo, Kara Shearer*

STAFF: *Kristina Gallagher, Lois Leonard, Elena Estrada*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION

Self-Introductions were made with Dennis Haworth, representing the Chowchilla Chamber. Troy McNeil, Deputy Director/Fiscal Supervisor, Madera County Transportation Commission and Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner, Madera County Transportation Commission in attendance.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Mejia, the agenda is approved as presented. Motion carried.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

- April 9, 2025

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- June 2025

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Mejia, the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS-

6.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Audit for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed, the audit quote of \$5,800 from Ralph McGinnis, CPA is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.2 Contract for Legal Services

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Jones, Executive Director Gallagher to enter into a contract for legal services with Noble Law PC, a California Corporation. Contract reviewed on an annual basis at the same time as the quote for the annual audit.

Motion carried with Commissioner Haworth voting no.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)

Troy McNeil, Deputy Director/Fiscal Supervisor, MCTC gave a power point presentation outlining the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) a long-term (20-year minimum timeframe) strategic document that outlines transportation needs, goals, and proposed projects to meet them. It aims to improve mobility, enhance safety, and support sustainable economic growth by addressing infrastructure gaps and prioritizing transportation investments. A key goal of the RTP/SCS is the reduction of transportation related greenhouse gas emissions. This is achieved through a focus on integrating housing, transportation, and environmental planning creating more sustainable and resilient communities while enhancing quality of life and reducing environmental impact. By completing these plans, the projects and programs in them become eligible for a variety of state and Federal funding opportunities. He shared a QR code for a survey asking people to complete regarding housing needs which can drive transportation.

Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner, MCTC reviewed the Madera County Growth and Development Forecast, covering 2025 through 2050. The Madera

County Growth and Development Forecast was prepared to provide accurate projections of future conditions in Madera County to the year 2050. Like all long-term forecasts, this forecast involves uncertainty, especially looking out to 2050. Regular updates help adjust for changes. This forecast faces added uncertainty due to: COVID-19 impacts – Some trends changed or sped up; others remain unclear. Federal immigration policies – Future changes may affect state and local population growth. Troy McNeil, then shared current and upcoming projects throughout the county. Discussed Measure T funding and potential future projects using those funds.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8.1 Letter in support to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Poythress - (Madera Chamber)- reported on the upcoming Pomegranate Festival, Salute to Education and Lifetime Achievement Awards being held on August 7th.

Commissioner Wamhoff- (Board of Supervisors) – reported on the new Bass Lake ordinance, no longer allows mooring longer than 14 days and annual boat permits for all power boats are available at 3 locations around the lake. Not from the Sheriff's as in the past. The 4th of July ordinance lead to 9x the number of calls. The Board of Supervisors will be discussing well mitigation fees for growers that have irrigated acres. Working on fees for domestic well migration to help correct wells that have been impacted by ag usage. There was a ribbon cutting for the North Fork Fire Station. It will be a full-service station with 2 full time fire fighters in conjunction with EMS. North Fork Rancheria donated a fire truck. The station will be staffed full time year-round instead of seasonal. Which will increase response times in the area. Madera County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cecilia Massetti retired with Tricia Protzman serving as the new Superintendent. The county is doing a survey on county library systems. Gathering information to help modernize the library system. Gave an update on the roads in the southeastern part of the county, including the July 24th groundbreaking for the Rio Mesa Blvd expansion, completion date, Spring 2026.

Commissioner Ridge - (Golden Valley Chamber) – reported on their successful fireworks booth, where they almost sold out. They are working on a new 93636 guide. It should be complete in December. They held a ribbon cutting for a new dentist in the Ranchos.

Commissioner Jones - (Bass Lake Chamber) – reported they earned less at the Fishing Derby fundraiser as someone won a \$10,000 prize. They held a ribbon cutting for their Shoreline Bus and on the same day held a media day to promote the Shoreline Bus. The bus travels around the lake on the weekends, Friday-Sunday. It was funded by a grant from Eastern Madera County Foundation. Had their 4th of July display. This year they added 10 dumpsters to help mitigate the trash. But still had trash after the weekend. Because this is an ongoing issue, they're trying to fundraise to have more dumpsters. The chamber is dark until September.

Commissioner Haworth - (Chowchilla Chamber) – reported he is the new Executive Director of the Chowchilla Chamber. They will hold their annual Car Show in September. The food vendors are sold out. He has booth openings for resell vendors. And one free open spot available for non-profit, government agency to share information.

Commissioner Oliveres - (Oakhurst Chamber) – reported their October 10th, 11th, and 12th fall festival is coming up and they are looking for sponsors. Continue to work on the mobility study. Economic Vitality and Promotion committees are being launched to work on the Main Street America project.

Commissioner Vang-(Workforce Investment Board)- reported their mobile van should be ready in early February 2026, which allows them to take their services on the road. They will be hosting several job workshops with their partners and have completed a job fair looking for clinical back-office positions for Madera Community. They will be giving space in the center to North Fork Rancheria to do interviews and training for their summer 2026 opening. They have a healthy training budget this year that can help workers get trained for new positions. She distributed flyers for upcoming workshops. Their Rapid Response team is working with 19 dislocated workers from the closures of Rite Aid.

Commissioner McCann-(Industry at Large) - reported GMCIA is dark until September. Evapco is picking up. They will be hiring 10-15 more employees as they move to a second shift for their dry cooling machine.

Commissioner Ahmed- (City of Chowchilla) – reported they will have music in the park on Friday nights and movies in the park on Saturday nights. Their Rite Aid will close, which was the only pharmacy in town. They are working with several pharmacies to fill the void.

Commissioner Mejia- (City of Madera) – reported the Rite Aid is closing as part of the nationwide closures. They held several ribbon cuttings for Burrito King, Leightons Jewelers, EECU, J&P Spine and Joint Center and Yoli's. The 4th of July celebration at the fairgrounds was a success.

9.2 Executive Director Gallagher- *reported she attended a mission to Dallas with CCVEDC. Shared some of the conversations held with the brokers they met with. Unfortunately, there is a lack of incentives for businesses looking to move to California. She reviewed the State Cal Competes program that is not great for existing business. There have been two new Madera businesses that used the program but had to return the funds because they couldn't meet the benchmarks. The state budget passed by the governor adding a statement they must pass a housing trailer bill, that had no language in it. She discussed the update on CEQA which is only for in-fill housing. Nothing for homelessness.*

She toured Pacific Pectin, the only manufacturer in Eastern Madera County. And will attend the Trolley Tour event in August. Working with PG&E, two Madera County business received the PG&E ED rate. They will receive 20% off for the next 5 years. One is a new business to the county whose property will be annexed into the City of Madera. She's been working with Ardaugh on the ED rate and available workforce programs. She will attend the CALED, Rural Economic Development Exchange in Yuba City and will attend the Madera Chamber Lifetime Achievement awards. She shared the Department of Finance Report, Madera County was the fastest growing county in terms of housing units. Raley's One will be coming to Riverwalk in Riverstone.

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing- *shared the marketing piece Executive Director Gallagher will share at Trade Shows and will be part of the project proposal requests.*

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager- *as reported.*

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on October 8, 2025.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary