

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

May 11, 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, Nathan Alonzo, Jordan Wamhoff, Maiknue Vang*

ABSENT: *John McCann, Waseem Ahmed, Elsa Mejia, Melissa Jones, Dennis Haworth*

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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner Mejia joined via zoom.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

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

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes
-January 12, 2026

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission Financial Report
- April 2026

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

Action Items

6.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Ridge the budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 is approved. Motion carried.

6.2 Nominations & Terms of Office for the MCEDC Board of Commissioners

On motion by Commissioner Vang and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, the terms of office for the MCEDC Board of Commissioners is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.3 Election of Officers

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, Commissioner Poythress will serve as Chair and Commissioner Vang will serve as Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Motion carried.

6.4 Economic Development Corporation of Madera County (EDCMC)

On motion by Commissioner Wamhoff and seconded by Commissioner Vang, MCEDC Board of Commissioners will adjourn to the Economic Development Corporation of Madera County Board of Directors meeting at 3:24 pm. Motion carried. Returned to the MCEDC Board of Commissioners meeting at 3:44 pm.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 MCEDC 2026 Legislative Principles

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8.1 Letter in support of AB2377

8.2 Letter in support of AB1761

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Alonzo- (Utilities)- *reported PG&E will have their 5th rate reduction with a total of 24% savings for the average customer. They are not done cutting yet. Legislatively they need to have the wildfire victims fund renewed, extended and reformed to allow more money to go to the fund versus attorneys. Hoping by keeping the funds, it will stabilize the insurance market in California and stabilize stock in the utility market which is trading at 20-25% below what it should be. If the legislation passes it should correct itself. They are looking to get legislation passed to allow Diablo Canyon to operate at least until 2045, past the current date of 2030.*

Commissioner Wamhoff- (Board of Supervisors) - reported budget season talks are going well with the departments. It looks like there will be a balanced budget with a few cuts and adding a tiny bit to reserves. Although the economic condition hasn't changed much in the last several years they're hoping the tax basis will be growing with upcoming new projects. Policies are working their way through the planning commission, including short term vacations rentals and permitting.

Commissioner Vang - (Workforce Investment Board)- reported they are doing an unveiling and ribbon cutting for their Workforce on Wheels, mobile unit on May 20th. They're hoping to have the James Irvine Foundation there as they were the vendor they purchased the vehicle from and helped with the design of the unit. They have been designated as a high performing Workforce Board. With that, they have potential to receive up to \$100,000 depending on how many local high performing boards have applied. They have been able to secure a second round of the James Irvine Foundation dollars, a million dollars. They will use those funds to invest in a childcare entrepreneurship program and design and create a space in the center for a business resource center.

Commissioner Ridge -(Golden Valley Chamber)- reported Camarena Health has opened in the Ranchos and will have a ribbon cutting on May 26th. The Flatlanders Parade will be held on May 16th. They have partnered with the high school where there will be a car show after the parade. The Chamber is putting banners up on Avenue 12, thanks to the help of Supervisor Wamhoff.

Commissioner Mejia- (City of Madera)- reported on the Executive Committee's legislative day. She attended the ribbon cutting for Gonzalez Boxing on May 2nd. And a ribbon cutting for the Car Vault at the corner of Gateway and 6th.

Commissioner Poythress - (Madera Chamber of Commerce)- reported on a meeting he attended for the California Forward/California Leadership network. They are doing 3 of these meetings throughout the state. Discussions were had on, "how can the state support durable regional systems?" and "how can regions build durable collaborative structures?" Basically, they're looking to do big regional things. Conversations centered around Fresno, Tulare and Kings. He shared with them that he feels like Madera isn't part of their region, which shows the disconnect between Sacramento and the real world.

- 9.2 **Executive Director**- thanked those that attended the Economic Summit. She felt by changing it up, it would get people to want to come. Received really good feedback and welcomes more feedback, as she wants it to be bigger and better. She hates to see things stay stagnant. Looking ahead to the State of the County event in the fall, possibly switching up the location. Gave a review of the Executive Committee's legislative mission in March. MCEDC received an award at the annual CALED conference for the Business Highlights program. Attended CCVEDC's Atlanta mission where they had 6 Meetings, 3 site selectors and 3 with other service providers. Regarding Opportunity Zones, which basically cover the cities of Chowchilla and Madera. The cities will determine which eligible census tracts they'd like to include in the Zone. Attended the SR41 groundbreaking, and will be attending the 7-11 Travel Center ribbon cutting on May 15th. North Fork Casino is looking for a fall opening. Met with Valley Children's Healthcare discussing letters of support relating to hospitals. The State budget May Revise should be coming out around May 14th while the counties are waiting on their HR1 budget request. Reviewing legislative bills, where the only bill we have a position on that's active is AB1761. We're still monitoring all the other bills.

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 July 13, 2026.*

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary