

FOOTHILL EMPLOYMENT TRAINING CONSORTIUM POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2025 FETC POLICY BOARD MEETING

INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

The Foothill Employment Training Consortium (FETC) Policy Board Chair Hampton welcomed everyone and staff member conducted a roll call and quorum was established at 9:05 A.M.

Present – FETC Policy Board Members

Tyron Hampton, FETC Chair, City Councilmember, City of Pasadena (arrived 8:45 a.m.)
Chris Lowe, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Sierra Madre
Sheila Rossi, Mayor Pro Tem, City of South Pasadena
Michael Cao, Mayor, City of Arcadia

Absent – FETC Policy Board Members

Vinh Truong, City Councilmember, City of Duarte

FWDB Staff Present

Dianne Russell-Carter, FWDB Executive Director, David Eder, Alma Estevez, Raymond Delgado, Paul Enge

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 19th, 2024, Policy Board meeting were approved.

Motion: Michael Cao Seconded: Tyron Hampton

Roll call vote: Ayes- 4 (Hampton, Rossi, Cao, Lowe)

Nays – 0; Absent- 1 (Truong)

FETC CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Hampton acknowledged that the year began on a challenging note due to the recent wildfires. He expressed appreciation for the individuals from around the world who came to assist during difficult times. Chair Hampton also highlighted upcoming job fairs in the local area.

ITEM VI. CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF NEW FWDB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: VICKI BRANNOCK, AMY FOELL, ZACHARY SOLOMON, AND HERMAN CORTEZA, TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CATEGORIES

Chair Hampton introduced the item. Staff member David Eder provided an overview of the current report, which includes four proposed board members. He recommended reducing the number to three and reviewed state requirements regarding board composition and percentage allocations.

The three recommended candidates are:

- Vicki Brannock, Senior Director of Workforce Strategy and Innovation, BioCom California, Business Category
- Zachary Solomon, Business Representative, IBEW, Labor Category
- Amy Foell, Workforce Development Consultant, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, Economic and Community Development Category

David Eder explained that a request has been made to pause Herman Cortez's application, as his inclusion would affect the board's required composition percentages. Additionally, he noted that Cortez's employer is currently awaiting an award from the state, which may present a conflict of interest.

David Eder further stated that if the proposed candidates are approved, two vacancies would remain. One is intended for a candidate recommended by the City of Duarte, and the other for a representative from So Cal Gas.

APPROVAL OF VICKI BRANNOCK'S APPLICATION TO FILL A BUSINESS CATEGORY, ZACHARY SOLOMON'S APPLICATION TO FILL A LABOR CATEGORY, AND AMY FOELL'S APPLICATION TO FILL A ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY

Motion: Tyron Hampton **Seconded:** Michael Cao

Roll call vote: Ayes- 4 (Hampton, Rossi, Cao, Lowe)

Nays – 0; Absent- 1 (Truong)

Chair Hampton asked if anyone had a contact at So Cal Gas. David Eder clarified that having a representative from So Cal Gas is not a requirement and that the board could nominate another candidate if they had someone else in mind.

Chair Hampton also inquired about the possibility of adding two additional members from growing sectors, such as So Cal Gas and the green energy industry. Executive Director Dianne Russell-Carter noted that the board currently includes John Frala, who represents the electric vehicle industry.

Mayor Cao shared that he serves on another Joint Powers Authority (JPA), the Clean Power Alliance. He highlighted a recent workforce development initiative in which they partnered with local community colleges and advocated for Pasadena City College. He requested that staff look into the Clean Power Alliance as a potential source for a board member, emphasizing that the organization aims to build a pipeline of workforce talent for the green energy sector. He further explained that the Clean Power Alliance board is composed of local area officials.

Mayor Pro Tem Lowe asked if the board collaborates with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), an organization that supports employment and education

at all levels. David Eder responded that if LAEDC has a relevant sub-group, the board may be able to work with them. He stated that he would conduct further research on the organization.

Mayor Pro Tem Rossi requested that staff explore the possibility of finding a representative from Caltech to join the board. Chair Hampton agreed and added that having someone from JPL could also be beneficial.

Staff Member Michael Trogan commented that, regarding Clean Power Alliance, it may be more advantageous to partner with them rather than have them serve on the board, as this could provide greater support for clients.

David Eder noted that he could reach out to David Klug to establish a connection with a local business in the green energy sector that could provide potential business leadership for the board.

Mayor Pro Tem Lowe emphasized the importance of focusing efforts on identifying apprenticeship opportunities in the green energy sector, given the current and future demand.

Executive Director Dianne Russell-Carter stated that staff should explore ways to inform the local community about these opportunities.

Mayor Pro Tem Rossi highlighted health care administration as another key sector for the board to consider. She noted that Cedars-Sinai and USC now have a strong presence in the area.

Chair Hampton agreed with these recommendations and pointed out that USC's health industry has a significant footprint in the region. He mentioned that USC is completing a new building in Pasadena and recently acquired a hospital in the City of Arcadia.

Mayor Cao suggested that if staff is interested in connecting with someone from USC Health, they should reach out to Brian Green, Director of Community Services.

VII. A. BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chair Hampton introduced the agenda item and invited staff member Paul Enge to present the budget.

Paul Enge provided updates on the FWDB budget (presentation attached).

Executive Director Dianne Russell-Carter announced that a bill had recently been proposed to allocate \$50 million to workforce development in Los Angeles County. The funding would be used to train, retrain, and upskill low- to moderate-income individuals to support rebuilding efforts in areas affected by the recent wildfires.

Chair Hampton asked if there were other disaster-related grants that the board could apply for.

Staff Member Michael Trogan noted that the board had received a direct grant from the State. Additionally, funds remained from the JPL assistance grant, and approval had been given to redirect those funds to support individuals affected by the wildfires.

Mayor Pro Tem Rossi emphasized the importance of workforce development in local fire and paramedic training programs. She suggested that staff explore ways to develop pathways to these careers for local communities.

Mayor Pro Tem Rossi also noted that a significant amount of new legislative funding is being directed to Cal Fire, which oversees parts of Los Angeles County. She highlighted that public safety programs receive substantial budget allocations, yet there remains a shortage of individuals applying for these jobs. She shared her experience participating in discussions in Sacramento on how workforce boards can better connect individuals to public safety careers. Additionally, she suggested that staff strengthen partnerships with high schools and community colleges to build a talent pipeline.

She further commented on shifting workforce trends, stating that more young people and job seekers are gravitating toward trade industries.

Chair Hampton agreed and noted the impact of artificial intelligence on the workforce.

Mayor Pro Tem Rossi recommended that the board explore offering Project Management Certification to clients. She also suggested reaching out to local cities to create job placements within municipal government offices. Additionally, she emphasized the need for the board to consider the ongoing challenges in the entertainment industry and assess how to support affected workers locally.

Chair Hampton added that Pasadena has made significant investments in the biosciences industry and recommended that, as a JPA region, they collectively identify niche markets in the workforce to strengthen regional economic development.

FETC ROUNDTABLE

Chair Hampton asked Executive Director Dianne Russell-Carter if there were any updates. Executive Director Dianne Russell-Carter requested staff member Michael Trogan to provide an update to the board.

Michael Trogan provided a breakdown of current programs and enrollments. He also outlined the types of assistance available to individuals affected by the recent wildfires.

Chair Hampton thanked everyone for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 A.M.