



DATE | February 18, 2026
TIME | 1:00 pm
LOCATION | CAPK Administrative Office
Board Room
1300 18th St., Suite 200
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Executive Committee Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Maritza Jimenez (Chair)
Denise Boshers (Vice Chair)

Gina Martinez (Secretary)
Fred Plane (Treasurer)

Curtis Floyd

III. Public Forum

The public may address the Committee on items not on the agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes. If more than one person wishes to address the same topic, the total group time for the topic will be 10 minutes. Please state your name before making your presentation.

IV. New Business

- a. Board Recruitment and Appointment of Two Seats in Category III - Private Sector – **Action Item (p.)**
- Pritika Ram, Chief Business Development Officer
Jeremy Tobias Chief Executive Officer

V. Committee Member Comments

VI. Next Scheduled Meeting

Executive Committee
12:00 pm
July 15, 2026
CAPK Board Room
1300 18th St., Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

VII. Adjournment

This is to certify that this Agenda Notice was posted in the lobby of the CAPK Administrative Office at 1300 18th St., Suite 200 Bakersfield, CA and online at www.capk.org by 1:00 pm, February 13, 2026. Paula Daoutis, Executive Assistant.



MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee
Pritika Ram

From: Pritika Ram, Chief Business Development Officer

Date: February 18, 2026

Subject: *Agenda Item IV(a):* Board Recruitment and Appointment of Two Seats in Category III - Private Sector – **Action Item**

Background

As a follow-up from the November 24, 2025, Board meeting, the Ad Hoc Recruitment Committee was established to lead the recruitment for the Private Sector/Community Representatives (Category III) seat. Pastor Jonathan Mullings, representing the Private Sector on the Board of Directors, completed his five-year term on January 31, 2026.

The Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Board members Lee'o Whisenant, Rocio Munoz, and Guadalupe Perez-Garcia, along with staff, conducted a recruitment process. Through the recruitment process, eleven (11) qualified applications were received, including from current member Jonathon Mullings. The committee selected the three most qualified applicants for interviews and presented a recommendation for the appointment of Dustin Contreras at the January 25, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Also, subsequent to the recommendation being developed by the committee, Board member Michelle Jara-Rangel resigned, creating a second open seat in the Private Sector category.

Summary

During the January 25, 2026, Board of Directors meeting, the Board did not approve an appointment to the seat due to a relationship disclosure issue. One of the Ad Hoc Committee members, Lee'o Whisenant, disclosed an existing relationship with the recommended candidate, Mr. Contreras. The relationship was initially misrepresented to be that Mr. Contreras is a brother-in-law; however, the actual relationship is that Mr. Contreras is the husband of Lee'o fiancée's best friend. Additionally, at a subsequent ad hoc committee meeting, Lee'o shared that Mr. Contreras lives on his property in a second house.

There were concerns by some board members about the closeness of the relationship, while others were in support of bringing on Mr. Contreras. Given the mixed perspectives, the Board referred the item back to the ad hoc committee with a request that the Chair add an additional Board member to the committee.

Board Chair Maritza Jimenez added Gina Martinez to the committee and also decided to attend the ad hoc meeting herself as the Chair. The committee reconvened and discussed options to proceed. It was decided to develop a new Ad Hoc Committee and start fresh. The Chair appointed herself, Gina and Curtis Floyd, to the new committee but Curtis and Maritza, when reviewing the full list of applicants, disclosed a relationship with one or more of the applicants and they dropped off. It has become difficult to form a committee free of any connections to any of the 11 applicants. Also worth noting that all committee members have a relationship with applicant Jonathon Mullings.

Given these ongoing relationship disclosure issues and with two board members being newly appointed last month, it may not be feasible to appoint a clean 3-member committee. After careful consideration and

consultation with the Board Chair, it was decided to bring this matter to the Executive Committee to decide on how to best appoint two individuals under the Private Sector seats.

The 11 qualified applicants are (not in a ranked order):

Pastor Jonathon Mullings
Rebecca Banke
Dustin Contreras
Petra Bantum
Keith Edwards
Jonathan Bong
Shai Lothe
Anthony Cisneros
Havik Beduryan
Komal Kahlon
Selamawit Habtom

After a review and discussion of all 11 applications by the committee, the top 3 applicants that were selected and interviewed by the ad hoc committee are (not in ranked order):

Pastor Jonathon Mullings
Rebecca Banke
Dustin Contreras

The committee selected Dustin Contreras as their recommendation to the Board.

There are two open seats in the Private Sector category. The open 5-year seat with the conclusion of Pastor Jonathon Mulling's term, and a replacement to fulfill the term opened by the resignation of Michelle Jara-Rangel. This appointment will fill out the remainder of her term, concluding in January 2027.

Recommendation:

Staff requests that the Executive Committee review the candidate applications and recommend two individuals for appointments to the Board of Directors under Category III: Private Sector to be presented to the full Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 25, 2026.