



**NOTICE AND CALL OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AND TO THE CITY CLERKS:**

SPECIAL MEETING

**THIS SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON, TELEPHONICALLY
AND ELECTRONICALLY AT THE FOLLOWING:**

**CITY OF CUDAHY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS / BEDWELL HALL
5240 SANTA ANA STREET
CUDAHY, CA 90201**

TELECONFERENCE PHONE NUMBER: (669) 900-6833, 6476620089#

ELECTRONICALLY AT ZOOM MEETING ID: 647 662 0089

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

11:00 A.M.

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Board Members: Francis De Leon Sanchez, Treasurer - *Bell Gardens*
Hugo Argumedo, Member – *Commerce*
Emma Sharif, Vice Chair – *Compton*
Martin Fuentes, Secretary – *Cudahy*
Victor Farfan, Chair – *Hawaiian Gardens*

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is now open. The members of the audience now have the right to speak on agenda items and any item under the jurisdiction of the Authority. This period will be limited to thirty minutes, with no more than three minutes for each speaker. Anyone desiring to speak during the public comment period must submit an email request juan@sixheron.com, or to the Authority Secretary via Zoom prior to the close of public participation. Due to policy and Brown Act requirements, action will not be taken on any issues not on the Agenda.

As provided under Government Code Section 54954.3(a), public comments for this special meeting shall be limited to matters listed on this special meeting agenda only.

Please state your name and address clearly.

4. NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION

4-1. Consideration and possible action to approve the Minutes of May 23, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board.

4-2. Consideration and possible action to receive and file Financial Summary and Warrant Register dated June 12, 2024.

4-3. Status update & report from California Advocacy, LLC with respect to legislative matters.

4-4. Consideration and possible action on HR 6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023 (*Kamlager-Dove – Rep-D-CA-37*).

4-5. Consideration and possible action regarding Selection of an Alternative Meeting Date for the July 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board.

4-6. Executive Director Report/Summary

5. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority will be held in July in the City of Compton.



**CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**

**CITY OF COMMERCE
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
2535 COMMERCE WAY
COMMERCE, CA 90040**

TELECONFERENCE PHONE NUMBER: (669) 900-6833, 6476620089#

ELECTRONICALLY AT ZOOM MEETING ID: 647 662 0089

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2024

12:46 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Farfan called the meeting to order at 12:46 pm and Secretary Fuentes performed a roll call. Quorum was established under the following participation:

- Victor Farfan, *Chair – Hawaiian Gardens*
- Emma Sharif, *Vice Chair – Compton*
- Martin Fuentes, *Secretary – Cudahy*
- Marco Barcena, *Alternate Member – Bell Gardens*
- Hugo Argumedo, *Member – Commerce*

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alternate Member Barcena moved and Vice Chair Sharif seconded to approve the agenda as posted and presented.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes

Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ernie Hernandez, recently hired City Manager of the City of Commerce, provided personal background and general introductory comments.

The following individuals were present during the meeting: Daniel Sanchez (via Zoom), Stephanie Arechiga, Ernie Hernandez, Juan Garza

4. NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION

4-1. Welcome – City of Commerce.

4-2. Consideration and possible action to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Secretary Fuentes moved and Vice Chair Sharif seconded to approve the Minutes.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Abstain
Commerce	Abstain
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-3. Consideration and possible action to receive and file Financial Summary and Warrant Register dated May 23, 2024.

Member Argumedo moved and Secretary Fuentes seconded to receive and file the Financial Summary and Warrant Register.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-4. Status update & report from California Advocacy, LLC with respect to legislative matters.

Mr. Sanchez reported SB 549 (Newman) continued to be located in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee, with a hearing not yet scheduled for its consideration in that committee. As a 2-year bill, SB 549 has eligibility for movement at any point in time up until mid-August 2024.

Mr. Pineda also reported that Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry gutted & amended her AB 863 legislation, as expected. The bill is in the Senate and now focuses on cardroom issues, on behalf of tribal interests. In addition, it is anticipated Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry will introduce an additional cardroom-related bill via AB 2886. Like both SB 549 & AB 863, AB 2886 is a two-year bill and eligible for consideration up until mid-August 2024 but must move from their current locations by July 3, 2024.

The JPA will continue to monitor all three bills, as well as continue its ongoing communications with members of their respective Committees. The board was advised that due to the numerous cardroom-related bills, we anticipate engaging in person in Sacramento in the first or second week of June, or during any committee hearings on these bills.

Member Argumedo moved and Vice Chair Sharif seconded to receive and file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-5. Consideration & possible action to receive and file California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority Audited Financial Statements (As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2023).

Due to a delay in participation from Mr. Lopez from Gruber & Lopez Inc, Executive Director Garza provided a brief background report & summary of the results of the audit of the JPA's audited financial statements.

The audit reported nothing of concern or out of the ordinary regarding the JPA's financial statements or actions.

Vice Chair Sharif moved and Member Argumedo seconded to receive and file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Absent
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-6. Consideration and possible action regarding FY 2024-2025 Annual Budget.

Mr. Garza presented the FY 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Mr. Garza noted that for prior Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget, the JPA met its revenue goals. He also reported that due to expenditure discipline throughout the year, the JPA is forecasted to end the budget year with a slight budget surplus of approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Garza then summarized proposed FY 2024-2025 budget and detailed staff's assessment and recommendations on how to invest resources and maximize return for the JPA, its members and partner cardrooms.

Proposal for a balanced budget for FY 2023-2024:

- 1) Balanced annual budget at \$227,500.
- 2) No increase in fees for member cities (\$157,500).
- 3) No increases in fees for cardrooms (\$70,000).
- 4) No increases in Expenses (\$227,500).
- 5) Board member stipends: No increase.
- 6) Executive Director: No increase.
- 7) Operational Expenses: No increase.
- 8) Legal Services: No increase.
- 9) Financial Services: No increase.
- 10) Legislative Lobbying: No increase.
- 11) Communications: No increase.
- 12) Contingency: Remain at \$0, to ensure a lean and effective budget.

Member Argumedo moved and Chair Farfan seconded to approve the budget, as presented.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-7. Informational Update Regarding Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2024.

Executive Director Garza provided an updated report due to the various changes from the originally proposed calendar in December 2023.

Additionally, after discussion and exploration of solutions, the board selected for the June 12, 2024 meeting of the board to commence at 12:30 pm.

Member Argumedo moved and Alternate Member Barcena seconded to receive & file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

5-1. Report of General Counsel

No action.

5-2. Executive Director Report/Summary

Executive Director Garza reported on:

- 1) SB 549 (Newman) – Tribal Rotation Bill Efforts: Ongoing Legislative Engagements.
- 2) Meeting Start Time – June 12, 2024 JPA Board Meeting.
- 3) Next Steps – Fernandino Tatavium Band of Mission Indians of California (JPA Letter).

Member Argumedo moved and Vice Chair Sharif seconded to receive and file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

***** Alternate Member Barcena shared he had a time conflict and excused himself from the meeting. *****

6. NEW BUSINESS - CLOSED SESSION

6-1. None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

8. CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

This is the time and place for the Chairman and Board Members to report on any other items of interest. Upon request by an individual Board Member, the Authority may choose to take action on any of the subject matters listed below.

Secretary Fuentes (Cudahy)

Alternate Member Altamirano (Commerce)

Vice Chair Sharif (Compton)

Chair Farfan (Hawaiian Gardens)

4. NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION (Reopened at 1:35 pm)

4-5. Consideration & possible action to receive and file California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority Audited Financial Statements (As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2023).

Due to the late availability of Mr. Lopez of Gruber & Lopez, Inc, Chair Farfan reopened Item 4-5 for discussion and consideration at 1:35 pm.

Mr. Lopez of Gruber & Lopez, Inc, then provided a comprehensive background report & summary of the approach & methodology in performing their assessment of the JPA's audited financial statements.

The audit reported nothing of concern or out of the ordinary regarding the JPA's financial statements or actions.

Vice Chair Sharif moved and Member Argumedo seconded to receive and file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Absent
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Cudahy	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

9. ADJOURNMENT (1:39 PM)

At 1:39 pm, Chair Farfan adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting of the board of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority to be held in the City of Compton on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Victor Farfan, Chair

ATTEST:

Martin Fuentes, Secretary



**CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**WARRANT REPORT AND FINANCIAL
SUMMARY – MAY 2024**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024.

BALANCE SHEET

06/12/2024 JPA MEETING

Page: 1

6/10/2024

3:22 pm

City of Hawaiian Gardens

As of: 5/31/2024

Balances

Fund: 50 - CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE

Assets

1000.0000 CASH

149,178.45

Total Assets

149,178.45

Liabilities

2100.0000 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

15,393.76

Total Liabilities

15,393.76

Reserves/Balances

2900.0000 FUND BALANCE-UNASSIGNED

101,191.32

2920.0000 CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

32,593.37

Total Reserves/Balances

133,784.69

Total Liabilities & Balances

149,178.45

Edit List of Invoices - Summary

06/12/2024 JPA MEETING

Date: 06/10/2024

Time: 3:24 pm

Page: 1

City of Hawaiian Gardens

Ref. No.	Vendor Name	Invoice No.	Posting Date	PONumber	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount
177384	HUGO ARGUMEDO	2024-05-23	05/23/2024		05/23/2024	05.23.24 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
177385	MARCO BARCENA	2024-05-23	05/23/2024		05/23/2024	05.23.24 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
177386	VICTOR FARFAN	2024-05-23	05/23/2024		05/23/2024	05.23.24 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
177387	MARTIN U FUENTES	2024-05-23	05/23/2024		05/23/2024	05.23.24 MTG STIPEND	125.00
						Vendor Total:	125.00
177389	JUAN GARZA	2024-05-31	05/31/2024		05/31/2024	MAY 2024 SALARY	6,744.00
						Vendor Total:	6,744.00
177390	OLIVAREZ MADRUGA LAW	25110	05/31/2024		05/31/2024	MAY 2024 SVCS - GENERAL	120.00
177391	OLIVAREZ MADRUGA LAW	25111	05/31/2024		05/31/2024	MAY 2024 SVCS - BOARD MEETIN	738.76
						Vendor Total:	858.76
177392	EVELYN PINEDA	2024-06-07	05/31/2024		06/07/2024	MAY 2024 SVCS	6,666.00
						Vendor Total:	6,666.00
177388	EMMA SHARIF	2024-05-23	05/23/2024		05/23/2024	05.23.24 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
Grand Total:							15,393.76
Less Credit Memos:							0.00
Net Total:							15,393.76
Less Hand Check Total:							0.00
Outstanding Invoice Total:							15,393.76
Total Invoices: 9							

REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORT
06/12/2024 JPA MEETING

City of Hawaiian Gardens

For the Period: 7/1/2023 to 5/31/2024	Original Bud.	Amended Bud.	YTD Actual	CURR MTH	Encumb. YTD	UnencBal	% Bud
Fund Type: SR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Fund: 50 - CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE							
Revenues							
Function:							
Dept: 0000 ASSETS							
Acct Class: REV REVENUE							
3742.0050 JPA MEMBERSHIP FUNDING	157,500.00	157,500.00	157,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
3742.0052 CASINO DONATIONS	70,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
REVENUE	227,500.00	227,500.00	227,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
ASSETS	227,500.00	227,500.00	227,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
Function:	227,500.00	227,500.00	227,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
Revenues	227,500.00	227,500.00	227,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
Expenditures							
Function:							
Dept: 4908 JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY							
Acct Class: OPER OPERATING COSTS							
4200.0050 CONTRACT SVC-EX DIR JPA	80,925.00	80,925.00	74,184.00	6,744.00	0.00	6,741.00	91.7
4200.0052 COMMUNICATIONS	14,400.00	14,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,400.00	0.0
4202.0000 AUDIT SERVICES	6,500.00	6,500.00	20,200.00	0.00	0.00	-13,700.00	310.8
4211.0000 MEETING STIPENDS	17,250.00	17,250.00	11,125.00	1,125.00	0.00	6,125.00	64.5
4213.0000 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	9,000.00	9,000.00	119.40	0.00	0.00	8,880.60	1.3
4250.0001 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE/JPA	80,000.00	80,000.00	73,326.00	6,666.00	0.00	6,674.00	91.7
4252.0000 SPECIAL COUNSEL - CONTRACT	19,425.00	19,425.00	15,952.23	858.76	0.00	3,472.77	82.1
OPERATING COSTS	227,500.00	227,500.00	194,906.63	15,393.76	0.00	32,593.37	85.7
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY	227,500.00	227,500.00	194,906.63	15,393.76	0.00	32,593.37	85.7
Function:	227,500.00	227,500.00	194,906.63	15,393.76	0.00	32,593.37	85.7
Expenditures	227,500.00	227,500.00	194,906.63	15,393.76	0.00	32,593.37	85.7
Net Effect for CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE	0.00	0.00	32,593.37	-15,393.76	0.00	-32,593.37	0.0
Change in Fund Balance:			32,593.37				
Net Effect for SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	32,593.37	-15,393.76	0.00	-32,593.37	
Grand Total Net Effect:	0.00	0.00	32,593.37	-15,393.76	0.00	-32,593.37	



1121 L Street, Suite 207
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone:(916) 869-3685
www.CaliforniaAdvocacy.com

June 12, 2024

California Update: Agenda

1. SB 549 (Newman) – Tribal Declaratory Relief Act
2. AB 2886 (Aguiar-Curry) – Gambling Control Act; Injunctive Relief
3. California Attorney General – Cardroom Regulations



June 12, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harriet Hageman
Chair
Subcommittee on Indian Affairs
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Teresa Leger-Fernandez
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Indian Affairs
1332 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: OPPOSE - HR 6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023 (*Kamlager-Dove – Rep-D-CA-37*).

Dear Chairs Westerman and Hageman, and Ranking Members Grijalva and Leger-Fernandez:

The California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is a coalition of local cities located in Los Angeles and Orange Counties in southern California. The JPA is chartered under California state law to represent the interests of the citizens, local businesses, and their employees in our member communities. We are writing you today to express our serious concerns about and opposition to H.R. 6859, legislation introduced by Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove which has been referred to the Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs.

HR 6859 would legislatively grant federal recognition to a group of individuals in the Los Angeles/Orange County area who call themselves the Gabrieleno/Tongva Nation. As you aware, federal recognition bestows many important rights and benefits to tribal nations including governmental powers, eligibility for numerous federal programs, and the ability to have land taken into trust by the federal government on their behalf. As such, recognition is not a matter to be taken lightly, granted indiscriminately or for political reasons, or given to those unworthy of that status. It should only be conveyed to those tribal groups who have demonstrated with thorough documentation that they are deserving of federal recognition.

A specific set of procedures has been in place at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for many decades whereby tribal groups can petition for federal recognition. This process is open to any group who wishes to petition. Petitioners must meet a set of standards that have been established by federal regulation. These standards include well-defined criteria whereby a petitioner must demonstrate their continuous uninterrupted history as an Indian tribal government with authority over its people who have documented Indian tribal ancestry. The BIA's Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) has been tasked with evaluating these petitions and is staffed with teams of highly trained professionals in genealogy, anthropology, history, and other disciplines whose expertise is unmatched. These individuals have the unique capacity found nowhere else in the federal government to make unbiased and fact-based determinations on the validity of a group's claim to be an Indian tribe.

The group of individuals claiming to be the Gabrieleno/Tongva Nation is eligible to go through the OFA recognition process, yet they have instead chosen to come directly to Congress to seek recognition through legislation. By doing this, the Gabrieleno/Tongva group is deliberately choosing to avoid the established process for recognition at OFA and the scrutiny of their claim to be a tribe by the experts most capable of evaluating that claim. We urge you in the strongest terms to reject this attempt to bypass regular procedures and for you to encourage this group to participate in the normal OFA process that other tribal groups have gone through.

We would also be remiss if we did not point out that HR 6859 is not the first attempt by this group of individuals to bypass the OFA process and obtain federal recognition by other means. A number of years ago, they attempted to gain federal status by seeking a "reaffirmation" by the Secretary of the Interior that they were a tribe – attempting to bypass not just OFA but Congress as well. The "reaffirmation" would have been done with no evaluations or standards at all beyond the Secretary simply adding their name to a list of federally recognized tribes. The only time reaffirmation was ever used it resulted in an investigation by the DOI Inspector General and a new policy that going forward this procedure would never be used again.

These multiple attempts to bypass regular procedures and accepted standards at OFA by the Gabrieleno/Tongva should not inspire much confidence by the Committee that their claims to be an Indian tribe have validity. Nor should the tribe's own statements in a December 23, 2023 story in the Los Angeles Times entitled "Tribal bid for federal recognition could pave way for L.A. area's first Indian casino" in which the leaders of the group openly admit that their goal in seeking recognition is to open a massive casino somewhere in urban Los Angeles County.

Better than any other Committee in Congress, the Natural Resources Committee knows that federal recognition should be about acknowledging the government-to-government relationship between legitimate tribes and the federal government, not the desires of a group of individuals who view recognition as a vehicle to casino riches. For these reasons, we urge you to reject HR 6859 and any other attempts by groups to avoid the scrutiny of the OFA process and that you refer the Gabrieleno/Tongva group to the appropriate procedures at the BIA.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Juan Garza
Executive Director
California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority

Cc: Governing Board Members – California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority



TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Governing Board

FROM: Juan Garza, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Executive Director Report/Summary**

DATE: June 12, 2024

- 1) SB 549 (Newman) – Tribal Rotation Bill Efforts: Ongoing Legislative Engagements
- 2) JPA Conference – Updates