SIERRA KINGS HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 7, 2025, 3:30PM
1120 I 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**
Suzanne Johnson	Zone 3
Pete Perez	Zone 4
Susan Chapman	Zone 2
Kathy Omachi	Zone 5
Bruce Hunter	Zone 1

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	**REPRESENTATION**

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

OTHERS PRESENT:	
Noel Caughman	Best Best & Krieger LLP

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Vice Chair Bruce Hunter.

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

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

3.1 Consideration of the District Agenda

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

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

5.0 REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: Two (2) potential case related to FEHA claims by employee. Legal Counsel: Noel Caughman, General Counsel, BBK

Board Member Suzanne Johnson exited the Board meeting at 4:28 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
Start: 3:39 PM
End: 4:36 PM

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION:
Vice Chair Bruce Hunter announced that Board Member Pete Perez has returned from vacation and will resume his position as Acting Chair.

CEO Chinayera Black requested to go on record regarding an incident that occurred prior to the meeting.

"Mr. Perez arrived at the meeting roughly 25 minutes early. Only one staffer and I were in the office. I asked him to please await the arrival of another Board member prior to entry. My rationale was simply to avoid having two complainants alone with the perpetrator. In my opinion, this protected the interests of all parties.

When I saw Bruce Hunter approaching the door, I opened it and greeted both of them with a friendly, 'Hello, fellas.' As I leaned into the threshold of the door to hold it open for entry, Mr. Perez was the first to enter and came within six inches of my face, yelling aggressively. His tone, body language, and proximity to my face and body were hostile and aggressive.
He stated, in an aggressive manner, that he is a Board member, questioned the extent to which he is considered a "threat," and made other remarks. The intensity of his presentation was such that he inadvertently spat in my face.

After his third or fourth statement, I spoke to him in a normal, calm voice, stating, 'Please do not become confrontational with me.' This prompted him to stop mid-sentence as he was beginning to yell, 'I'm gonna...'

There is video evidence available for documentation. Bruce Hunter and staff witnessed this exchange firsthand."

While notifying the Board of the occurrence, Mr. Perez interjected in a smug manner, minimizing the matter. CEO Chinayera Black responded by stating that video evidence exists. Mr. Perez then told CEO Chinayera Black to "resign," to which she replied the same. As the exchange escalated, Mr. Perez attempted to address CEO Chinayera Black again. She responded by requesting that he not address her further to de-escalate the situation. Mr. Perez then questioned CEO Chinayera Black's professionalism.

6.0 ANNOUCEMENTS

- Board Member Susan Chapman reminded the Board of the established policy regarding stipend reimbursement for event attendance. She emphasized that, in accordance with district policy and budget considerations, all events must receive prior authorization from CEO Chinayera Black.

- Board Member Kathy Omachi expressed that she found the situation "untenable," stating that after 15 years of dedication, she could not stand by and watch the organization be undermined by what she described as "disgusting negative behavior, unprofessional conduct, and untenable actions." She emphasized the organization's value to the community and urged all members not to allow it to be torn apart, as doing so would be unfair to both the community and those who have worked hard to build it.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Sierra Kings Health Care District will be held on August 26, 2025, at 1120 I Street, Reedley.

8.0 ADJOURMENTS

ACTION: Motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 4:52p.m. M/S Chapman/Omachi. Motion passed unanimously: Johnson-aye, Omachi-aye, Chapman-aye, Hunter-aye, and Perez-aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Johnson

Suzanne Johnson
Board Secretary