

MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call-

Commissioners and Staff Present: *Chair- Sally Sokoloski, Vice-Chair- Melissa Shaw, Jamie Bartolome, Rob Gregor, Jon Messick Matt Ricardy, Melinda Staples, Executive Director (ED)- Ericka Summers, Program Specialist - Robin Timoszyk*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: *The pledge of allegiance was said with the flag present.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *No public comments were received.*

1. Consent Agenda - Approval of Minutes for February 27, 2025

-Motion by Commissioner Bartolome to approve the February Meeting Minutes as presented.

-Second: Commissioner Shaw

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Sokoloski, Shaw, Staples, Bartolome, Messick, Ricardy and Gregor

Nay/Abstain: None

Motion carried.

2. Discussion/Action: Legal Services Contract

The Commission reviewed a sole source contract with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC for legal services for the period of July 1, 2025- June 30, 2028. in accordance with First Five Yuba Policies and Procedures Section 204, item 3.1.3. A New RFP process would be costly and delay work and disbursement of many contracts going out by the Commission in the next 3-6 months.

- Motion to approve Sole Source agreement with Colantuono, Highsmith and Whatley for legal services for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, made by Commissioner Messick*
- Second by Commissioner Staples*

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Sokoloski, Shaw, Staples, Bartolome, Messick, Ricardy and Gregor

Nay/Abstain None

Motion Carried.

3. Discussion/Action: Contract Extension

The Commission reviewed and considered a contract extension for Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD) to support a water safety programming for children 0-5 for FY 2025- 2026 in the amount of \$15,300.00.

Discussion included review of children 0-5 served in 2024; a sustainability meeting between OPUD board members, staff and their funding agencies where several ideas were mentioned including charging families a fee for the swim lessons or adding eligibility requirements tied to income starting with the Summer 2025 season. Comments from the commissioners indicated they were not interested in charging families a fee .

- Motion to approve a one-year contract extension with OPUD in the amount of \$15,300 made by Commissioner Gregor*
- Second by Commissioner Bartolome*

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Sokoloski, Shaw, Bartolome, Gregor, Messick, Ricardy, and Staples,

Nay/Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion: First Reading of the Draft 25-26 Annual Budget

The Commission will hear updates on Prop 10 revenues, and progress on sustainability planning. The Commission will review the draft budget options for the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130140(d)(3), Commission Policies and Procedures

The Executive Director (ED) introduced Avo Makdessian, First 5 Association Executive Director and Sean Powers, Assistant County Administrator who attended to answer questions if needed. She reviewed increased administrative cost; Assistant County Administrator spoke to A-87 costs, calculations, and assured the Commission the projected costs are in alignment with other County departments.

ED discussed possible areas to reduce funding for 25/26 Fiscal Year including, not offering mini grants for a second year, restricting or eliminating Imagination Library, reviewing insurance expenses to eliminate any double coverage or finding less expensive options; moving away from additional subscriptions such as Zoom and SurveyMonkey. With all of these steps and others, initial estimates show a \$577,823.00 shortfall for FY 25/26

ED explained several grants that have yet to be awarded and the First 5 California Resiliency fund which was recently approved by First 5 California. Executive Director Makdessian added that the Association has worked tirelessly to ensure any new funding from First 5 California have a “hold harmless” clause so that outside funding is not held against any First 5.

ED closed with providing information on the upcoming Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2031 and the difficult decisions that will need to be made.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

No Action was Taken on This Item

5. Discussion: Strategic Plan

In accordance with Section 130140 (a) (1) (C) (iii) of the California Health and Safety Code and County Ordinance Code Chapter 4.45.120. the Commission is required to adopt a Strategic Plan. The Commissions will hear updates on plans to build the 2026-2031 strategic Plan

Executive Director provided background on typical funding of this project and the possibility of using cost savings from 24/25 to begin the process by the end of June. ED asked for guidance on releasing an RFQ or Sole Source Agreement to procure a contract with an external agency to facilitate the Strategic Plan for FY 2026 - 2031.

Comments from the Commissioners included using existing data to reduce the cost of data collection; partnering with neighboring First 5s; checking to see if our current evaluator would be interested in a sole source agreement.

The Commission guided ED to work with Executive Committee on next steps and present findings in June to the full commission.

No Action was Taken on This Item

6. Discussion: Executive Director Monthly Activity Report

Executive Director provided an update on administration, program, special committee, and outreach activities including attendance at First 5 Advocacy Day, Day of the Child on Saturday, April 26th, and other community events in March and April.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:46 PM

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2025