

J O I N T M E E T I N G

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MADERA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AND

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MADERA COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

M I N U T E S

July 13, 2026

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: *Ollia Ridge, Rob Poythress, John McCann, Waseem Ahmed, Maiknue Vang, Elsa Mejia, Leticia Gonzales*

ABSENT: *Jordan Wamhoff, Melissa Jones, Dennis Haworth, Nathan Alonzo*

STAFF: *Kristina Gallagher, Brigitte Wickard, 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 & RECOGNITIONS

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Vang and seconded by Commissioner Gonzales the agenda is approved as presented.

On motion by Commissioner Poythress and seconded by Commissioner Vang the Bylaws is approved as presented

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes
- May 11, 2026

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission Financial Report
- June 2026

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Economic Development Corporation of Madera County (EDCMC)

On motion by Commissioner Poythress and seconded by Commissioner Gonzales, MCEDC Board of Commissioners will adjourn to the Economic Development Corporation of Madera County Board of Directors meeting at 3:57 pm. Motion carried. Returned to the MCEDC Board of Commissioners meeting at 3:58 pm.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Erika Li joined via zoom. - Presentation

Erika Lee, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Finance, provided a brief overview of the State Budget and its impacts on counties and local governments.

Ms. Lee reported that the final State Budget totals approximately \$352 billion, including \$251 billion in General Fund expenditures. The budget addresses current and projected deficits through additional revenues, expenditure reductions, and increased reserves.

Medi-Cal: Beginning July 1, 2027, premiums for certain adults with unsatisfactory immigration status will increase to \$50 per month. Medi-Cal asset limits for seniors and disabled adults will also be reinstated.

County Funding: Approximately \$1.3 billion in General Fund resources is provided to assist counties with federal HR 1 implementation for Medi-Cal and CalFresh.

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Housing/Homelessness: Funding includes \$900 million through the Housing and Homelessness Program, \$200 million for multifamily housing, and \$500 million for low-income housing tax credits.

Reserves: Approximately \$28.8 billion is held in reserves, with an additional \$6.4 billion placed in a surplus holding account pending receipt of projected revenues.

Structural Deficit: Projected out-year deficits have been reduced from more than \$20 billion annually to less than \$10 billion.

Ms. Lee noted that federal requirements continue to evolve and that the Department of Finance will continue working with counties to assess implementation needs and fiscal impacts.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8.1 Letter in support of AB1923

8.2 Letter in support of AB1761

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

- 9.1 **Commissioner Poythress- (Madera Chamber of Commerce)-** reported that the Madera Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Lifetime Achievement Awards next month. Four Madera community members will be honored:

- Bobby Gran – Longtime local business owner and City Planning Commission member, recognized for his contributions to the community and theater industry.*
- *Liz Solace – Madera High School Class of 1977 graduate and longtime banking professional, currently with Community West Bank.*
 - *Glenn Chu – Madera High School Class of 1964 graduate, longtime local business and real estate professional, and active Rotarian.*
 - *Sally Von Prezi – Madera High School Class of 1972 graduate with a long career in the waste management and banking industries, including County Bank.*

Commissioner Ahmed- (Board of Supervisors) - reported *The Classic Car Show and Bike Show* are scheduled for September, with *Movies in the Park* continuing on Fridays and Saturdays during scheduled event weekends.

Commissioner Mcann- (GMCIA) reported that anniversary on June 13 with a celebration and ribbon-cutting for the new Flight Plaza. Bricks Evapco celebrated its 50th recognizing retired employees and their years of service have been incorporated into the plaza. Evapco has added 71 employees this year, with six additional hires in progress. The company has expanded from two to three shifts and now operates 24 hours a day during the week. Current staffing includes 297 production employees and 335 total employees.

Commissioner Gonzales - (Board of Supervisors)- reported on behalf of Supervisor Ahmed that several major projects are underway in the county, including:

The State Route 41 expansion, a \$130 million project that received approximately \$27 million in grant funding.

Rio Mesa Boulevard improvements, a \$20 million project expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The Raley's groundbreaking and upcoming Tractor Supply development. Avenue 12 improvements, which are currently underway.

A new 7,300-square-foot Valley Children's Hospital outpatient care facility, expected to begin construction soon.

Commissioner Gonzales noted that there is significant development activity occurring in the southeast area of Madera County.

Commissioner Vang - (Workforce Investment Board)- reported the staff provided an update on FY 2025–26 programs. Final numbers are still pending and will be reported once available, including individuals and businesses served, investments, and workforce training activities. Staff noted that more than \$800,000 was invested last year, with this year's total expected to exceed that amount.

Commissioner Vang said that the Workforce on Wheels mobile unit held its ribbon-cutting in May. An event calendar is being developed to bring workforce services to rural and underserved communities.

The organization is also finalizing its rebranding and website with Archer and Hound, with updated branding focused on workforce development.

Commissioner Vang said that the organization received \$1 million from the James Irvine Foundation to launch a childcare entrepreneurship training program. The 12-week program will help participants obtain licensing to operate in-home childcare businesses. Partners include CVOC, SBDC, SCORE, and Nurture. Participants will also receive business support and startup stipends.

The program will initially support providers serving up to eight children, with an opportunity for additional training to expand capacity to approximately 14–15 children.

***Commissioner Ridge - (Golden Valley Chamber)-** reported on recent community developments and ribbon-cutting events. A groundbreaking ceremony was held for Raley's at Riverstone. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were also held for the Neighborhood Barber Shop on Avenue 12 near State Market and for the Visitor Center, which includes a Jump Start Juice location and a 24-hour gas station. The organization also operated a fireworks stand for seven days, which was reported to have performed well.*

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for August 4 for the new elementary school in Riverstone, Canyon Creek Elementary School.

- 9.2 **Executive Director –** *Reported that, following the May 11 meeting, legal counsel reviewed the Economic Development Corporation of Madera County bylaws. The EDC had not met since 2010, and the bylaws had not been updated since the 1970s.*

Only minor revisions were needed, including:

Clarifying the annual meeting requirement.

Confirming that the EDC Board also serves as the nonprofit's Board of Directors.

Including conflict-of-interest requirements.

Board members received conflict-of-interest forms for completion and filing.

Executive Director Gallagher reported that the organization continues to support two bills.

***AB 1923 (Soria):** Provides loan forgiveness to current recipients of the Distressed Hospital Loan Program. The bill does not include funding; however, the State Budget includes approximately \$140 million for the program. Support letters will be updated and submitted to the fiscal committees following the legislative summer recess.*

***AB 1761:** Addresses transparency at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The organization previously supported the bill during its legislative mission. As the bill has not been amended, support will continue.*

- 9.3 **Manager of Business Development & Marketing-** *Report as presented.*

- 9.4 **Business Assistance/Office Manager-** *Report as presented.*

- 10.0 **NEXT MEETING** - *The next meeting of the Commission will be held October 12, 2026.*

- 11.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brigitte Wickard, Recording Secretary