

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
March 7, 2024**

ROOM 525, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

With the presence of a quorum, Chair Cole called the Commission meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES**

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Robert Cole  
Jacob Haik  
Cathy Hood  
Steven Lei  
Wilma Pinder  
Dora Sandoval  
John Anthony Schmitz  
Connie Sullivan  
Jennifer Williams  
Vince Wong  
Shirley Zaragoza

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

Benjamin Everard  
Katherine McKeon  
Craig Taubman  
Cesar Zaldivar-Motts

**3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 4, 2024, MINUTES**

Chair Cole asked if there were any objections or changes to the January 4, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Hearing no changes, the motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the January 4, 2024, Commission meeting were approved.

**4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Lei introduced himself to the Commission with the following highlights of his bio: Commissioner Lei stated he brings his expertise in organizational strategy and operations, risk management, and human resources from the public and private sectors. He stated that he is the Assistant Vice President of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery at East West Bank, a publicly traded bank with over 120 locations in the U.S. and Asia. Commissioner Lei has

held strategic roles in finance and business operations at the Federal Reserve Bank and the University of California System, and served as a risk consultant at Facebook.

He stated that his current and previous board service includes Opera Parallèle, the Pony Barnes Foundation (LGBTQ+ focused grantmaker), BluPeak Credit Union (\$1B+ in assets); the Institute of Human Behavior, Research, and Education, and the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum. He stated that, from 2000 to 2021, he served on the Civil Grand Jury for the City and County of San Francisco and examined the city's convention center operations, waste management and recycling programs, and mental health care system.

Commissioner Lei stated that he was excited about his appointment with this Commission and he looks forward to working with everyone.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Election of Chairperson 2024**

As the Nominating Committee's Chairperson, Commissioner Schmitz reported that Administrative Assistant Pittmon coordinated a telephone conference call with the following representatives from each of the Supervisorial Districts:

1. Commissioner Schmitz-1<sup>st</sup> District
2. Commissioner Cole-2<sup>nd</sup> District
3. Commissioner Wong-3<sup>rd</sup> District
4. Commissioner Sullivan-4<sup>th</sup> District
5. Commissioner Everard-5<sup>th</sup> District

Commissioner Schmitz stated that the representatives unanimously nominated Commissioner Jacob Haik for to serve as chair for 2024.

Commissioner Cole then asked if there were any floor nominations. Hearing none, he asked if Commissioner Haik accepted the nomination from the committee. Commissioner Haik accepted the nomination. Commissioner Cole then requested a formal motion to nominate Commissioner Haik as Chair for 2024. The motion then was Moved, Seconded, and Approved. By acclamation, Commissioner Cole declared Commissioner Haik as Chairperson for 2024.

Chair Haik thanked the nominating committee and their leadership for nominating him to be the E&E Commission Chair for 2024. He also stated that he would like to wait until the next meeting to appoint his Vice-Chair because he would like time to think it over and speak with potential Commissioners interested in the position.

Commissioner Cole stated that he would like to thank Executive Director Eng and Administrative Assistant Pittmon for always keeping the Commission running so smoothly and going above and beyond to make the Commission look good.

He thanked Commissioner Haik for all the work he had accomplished during his tenure as Vice-Chair of the Commission and congratulated him on his new role as chair.

Commissioner Cole also thanked the Commission for the privilege of chairing it for the last two years. He said it had been a great experience and that he was proud of what the Commission had accomplished. He thanked the Commissioners for all their hard work and said everyone had done a great job.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **REPORTS**

### **i. CCJCC**

Commissioner Sullivan reported that South Gate Police Chief Darren Arakawa, Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD), motioned to recommend San Gabriel Police Chief Edward Elizalde as CCJCC's public safety agency representative on the CAOD.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the Public Safety Realignment Team, Deputy Director Howard Wong, gave an update on public safety realignment (AB 109) planning and implementation efforts.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that Gender-Based Violence Executive Director Andrea Welsing reported on the Board of Supervisors' motion and the Office of Violence Prevention's (OVP) efforts to address gender-based violence.

### **ii. E&E COMMISSION PROPOSED PROJECTS**

Executive Director Eng provided another review of each proposed project. He stated that following his detailed review, the Commission will vote on the projects it will undertake in 2024.

Executive Director Edward Eng asked the Commissioners to name their top three project choices. Four projects were selected after carefully reviewing and voting on each Commissioner's choices. He stated the top projects for review are (1) the Los Angeles County Hiring and Onboarding Process (DHR and Mental Health), (2) the Los Angeles County Return to Work Process (CEO and DHR). (3) AI Processes within Los Angeles County, and (4) Review the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs's process of dispersing rental assistance to impacted renters.

Executive Director Eng stated that Commissioners interested in joining a particular task force can email Administrative Assistant Pittmon with the name of the task force. He stated that if we don't receive enough volunteers for the projects, then the process of choosing the task force will come from the E&E Chair Haik.

## **6. PRESENTATION**

There was no presentation.

## **7. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENT**

Commissioner Williams stated that she ran for State Senate District 35 and didn't get the results she wanted. She is grateful to all the people who supported her and voted for her, and she stated that the work continue regardless of the outcome.

Commissioner Pinder stated that on February 8th, she received a formal email saying, "Mayor Karen Bass has nominated her to serve as a Commissioner of the LADWP Board." As part of the appointment process, she stated that she started the background check and financial disclosures.

She also stated that on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 10 a.m., she will go directly to the LA City Hall Chamber, Room 340, to appear before the City Council, then to the Clerk's Office as instructed. She asked the Commission to keep her in their thoughts and prayers as she isn't sure what the full job details are.

**8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Executive Director Eng announced that Mr. Max Huntsman of the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General will be the guest speaker for April.

Administrative Pittmon announced the birthdays of Commissioners Pinder and Commissioner Cole.

Administrative Pittmon congratulated the Executive Director on winning his election on March 5, 2024 by an 87% margin, which surpassed his 85% winning margin in 2020.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Haik adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Executive Director, Edward Eng