

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

August 10, 2026
MINUTES

PRESENT: *Maiknue Vang, Waseem Ahmed, Leticia Gonzalez, Elsa Mejia*

ABSENT: *Jordan Wamhoff, Rob Poythress*

STAFF: *Kristina Gallagher, Brigitte Wickard, Elena Estrada*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 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 – June 8, 2026**

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

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

6.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

6.1 Letter in Support of AB1761

7.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORTS/INFORMATION

7.1 Executive Committee Members

Vice Chair Vang (Workforce Investment Board) – *Nothing to report*

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

Commissioner Gonzalez (Board of Supervisors) – *Nothing to report*

Commissioner Ahmed (City of Chowchilla) –

Commissioner Ahmed stated that the city will be having an upcoming election, and Commissioner Ahmed is running for Mayor.

Executive Director Gallagher (Madera County EDC) –

MCEDC is in the process of finalizing its annual update and is relying heavily on partners, including brokers, for data.

Planning is also beginning for this year's State of the County event. Executive Director Gallagher has been in communication with Supervisor Macaulay about different topics and potential improvements to the event. As with the Economic Summit, Executive Director Gallagher welcomes feedback and suggestions.

On the industrial side, CoStar reports a 7.7% vacancy rate within the Madera Suburban Submarket, compared to 0.8% last year. There is also positive development activity, including a new 50,000-square-foot building that is fully leased to Happy Tree Nuts and Vivint Security, and there may be additional development in that area next year.

Executive Director Gallagher has also been in communication with JBT regarding upcoming layoffs expected to begin in September and continue through December. MCEDC is aware of manufacturing companies currently seeking employees and is working to connect available employment opportunities with affected workers.

The retail sector is showing improvement, with vacancies declining by 1.2% from last year.

The submarket report MCEDC from CoStar did not include growth along Highway 41, eastern Madera County, areas north of Berenda, or the City of Chowchilla. As a result, the reported figures do not capture all economic activity and development occurring throughout the county.

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

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

8.0 NEXT MEETING- *The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2026.*

9.0 ADJOURNMENT- *The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted, Brigitte Wickard, Recording Secretary