SIERRA KINGS
HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

TUESDAY, March 25, 2025, 12:00PM
1011 G Street
Reedley, CA 93654

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY. Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, any meeting or function of the Sierra Kings Health Care District, may request assistance, by contacting the District, 1011 G. Street, Reedley, CA 93654 – telephone 559.726-2268.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	**REPRESENTATION**
Bruce Hunter	Zone 1
Pete Perez	Zone 4
Suzane Johnson	Zone 3
Susan Chapman	Zone 2
Kathy Omachi	Zone 5

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	**REPRESENTATION**
None	

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:	**TITLE**
Chinayera Black Hardaman, MPA	Chief Executive Officer
Merari Gutierrez	Program/ Finance Manager
Brooke Garcia	Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:	
Fabrizio Lafaro	VROP Superintendent
Jon Spees.	Marine Street Consulting
Noel Caughman.	Best Best & Kreiger LLP
Amy Ford	A Ford Project Development

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chair Pete Perez.

2.0 ROLL CALL:

Present: Bruce Hunter, Pete Perez, Suzanne Johnson, Susan Chapman, and Kathy Omachi.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

3.1 Consideration of the District Agenda
3.2 Consideration of Meeting Minutes
3.3 Regular Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2025
3.4 Consideration of February 2025 Financial Statements

ACTION: Motion to approve the District Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Hunter/Omachi. Motion passed unanimously: Hunter-aye, Perez-aye, Omachi-aye, Chapman-aye, and Johnson-aye.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

5.0 SIESMIC COMPLIANCE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM

Seismic Compliance Update

Amy Ford (A Ford Project Development), Jon Spees (Marine Street Consulting), and Noel Caughman (Best Best & Krieger) joined the Board meeting to provide an update on seismic compliance progress.

Seismic Compliance Responsibility

Amy Ford (A Ford Project Development) reported that the District has assumed full responsibility for seismic compliance. Coordination with architects and engineers is ongoing to define the scope of the project.

Phase 2 Design Proposals

Proposals from JAMA and SmithGroup are currently under review to ensure alignment with project requirements. Due to excessively priced initial proposals, revised proposals are expected within 60 days.

Grant Funding & Compliance Deadlines

The Board reviewed potential funding opportunities, including the Small and Rural Hospital Relief Program. NPC/SPC compliance deadlines were also discussed, along with the possibility of extensions under AB 869, which may push deadlines to 2033/2035.

Project Timeline & Communication

Jon Spees (Marine Street Consulting), and Amy Ford (A Ford Project Development) will prepare a one-page summary outlining the phases of seismic compliance. Amy Ford (A Ford Project Development) will deliver a PowerPoint presentation to the Board to further clarify project details.

Cost Estimation & Retrofit Progress

Estimating total project costs remains challenging due to ongoing market volatility and the lack of finalized design documents. Retrofit Compliance signage will be updated upon project completion.

6.0 REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: REAL PROPERTY

Government Code Section 54956

Property:372 Cypress Avenue, Reedley, CA 93654

CLOSED SESSION:
Start: 12:53p.m.
End: 1:43p.m.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION:
No reportable matters.

7.0 ACTION/DISCUSSION

7.1 PROGRAM UPDATE – VALLEY REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM

Superintendent Fabrizio Lafaro provided the Board with an update on the Valley Regional Occupational Program (VROP) Mobile Health Clinic, highlighting recent deployment activities, key outcomes, challenges, and partnership opportunities. The clinic participated in the following community events:

- Reedley College Farmers Market
- Reedley College Ag Tech Program
- Parlier 5K Run Event
- Dunlap Community Event

During these events, the clinic served 140, delivered 24 hours of work-based learning and community service, and incorporated 22 VROP student interns. Key partnerships with United Health Center, America's Best Eye Care, and Fowler Packing significantly contributed to the program's success.
Challenges included skepticism from farmworkers and concerns from farmers regarding liability, time constraints, and the potential for unionization.

7.2 REVIEW PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE DISTRICT'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Janet King from Sierra HR provided an overview of the updated 2025 employee handbook, in compliance with new California laws effective January 1, 2025. Key updates included:

1. Expanded Equal Employment Opportunity Policy prohibiting discrimination based on combinations of protected characteristics.
2. Driver's license requirements limited to driving-related positions.
3. Revised harassment reporting procedures with local government assistance options.
4. New definition and requirements for independent contractors.
5. Restrictions on mandatory religious and political meetings.
6. Expanded leave provisions for victims of violence, including coverage for family members.
7. Increased state disability insurance benefits (70-90% of wages) and removal of vacation use requirement for paid family leave.

Staff will upload the updated handbook to Board Members' OneDrive for reference.

ACTION: Motion to approve the updated District Employee Handbook as presented. M/S Hunter/Omachi. Motion passed unanimously: Hunter-aye, Perez-aye, Omachi-aye, Chapman-aye, and Johnson-aye.

7.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Reminders

- Board members must submit their Form 700 by April 2025.
- A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for April 8 to review and discuss grant proposals.

Networking

- CEO Chinaycra Black presented to the Reedley City Council, highlighting the Sierra Kings Health Care District's dual role in grantmaking and supporting the long-term sustainability of Reedley Hospital.

Outreach

- Staff participated in the Parlier Senior Health Fair.
- Updated strategic plan brochures—featuring staff, Board members, and contact information—will be mailed to City Councils, school boards, Reedley College, grantees, police and fire departments, and local service clubs.

Spring Marketing Campaign

- As part of the District's spring outreach, three billboards were installed in Parlier and Reedley. The campaign also includes the production of three videos. The first video featured grantees as trusted messengers to enhance community engagement.

RFP Process

Proposals Received

Mini Grants:

- None

General Grants:

- City of Parlier – Senior Wellness
- Binational of Central California – EMBRACE

Pitches:

- Diabetes Awareness – St. Agnes
- Resource Awareness via 211 – United Way
- Mental Health Feasibility Study – CYM
- Senior Community Garden – City of Parlier

7.4 CONSIDERATION OF LEASE FOR DISTRICT OFFICE SPACE

Board Member Suzanne Johnson recused herself from Item 7.4 due to a conflict of interest and stepped out of the room during discussion.

Chair Pete Perez proposed a counteroffer for leasing the District office space at 1120 I Street at a rate of $3,250 per month for a 12-month term, with rent commencing May 1. The proposal includes:

- Early access for tenant improvements
- Right of first refusal if the property is listed for sale
- Landlord responsibility for roof leak and ceiling tile repairs
- Landlord responsibility for maintenance of mechanical systems

If the counteroffer is not accepted, a fallback option of $3,500 per month was suggested.

Action: Motion to pursue a lease agreement for 1120 I Street as presented by Chair Pete Perez, including negotiation of the monthly lease payment from $3,500 to $3,250, not to exceed $3,500. The motion also includes an option to extend the lease for an additional 12-month term at the same rate ($3,500/month) and authorizes Chair Pete Perez and CEO Chinayera Black to incur necessary transitional costs without modifying the existing budget.

Board Member Suzanne Johnson rejoined the Board meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Board Member Bruce Hunter exited the Board meeting at 4:30p.m.

8.0 REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTER
Government Code Section 54957
Chief Executive Officer – Annual Assessment

CLOSED SESSION:
Start: 4:31p.m.
End: 4:59p.m.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION:
No reportable matters.

9.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

10.0 NEXT MEETING
The next scheduled meeting of the Sierra Kings Health Care District will be a special meeting of the Board to review proposals on Tuesday, April 08, 2025, at the Reedley Executive Center.

11.0 ADJOURNMENTS
ACTION: Motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:02p.m. M/S Perez/Hunter. Motion passed: Perez-aye, Chapman-aye, Omachi-aye, and Johnson-aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Johnson
Board Secretary