SIERRA KINGS
HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 12:00PM
1120 I Street
Reedley, CA 93654

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual requiring accommodation to participate in a meeting or function of the Sierra Kings Health Care District may request assistance by contacting the District at 1011 G Street, Reedley, CA 93654, or by calling 559.726-2268.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	**REPRESENTATION**
Bruce Hunter	Zone 1
Charity Thonesen	Zone 2
VACANT	Zone 3
VACANT	Zone 4
Kathy Omachi	Zone 5

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	**REPRESENTATION**
NONE	Zone 3

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:	**TITLE**
Chinayera Black Hardaman, MPA	Chief Executive Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:	
Teresa Jacques via TEAMS	Financial Consultant
Nicholas Andrade TEAMS	Chief Finance Officer (Fractional)
Suzy Johnson	Public

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chair Bruce Hunter .

2.0 ROLL CALL:
Present: Kathy Omachi, Charity Thonesen, and Bruce Hunter.
Absent: NONE

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA (ACTION)
3.1 **Consideration of the District Agenda**

3.2 Consideration of the District Minutes

3.2.a Special Meeting Minutes - August 13, 2026

3.2.b Special Meeting Minutes - August 18, 2026

3.3.c Regular Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2026

3.3 Consideration of June and August Financials

ACTION: Motion to approve the District Consent Agenda with proposed modifications. M/S Omachi/Hunter. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Charity Thonesen-aye

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5.0 REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION: REAL PROPERTY

Government Code Section 54956

Property: 372 Cypress Avenue, Reedley, CA 93654

Consultant: Jon Spees

CLOSED SESSION BEGINS: 12:17PM

CLOSED SESSION ENDS: 12:36PM

NO ACTION TO REPORT

6.0 ACTION/DISCUSSION

6.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman introduced the Community Engagement Officer to the Board to initiate the recruitment and hiring process. In short, she explained that the Community Engagement Officer will assist in managing community outreach and education efforts giving the increasing community interest in Sierra Kings and growing demands for such partnerships.

Vice Chairman Hunter inquired as to whether it would be full-time or part-time. CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman stated that there is openness to starting with a part-timer; however, it really depends on the pool of candidates as often the qualified candidates are looking for full-time work.

ACTION: Motion to approve the recruitment and hiring of a Community Engagement Officer as per the prescribed job description and classification. M/S Omachi/Hunter. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Thonesen-aye.

6.2 ZONE 4 DIRECTOR SEAT VACANCY

6.2.a Initiate Recruitment for Zone 4 Director

The Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Lydia Martinez effective September 15, 2026. As per California Government Code §1780, California health care district fills a mid-term vacancy on its board of directors primarily through appointment by the remaining board members or by calling a special election. In the event of a vacancy, the remaining board members have up to 60 days from the date the vacancy is officially noticed or occurs to appoint a qualified registered voter residing within the district (or specific zone, if applicable) to fill the unexpired term.

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman presented the Board with a packet to facilitate recruitment for this Zone 4 position. The position will open on September 22, 2026 and close October 16, 2026

6.2.b Appoint an Interim Secretary to the Board

Further, since Lydia Martinez held the position of Board Secretary, the Board will appoint a member to serve as interim Secretary in anticipation of the biennial election of officers in December 2026.

Vice Chairman Hunter inquired as to whether Director Charity Thonesen might be interested. CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman provided Director Thonesen a copy of the District bylaws that define the role of the Secretary which primarily include endorsement of minutes and resolutions. Director Thonesen accepted the appointment as interim secretary.

ACTION: Motion to approve recruitment for Zone 4 and appointment of Director Charity Thonesen as interim District Secretary until biennial election of officers in December. M/S Hunter/Omachi. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Thonesen-aye.

6.3 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO UPDATED FINANCIAL INSTITUTION MATTERS AS FOLLOWS:

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman reminded the Board that CFO Teresa Jacques for fractional CFO services for roughly 18 years, through that transition from a hospital to a community-based grant-maker. CFO Teresa Jacques resigned that role effective September 1, 2026 and the District began contracting Nicholas Andrade CPA for such services on the same date. Banking authorities need to be updated accordingly.

6.3.a Resolution No. 330 Regarding Banking Authority

The District maintains a nominal amount of its cash assets in the Bank of the Sierra, solely for the purpose of paying monthly bills. The following are the current authorities on the account and the proposed updates:

Current	Proposed
Bruce Hunter	Bruce Hunter
Kathy Omachi	Kathy Omachi
Suzanne Johnson	--
Chinayera Black Hardaman	Chinayera Black Hardaman
Teresa Jacques	Nicholas Andrade CPA

ACTION: Motion to approve Resolution No. 330 regarding an update of Bank of the Sierra signing authorities as outline above. M/S Hunter/Omachi. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Thonesen-aye.

6.3.b Resolution No. 331 Regarding LAIF Authority

The District maintains the bulk of its cash assets in the California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) for maximum investment gains. This fund is adjusted minimally and that is typically for depositing purposes. The following are the current authorities on the account and the proposed updates:

Current	Proposed
Chinayera Black Hardaman	Chinayera Blackhardaman
Teresa Jacques	Merari Gutierrez
Kathy Omachi	Brue Hunter

ACTION: Motion to approve Resolution No. 331 regarding an update of LAIF signing authorities as outline above. M/S Hunter/Thonesen. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Thonesen-aye.

6.4 CEO Report

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman presented her September CEO Report including the following highlights:

- Reminder of the Association of CA Healthcare District annual conference scheduled for October 7-9, 2026.
- Status update on Measure H and outreach strategies to education the community about the initiative.
- Seismic compliance update regarding recent joint meeting between District staff and consultants along with City of Reedley to strategize on Non-Structural requirements related to water, sewer, and fuel.
- Update on the District's bond rating assessment as provided by Moody's Ratings.
- Update on pending grant consideration for the City of Reedley Farmer's Market.

6.5 ANNUAL COST OF LIVING (COLA) ASSESSMENT

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman explained that the purpose of this item is to conduct the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) assessment as per District Policy No. 4.18 which states that the District shall assess the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the application of a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to employee salaries every September. Last year staff recommended the application of a 2.5% COLA to salaries lasts year as per the CPI. Since the District applied a healthy COLA in FY 2025-2026, staff recommended that the District NOT implement a COLA during FY 2026-2027.

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman explained that the application of COLAs should always be based on striking a balance between the need for competitive staff salaries (to remain competitive with the industry/market and promote staff retention) while also remaining mindful of increases that can cause salaries to compound too quickly such that they grow in a way that out-paces District revenue growth. While District employees are very deserving, COLAs simply cannot be applied every year.

6.6 CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL INITIATIVE REQUESTS

CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman explained that the District has a small carve-out available to fund Special Initiatives outside of regular funding cycles. The District considered the following Special Initiatives

6.6.a Community Life Garden, $2,846

The Community Life Garden is requesting $2,846.25 to support its PVC Irrigation System Project. The project aims to improve the Garden's irrigation infrastructure while providing hands-on

community gardening education and learning opportunities. Participants will receive instruction in preparing garden beds, composting, watering, planting, and harvesting fresh vegetables. These activities will provide opportunities to learn about growing and accessing fresh produce and support broader community health and nutrition-related goals.

6.6.b Boys and Girls Club, $3,384

The Boys & Girls Club is requesting $3,383.50 to support its Health & Well-Being – Triple Play Initiative, which provides youth development programming focused on physical activity, social emotional well-being, and nutrition education. The initiative is designed to expand access to programs that promote healthy lifestyles, strengthen social-emotional development, and empower youth through opportunities that support their overall health and well-being.

ACTION: Motion to approve the proposed Special Initiative for the Community Life Garden ($2,846) and the Boys and Girls Club ($3,384). M/S Hunter/Omachi. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Thonesen-aye.

6.7 BIENNIAL GRANTS REPORT ON PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Program Manager Merari Guitierrez was not present to present this item. CEO Chinayera Black Hardaman stated her intention to include this presentation in the next Board packet for Directors to peruse.

7.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Sierra Kings Health Care District shall be on October 27, 2026 at 1120 I Street, Reedley

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:57pm. M/S Omachi/Hunter. Motion passed: Hunter-aye, Omachi-aye, and Thonesen-aye.

Respectfully submitted

Charity Thonesen
Interim Board Secretary