California Veterinary Medical Board

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS • CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95834-2978
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Mission: To protect all consumers and animals by regulating licensees, promoting professional standards, and enforcing the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES[1]
JULY 15, 2026

Physical Location:
Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 North Market Boulevard, Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95834

Additional Public Participation:
Teleconference/WebEx Events

Recordings of the webcast are available here:
Agenda Items 1-11 (https://youtu.be/j_chKom1VrA)
Agenda Items 12-24 (https://youtu.be/XQ3jg94UvZQ)

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Members Present:	**Management Staff Present:**
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President	Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer (EO)
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	Matt McKinney, Deputy EO
Christina Bradbury, DVM	Andrea Amaya-Torres, Administration/Licensing Manager
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	Patty Rodriguez, Enforcement Manager
Steven Manyak, DVM	Ashley Sanchez, Enforcement Manager
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember (Remote)	Justin Sotelo, Policy Specialist
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	Robert Stephanopoulos, Enforcement Manager
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	
Marie Ussery, RVT	**Legal Affairs Division Staff Present:**
	Elizabeth Dietzen-Olsen, Regulations Counsel, Attorney III
Student Liaisons Present:	Tara Welch, Board Counsel, Attorney IV
Clara Guirguis, UC, Davis	
	Other Staff and Guests Present: On File

Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Veterinary Medical Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, ***the protection of the public shall be paramount.*** *(BPC, § 4800.1)*

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

   Board President, Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. EO, Jessica Sieferman, called roll, and a quorum was established.

2. **Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

   Public comment was received from:

   - Dan Baxter, Executive Director, California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
   - Vanessa Piscazzi

3. **Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

   A. April 15-16, 2026

   B. June 15, 2026

   April 15-16, 2026 Board meeting minutes available here. June 15, 2026 Board meeting minutes available here.

   Motion: Christina Bradbury, DVM, moved and C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM, seconded a motion to approve the April 15-16, 2026, and June 15, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

   There was no public comment received on this motion.

   The motion carried 8-0-1.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President	X			
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	X			
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM	X			
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT			X	

4. **Report and Update from Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)**

   There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

5. **Discussion and Possible Appointment to Fill Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) Member Position on the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC)**

   Meeting materials available here.

The Board received written public comment on this item on July 13, 2026.

Motion: Christina Bradury, DVM, moved and Marie Ussery, RVT, seconded a motion to appoint Patrick Fung, RVT, to the MDC as an RVT member to serve through June 30, 2027.

There was no public comment received on this motion.

The motion carried 6-3.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President		X		
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President		X		
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM		X		
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT	X			

6. Update and Discussion on MDC Assignments

Meeting materials available here.

There was no Board action taken or public comment received on this item.

7. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on 2025-2026 Legislation Impacting the Board, DCA, and/or the Veterinary Profession

A. Priority Legislation for Board Consideration

Meeting materials available here.

1. Assembly Bill (AB) 1733 (Lee, 2026) License and Registration Renewal: Continuing Education

2. AB 1999 (Kalra, 2026) Veterinary Medicine

3. AB 2010 (Soria, 2026) Veterinary Medicine: Veterinary Surgery Premises: Spay and Neuter Services

Motion: C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM, moved and Steven Manyak, DVM, seconded a motion to maintain an oppose, unless amended position on AB 2010, and, if

the bill is amended to include the Board's requested amendments, take a support position on the bill.

There was no public comment received on this motion.

The motion carried 9-0.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President	X			
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	X			
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM	X			
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT	X			

4. **AB 2774 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) Physical Therapy Board of California**

   Motion: Christina Bradbury, DVM, moved and C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM, seconded a motion to oppose AB 2774 if the bill is amended to authorize physical therapists to practice animal physical therapy.

   There was no public comment received on this motion.

   The motion carried 9-0.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President	X			
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	X			
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM	X			
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT	X			

5. **AB 2775 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) Chiropractic Act**

6. **Senate Bill (SB) 1269 (Ochoa Bogh, 2026) Chiropractors: Animal Chiropractic Practitioners**

7. **SB 1311 (Wahab, 2026) Licensed Professions**

8. **SB 1445 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, 2026) Healing Arts**

Other than AB 2010 and AB 2774, there was no Board action taken or public comment received on the other bills under Agenda Item 7.A.

B. Other Board-Monitored Legislation

1. **AB 1558 (Arambula, 2026) Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act**

There was no Board action taken or public comment received on this item.

8. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on Pending Regulations

A. Status on Pending Regulations

Meeting materials available here.

There was no Board action taken or public comment received on this item.

9. Review and Discussion on the Ability of Animal Control Officers to Perform Euthanasia and Carry Controlled Substances

Meeting materials available here.

There was no Board action taken or public comment received on this item.

10. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on Proposed Amendments to the Board and Committee Member Administrative Procedure Manual

Meeting materials available here.

Additional Amendments to the Board and Committee Member Administrative Procedure Manual: Below, are additional amendments to the Board and Committee Member Administrative Procedure Manual made during the meeting (additions are in double underline blue text; deletions are in ~~double red strikethrough text~~):

(Page 2):
CHAPTER 2 Board Meeting Procedures

[…]

Board Member Attendance at Board Meetings Board Policy
Board members must attend each meeting of the Board. If a member is unable to attend, they are asked to contact the Board President or the Executive Officer and ask to be excused from the meeting for a specific reason. ~~For purposes of petition hearings, Board members are required to be physically present at the Board meeting and are unable to participate solely through telephonic means.~~Board members are encouraged to attend petition hearings in person or with video access to observe the demeanor, manner, or ~~attitude~~behavior of witnesses.

[…]

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CHAPTER 4 Other Policies/Procedures

[…]

Removal of Board Members
The Senate, Assembly, and Governor has the power to remove from office at any time any member of any board appointed by ~~him/her~~them for continued neglect of duties required by law or for incompetence or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

[…]

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CHAPTER 7 Board Committees

[…]

Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee

[…]

The Board shall advertise vacancies on its website and shall work with professional associations and other consumer groups to notify the public of the recruitment process. All new applicants seeking a position on the MDC shall submit a letter of interest, along with a resume, curriculum vitae (CV), or both, to the Board. Upon receipt of a letter of interest, Board staff will perform a prospective committee member compliance evaluation to ensure that potential appointees adhere to California's various statutory and regulatory requirements. ~~Interviews may be conducted by telephonic means at the Board's discretion, provided the telephonic participation is duly noticed on the meeting agenda. Upon a majority vote of the Board, the Board may establish an Elections Committee comprised of the Board President and Vice President, to~~Once requirements are verified, the Executive Committee will screen the applicants, including an MDC member seeking reappointment, and hold interviews, if necessary, for the purpose of

making recommendations to the ~~full~~ Board. The ~~selection~~appointment of an MDC member shall be made at a Board meeting. When multiple applicants are recommended by the Executive Committee, those applicants are ~~MDC members seeking reappointment are~~ required to be interviewed by the Board.

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CHAPTER 9 Enforcement and Information

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Petition for Modification of Penalty or Reinstatement

[…]

The process for filing of a Petition for Modification of Penalty or Reinstatement is as follows:

- Petitioner files the Petition accompanied by all supporting documentation.
- ~~The matter is referred to the Division of Investigation for investigation (Petition for Reinstatement).~~Board staff determines petition eligibility and refers the Petition and probation compliance report, if applicable~~.~~.

[…]

Motion: Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, moved and C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM, seconded a motion to approve the revised Board and Committee Member Administrative Procedure Manual as amended at this meeting and delegate authority to the EO to make non-substantive, technical changes if necessary.

There was no public comment received on this motion.

The motion carried 9-0.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President	X			
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	X			
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM	X			
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT	X			

11. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Activities—*Christina Bradbury, DVM*

A. AAVSB Activities Overview

Meeting materials available here.

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

B. Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Meeting materials available here.

Motion: Marie Ussery, RVT, moved and C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM, seconded a motion to support the AAVSB Proposed Bylaws Amendment 4 for 2026 proposed by the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine.

There was no public comment received on this motion.

The motion carried 9-0.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President	X			
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	X			
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM	X			
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT	X			

Motion: Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, moved and Steven Manyak, DVM, seconded a motion to reject the AAVSB Proposed Bylaws Amendment 1 for 2026 proposed by the AAVSB Bylaws and Resolution Committee.

There was no public comment received on this motion.

The motion carried 9-0-1.

Members	Vote			
	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM, President			X	
Kristi Pawlowski, RVT, Vice President	X			
Christina Bradbury, DVM	X			
Patrick Espinoza, Esq.	X			
Steven Manyak, DVM	X			
Evelyn Mitchell, MBA, Councilmember	X			
Anna Orlowski, Esq.	X			
C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM	X			
Marie Ussery, RVT	X			

C. Proposed Resolutions

This item was not discussed.

D. Practice Act Model, Article 1

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

E. Model Regulations: Establishment and Maintenance of a VCPR

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

F. Model Regulations: Standards of Practice and Facility

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

12. Student Liaison Reports

A. University of California, Davis, Liaison—*Clara Guirguis*

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

B. Western University of Health Sciences Liaison

This item was not discussed.

13. Board President Report—*Maria Preciosa S. Solacito, DVM*

There was no Board action on this item.

Public comment was received from:

- Dan Baxter, Executive Director, CVMA
- Georgina Marquez, DVM, Chair of the House of Delegates, CVMA

14. Registered Veterinary Technician Report—*Kristi Pawlowski, RVT*

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

15. Executive Management Reports

A. Administration

Meeting materials available here.

B. Examination/Licensing

Meeting materials available here.

C. Enforcement

Meeting materials available here.

D. Outreach

Meeting materials available here.

E. Strategic Plan

Meeting materials available here.

There was no Board action or public comment received on these items.

16. Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Dates

There was no Board action or public comment received on this item.

17. Recess Open Session

Dr. Solacito recessed open session at 2:40 p.m.

18. Convene Closed Session

Dr. Solacito convened closed session at 2:52 p.m.

19. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(3), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session to Deliberate and Vote on Disciplinary Matters, Including Stipulated Settlements, and Proposed Decisions

In the Matter of the Accusation Against Richard Shargani, DVM, Veterinarian License No. 13883, and Thomas Veterinary Hospital, Veterinary Premises Registration No. HSP 1316; Board Case No. 4602020000380; OAH No. 2025120451

The Board rejected the stipulated settlement and proposed a counteroffer.

In the Matter of the Second Amended Accusation Against Karambir Bhullar, DVM, Veterinarian License No. VET 7159, Ave 26 Small Animal Hospital, Veterinary Premises Registration No. HSP 2559, and West Covina Pet Hospital, Veterinary Premises Registration No. HSP 37814; Board Case Nos. 4602024000113 and 4602026000286; OAH No. N/A

The Board rejected the stipulated settlement and proposed a counteroffer.

20. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(1), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session to Prepare Veterinary Law Examinations

The Board discussed the Veterinary Law Examinations.

21. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(1) and (2)(A), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session to Confer and Receive Advice From Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Legislation

A. Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WW000190

This item was not discussed.

22. Adjourn Closed Session

Dr. Solacito adjourned closed session at 4:11 p.m.

23. Reconvene Open Session

Dr. Solacito reconvened open session at 4:13 p.m.

24. Adjournment

Dr. Solacito adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

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[1] The Board maintains action minutes that record official actions taken, including motions and votes. Video recordings, when made, are provided for convenience and do not constitute the official record of Board action. Hyperlinks to the video are controlled by a third-party and may be removed at any time.