

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, February 13, 2026

9:30 AM

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

ZOOM:

<https://cccouny-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 November 21, 2025, Meeting.

There is a quorum to review and approve the Meeting Record from November 21, 2025.

A motion was made to approve November 21, 2025, minutes. All were in favor.

4. Review and Approve the Appointments of Environmental/Environmental Justice Seats to the Green Empowerment Zone Governing Board

The Governing Board announced that seven (7) Environmental/Environmental Justice seats would be open. During the open application period, fifteen (15) applications were received. There is a recommendation for 7 of the 15 applicants. The desire of the Chair is to vote today on the recommended applicants and then include an EJ representative to the Executive Committee at the next Governing Board meeting.

A motion was made to approve the recommended applications of:

*Erika Siao
Pete Srivarom
William Goodwin
Delon Craft, Sr.
Theresa Hade
Lorene Allio
Liat Meitzenheimer*

A second was made. All were in favor.

5. Discuss and Provide Direction on Process for Appointments to the Executive Committee

The Chair stated that the Executive Committee members be voted on at the March 20th meeting to allow the recently inducted EJ Board members to have the opportunity to vote. The Governing Board plans to fill 10 seats for the Executive Committee. The Chair and Deputy Chairs will be on the committee, as well as:

*3 Local Elected Officials
1 Business Representative
1 Labor Representative
1 Environmental Justice/Community Representative
1 Industry Representative*

The committee will convene in months the Governing Board does not.

City representatives from cities: Benicia, Concord, Hercules, Martinez, Oakley, Richmond, Vallejo requested to be considered for Executive Committee seats.

Contra Costa Labor Council and East Bay Leadership Council requested to be considered.

Marathon and Phillips 66 requested to be considered to fill the industry seat.

Alyson Greenlee will send an email to the appointed EJ representatives, if they would be interested in participating in the Executive Committee.

A motion was made to approve the direction of the Executive Committee. A second was made and all were in favor.

6. Receive Update from UC Berkeley Labor Center on 2026 Research Workplan for the Green Empowerment Zone

UC Labor Center presented: Research Updates, Policy Strategy, and Workplan for 2026

For 2026, policy research will be the focus. An overview of their work so far has been given.

Environmental Research

Researcher: PSE Energy

Scope:

- 1. Detailed review to identify environmental and public health risks, hazards associated with CEM technologies and subcategories based on published research, regulatory filings and public reports*
- 2. Includes high level analysis of existing CEM firms in Contra Costa and Solano Counties and stakeholder engagement.*
- 3. Final Report and recommendations for strategies to avoid or minimize environmental and public health risk*

Workforce Research

Researcher: Dr. Virginia Parks, UC Irvine

Scope:

- 1. Analyze Job data for existing CEM firms, including: quantity, occupation, skills, training pathways, baseline wages, and quality.*
- 2. Review available literature and data on jobs associated with manufacturing most viable clean energy technologies*
- 3. Develop protocols and conduct interviews with informants and stakeholders in the region to share information and help shape analysis and recommendations.*

Key Takeaway: GEZ is best positioned to attract manufacturing projects whose products will compete based on quality and innovation. GEZ cannot win on cost.

Proximity to R&D, highly skilled workforce, and High operating expenses are unique characteristics to the GEZ.

The Governing Board is requesting additional information prior to May meeting on how workforce organizations and community colleges can best provide training and also bring awareness of the trained workforce to employers who may not know much within the GEZ. A comment was made that nearby military bases are home to many skilled soldiers who may be looking to use their skillset as they transition out of service.

Will Toaspern from the UC Labor Center gave a refresh of the overview of relevant

policy areas. Policy discussions will continue through July. An Interim report presentation will be presented at the September 2026 meeting. Feedback will be considered for final report.

7. Receive Staff report on the Green Empowerment Zone

The county is continuing to work with Golden Shovel to create an effective website. Backend tools are being utilized to proactively pursue relevant professionals to increase awareness of the GEZ.

The County is requesting any feedback from Board members so that the website can continued to be fine tuned over time. Board members are urging staff to ensure Golden Shovel has the necessary tools to pursue leads without needing to wait for a data point to come in.

8. Adjourn

The date for the next meeting of the Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone will be Friday, March 20, 2026.

Chair Gioia adjourned the meeting.