

Meeting Minutes – Draft
Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ)

Supervisor John Gioia, Chair
Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Vice Chair
Chuck Leonard, Vice Chair

Friday, September 19, 2025

9:30 AM

**1025 Escobar
Room 110A/B/C
Martinez, CA 94553**

ZOOM:

<https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/88323737930>

(888) 278-0254

Conference Code: 841892

1. The public may attend this meeting in person at the above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.
2. Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Governing Board.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair John Gioia called the meeting to order.

2. Public comment on items not on agenda
3. Review and Approve the Meeting Records of the July 10, 2025, Meeting.

There is a quorum to review and approve the Meeting Record from July 10, 2025.

A motion was made to approve July 10, 2025, minutes. All were in favor.

4. RECEIVE update on Managing Community Investments from Bay Area Air District

Emi Wang presented on Managing Community Investments with its purpose with the responsibility to structure and develop programming and infrastructure under the disbursement of the penalty funds back into impacted communities

- o *Air District was formed in 1955, with a mission to improve air quality and improve public health*
- o *The Air District collects penalties from entities that violate the regulations*
- o *May 2024, the Board approved the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy*

- o *December 2024, the Board approved staff positions for a new Community investments Office*
- o *Most penalties are over \$1 million and are paid by petroleum refineries and related industry*
- o *Over 90% of the penalties collected in recent years are from petroleum sector*
- o *Community Benefits penalty Funds Policy and related settlement funds have generated over \$124 million*
- o *Funds Goals: Regional Community Benefits Fund and Local Community Benefits Fund*
- o *Richmond Air Quality Fund*
- o *Currently Benicia gets the largest amount from the Local Community Benefits fund at \$58 million followed by Richmond at \$20 million*
- o *Next Steps: Draft Program Guidelines for Benicia and Richmond Area Funds, 30-day comment period in October, and then open application in January 2026*

5. RECEIVE update on Technology Research and Stakeholder Engagement (UC Labor Center)

The Labor Center provided an update on technology research. The focus on certain manufacturing technologies does not rule out others. This gives the GEZ the opportunity to dive deeper into tech that may be more fruitful based upon initial market research. The research will inform:

- 1. Tech specific policy approaches*
- 2. Matching industry needs and GEZ assets*
- 3. Strategies for high road projects by industry*
- 4. industry outreach and attraction efforts*

Labor Center staff have been contacting employers in the key CEM fields to better understand the industry. This new employer perspective will hopefully assist in redefining the policy approaches.

CEM Priority Tech

Batteries

Electric Grid Components

Zero Emission Vehicles

Electric Vehicle Chargers

Heat Pumps

Offshore Wind

Electrolyzers (Green Hydrogen)

Update: Technical Assistance

The Labor Center's no-cost, confidential T.A. program is live with a link available at <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/technical-assistance-for-a-high-road-economy/>

Update: Stakeholder Engagement

Three separate studies (Site/Infrastructure, Workforce, and Environmental) are underway, each with their own Scope and Stakeholders.

Goal: Interim Report and Recommendations by mid-2026

6. RECEIVE Legislative Update on the Green Empowerment Zone

Bill has passed both houses and the Governor has until October 12th to sign it. The bill adds 7 seats for the EJA community. SB 227 extended the GEZ to 2040. The Steering Committee also can now become the Executive Committee. This Executive Committee will be elected amongst the GEZ body once the EJA seats are filled. The Governing Board was encouraged to develop deliverables (propping startup, bringing businesses, etc.) that can be presented to the State as the GEZ progresses.

SB 587, the Manufacturer's Tax Credit, is still in the works and are confident that it will pass.

7. RECEIVE Staff Report on Green Empowerment Zone Website Design

The Green Empowerment Zone website is being developed and will be launched in November. Governing Board members were asked to continue to provide staff and Golden Shovel with necessary information to build website.

8. Adjourn

The date for the next meeting of the Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone will be Friday, November 21, 2025.

Chair Gioia adjourned the meeting.