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CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2026
THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Chairperson Sheri Learmonth

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

a. Chair Sheri Learmonth called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

b. DAS Chief Adele Burnes conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

i. Members present: Sheri Learmonth, Earl Restine, Todd Braverman, Alex Beltran, and Louis Ontiveros.

ii. Members absent: Jack Buckhorn and Shelly Doran.

II. Review/Approve Previous Minutes

a. **MOTION:** Member moved to approve the minutes of the First Quarterly Meeting, held in Los Angeles on January 28, 2026. Member seconded. The motion passed without discussion.

III. Presentation by Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship Round 2

a. John Valencia, CEO of the Good for Others Foundation, an ERiCA Round 2 worksite culture grantee, presented.

i. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) workforce intermediary that helps people get into quality jobs. It has helped 450 people find employment and supported a High Road Training Partnership for healthcare in Imperial Valley. In San Diego and Imperial counties its focus is MC3 pre-apprenticeship.

ii. Its worksite culture work focuses on retaining women, nonbinary, and underrepresented apprentices once they enter the union. The plan includes curriculum, regional workshops, mental wellness support, employer- and program-facing practices, and feedback from participants, partners, and worksites.

iii. The foundation supports pre-apprentices with tools and workshops and

runs a construction workforce resource hub website that brings together networking, resources, industry events, and career opportunities. It serves seven counties.

iv. Commissioner Learmonth asked for data on participants. Mr. Valencia said the foundation will begin providing it automatically within the next year. She asked for access to the toolbox talks; he said they will be free to everyone.

v. Meg Vasey asked whether the grantee follows ERiCA procedures and rules, and whether it helps foremen with worksite issues. Mr. Valencia said it does and is building relationships, so the tools are put into practice.

vi. Chief Burnes asked about implementation support after the workshops. Mr. Valencia said support continues after boot camp and after placement, through an alumni community, with more services for those who need them. He said a grant proposal is a snapshot in time and programs need flexibility as conditions change.

IV. Feedback on the Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship Grant for Round 3

a. Chief Burnes reported that the final June budget gave DIR an additional $14.9 million for the Women in Construction priority, which will fund a third round of ERiCA. The statute directs the funding to resources that help women, nonbinary, and underrepresented people pursue trade careers. Round 2 categories were childcare, recruitment, and worksite culture.

b. Ben Rivera, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, said stipends address childcare only broadly, since few centers open early enough for construction starting times. This year the local used grant funds for a workday with an all-woman crew and is building strategies to improve worksite culture.

c. Kris Georgeson, ABC SoCal, a Round 2 grantee, said flexibility is key to using the funds well.

d. Juanita Douglas, Executive Director of Tradeswomen, Inc., said ERiCA funds served 75 pre-apprentices and 71 apprentices. She described needing childcare as a single mother during her 43 years in the trades and said she already has requests for Round 3.

e. Chief Burnes distinguished formula funding, such as RSI, which is based on hours, from grants, which carry a specific legislative intent such as bringing more women into construction. Public grant funds require controls against misuse and cannot pay for food or lobbying.

f. Meg Vasey described her own experience as a single mother in the trades and offered Mr. Rivera suggestions on childcare.

g. Chief Burnes said others can submit feedback on Round 3 through an online form: https://cadir.sharepoint.com/sites/DASCollaborate/DAS%20Library/CAC/Meetin

g%20Documents/2026/2026-10%20Q4%20Visalia/3.%20EEO/EEO%20Minutes%20Q3%202026.docx

V. Old Business

a. None.

VI. New Business

a. None.

VII. Public Comment

a. There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

a. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

b. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2026, in Visalia.