



SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Kern Medical Center
1700 Mount Vernon Avenue
Conference Room 1058
Bakersfield, California 93306**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026

11:30 A.M.

BOARD RECONVENED

Board Members: Anderson, Berjis, McLaughlin, Merz, Pelz, Pollard, Stout
Roll Call: All Present

NOTE: The vote is displayed in bold below each item. For example, Berjis-Pelz denotes Director Berjis made the motion and Director Pelz seconded the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: ALL ITEMS LISTED WITH A "CA" OR "C" WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE AND APPROVED BY ONE MOTION.

BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 1) This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a later meeting. In addition, the Board may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION. THANK YOU!
NO ONE HEARD

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

- 2) On their own initiative, Board members may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code section 54954.2(a)(2)) –
NO ONE HEARD

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- CA
3) Minutes for the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors regular meeting on February 18, 2026 –
APPROVED
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

- CA
4) Proposed renewal and binding of all-risk property insurance through PRISM and earth movement coverage through Specialty Risk Underwriters and Evanston Insurance Company from March 31, 2026 through March 31, 2027, with an option to finance property premiums through PRISM and earth movement premiums through AFCODirect, in an amount not to exceed \$789,681 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN PREMIUM FINANCE AGREEMENT-PROMISSORY 033-2026 AND RELATED DOCUMENTS
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

- CA
5) Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 036-2024 with Baker Tilly US LLP, an independent contractor, for financial auditing services for the period April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2026, extending the term for one year from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, and increasing the maximum payable by \$227,625, from \$416,400 to \$644,025, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 034-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

- CA
6) Proposed retroactive Facility Agreement under HealthTrust Purchasing Agreement HPG-45202 with Airgas USA, LLC, an independent contractor, for exclusive supply of medical-grade and specialty gases from February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2031, in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000, plus applicable fees and taxes –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 035-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

- CA
7) Proposed Amendment No. 4 to Agreement 034-2022 with Antony Minasaghian, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Radiology for the period June 8, 2022 through June 7, 2027, extending the current annual salary of \$615,000 per year through June 7, 2027, and increasing the maximum payable by \$985,000, from \$4,315,000 to \$5,300,000, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 036-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 8) Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 091-2024 with Patton Air Conditioning, an independent contractor, for the provision of temporary air for the S-7 air handler rebuild, increasing the maximum payable by \$125,921, from \$1,833,475 to \$1,959,396, to cover the project term –

MADE A FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER CEQA REVIEW PER SECTIONS 15301, 15302 AND 15061(B)(3) OF STATE CEQA GUIDELINES; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 037-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE AMENDMENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE OF \$2,155,336

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 9) Proposed Agreement with McMurtrey Lince, Inc., an independent contractor, for construction services related to installation of surgical lights in the surgical suites and emergency department, in an amount not to exceed \$382,351 –

MADE A FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER CEQA REVIEW PER SECTIONS 15301, 15302, AND 15061(B)(3) OF STATE CEQA GUIDELINES; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 038-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE OF \$420,587

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 10) Proposed Agreement with McMurtrey Lince, Inc., an independent contractor, for Phase I Nurse Call System project in Labor and Delivery and ICU/DOU, effective March 18, 2026, through project completion, in an amount not to exceed \$375,775 –

MADE A FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER CEQA REVIEW PER SECTIONS 15301, 15302, AND 15061(B)(3) OF STATE CEQA GUIDELINES; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 039-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE OF \$413,353

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 11) Proposed Quote Q-00676256 with Philips Healthcare, a division of Philips North America LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of a Philips Cardiac Workstation 7000 and diagnostic cardiology/ECG implementation services, in an amount not to exceed \$30,702 –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 040-2026

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 12) Proposed Terms and Conditions of Use of Equipment with Solventum US LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for use of Bair Hugger patient warming devices, effective March 18, 2026, at no cost –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 041-2026

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

- CA
13) Proposed Assignment and Assumption Agreement to Agreement 142-2025 with Organon LLC, Laborie Medical Technologies Corp., and Kern County Hospital Authority, for the continued purchase of Jada system products, effective March 18, 2026 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 042-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes
- CA
14) Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 039-2024 with Soorena Fatehchehr, M.D., Inc., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the period April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2026, extending the term for two years from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028, and increasing the maximum payable by \$798,000, from \$798,000 to \$1,596,000, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 043-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes
- CA
15) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 053-2023 with Ayham Aboeed, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Medicine for the period April 22, 2023 through April 23, 2026, increasing the per diem rate for hospitalist shift coverage from \$1,672 to \$1,840 per 12-hour shift, extending the term for two years from April 22, 2026 through April 23, 2028, and increasing the maximum payable by \$1,250,000, from \$2,000,000 to \$3,250,000, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 044-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes
- CA
16) Proposed Project Change Request to Agreement 071-2025 with Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC, an independent contractor, for the period June 18, 2025 through June 17, 2032, for the provision of additional collaboration hours for the Cisco Telephone System Replacement Project, in an amount not to exceed \$56,250 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 045-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT PRICE OF \$292,286
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes
- CA
17) Proposed Ordering Document CPQ-4233465 with Oracle America, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for subscription services for the Oracle Health Connection Hub for Providers from March 18, 2026 through March 17, 2029, at no cost –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 046-2026
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes
- CA
18) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Pollard-Merz: All Ayes
- 19) Proposed retroactive Novation Agreement and Amendment to Agreement 033-2018 with The College of American Pathologists, mTuitive, Inc., and Kern County Hospital Authority, for use of the CAP eFRM pathology software license and support, effective February 1, 2026 –

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD REGARDING THE RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 19; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 047-2026

Berjis-Pelz: All Ayes

- 20) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; DIRECTOR ANDERSON HEARD; DIRECTOR MERZ HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED

Anderson-Merz: All Ayes

- 21) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; DIRECTOR POLLARD; RECEIVED AND FILED

Pollard-Pelz: All Ayes

CA

- 22) Monthly report on What's Happening at Kern Medical Center – RECEIVED AND FILED

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 23) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of February 28, 2026 – RECEIVED AND FILED

Pollard-Merz: All Ayes

NOTE: CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN ANNOUNCED A CORRECTION TO ITEM 24 WHICH SHOULD READ PRACTITIONERS INSTEAD OF FACILITIES

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Berjis-Anderson

CLOSED SESSION

- 24) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 25) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Agency designated representatives: Chief Executive Officer Scott Thygerson, and designated staff - Employee organizations: Service Employees International Union, Local 521 (Government Code Section 54957.6) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

NOTE: DIRECTOR PELZ LEFT THE MEETING AT 12:57 P.M. AND DID NOT RETURN

- 26) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Novarad Corporation, a Utah corporation, Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, Defendant, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:25-cv-00332-KES-CDB – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 27) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Vice President & General Counsel (Government Code Section 54957) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

- 28) Request for Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or taking action on authority trade secrets (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(e)(1)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION
Pollard-Stout

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Item 24 concerning Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health facilities (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – HEARD; BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE (MOTION BY DIRECTOR POLLARD, SECOND BY DIRECTOR PELZ), THE BOARD APPROVED ALL CREDENTIALING RECOMMENDATIONS; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 25 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Agency designated representatives: Chief Executive Officer Scott Thygerson, and designated staff - Employee organizations: Service Employees International Union, Local 521 (Government Code Section 54957.6) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 26 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Novarad Corporation, a Utah corporation, Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, Defendant, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:25-cv-00332-KES-CDB – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 27 concerning PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Vice President & General Counsel (Government Code Section 54957) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 28 concerning Request for Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or taking action on authority trade secrets (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(e)(1)) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026 AT 11:30 A.M.

Pollard



/s/ Mona A. Allen
Authority Board Coordinator



/s/ Philip McLaughlin
Chairman, Board of Governors
Kern County Hospital Authority