



**Commission SPECIAL Meeting
MINUTES**

Monday, July 16, 2018, 6:00 pm
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200
Large Conference Room
Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Lucey filled in as Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM, followed by introductions from everyone in the room.

Commissioners in attendance were: PJ Shelton, Matt Regan for Gareth Ashley, Dr. Chris Farnitano and Kathy Marsh.

Alternates in attendance were Lee Ross and CFS Deputy Director Roslyn Gentry.

Also present was Deputy County Counsel Jachyn K. Davis for Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were: Commissioners Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, and Alternate Commissioner Supervisor Candace Andersen.

2.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Matt Regan for Gareth Ashley and seconded by Kathy Marsh to approve the items on the consent calendar.

AYES: Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, Matt Regan for Gareth Ashley, Chris Farnitano and Kathy Marsh
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

District 1 Alternate Monica Merrill arrived at this time.

5.0 Award construction contract for East County First 5 Tenant Improvement Project in Pittsburg, CA, to S. W. Allen Construction Inc. for \$2,099,826 and related actions.

Sean gave the report on the East County First 5 Center Tenant Improvement Project. He thanked the Commissioners for their flexibility in order to hold this Special Meeting of the Commission. The Commission previously approved the plans and specifications for this project at the May 7, 2018 special meeting. Staff subsequently initiated the public bidding process. Bids were opened on June 29, 2018, where 3 bids were received, all very close in price. Staff determined that S.W. Allen Construction Inc. has the lowest responsive and responsible bid at \$2,099,826, including a 5% contingency for unforeseen circumstances.



The action before the Commission included 12 related items including the contract award in the amount of \$2,099,826, authorization for the Executive Director to approve construction change orders up to an additional 10% of the contract amount, CEQA determination, and other actions.

The estimated date of completion is December 21, 2018.

PJ Shelton asked how the additional dollar amount was determined. Sean replied that our attorney in the County Counsel's office who specializes in this area recommended 10% is a sufficient and standard amount. If costs go beyond that, staff will need to come back to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Kathy Gallagher arrived at this time.

A motion was made by PJ Shelton, seconded by Chris Farnitano to award the construction contract for the East County First 5 Tenant Improvement Project in Pittsburg CA to the lowest bidder, S.W. Allen Construction Inc. for \$2,099,826 and the related actions:

- (1) **APPROVE** the project design, including plans and specifications, for the East County First 5 Tenant Improvement Project in Pittsburg, CA, a copy of which has been filed with the Executive Director of the Commission.
- (2) **DETERMINE** that S. W. Allen Construction Inc. submitted the lowest monetary bid for the above project and is the lowest, responsible bidder.
- (3) **AWARD** the construction contract for the above project to S. W. Allen Construction Inc. for the bid price (\$2,099,826), which includes a 5% contingency, and **DIRECT** that the contractor shall present two good and sufficient surety bonds (performance and payment) in the amount of \$2,099,826 each and that the Executive Director, or designee, shall prepare the contract.
- (4) **AUTHORIZE** the Executive Director, or designee, to approve construction change orders, as needed, up to a total of 10% of the contract amount (an additional \$209,982.60).
- (5) **ORDER** that, after the contractor has signed the contract and returned it, together with the bonds as noted below, certificates of insurance, and any other required documents, and the Executive Director has reviewed and found them to be sufficient, the Executive Director, or designee, is authorized to sign the contract for this Commission.
- (6) **ORDER** that, in accordance with the project specifications and/or upon signature of the contract by the Executive Director, or designee, bid bonds posted by the bidders are to be exonerated and any checks or cash submitted for security shall be returned.
- (7) **APPROVE** the project and take related actions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- (8) **DETERMINE** that the project qualifies as a Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Categorical Exemption under CEQA, pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303, of the CEQA Guidelines.
- (9) **DIRECT** the Executive Director, or designee, to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse, in accordance with Section 15062 of the CEQA Guidelines and Public Resources Code Section 21152.
- (10) **AUTHORIZE** the Executive Director, or designee, to arrange for payment of a \$50 fee to the County Clerk for filing the Notice of Exemption.
- (11) **ORDER** that the Executive Director, or designee, is authorized to sign any escrow agreements prepared for this project to permit the direct payment of retentions into escrow or the substitution of securities for moneys withheld by the Commission to ensure performance under the contract, pursuant to

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Public Contract Section 22300.

(12) **DELEGATE**, pursuant to Labor Code Section 6705, to any registered civil or structural engineer employed by the Commission, the authority to accept a detailed plan showing the design of shoring, bracing, sloping, or other provisions to be made for worker protection during trench excavation covered by that section.

AYES: Monica Merrill for Rocio Hernandez, Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, Matt Regan for Gareth Ashley, Kathy Gallagher, Chris Farnitano and Kathy Marsh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

6.0 Recognize Dr. William Walker’s 19 years of service to First 5 Children & Families Commission.

Sean Casey thanked and recognized Dr. Walker’s service to the First 5 Children & Families Commission. He is the last of the original members of the Commission, whose first meeting was on September 7, 1999. He served as chair several times and helped to guide us through some difficult patches. We will miss him.

Dr. Walker thanked the Commission and introduced Dr. Chris Farnitano, who was recently appointed by the Board of Supervisors as the new County Health Officer and will be replacing Dr. Walker on the Commission.

District 1 Commissioner Dr. Rocio Hernandez arrived at this time.

7.0 Executive Director’s Report

Sean Casey provided the following report:

I’m excited to officially introduce to you our new Communications Manager, Lamar Thorpe, who started in his new role with us July 9. He most recently has worked with the Greater Sacramento Urban League, the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District and San Jose State University. He resides in Antioch, where he also serves on the Antioch City Council, this year as Vice Mayor. We’re looking forward to the addition of his energy and critical eye to our leadership team, as we continue to promote the needs of children and families throughout the county.

We have three new members of the Commission to welcome. Dr. Chris Farnitano is the new County Health Officer but no stranger to Contra Costa; he began his career with Health Services more than 25 years ago as a family practice resident. We are pleased to have him on the Commission and look forward to collaborating with him particularly in such areas as Help Me Grow and early mental health.

Roslyn Gentry is the new Deputy Director of Children and Families Services and will serve as the alternate for Kathy Marsh, who is now the Director of CFS.

Monica Merrill is Supervisor Andersen’s appointment to the District 2 alternate Commissioner seat. She is a resident of San Ramon, has a law degree from Brigham Young University and an MBA from Westminster College. She started her career with a technology startup serving healthcare providers and worked in Washington DC representing American manufacturers. Most recently, Monica has focused on her children by volunteering in local schools and contributing as a substitute teacher.

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As you know, Governor Brown signed the fiscal year 2018-19 budget last month, marking another year of advancement for children and families:

- Grant increases for CalWORKs families – The Governor’s budget is the first step to lifting families out of deep poverty. While it does not go as far as advocates had hoped, it offers families a 10% grant increase starting in April, and is intended to be the first of three budget increases to raise all grants above 50% of the federal poverty line. In Contra Costa, an estimated 15,000 children 0-5 live in deep poverty.
- Establishes a CalWORKs home visiting program - The program offers voluntary home visiting services to CalWORKs families with a new baby for up to two years. Counties must apply to participate in the program. We’ll be convening our Contra Costa colleagues in Health Services and EHSD in a couple weeks to look at the current landscape of home visiting and consider how best to add these new funds to the picture.
- Creates new Alternative Payment and State Preschool slots - By allocating expanded federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) dollars, the state created 11,300 AP slots. The budget allocates other dollars to also expand CSPP and add additional AP slots.
- Increases provider reimbursement rates – for all state-contracted providers, with additional increases for those who serve infants, toddlers, and children with special needs.

Deputy Director Ruth Fernandez, ECE Program Officer Edirle Menezes, and ECE Coaching Coordinator Kim Stadtlander are at the national BUILD Conference in San Diego this week (as well as Commissioner John Jones) which brings together early childhood education experts working on raising quality and QRIS across the nation. Ruth is participating in a panel session describing the numerous child care “pilot” programs that sprang up in California over the last several years. The bill we ran last year – AB435 – is an example of this. The panel will talk about how these local efforts brought more flexibility in local eligibility and spending so that more of the contracted state dollars could be spent each year.

Last week, our Community Engagement Program, with other partners in the “Raise the Roof” collaborative released a report on the housing crisis in Concord, summarizing the findings from a survey of Concord residents. The survey, of a convenience sample of nearly 1000 residents, most of whom reside in the Monument Corridor area, found high numbers of residents experiencing rent increases and the fear of yet more, fears of eviction and not getting back deposits, and struggles with mold, pest, rodents and other housing characteristics. Forty percent of those surveyed had at least one child in the home; 18% had a child under six. Members of the Central County Regional Group helped collect survey data.

8.0 Communications

Lee Ross penned a letter to the East Bay Times describing First 5’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and stressing that “we as a county must prioritize early childhood education so that a majority of Contra Costa’s children are prepared to begin and succeed in school.”

In relation to the event, Sarah Crow reported that Alameda County Tax Measure A was defeated by a very small number of votes. Had it been approved, the measure would have funded child care and related activities throughout the county. The measure may reappear on the November ballot. Matt

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Regan added that the City of Oakland is will also have a child-care-related measure on the November ballot.

9.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Marilyn Lucey and Rocio Hernandez updated the Commission on other child-related activities occurring in the County.

10. Adjourn

- 0** The Chair announced the next standing meeting is on Monday, September 10th after the Labor Day holiday. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM