



CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

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

**CITY OF BELL GARDENS
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER – 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL
7100 GARFIELD AVENUE
BELL GARDENS, CA 90201**

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

ELECTRONICALLY AT ZOOM MEETING ID: 647 662 0089

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

10:00 A.M.

A G E N D A

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*

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.

Please state your name and address clearly.

NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION

1. Consideration and possible action to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board.
2. Consideration and possible action to receive and file Financial Summary and Warrant Register dated November 15, 2023.
3. Status update & report from California Advocacy, LLC with respect to legislative & regulatory matters.
4. Discussion & possible action regarding Authority's website.
5. Report of General Counsel

Pursuant to Government Code § 54954.2 (a)(3) – A report to the Board of Directors and the public on General Counsel's activities, including compliance efforts, approval of contracts as to form, receipt of notices, and requests to place matters on subsequent agendas (excluding any matters qualifying for closed session consideration).
6. Executive Director Report/Summary

NEW BUSINESS - CLOSED SESSION

7. Pursuant to Government Code § 54957(b)(1)
 - Public Employee Performance/Evaluation (Executive Director)
8. Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6(a)
 - Conference with Labor Negotiators
 - Agency designated representatives: Board Members
 - Unrepresented employee: Juan Garza, Executive Director

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.

Treasurer De Leon Sanchez (Bell Gardens)

Member Argumedo (Commerce)

Vice Chair Sharif (Compton)

Secretary Fuentes (Cudahy)

Chair Farfan (Hawaiian Gardens)

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, in the City of Commerce.



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

**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
21815 PIONEER BLVD
HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716**

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

ELECTRONICALLY AT ZOOM MEETING ID: 647 662 0089

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

10:04 AM

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

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

PUBLIC ATTENDING MEETING

Linda Hollinsworth, Marvin Pineda, Matthew Lenton, Juan Garza

AGENDA REORGANIZATION

Executive Director Garza requested consideration of Agenda Item #3 to be performed by the Board after the completion of Agenda Item #6.

Treasurer De Leon Sanchez moved and Vice Chair Sharif seconded to approve the agenda reorganization.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION

1. Consideration and possible action to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Vice Chair Sharif moved and Member Argumedo seconded to approve the Minutes.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

2. Consideration and possible action to receive and file Financial Summary and Warrant Register dated October 18, 2023.

Member Argumedo moved and Treasurer De Leon Sanchez seconded to receive and file 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

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

Mr, Marvin Pineda provided a comprehensive report on the ongoing process of the Bureau of Gambling Control Concept Regulations on Blackjack & Rotation Impacts. Initial comments by all stakeholders, including cities and cardrooms are due on Thursday October 26. Its public vetting and review process will take approximately two years starting with a initial draft public scoping review that will include an impact analysis. All cardrooms are still assessing the proposed regulations' impacts, the anticipated larger impact on smaller cardrooms, and comments to be considered for submittal by the JPA and our cardroom cities.

He also reported on SB 549 (Newman) and its status as a 2-year bill available to be reconsidered next year. He will initiate a campaign to obtain letters of opposition to the bill from community organizations within the sphere of influence of the JPA, including Fire, Sheriff's, Contract Cities and League of California Cities, to name a few.

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. Consideration and possible action to receive and file California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority Audited Financial Statements (As of and for the Years Ended June 30, 2022, and 2021) Report.

Mr. Matthew Lenton, CPA – Audit & Accounting Director from Gruber & Lopez, Inc, reported on the JPA's audited financial statements. The Board received a detailed presentation on the auditor's findings.

He reported their opinion that the JPA's financial statements present fairly the position of the JPA and its results ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Further, he reported that they conducted the audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), independently, and that the evidence

obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their audit opinion. In conclusion, Mr. Lenton reported they encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing their duties, they did not note significant adjustments as a result of their audit procedures, are not aware of any uncorrected misstatements, and no disagreements arose with management over the course of their audit.

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

The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

5. Report of General Counsel

Ms. Arechiga informed the Board she would be handling and overseeing the Executive Director's evaluation scheduled to be performed during the regular meeting of the Board on November 15, 2023.

Treasurer De Leon Sanchez 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

6. Executive Director Report/Summary

Executive Director Garza reported on:

- 1) Recent Executive Director News Coverage
- 2) SB 549 (Newman) – Tribal Rotation Bill Efforts/Next Steps
- 3) Attorney General Bonta Proposed Regulations – Industry Effects, Process & Next Steps

- 4) UPDATE: Fall JPA Conference potential sites being considered for subsequent approval by our cardroom partners to take place October 17 & 18. Next steps to be reported to Board during next month's meeting.
- 5) UPDATE: JPA Website is almost up & running, with California Advocacy volunteering to provide in-kind website services to the JPA until the Board determines a final course of action on this resource.

Member Argumedo moved and 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

NEW BUSINESS - CLOSED SESSION

7. None

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.

Member Argumedo (Commerce)

Treasurer De Leon Sanchez (Bell Gardens)

Secretary Fuentes (Cudahy)

Vice Chair Sharif (Compton)

Chair Farfan (Hawaiian Gardens)

ADJOURN (11:33 AM)

The next regular meeting of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, in the City of Bell Gardens.

Victor Farfan, Chair

ATTEST:

Martin Fuentes, Secretary



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

**WARRANT REPORT AND FINANCIAL
SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2023**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023.

BALANCE SHEET

11/15/2023 JPA MEETING

Page: 1

11/14/2023

5:51 pm

City of Hawaiian Gardens

As of: 10/31/2023

Balances

Fund: 50 - CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE

Assets

1000.0000 CASH

234,268.57

Total Assets

234,268.57

Liabilities

2100.0000 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

27,961.60

Total Liabilities

27,961.60

Reserves/Balances

2900.0000 FUND BALANCE-UNASSIGNED

101,191.32

2920.0000 CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

105,115.65

Total Reserves/Balances

206,306.97

Total Liabilities & Balances

234,268.57

Edit List of Invoices - Summary

11/15/2023 JPA MEETING

Date: 11/14/2023

Time: 5:46 pm

Page: 1

City of Hawaiian Gardens

Ref. No.	Vendor Name	Invoice No.	Posting Date	PONumber	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount
174020	HUGO ARGUMEDO		10/18/2023		10/18/2023	10.18.23 MTG STIPEND	
		2023-10-18					250.00
174031	HUGO ARGUMEDO		10/01/2023		10/17/2018	Replace Ck 1062 11/30/18	
		2018-10-17					250.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>500.00</u>
174021	VICTOR FARFAN		10/18/2023		10/18/2023	10.18.23 MTG STIPEND	
		2023-10-18					250.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>250.00</u>
174022	MARTIN U FUENTES		10/18/2023		10/18/2023	10.18.23 MTG STIPEND	
		2023-10-18					250.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>250.00</u>
174025	JUAN GARZA		10/31/2023		10/31/2023	OCT 2023 SALARY	
		2023-10-31					5,000.00
174030	JUAN GARZA		10/18/2023		10/18/2023	10.18.23 - 10.18.25 JPA DOMAIN	
		2766973380					119.40
						Vendor Total:	<u>5,119.40</u>
174026	GRUBER AND LOPEZ INC		10/01/2023		09/05/2023	06.30.21 & 06.30.22 AUDITED	
		4570					13,000.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>13,000.00</u>
174027	OLIVAREZ MADRUGA LAW		10/31/2023		10/31/2023	OCT 2023 SVCS - GENERAL	
		23547					1,220.00
174028	OLIVAREZ MADRUGA LAW		10/31/2023		10/31/2023	OCT 2023 SVCS - BOARD MEETIN	
		23548					706.20
						Vendor Total:	<u>1,926.20</u>
174029	EVELYN PINEDA		10/31/2023		11/03/2023	OCT 2023 SVCS	
		2023-11-03					6,666.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>6,666.00</u>
174023	FRANCIS DE LEON SANCHEZ		10/18/2023		10/18/2023	10.18.23 MTG STIPEND	
		2023-10-18					250.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>250.00</u>
174024	EMMA SHARIF		10/18/2023		10/18/2023	10.18.23 MTG STIPEND	
		2023-10-18					250.00
						Vendor Total:	<u>250.00</u>
Grand Total:							28,211.60
Less Credit Memos:							0.00
Net Total:							28,211.60
Less Hand Check Total:							0.00
Outstanding Invoice Total:							28,211.60
Void Check 1062: 11/30/18							(250.00)
Outstanding Warrant Total:							27,961.60

Total Invoices: 12

REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORT
11/15/2023 JPA MEETING

City of Hawaiian Gardens

For the Period: 7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023	Original Bud.	Amended Bud.	YTD Actual	CURR MTH	Encumb. YTD	UnencBal	% Bud
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	17,500.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	25.0
REVENUE	227,500.00	227,500.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	76.9
ASSETS	227,500.00	227,500.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	76.9
Function:	227,500.00	227,500.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	76.9
Revenues	227,500.00	227,500.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	76.9
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	20,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	60,925.00	24.7
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	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	-6,500.00	200.0
4211.0000 MEETING STIPENDS	17,250.00	17,250.00	4,500.00	1,250.00	0.00	12,750.00	26.1
4213.0000 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	9,000.00	9,000.00	119.40	119.40	0.00	8,880.60	1.3
4250.0001 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE/JPA	80,000.00	80,000.00	26,664.00	6,666.00	0.00	53,336.00	33.3
4252.0000 SPECIAL COUNSEL - CONTRACT	19,425.00	19,425.00	5,600.95	1,926.20	0.00	13,824.05	28.8
OPERATING COSTS	227,500.00	227,500.00	69,884.35	27,961.60	0.00	157,615.65	30.7
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY	227,500.00	227,500.00	69,884.35	27,961.60	0.00	157,615.65	30.7
Function:	227,500.00	227,500.00	69,884.35	27,961.60	0.00	157,615.65	30.7
Expenditures	227,500.00	227,500.00	69,884.35	27,961.60	0.00	157,615.65	30.7
Net Effect for CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE	0.00	0.00	105,115.65	-27,961.60	0.00	-105,115.65	0.0
Change in Fund Balance:			105,115.65				
Grand Total Net Effect:	0.00	0.00	105,115.65	-27,961.60	0.00	-105,115.65	



November 15, 2023

California Update: Agenda

1. Bureau of Gambling Control –Concept Regulations Proposed on September 11, 2023
2. SB 549 (Newman) – Tribal Declaratory Relief Act
3. Stakeholder Outreach



October 26, 2023

Bureau of Gambling Control
Attention: Regulations
P.O. Box 168024
Sacramento, CA 95816-8024

RE: Draft Concept Language for Blackjack-Style Games and Rotation of Player-Dealer Regulations

Dear California Attorney General Rob Bonta:

On behalf of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and our member cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy and Hawaiian Gardens, we want to thank you for both the notifications and draft concept language on both Blackjack-Style Games and Rotation of Player-Dealer Regulations published on September 11, 2023. We are gratified to know you are embarking on solicitation of input on these proposed regulations prior to the initiation of a formal rulemaking process, and that this concept language is still subject to further review and revision by the Bureau. On behalf of the JPA, please accept this letter into your record as our official submission of comments, concerns and requests at this stage of your process.

COMMENTS

Our cardrooms and these games as played today collectively serve as local, vital wide-impacting economic engines. Within our membership alone, the revenue derived from the casino in Hawaiian Gardens represents 70% of the City's total general fund revenues. Similarly, the City of Bell Gardens relies on the Bicycle Casino for 50% of its general fund revenue, while the City of Commerce generates 40% of its general fund revenues from Commerce Casino. The City of Compton also depends on substantial revenue from Crystal Casino for its general fund. In summary, our historically disadvantaged and majority-minority member cities and their communities have a lot at stake in this process and stand to be devastated should all related efforts not consider our perspective, our needs and our voice.

The proposed regulatory changes to these games WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT our member cities, their residents and their businesses. Thus, we are pleased that as part of the potential rulemaking process, the Bureau will complete a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA) to understand the economic impacts of these proposed regulations. We agree with this effort and commitment by the Bureau, as it is vital that we know not only the multifaceted impacts to the cardroom industry and their stakeholders, but also the comprehensive and multifaceted impacts these or any final regulations will have on our and every city throughout California.

Without this analysis and additional consideration and focus on impacts to our cities and local communities, any final changes impacting games as they are offered today will result in flawed, non-inclusive regulations which will be scrutinized and likely challenged. This is preventable and will be avoided by the Bureau embarking and committing to a truly comprehensive and wide-ranging SRIA producing findings that includes any and all impacts to cities and communities, especially jobs and our economies.

DEEP CONCERNS

We are gravely concerned that the draft concept language on both Blackjack-Style Games and Rotation of Player-Dealer regulations as proposed are far-reaching, problematic, threaten our ability to provide services to our residents and communities, and will undoubtedly harm not only our and other communities that host cardrooms throughout California, but also non-cardroom communities and their residents throughout our state.

Locally, the proposed concept regulations undermine our JPA member cities' financial self-sufficiency and stability that rely upon revenue from licensed gambling. Cardrooms based in our member cities are vital local economic engines that serve as the largest single source of total tax revenue that fund vital residents' services such as public safety, emergency services, fire, health care, homelessness programs, transportation, and other essential programs. In addition, our cardrooms serve as regional economic engines via their direct employment of not only local residents, but of residents from throughout our region that number well over 10,000 in Los Angeles County alone. By drastically reducing and potentially eliminating much needed local revenues, these concept regulations will unnecessarily undermine our communities and further exacerbate our many local challenges which include food shortage, homelessness, unemployment, violence, mental illnesses and health disparities to name a few. In addition, they will encourage individuals to play controlled games illegally which has historically resulted in increased crime, prostitution and other illegal activities into our communities that already have limited resources for public safety, just as it did during the recent COVID-19 shutdowns.

Ultimately, we are concerned that these draft regulations will undermine and threaten our cities and communities. Until fully identified, analyzed and mitigated, they risk the loss of vital and much-needed jobs and revenues that allow for the current self-sufficiency of historically disadvantaged minority residents and communities like ours that deserve the right to a quality of life and services like all other cities and communities throughout California.

REQUESTS

We are pleased to know that an SRIA economic impact study is required prior to formal adoption of any final regulations as this will lead to not only the best possible public policy, but also to reduced negative impacts on our local cardroom cities and communities.

With that, we are requesting that any SRIA economic impact study performed as part of this process:

- Ensures a true, fair and inclusive process.
- Is comprehensive including empirical and objective analysis that identifies all impacts from these and any final related regulations on (1) our member cardroom cities and communities, (2) cardroom cities throughout California, as well as (3) neighboring non-cardroom cities who experience a sphere of influence and impacts from their local neighboring cardrooms.
- Identifies and understands how any proposed regulations will impact these games played in our cardrooms.
- Identifies mitigations on their effects and limitations on cardroom tables (if any).
- Identifies job losses in both our cardrooms, cardroom support industries, and in our local communities.
- Identifies mitigations for the local economic harm, unemployment, loss of local government general funds, and other potential negative effects on our and other cardroom cities.

As we work with you and all stakeholders in the process, we are confident you will agree there exists a foundational and critical need for the Bureau as part of its analysis to identify the comprehensive economic impacts to not only our cardrooms, but their employees and our local communities that host card rooms, as well as others. If the Bureau is truly going to consider the impact of the concept and final regulations, it is undeniable there exists a need to identify, consider and mitigate the far-reaching impacts they will have on our local communities.

CONCLUSION

In summary, we and our local member governments are deeply concerned regarding the threat these draft concept proposals pose on our member cities that are financially dependent on the revenues generated by cardrooms, as currently proposed. Therefore, it is crucial for the JPA to participate and protect our communities, which have historically faced economic challenges, in order to ensure their continued fiscal stability and ability.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our comments, deep concerns and requests on behalf of our communities, our industry partners, and the tens of thousands of employees they support. We look forward to hearing from you throughout this process and are hopeful it will lead to final regulations that do not harm, undermine nor devastate our historically disadvantaged communities, residents, nor cardrooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Garza', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juan Garza
Executive Director
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: November 15, 2023

- 1) Press Conference (12/06/23) - SB 549 (Newman) – Tribal Rotation Bill Efforts
- 2) Attorney General Bonta Proposed Regulations – JPA & Cities Response Letters
- 3) Fall 2024 JPA Conference – Updates & Ad Hoc Consideration