

M A D E R A C O U N T Y
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
E x e c u t i v e C o m m i t t e e

March 9, 2026
MINUTES

PRESENT: *Maiknue Vang, Jordan Wamhoff, Elsa Mejia, Waseem Ahmed*

ABSENT: *Rob Poythress*

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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Maiknue Vang.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT- *None.*

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION – *None.*

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA- *As presented.*

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

**5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission
Executive Committee Minutes – December 8, 2025**

**5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission
Financial Report- February 2026**

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 MCEDC 2026 Legislative Principles

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed the 2026 Legislative Principles are approved as presented. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

7.1 CALED Award

Marketing Manager, Elena Estrada shared MCEDC applied for a CALED award for our shop local campaign highlighting businesses in the county and the cities of Chowchilla and Madera. The application was in the category of Innovation in Digital Media. We should hear on March 12th whether we received the award.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION-

8.1 Support Approval of 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORTS/INFORMATION

9.1 Executive Committee Members

Commissioner Wamhoff (Board of Supervisors) – *Nothing to report.*

Commissioner Mejia (City of Madera) – *Nothing to report.*

Commissioner Ahmed (City of Chowchilla) – *Nothing to report*

Commissioner Vang (Workforce Investment Board) – *reported their Rapid Response team has been in contact with the businesses that are closing or laying off employees. And have been providing rapid response orientations to make sure they have access to resources to help them with job loss, find new jobs or switch careers. They will have a manufacturers job fair to help those displaced workers to connect with manufacturers in Madera that are looking for similar job skills to hire. They will have their Oakhurst job fair on March 19th and Madera job fair on April 2nd.*

9.2 Executive Director Gallagher- *reported the annual Economic Summit will be held on April 29th at 11:30. It will held at the San Joaquin Wine Company. She stated she really wanted to change things up. There will be a panel instead of two speakers. I want it to be interactive and would like people to want to go to it and be excited about it. Opportunities Zones (OZ) 2.0 will be made permanent but more difficult to have them by tightening up the guidelines.*

January 29th, the US Census Bureau released the 2024 5-year estimates which is proposed to determine eligibility for the next round of OZ designations. The state will have a webinar in mid to late March to share their guidelines. In April, jurisdictions will send their census tract nominations, using a 3rd party system. They are encouraging support letters in support of their location choices. The medium family income has been lowered from 80% to 70%. She attended the Gateway Communities meeting in Yosemite. Discussion was on park hours and the gateway communities around the park, including Madera. Gallagher highlighted several bills including AB 2462, AB 1761 and AB 1421. Shared there is a coalition letter, opposing the proposal to create EIFD's for around planned High Speed Rail Stations with the monies going to the state. Which is very odd. She will review the state budget again after the May revise to see if anything changes. The budget proposal includes the extension for Cal Competes, which is a good thing. Gallagher went over the tentative agenda for the March 18th legislative trip in Sacramento.

9.3 Manager of Business Development and Marketing- *As reported.*

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

10.0 NEXT MEETING- *The next meeting will be held with the Board of Commissioners. The original April meeting date would not have a Chair or Vice-Chair available. Staff will reach out to the Chair to confirm a future date.*

11.0 ADJOURNMENT- *The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted, Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary