



County of El Dorado

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Minutes - Draft Veterans Affairs Commission

Todd Smith, Vice Chair, District I - Alternate Robert Fischer
Roger Reynolds, District II - Alternate Donna Mullens-Becker
Seth Culver, Chair, District III - Alternate Alonso Aguilar
Ken Welch, District IV - Alternate Tim Thompson
Gary Norton, District V - Alternate Thomas Millham
Jon Brown, VSO, Secretary Ex-Officio
Courtney Frame, Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs
Commission

Thursday, July 9, 2026

12:00 PM

<https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/86378230395>

**330 Fair Lane, Building A
Board of Supervisors Chamber
Placerville, CA 95667**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS: The Commission meeting room will be open to the public. The meeting will continue to be live-streamed via Zoom. By participating in this meeting, you acknowledge that you are being recorded.

To observe the live stream of the Commission meeting go to <https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/86378230395>. Members of the public may address the Commission in-person or via Zoom to make a public comment. The public should call into 530-621-7603 or 530-621-7610. The Meeting ID is 863 7823 0395. Please note you will not be able to join the live-stream until the posted meeting start time. If you are joining the meeting via zoom and wish to make a comment on an item, press the "raise hand" button. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *9 to indicate a desire to make a comment. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

Although the County strives to offer remote participation, be advised that remote Zoom participation is provided for convenience only. In the event of a technological malfunction, the only assurance of live comments being received by the Commission is to attend in person. Except for a noticed teleconference meeting, the Commission reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access if there is a malfunction.

If you choose not to observe the Commission meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment in writing. You are encouraged to submit your comment in writing by 4:00 PM on the Tuesday before the meeting to ensure the Commission has adequate time to review. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at edc.cob@edcgov.us. Your comment will be placed into the record and forwarded to Commission members.

PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment will be received at designated periods as called by the Commission Chair.

Individuals will have three minutes to address the Commission. Except with the consent of the Commission, individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once.

Individual Commission members may ask clarifying questions but will not engage in substantive dialogue with persons providing input to the Commission.

If a person providing input to the Commission creates a disruption by refusing to follow Commission guidelines, the Commission Chair may take the following actions:

Step 1. Request the person adhere to Commission guidelines. If the person refuses, the Commission Chair may turn off the speaker's microphone.

Step 2. If the disruption continues, the Commission Chair may order a recess of the Commission meeting.

Step 3. If the disruption continues, the Commission Chair may order the removal of the person from the Commission meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - 12:01 PM**ROLL CALL**

- Present:** 7 - Commissioner Norton, Alternate Thompson, Alternate Millham, Alternate Mullens-Becker, Alternate Fischer, Commissioner Reynolds and Chair Culver
- Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Welch, Vice Chair Smith and Alternate Aguilar

Commissioner Thompson arrived at 12:09 PM.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND WELCOME**ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

All items on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests separate action on a specific item including moving items to or from the Consent Calendar and adopt the Agenda and the Consent Calendar for discussion. At the appropriate time as called by the Chair, members of the public may make a comment on matters on the Consent Calendar prior to Commission action.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **26-1129** Review and approve mileage reimbursement for Veterans Affairs Commission for the month of June 2026.

Attachments: [June 2026 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT](#)

2. **26-1130** Review and approve Veterans Affairs Commission June 11, 2026 meeting minutes.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes Veteran Affairs Commission 6-11-26](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Culver, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds to adopt the agenda and approve the consent calendar.

- Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Norton, Alternate Fischer, Commissioner Reynolds and Chair Culver

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

AGENDA ITEMS

3. 26-1131 Review and approve the draft Veterans Affairs Commission Annual Board Presentation and select a Commissioner to present to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, September 15th, at 10:30 AM.

Attachments: [VAC Annual Committee-Commission Presentation 7.8.26](#)

Commissioner Culver reviewed the Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) Annual Board Presentation. Commissioner Fischer asked to postpone selecting a commissioner to present to the BOS until the August meeting, to provide all commissioners the opportunity to state their interest in presenting at the September BOS meeting.

Public Comment: D. Zelinsky, J. Babbitt

A motion was made by Commission Culver, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the VAC Annual Board Presentation with minor changes.

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Norton, Alternate Fischer, Commissioner Reynolds and Chair Culver

Abstained: 1 - Alternate Thompson

4. 26-1133 Review and vote on Veterans Affairs Commission Transient Occupancy Tax Committee membership.

Commissioner Culver led the conversation regarding the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Committee membership and noted Commissioner Norton would be willing to step down from the Committee.

Public Comment: D. Mullens-Becker, J. Babbitt, T. Millham

A discussion took place between Commissioner Mullens-Becker and Timalynn Jaynes, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Assistant Director of Human Services, regarding the Brown Act and standing committees. Amy Higdon, HHSA Program Manager, suggested that the VA TOT Committee, along with El Dorado County staff, meet with County Counsel before deciding on TOT membership. Jaynes agreed and requested that the agenda item be tabled until after the VA TOT Committee meets with County Counsel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culver, seconded by Commission Reynolds to table Agenda Item 26-1133 until further notice.

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Norton, Alternate Thompson, Alternate Fischer, Commissioner Reynolds and Chair Culver

5. 26-1134 Review and discuss creating an Ad Hoc Committee for updating the Veterans Affairs Commission Bylaws.

Attachments: [Executed Resolution 013-2020](#)

Commissioner Culver reported that during the June VAC meeting, there was discussion about reviewing the VAC Bylaws and forming an ad hoc committee to recommend updates. This review would include re-evaluating membership on the VA TOT Committee as well as other standing committees. Commissioners Culver, Mullens-Becker, and Millham expressed interest in serving on the ad hoc committee responsible for reviewing the current bylaws.

A motion was made by Commission Culver, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds to convene an ad hoc committee to review the VAC Bylaws with membership comprised of Commissioners Culver, Mullens-Becker, and Millham.

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Norton, Alternate Thompson, Alternate Fischer, Commissioner Reynolds and Chair Culver

6. 26-1135 Review and discuss creating an Ad Hoc Committee to work with the County regarding the upkeep and improvement to the El Dorado County Veterans Monument.

Commissioner Culver reported that, during the June VAC meeting, Joe Thuesen expressed interest in having the El Dorado County Veterans Monument cleaned up and requested that an ad hoc committee be formed. Commissioners Fischer and Reynolds stated they would be interested in joining the ad hoc committee and working with Thuesen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culver, seconded by Commissioner Fischer to convene an ad hoc committee to work with outside organizations and the County to recommend improvements to the El Dorado County Veterans Monument, with membership comprised of Commissioners Reynolds and Fischer.

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Norton, Alternate Thompson, Alternate Fischer, Commissioner Reynolds and Chair Culver

EX-OFFICIO REPORT - RECEIVE AND FILE (Brown)

26-1207

Attachments: [July 2026 Ex-Officio Report](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) (Reynolds) - No report.
- RULES (Culver/Smith) - No report.
- HOUSING (Welch) - No report.
- LEGISLATIVE (Smith) - No report.
- TRANSPORTATION (Thompson) - Commissioner Thompson reported out. Commissioner Norton reported that El Dorado Transit offers options for veterans in need of transportation.
- BUDGET (Reynolds/Mullens-Becker) - No report.
- EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT (Mullens-Becker/Fischer) - Commissioner Fischer reported that CalTAP, in partnership with the Veterans Legal Institute, has an upcoming virtual workshop on July 9, 2026, focused on reviewing discharge upgrades. Additionally, on July 30, 2026, CalTAP will host an Emergency Preparedness workshop covering disaster readiness, understanding risks, staying informed through alerts and warnings, personal preparedness, and other emergency preparedness resources.
- OUTREACH (Reynolds) - Commissioner Reynolds reported that the VAC social media accounts currently have between 1,500 and 1,600 followers. He stated that he updates the accounts regularly with information on various local events as he receives it.

COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- **VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL (Reynolds)** - Commissioner Reynolds reported that the Veterans Memorial Building (VMB) House Council did not meeting in July due to the July 4th holiday. The next meeting out be on Thursday, August 6, 2026.
- **AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER (Zelinsky)** - David Zelinsky reported that on his work to support veterans in the community through partnerships with the Veteran Services Office, the City of South Lake Tahoe Housing Division, the VA Veteran Justice Outreach Specialists, and El Dorado County Public Defender Office.
- **EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE** - Jack Babbitt reported that the next Veterans Alliance meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 8 AM at the VMB. The group plans to discuss desired improvements to the El Dorado County Veterans Monument. Babbitt invited Commissioners Reynolds and Millham to attend since they have joined the ad hoc committee for the monument. Babbitt also reported that planning is underway for the Veterans Day event scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2026. Lastly, he noted that progress has been made on the atlas intended for display at the Veterans Monument, and that design concepts will be released soon along with a call for bids on the project.
- **VA VET CENTER/MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP/EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES (Whalen)** - Tim Whalen reported that the Stand Down Committee meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, from 9 AM to 11 AM at the VMB. Next, Whalen reported that on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, the Grass Valley Veteran Service Office will host a Veterans Health and Wellness Fair at the Grass Valley Veterans Hall from 9 AM to 3 PM. Additionally, on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, the California State Fair will hold Veterans Appreciation Day, offering free admission for veterans from 4 PM to 8 PM.
- **REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS** - Commissioner Culver reported the El Dorado County Stand Down is September 11th and 12th at the VMB.

GOOD OF THE ORDER (COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS)

Commissioner Fischer reported that El Dorado Veteran Resources (EDVR) is working with the Food Bank of El Dorado County to determine if the Food Bank has volunteers interested in providing transportation to medical appointments for veterans.

Commissioner Norton suggested that HHSA staff should attend every meeting, as they are consistently helpful in addressing questions brought forward during VAC meetings in regards to the Brown Act.

Commissioner Culver highlighted the Marine Corps League Skymote Detachment 697 for earning the number one ranking among National Toys for Tots Local Community Organizations nationwide. They placed first out of 870 Toys for Tots programs across the country. Joe Thuesen, the Marine Corps League Commandant, will attend a ceremony in St. Louis, Missouri, to accept the award on behalf of the Marine Corps League. Culver noted that Stacy Walls is the driving force behind the local Toys for Tots efforts. Next, Culver reported that the Marine Corps League will host a "Dawgs and Hawgs" fundraising event for their Toys for Tots program on October 4, 2026, at the VMB, starting at 11 AM.

OPEN FORUM

Open Forum is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Veteran Affairs Commission on subject matter that is not on their meeting agenda and within their jurisdiction. Public comments during Open Forum are limited to three minutes per person. The Commission Chair may limit public comment during Open Forum.

Public Comment: D. Zelinsky

NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

August 13, 2026 at 12:00 PM

330 Fair Lane, Building A

Board of Supervisors Chamber

Placerville, CA 95667

ADJOURNMENT - 1:08 PM