

The mission of the California State Board of Optometry is to protect the health and safety of California consumers through licensing, registration, education, and regulation of the practice of Optometry and Opticianry.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Jeffrey Garcia, O.D., President
Eunie Linden, J.D., Vice President
Stacy Bragg, O.D., Secretary
Alex Clemens, Public Member
Paul Hsu, Public Member
Robert Klepa, J.D., Public Member
Joseph Pruitt, O.D.
Martin Dawson, SLD/CLD
Taylor Tedder, O.D.
Lillian Wang, O.D.
Vacant Governor Appointee, Public Member
Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
FINAL MINUTES**

PHYSICAL LOCATIONS:

1. Department of Consumer Affairs
Hearing Room
1747 North Market Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95834
2. University of California, Berkeley
200 Minor Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
3. San Diego Marriot Mission
Valley
8757 Rio San Diego Dr
San Diego, CA 92109
4. Bureau of Automotive Repair
South El Monte Field Office
1180 Durfee Ave #120
South El Monte, CA 91733

Members Present	Staff Present
Jeffrey Garcia, O.D. (in-person)	Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer (in-person)
Eunie Linden, J.D. (in-person)	Erica Bautista, Administrative Coordinator (in-person)
Stacy Bragg, O.D. (in-person)	Brad Garding, Enforcement Manager (remote)
Alex Clemens (in-person)	Brennan Meier, Legal Counsel (remote)
Martin Dawson, CLD/SLD (in-person)	
Paul Hsu (in-person)	
Robert Klepa, J.D. (in-person)	
Joseph Pruitt, O.D. (in-person)	
Taylor Tedder, O.D. (in-person)	
Lillian Wang, O.D. (in-person)	
Members Absent	Guests
	On File

Link for the audio of discussions: not yet available.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Audio of Discussion:

The meeting was conducted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Dr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Secretary Bragg called roll and a quorum was established. All members were present, and there was at least one member present at each physical location.

2. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting [Government Code Sections [11125](#), [11125.3](#), [11125.7\(a\)](#)].

Audio of Discussion:

The Board took public comment at all locations. The public did not provide any comments.

3. Finding of Necessity for Special Meeting

The board will consider whether the delay necessitated by providing notice 10 days prior to the meeting would cause a substantial hardship on the board or that immediate action is required to protect the public interest.

Audio of Discussion:

Executive Officer Pruden read the following statement:

Before going into closed session, the Board must determine whether the delay necessitated by providing notice 10 days prior to a meeting pursuant to Government Code section 11125 would impose a substantial hardship on the Board, or that immediate action is required to protect the public interest.

As indicated in the Agenda, the Board has convened a meeting today to hold a closed-session

discussion of a pending litigation matter.

The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires that the Board make a finding of necessity to hold a meeting on less than 10-days advance notice before proceeding with the closed-session discussion under Government Code section 11125.4, subdivision (c).

The finding of necessity must be made by a motion in open-session and the public must be given an opportunity to comment on the motion before the members of the Board vote. To pass, the motion to adopt the finding must receive a unanimous vote if less than two-thirds of the members are present, or if more members are present, a two-thirds majority.

If the motion does not pass by the required super-majority vote, this meeting cannot go forward, and the Board may not convene a closed-session to discuss the pending litigation matter.

The finding of necessity requires specific factual findings. These findings should be set forth in the motion.

May I please have a motion and a second to adopt the following factual findings:

1. The Board finds that providing 10-days' advance notice of this meeting would pose a substantial hardship on the Board and that immediate action is required by the Board to protect the public interest, and insufficient time exists for the Board to convene on 10 days' advance notice given the time needed to coordinate members' availability and the need to arrange for multiple public meeting locations.
2. If the Board had to wait a full 10 days to meet in closed session to discuss the status of the pending litigation matter, the Board would be deprived of the ability to timely confer with legal counsel, discuss legal strategy, and deliberate and provide direction to legal counsel regarding the further handling of the pending litigation matter because of litigation deadlines and timeframes.
3. If the Board is not able to meet in closed session in less than 10 days, its defense of the pending litigation matter may be severely compromised and the public interest will be harmed.
4. The Board's next scheduled meeting is too far in the future to allow the Board to wait until then to timely meet with counsel.
5. Based on these facts and circumstances, insufficient time exists for the Board to provide 10 days' advance notice of this meeting, and meeting upon shortened notice is necessary and proper.

Member Wang made a motion to adopt the factual findings stated by Executive Officer Pruden. The motion was seconded by Member Klepa.

The Board took public comment at all locations. The public did not provide any comments.

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Garcia	X				
Vice President Linden	X				
Secretary Bragg	X				
Member Clemens	X				
Member Dawson	X				
Member Hsu	X				
Member Klepa	X				

Member Pruitt	X				
Member Tedder	X				
Member Wang	X				

4. Future Agenda Items

Audio of Discussion:

Member Klepa requested a future agenda item to discuss receiving information related to pending decisions before the Board.

The Board took public comment at all locations. The public did not provide any comments.

5. Closed Session

A. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the Board will meet in closed session to confer and receive advice from legal counsel regarding the following litigation:

i. Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV004237

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned from closed session.