

**Workforce Development Board  
Full Board  
500 Westridge Dr, Watsonville CA 95076  
Career Center Computer Lab  
Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 8:30 a.m.**

500 Westridge Drive  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
(831) 763-8900

**The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m., and a quorum was established. All participants attended in-person.**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Bartels, Elyse (Vice Chair)  
Brown, Kristen  
De La Garza, MariaElena  
Delk, Marshall  
Detlefs, Peter  
Diaz, Alma  
Dodge, Daniel  
Hererra-Mansir, Carmen  
Holmquist-Gomez, Laura  
Morse, Rob (Chair)  
Rodriguez, Annabelle  
Rodriguez, Isidro  
Pedersen, Alexander  
Setzler, Katie  
Shields, Bryan  
Siegel, Carol  
Sumano, Raymond  
Vereker, Dustin

**Board Members Excused**

Ayyad, Alia  
Corpuz, Frances  
Hernandez, Felipe  
Liebetrau, LeNae  
Rodriguez, Francisco  
Roth, Shaz  
Van Den Heuvel, Casey

**Staff in Attendance**

Diaz-Rivas, Brenda – Associate Human Services Analyst  
Gutierrez, Elizabeth - WDB Administrative Aide  
Kieu, Nathan – Business Services Manager  
Paz-Nethercutt, Sara – WDB Sr. Human Services Analyst  
Stone, Andy – WDB Director  
Vaiz, Mary Lou – WDB Clerical Support

**Guests**

Muñoz, Beatriz

**MEMBERS:**

**Rob Morse, Chair**  
Monterey Bay Epic Adventures

**Elyse Bartels, Vice Chair**  
Business Owner

**Alia Ayyad**  
Center for Employment Training

**Kristen Brown**  
Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce

**Frances Corpuz**  
Sproutling and Company

**MariaElena De La Garza**  
Community Action Board

**Marshall Delk**  
West Coast Community Bank

**Peter Detlefs**  
County of Santa Cruz

**Alma Diaz**  
Employment Development Department

**Daniel Dodge**  
Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers

**Felipe Hernandez**  
Fourth District Supervisor

**Carmen Herrera-Mansir**  
El Pajaro CDC

**Laura Holmquist-Gomez**  
Five Star Catering

**LeNae Liebetrau**  
Department of Rehabilitation

**Annabelle Rodriguez**  
Cabrillo College

**Francisco Rodriguez**  
Monterey Bay Labor Council

**Isidro Rodriguez**  
Watsonville, Aptos, Santa Cruz Adult Education

**Alexander Pedersen**  
Santa Cruz County Small Business Development Center

**Shaz Roth**  
Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture

**Katie Setzler**  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation

**Carol Siegel**  
Santa Cruz Seaside Company

**Bryan Shields**  
Carpenters Local 646

**Raymundo Sumano**  
Sumano's Bakery

**Casey Van Den Heuvel**  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 104

**Dustin Vereker**  
Discretion Brewing

**DIRECTOR:**  
Andy Stone

---

**Subject: Non-Agenda Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Subject: Chairperson's Report**

Recognition was given to Business Services Manager Nathan Kieu for contributions to the organization. A transition to a new position with the City of Salinas was announced.

---

**Subject: Board Member Spotlight**

Board members Katie Setzler, MariaElena De La Garza, and Alexander Pedersen provided brief overviews of their backgrounds and roles within the community.

---

**Subject: Consent Items**

**Item 1 – Approval of September 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

**Item 2 – WIOA Local Program Services: New/Revised Policies**

**Action:** It was moved to approve the consent items, including the September 24, 2025, meeting minutes and the new and revised local program services and fiscal policies, as drafted by the Workforce Development Board (WDB) staff.

<b>Status:</b>	Motion to Approve:	Elyse Bartels
	Motion Seconded:	Marshall Delk
	Oppositions:	None
	Abstentions:	Katie Setzler, Peter Detlefs

**Committee Action:** All in favor; motion carried.

---

**Subject: Action Items**

**Item 3 – WIOA Services Procurement Results/PY2026/27 Award Recommendations**

An update was provided regarding the mandated procurement process.

- **Service Area 1: Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Services** – Highest-scoring vendor: Goodwill Central Coast
- **Service Area 2: Youth Program Services** – Highest-scoring vendor: Santa Cruz County Office of Education

The General Services Department recommended awards to these vendors.

**Action:** It was moved to accept the award recommendations from the Procurement and authorize the WDB staff to enter into contract negotiations with the recommended vendors for PY 2026-27.

**Status:** Motion to Approve: Carol Siegel  
Motion Seconded: Peter Detlefs  
Oppositions: None  
Abstentions: None

**Committee Action:** All in favor; motion carried.

---

**Subject: Report Items**

**Report Item 4 – Plan Updates**

**1. Operational Plan Update**

Through the 2025 strategic planning process, WDB staff and the Executive Committee identified three strategic priorities. Progress updates will be presented by assigned champions at Board meetings. The Operational Plan Status Report for PY 2025–26 was reviewed. The priorities are as follows:

1. **Job Quality & Economic Mobility** – increasing access to living-wage jobs.
  - A workflow was created to display the living wage on the website and outreach materials. Living wage information was promoted through a contractor workgroup.
2. **Employer & Small Business Engagement** – strengthening connections with local employers.
  - Ten of the seventy-five projected business contacts have been completed. Communications occurred with the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system has been implemented to coordinate and track business outreach.
3. **Skills Gaps & Training Alignment** – ensuring training matches high-demand occupations.
  - The strategy to reach 40% of training enrollments in the Top 10 Occupations includes reducing barriers to training by expanding supportive services. A grant application to EDD for \$500,000 is in progress to support participants. The goal of identifying and adding training programs for the Top 10 local occupations has been completed.

**2. AJCC Continuous Improvement Plan 2025–2027, PY 25/26, Q1 Update**

- All goals remain on track. These priorities replace the previous Operational Plan.

**No action; report item only.**

---

**Legislative and Grants Update** (presented by Andy Stone):

- **CalFresh Work Requirement Information** – The Big Beautiful Bill establishes new work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD): earning \$217 per week or completing 20 hours of training or volunteer activity to receive benefits. No implementation date has been issued.
- **Employment and Training Pathways Program (ETPP)** – A program concept was developed for submission to EDD, focused on individuals impacted by the CalFresh work-requirement changes and on providing additional supportive services.
- **Boardable Agenda Management System** – Board members will receive an email from Boardable to create an account. Members are encouraged to bring devices or printed materials. Printed copies may be requested up to one day before the meeting.

**WIOA Career Services Update** (presented by Sara Paz-Nethercutt):

- **Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships (RERP)** – Grant concluded on September 30, 2025. Collaboration occurred with Cabrillo College, with 22 individuals enrolled. Individuals who did not complete the program were co-enrolled into WIOA.
- **Prison to Employment (P2E)** – Funding is extended through December 31, 2026. The enrollment target of six individuals has been met.
- **WIOA Monitoring** – Fiscal and program monitoring was conducted by the State EDD for Goodwill Central Coast and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. Compliance was confirmed with no findings. Draft reports will be provided at the next meeting.

**Community Engagement / ETPL Update** (presented by Brenda Diaz-Rivas):

- James Irvine Foundation – Public Workforce Capacity Grant
- Human-Centered Design learning labs are in progress with 19 attendees; stakeholder interviews are underway with Civic Makers. A project showcase is scheduled for January 2026.
- Additional funding opportunities are being explored with the Irvine Foundation.
- A Racial Equity workshop is scheduled for December 9, 2025, with 40 registrants.

**No action; report item only.**

---

**Presentation**

A presentation on the County of Santa Cruz Strategic Plan 2032 was provided by Sven Stafford. Board discussion followed.

---

**Break-out Session: Advancing WDB Strategic Priorities**

A discussion occurred regarding implementation of the WDB 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. The conversation will continue at future meetings. Two focus areas were identified:

1. Approaches to presenting opportunities that encourage small business development.
2. Methods to increase capacity for training individuals to enter skilled trades.

---

### **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

#### **Next Meetings:**

##### **Executive Committee**

February 4, 2026 @ 8:30 a.m.  
Location: 500 Westridge Dr.,  
Career Center Classroom,  
Watsonville, CA 95076

##### **Workforce Development Board**

March 4, 2026 @ 8:30 a.m.  
Location: 500 Westridge Dr.,  
Community Room,  
Watsonville, CA 95076