

Operations Cluster Meeting-20260218_135856-Meeting Transcript

February 18, 2026, 9:58PM

54m 24s

● **Thomas Luscombe** started transcription

OC **Operations Cluster** 0:46

That's my question.

I love it.

All right, it's 2:00 working everybody else.

And we will start with item number one.

Thomas, can you call the vote yes, representative for SP1? Tammy wilchafia. Aaron Lopez will call. Serve on.

Two SD.

Two, maybe use a second district SD3 John Leonard, Third District 2, SD 4. Grant chairman. Thanks, Craig.

SD5.

Michelle Mega is there anyone anyone else is online who wish?

Es.

To we have no informational items, so we'll be at #3.

This is item A, St. One waiver of outstanding rent for the familiar.

Living in multiple sclerosis organization.

Good afternoon everyone again.

We'll just go over the 1st District Motion relate to family.

Anita, appreciate the work with county.

Monkey Real estate team and I believe they're on line to help answer some of the questions that folks have it. But in summary, this motion sports family, you need a living with multiple sclerosis, a long standing community partner that has served residents living with Miss and other dis.

For over 30 years.

Their relationship started under the former late was Gloria Molina.

And for the decades, they've become a trusted, culturally rooted organization serving thousands of families across LA region. In 2014, at Easterly, Central Moravia, that's a facility under county aging and Disability department on Cesar Chavez Ave. the

county had a lease with the blue market rate recognizing the.

Public benefit of their work.

And like many other community based.

Organization that got devastated under the Code 19 pandemic.

And you need a had a was.

Disrupted their operations and they were forced to suspend their in person programming. Unfortunately, at Central Marvia and they continued serving the clients throughout the pandemic, but the organization is now in a critical rebuilding phase.

So family you need advocated the county space in December 2025, at the time of departure, they had an outstanding rent balance of \$26,400.50, including a partial month for December.

So the organization has formally requested that the county waive this outstanding rent so they can focus on their limited resources on restoring programs, reengaging volunteers and continuing to serve residents.

Living with Ms. and other disabilities.

Is like they did over the last 30 years.

So this motion.

Has three or four key things.

First of all, it finds the action exempt.

Under SQA, there's no physical impacts in the environment and secondly, it finds under government code section 26227 that the services meet essential health and safety related needs.

And so for clear public purpose and it authorizes.

Third piece is that authorized the waiver of the outstanding rent owed under the license which is 26,400 and it lastly authorizes the acting CEO to take all necessary administrative steps to implement the waiver and close out the license.

It was roughly, I believe, 400 to 500 square foot of space.

So some read this section preserves the county decades long investment in the community based partner that provides.

Culturally competent disability focused services.

It supports the recovery, ensures continuity of care for vulnerable residents and allows the county to close out the license in an efficient and responsible manner.

I appreciate everybody's support on this item and happy to answer any questions.

Thanks sukhas.

Does anybody have any questions?

I have some.

What is the? What was the monthly rent like?

How much is the 26,000?

How many months is per day in arrears?

I would actually ask Michael Rodriguez if he's online to help answer that.

I know it was discounted 50% but don't have the figure for monthly then.

HD **Helena Dedic** 5:41

I'm.

OC **Operations Cluster** 5:41

Is she a real estate team?

HD **Helena Dedic** 5:43

Yes, will cost. Hi, it's Helena.

Good afternoon.

I'm current.

My apologies. Computer's frozen and Nearene is trying to log in if us a minute, we will have that information.

OC **Operations Cluster** 6:01

So I'm assuming my next question is going to be for CEO real estate, because I'm curious if we've ever provided this sort of.

Write off for any other organization.

HD **Helena Dedic** 6:12

We can look into it and get back to you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 6:18

And can you also provide the number of nonprofits that are currently leasing?

I don't need the list, but the number of nonprofits that are currently leasing county space.

HD Helena Dedic 6:28

Absolutely.

OC Operations Cluster 6:29

Just.

And then.

Where would the funding come from to cover this cost?

HD Helena Dedic 6:38

They have currently their lease was terminated, I believe effective December 15, 2025 and they have vacated the premises.

OC Operations Cluster 6:48

So this would just be absorbed into operating expenses.

Through C state or through DPSS because it's an EPSS building, aging and disability portability.

HD Helena Dedic 7:00

Through aging and we will confirm that and get back to you as well. They should have a representative on as well, but I think he's having issues logging in.

OC Operations Cluster 7:11

OK.

So then I guess my question is to aging.

If they what their thoughts are on covering this expense, if they have that and their flexibility in their budget, Helena, this this property is already owned by the county or the county still paying on this, is it not owned up by this county, right?

HD Helena Dedic 7:20

OK.

Right. And I will verify that.

OC Operations Cluster 7:34

Can you verify that the cost for the CPO to use the space is related to utilities?

HD **Helena Dedic** 7:41

OK.

Absolutely. Thank you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 7:47

Because I'm assuming we have a receivable on our books for this. That's right.

So we're taking out that receivable, would like to know what happens.

Yeah, I had the same questions with the rental rate is essentially how long have they not been paying the rent?

HD **Helena Dedic** 8:04

Let me see. Neray, have you been able to log in?

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 8:08

Yes, I was, yes.

HD **Helena Dedic** 8:09

Or Billy.

Billy Nerenay, could you provide the monthly rent?

I believe you have it in front of you.

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 8:15

Yes, monthly rent is a \$555.00 ad and familiar Unida is not paying rent since July 2022.

OC **Operations Cluster** 8:26

Oh my goodness.

I'm sorry. Why were they allowed to go in arrears for so long?

HD **Helena Dedic** 8:37

Billy, are you on the line?

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 8:45

I don't think they that were able. Yeah, yeah.

HD Helena Dedic 8:45

I think he's having issues logging in.

OC Operations Cluster 8:50

To the extent of my knowledge on this, I think they didn't have any volunteers or actual staff to be at the.

Central Maravia beach space. They the the lead for the organization. I think she suffered from her own health issues severely impacted. So the organization went in disarray.

I don't know if they were getting county invoices since there was nobody.

In person, since there that may have not been flagged for the organization when the CEO team went and tried to find out, I think they'll have to go through a major restructuring and revival.

Of the nonprofit itself.

But all through that time. But they were not occupying the 405 hundred square foot of space.

They did do their, you know, outreach and programming and services on a limited basis online.

Bring that to me.

But I know the specifics of rent and areas there and collection, we will see a team.

Yes. Why didn't CEO of real estate black this and terminate? Good question.

Of course I didn't that.

HD Helena Dedic 10:08

We have been. Oh, thank you, lacrosse.

OC Operations Cluster 10:10

Term.

HD Helena Dedic 10:11

What real estate has been looking at is all gratis leases and as we've come across them then we've been trying to make them whole. For example, in this particular case, if they haven't been paying rent, we brought it to the attention of aging.

We went back.

It was determined to terminate the lease as our understanding family UNITA didn't have the budget.

To be made whole.

On the rental side, we are looking at all existing gratis leases and modifying them to be market rent when we have the option to renew the lease or a new lease.

OC **Operations Cluster** 10:50

Is this considered a gratis lease?

HD **Helena Dedic** 10:53

This one is not considered gratis lease, but it is considered below market.

OC **Operations Cluster** 10:59

So did John's question though.

If it wasn't a gratis lease and they weren't paying rent for three years, I mean, isn't there a trigger for CEO to get in touch with the organization to find out, you know, six months in why they're not paying?

HD **Helena Dedic** 11:17

CEO wasn't collecting the rent.

That was the responsibility of aging, and so I would defer to Billy.

Have you joined the call?

Or Henry.

My apologies.

I'll look into it and get back to you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 11:37

Helena, when you respond, could you please send that over to Thomas of the CEO and he'll get it to all of us.

HD **Helena Dedic** 11:43

Absolutely.

OC **Operations Cluster** 11:46

And I was going to say, I think the other point with my viewers is going to say was if

we've done this before, yes, if we've done it before and how many currently, how many below market rate leases at market rate leases and gratis leases we have for. Nonprofit organizations.

HD **Helena Dedic** 12:04
Absolutely.

OC **Operations Cluster** 12:05
Because obviously my if I was a non profit.

HD **Helena Dedic** 12:07
My apologies. Billy has just joined. Billy, are you there?
Billy, are you on mute?
My apologies.

OC **Operations Cluster** 12:28
I was just gonna say if I was a non profit renting space from the county and I saw the county approve this, I would ask for something similar.

HD **Helena Dedic** 12:41
Understood. Thank you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 12:41
And I the the department didn't do it. Soon. Exactly the three years. And if there needs to be some sort of policy regarding, you know that there is a policy, it'd be good to get that.
Actually the data on all of the spaces I know at Central Maravia which are easterly office works very closely with we had our own entrepreneur center there.
That's since pandemic been struggling to kinda like have full staffing.
But the demand for the space hasn't been at the pre pandemic levels like we certainly had more nonprofits there and.
Some chamber space in the past, but I know even though the space could have been offered to another nonprofit.
But there hasn't been much demand, at least at the cent from Merivia with respect to any gratis or discounted in these space.

HD **Helena Dedic** 13:43

Thank you and my apologies. I think Henry Lopez from Aging has joined the call.

OC **Operations Cluster** 13:43

And that means.

HD **Helena Dedic** 13:48

Henry, have you joined?

You're on mute, I think.

HL **Henry P. Lopez** 13:54

Yeah, Lena, I'm trying to get Billy for that question. I think he's trying to get into.

HD **Helena Dedic** 14:02

That's OK.

We can get responses and send them to Thomas.

BY **Billy Yeung** 14:06

Hey, this is Bill with aging.

Sorry about that.

I was on the old link and I just got the new one from CR Red, so apologies on that.

Helena, do you mind repeating that question?

HD **Helena Dedic** 14:18

Family unit has been in arrears.

They haven't paid rent, I believe, since 2022.

Their rent was approximately 550 a month.

Is there a reason or what is the reason that we just discovered they weren't paying rent?

BY **Billy Yeung** 14:34

So a bit of back history on that is that they have been paying rent up until COVID and when the rent, I won't say abatement, but when there was a rent relief clause that was pushed out by county, they inadvertently thought that that means that

meant all rent.

Was waived.

However, that was not the case, and so at that point, when the center reopened under a new normal in mid 2022.

And we had all of our license agencies come back to resume a physical stance. They were unable to, as well as their operations haven't picked up since COVID as well.

So they actually have not been physically operating from the space since actually pre pandemic.

OC **Operations Cluster** 15:23

Lots of follow up questions now.

So does this mean that they were not paying rent since the pandemic started in 2020?

BY **Billy Yeung** 15:30

They did not pay rent because of the rent relief program.

OC **Operations Cluster** 15:35

OK.

So they have not paid rent since 2020, so from 2020 to 2022, they were automatically part of the Rent Relief program.

BY **Billy Yeung** 15:47

Helena, maybe.

Or maybe someone can help me out from the real estate side of the house, because if I remember correctly, the rent relief program was basically a pause.

But unfortunately, Familia Familia Unida thought that it was a full rent relief for them, which was not the case.

HD **Helena Dedic** 16:04

I can look into it.

OC **Operations Cluster** 16:05

OK.

If I think.

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 16:09
Auditor.

HD **Helena Dedic** 16:09
I'm.

OC **Operations Cluster** 16:11
A lot of background on when this started, when they stopped paying rent, if they were really part of the rent relief program, what communication was sent to them because they're you're then also talking about a period between 2020 and 2022 where it doesn't sound like.

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 16:12
What, sorry.

OC **Operations Cluster** 16:27
There was agreement between what the CE or aging thought they should be paying in terms of a rent relief pause and what they were not doing.
So what communication was happening with the organization?
And if they haven't been in the space physically since before the pandemic, why did they?
Why did we just have them vacated in December of 2025?

BY **Billy Yeung** 16:56
I think since reopening the centers itself, I can't speak to anything that was kind of during the weedacks era.
But what I can say is that since we've reopened, we have been in communications with them since 2022 to collect the rent in arrears.
And trying to set up some arrangement for collection, but unfortunately they just do not have the financial wherewithal's to do so.

OC **Operations Cluster** 17:23
OK. But again, it still goes to the idea of what kind of communication was either.
Lead acts, aging CEO real estate having with this organization when they were not

paying rent for so long. And to clarify this issue between if they were part of the rent relief pause or not, if there was like you said they were had a misunderstanding of what the.

Rent really meant.

There should be some documentation in weed, even in weeds's files, to explain what transpired here and there should be enough people at aging or DEO that can provide some background on this.

BY **Billy Yeung** 18:04

And absolutely, we'll gather.

We'll gather that type of correspondence. I believe that we do.

We do have a record of that and we have been in communication with them previously to try to collect the arrears.

OC **Operations Cluster** 18:18

OK. And the years that we were trying to collect would be helpful as well.

So then the \$26,000 is the \$550 since 2020. Is that then how we get to \$26,000 if it's 550 a month or 515 a month?

BY **Billy Yeung** 18:23

Of course.

OC **Operations Cluster** 18:35

Calculated it's roughly 48 months, so it's kind of like four years, 22, OK, 2222.

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 18:44

Crawlers, the they stop paying rent.

Since July 2022, so and I do have in writing.

How much the will be unpaid rent as of December 50 fifteen, 2025.

OC **Operations Cluster** 19:05

So they were paying rent during COVID they were not part of the rent pause, rent relief, pause.

NH **Narine Hakobyan** 19:18

I cannot answer that question because and I ask auditor controller to provide since when they are not paying the rent.

This is what they provided.

OC **Operations Cluster** 19:30

Yeah, it seems like there's seems like there's something with the dates a little bit 'cause. If it's 48 months and it just ended in December, then it would go back.

HD **Helena Dedic** 19:30

We will find out.

Oh, go ahead, Thomas.

OC **Operations Cluster** 19:41

It wouldn't be July.

It would have been like January 1st of 22 or there's some other closet or something in there that's owed to the county.

I'm actually concerned because it sounds like the department did not know that they were still getting paid for an extra couple of years, and that's concerning as well.

I I think it would be good for the CEOC.

Bread, the department to take a look at this.

Come back with a timeline and break it down for everyone so we can understand. I think the the bottom line is, is that it seems like there may have been miscommunication or a lack of communication and maybe not follow up too. So if you could please provide that.

And send it over to Thomas.

That would be helpful.

And I captured everything, yes. And then if there is any information from CEO real estate on other nonprofits that similarly have, you know, post pandemic, been having trouble paying their rent like do we have other instances of this? And I don't know if that means CEO real est.

Needs to uphold apartments, the leasing space, or look through your gratis lease.

But or your gratissemble market rate, but not the gratis, the below market and the ad market.

Once for CG OS but.

Like I said.

I mean, I have several concerns, but also the President of this sets, especially if there are a number of if there's any other organizations that similarly had trouble bouncing back past COVID.

HD **Helena Dedic** 21:07
Understood.

OC **Operations Cluster** 21:07
And again it is.

I an idea of what communication was going on with the Agency for the three years between 2022 and 2025.

HD **Helena Dedic** 21:21
Thank you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 21:27

So I know there are still some outstanding questions and some data that will be positive from the departments.

Where is everybody about moving the this motion forward for the third need to see?

I mean, I have a lot of outstanding questions and they do not have a lot of no offense to whoever's on there, but not a lot of clear answers.

I agree and I understand.

I see a real state, at least with our office over the last 6-7 months at least. I know when the.

Negotiations in terms of like the amount.

In terms of terminating the lease, they've been informing, and then the latest request came in like they had.

No ability to pay and that's how the labor motion came about. But just wanted to also put it out, like recognizing the 30 years of work.

And see a real estate probably can provide that information alongside and I understand the optics like other cbos and nonprofits, similarly requesting the county.

But is there even a chance of collecting the funds?

Because I know the organization is going through.

Some major challenging time. It's almost.

A staff of one right now, and they'll have to go through a major reorg.

So what would be the resources it like?

Legal pursuit of collection, which may not get us back anything at all. So wanted to get like a little bit analysis on that end too to be don't go there.

I think it's probably an organization, one Chapter 11.

No bankruptcy? Almost.

Or they have to reord.

Er, not waiving, but collection of that rent is there even the fee ability for them to pay anything at all?

So it would be great to get some insight on that.

Were they accounting contractor or they were just leasing space from US leasing space?

That's it.

So we didn't pay them anything to speak.

I think family you needa and it's been a while. Our office engage with them obviously.

Their services were limited.

Not sure if they were on some specific county contract at some point with their health agencies or health departments.

What I would just point out that it's not uncommon for the county to provide county space to partners and our community either at low below market rate or for free for grantees.

We have several of those.

We we have seen them in our and also our office so and I definitely don't disagree with that.

I was more like if the county was actually funding that. Yeah. And then part of that agreement was that they rented the space from us.

Like were they getting funded from us?

During that period because.

Me. That makes it a little bit different.

Yeah, that's even strange.

Well, if they were conscious with this, we probably wouldn't do charging.

But Billy, do you know whether or not weedex or aging has a contract with this onsite CBO?

Not the.

Not the best of my knowledge, no.

OC **Operations Cluster** 24:35

OK. Or if they did previously, yeah, I mean.

To be clear, I certainly don't want somebody to take legal action against this nonprofit.

It's more just understanding this and the President and so forth.

Yes, not a great question, OK.

So the departments have we have requested information to please get back to Thomas and if you would can you get that to us by COB on Friday?

HD **Helena Dedic** 24:59

Absolutely. Thank you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 25:02

Thank you very much. Thank you.

All right.

Moving on, that is we are now at item number 4A.

This is the service contract DPW.

Please come up.

This is service contract, water resource, poor service area. LA County Water Works district. The floor is yours.

Good afternoon.

It's good to see you all again.

My name is John Kallas.

I'm the chief Information Officer, public works.

Today I'm joined by Carolina Hernandez, the head of our Water Works division.

We seek board approval to award an IT services contract to Hanson Banner LLC for a new customer information system. This system will replace our current billing system for the Los Angeles County Water Works districts.

The contract term is 12 years with the maximum contract amount.

Of 9,957,000.

\$916 to \$0.10.

Which covers the implementation, annual subscription fees and any additional or

option services. And with that we'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

Oh oh, I do.

I-1 quick question.

Does it apply to all of the water districts or?

More specifically, Marina del Rey.

I wasn't gonna confirm.

I know we have Malibu and antelope.

Thanks for the question.

Hello everybody again.

My name's Catalina.

The director for Electronic Public Works and it actually does. This is gonna be a billing system that serves all of our five Water Works districts and the Marina delay water system.

So all of our districts will be included in this.

Thank you.

Despite of Curiosity, was the incumbent also one of the five proposals that were received?

It was OK.

Were they one of the three that did not meet the minimum requirements?

The first time they didn't.

You know, I have staff online that I think they can answer that I want to say that they were not.

So do I have Alan Nino on?

AN Alan Nino 27:11

Yeah. Hi.

Yeah. So the incumbent, they did meet the minimum requirements, but they were ultimately not selected in the evaluation period.

OC Operations Cluster 27:22

Thank you, Ellen. Appreciate that. Thank you.

Just one quick follow up question. Out of curiosity, would the information system related services online to provide all of the?

Other water pairs typically provide like your.

Usage water usage. Any incentive rebates, ability to pay Bill online.

The water quality and things of that nature.

So how extensive those?

Services are gonna be people who are customers of the water district.

Yeah. Thanks for the question.

So we're really excited about this system. To answer your questions, we we will have, it'll have billing, it'll have phone.

We do have mobile pay, so those kinds of things will be all associated with this billing system, which we're very excited about.

Information regarding water quality and things like that will be provided on our website. So separate from the system. But what is great about this is that if someone calls in just like any utility, when you call your utility company.

Will be able to track you know, OK.

This person had this question.

We'll be able to put out information.

Consistently across the district. So we're very excited about this upgrade coming.

Do any of those have any questions?

Yep, all right.

So that said, the drivers welcome to move forward to file for March 17th.

Thank you.

Thank you.

We are now at 4B. This is the arts and culture.

Please come up notification of intent to enter into a sole source for a third party.

Administrative support programs of planning for the benefit of the South East LA County Community development.

Good afternoon.

I'm Kristen Sikota, director of the Department of Arts and Culture.

I'm joined by our Chief Deputy Heather Rigby.

As before, you is a request to allow the Department of Arts and Culture to file the 30 day notice of intent for sole source for a third party administrator to partner with us on the implementation of a \$5,000,000 state funded grant program. The program is called.

Cella Cultural Development Fund.

And the purpose is to invest through this \$5,000,000 in grants to an array of individual artists, arts organizations, nonprofits and more, all in the cellar area to support arts and culture and support the increased development of the local

community, arts and culture concurrent with the SEPAR.

Development of the proposed sale and Cultural Center.

The purpose of the sole source is to support.

An opportunity to identify atpa in time, expedited fashion and the purpose of the TPA itself is that often for this kind of scale or this kind of program, the county, including our department has engaged a third party intermediary to support these kinds of one time special grant initi.

So.

Does anybody have any questions?

No.

Kristen.

You had mentioned to me that the five million was allocated back in 2023. However, you recently had to request an extension with the state and we won't know whether that extension will be granted until June, correct?

So with that in mind, can you share the original timeline the state provided you for distributing the 5 million?

Yes. So when we first learned of the funding in 2023.

We didn't have a grant agreement or or any actual material thing.

So in 2024 is when we were working with CEO and working very closely with District 4 and the state to actually gain access to the funds, which included a formal sort of application process and other paperwork etc. As we were then developing the program once that.

Was signed.

We entered landscape analysis and all of that.

We identified that we would.

Want to have a third party intermediary for this kind of program and identified that we would want to use a sole source process if it was allowable for for identifying the the the third party intermediary.

So that's what we brought forward starting last year and then now we are identified the the.

Agencies that we are selecting from and removing.

So what was the original deadline?

Oh, sorry, the original deadline.

Yes, sorry, the original deadline is June or July of 2027 is the actual state deadline.

What we are requesting is for that to actually go out to 2029. We reached out to the

state actually last year to begin the conversations about the grant ext.

And we've engaged with them a few times.

We've now actually have really positive meetings with the state, their grants administration team as well as speaking to the head of state parks.

And they are very supportive in granting the extension. However, they did caveat that it is going to have to technically be on the legislation that the the sort of annual budget package that goes through and that doesn't take place till July.

So what?

They have asked us 'cause, we said let's put this in a little bit of a conundrum to feel like we don't know is it extend or not.

They said just keep going with your plan, with the timeline that you have now. So we're going to continue to meet with them quarterly.

But that is the expected approval date.

Follow up.

Going back to the October arts deputies meeting where you mentioned that you were going to start engaging with Tpas, but that didn't happen because we're just getting this memo right here at OPS cluster. I'm just trying to figure out still why it's taken four months, right since October.

Until now, to engage with Tpas.

Yeah. So at the end of October is when we.

Had been engaging with supervisorial District 4 and it was confirmed yes is the pathway to move forward.

We reengage with County Council to ensure we would do everything in compliance before making communications to Tbas because obviously we don't want to send something out and it turns out we're actually doing it wrong and then we're actually creating some kind of a liability for the county we.

Internally adjusted our timelines for for the project and we identified which TPA's we were going to go out with. And then at the very start of the new year, January, we had our plan for for going out to those TPA's and that brought us to where.

We are now, which is the notification.

Does that.

Does engaging with County Council take like two months, three months?

You know, going back and forth with them on parameters.

I'm just trying to.

I'm still trying to wrap my head around my head around like why.

It's taking so long because in the memo right it says due to the lengthy timeline to complete this project, unlimited share must be funding. The department does not have the time or capacity, right? So I'm just.

I'm still trying to figure out like.

Does engaging with County Council take that long?

Response to that, sure.

I mean, we didn't engage with them solidly for for 10 or 12 weeks, but certainly completing all the various activities.

Has has taken, you know the time that it did take and we.

I think we would have wanted AI mean we would have wanted a third party administrator. I think regardless of of the time frame just given, just given the the scale of what what we need to do and our other programs that are concurrent, that don't go on PA.

Or in our ongoing, but that's essentially the various activities we were completing and those sort of type of 12 weeks. And then I didn't see it listed in the memo. But can you share like the scope of the region like what communities are being considered for this program?

Yes, I don't that I'll be able to do it off the top of my head, but we have been engaging with supervisorial District 4 on which cities and what the geographic definition is. Interestingly enough, when this has come up with local community members or others who are on.

The separate you know, advisory panel or the Cultural Center it it appears there is not like one universal defined. This is the geographic definition of zelus.

So we are working with.

Supervisor Royal District 4.

And they have provided us a list of cities.

Do you have? I do.

Oh great.

OK.

I can read it aloud.

Bell Bell Gardens commerce.

Downey Huntington Park, Walnut Park, Lynnwood, Maywood, Pico, Rivera, South Gate, Vernon.

I didn't hear Paramount. Is that correct?

Yeah, it's correct. Port Florence Firestone.

Correct.

And will this, and will the communities be shared with?

The committee, the fellow parts fund members and other stakeholders in the region, and when, when do you plan to share, like your scope of communities with them?

Do you mean the seller advisory panel, the communities that you just listed?

When do you plan to share that with community members?

'Cause like I've noticed that there weren't some communities listed on there that I know have been a part of the of the just advocacy.

Even when we represented SE delays, so it would be good to engage them because our communities are gonna be left out clearly, yeah.

So this is something that we can also raise with Super Bros.

District 4.

But I in the advisory panel process that's happening, they too have raised a question about whether they to talk about the like.

What is the geography of Stella? Even just in thinking about the Cultural Center?

So that's one of the opportunities to possibly hear more from the community about how they define themselves. And then after that as part of the outreach for the program, which would begin publicly attended.

OK.

So we are really excited to hear about the \$5,000,000, but I just want to remind folks watching context, the \$5,000,000 was not happenstance that was based on advocacy that supervisors please had done when we represented this area and that was with the former speaker.

Brendon. And so we are so excited when this earmark was provided when this money was allocated to the county specific for this area and this project, it was a big win.

So we are sad but happy.

Of course, I love that they went to the Park district.

Because it really would.

Be able to lift up the entire community, especially in an area that we know does not get funding sufficiently, especially in hurts.

And so it is very disappointing to see the slow take up of this project and this program knowing that the that the state could actually pull the money and and right now they're in a budget deficit as well. The Arts and parks and libraries are going to be.

The first to be cut, it always is. Every time we go through budget crisis and these

types of grants is grants you guys need to secure.

So it should have been a priority and so we would ask that you please get moving on this.

There are many people that are waiting for this.

You know what? The what?

The arts industry looks like I I do.

Not even tell you guys that.

Especially people that should have received this funds, we want to make sure that that the money goes to the right areas, that it was intended for. So I know it may seem like you know.

We have a lot of questions from the first district and and it's because I want you to understand that we were very invested in this project.

And we advocated for this. And right now you guys need this money.

So I hope that everything works out with your application.

We will not be happy if it doesn't go through.

So I just wanna make sure that you understand when you leave that we we do expect to see it moving. And I just wanna thank the four district for all the work they've been doing and the CEO as well.

So can I ask questions?

Actually sparked a couple on my end as well.

Is it normal to do 3 agencies in a sole source?

To list 3 organizations as potential providers, it was actually recommended to us by County Council.

If you have any one way to to begin the notification process with the board.

We don't.

We we you're not listing a specific agency just yet, but we will be picking an agency off of that list of three.

To enter into a, enter negotiations for a sole source contract. So we wanted to get the because of the time constraint we really need. We need to get this.

Program out to the publicly launched by mid-july in order to make that deadline we needed to start the clock on the 30 day notification. While we're doing some of the due diligence work to identify the TPA, OK, so the the TPA wouldn't be split in any way.

Among the correct, OK. And then in terms of the timing, if you had tried to do an RFP when you first were notified?

10 or 12 weeks earlier, would that have given you enough time?

Or was it so all along you would have needed? No.

And when we first were, when we first got, by the time we got the actual grant from the state, it would have been sooner. It would have put us in position to be doing this like in 20 in 2025.

But we still would have wanted to move as quickly as we could just knowing that we. It the the county's procurement process can take quite a quite a long time and given the time and capacity and the desire to make sure we can move this and and give a nice long period of time for the grant.

Term extends or ends.

Rather, we would have.

We would have still tried to pursue this process, OK. And can you remind me for sole source?

Do you need approval from CEO or County Council?

We need to do we we when we file the board letter, we will file a sole source justification with the checklist that'll show why we're seeking that and CEO will signing off on. OK, I understand, yes.

Just by maybe piggyback just on one quick question.

So interestingly, the sole source, I think there's some forms with public interest finding. If you go with the sole source. But for the three TPA's, I think typical process would have been an RFS queue that's request for qualifications qualify or short list. Certain consultants or contractors and then you could be having a solicitation amongst.

Them and pick one up.

Just to say, in terms of the scope of work, we believe there may be another TPA left out there that may object when it comes finally coming in since there was not an RFS queue of a kind that they may have been qualified to do this work too.

So just trying to kind of not add more timeline to our process by having that kind of a protest.

So have you looked into maybe another qualified?

Provider or consultant?

In that area that may have an objection later on. Has that been fully vetted?

We did come up with a short list that actually included one more that we thought was relevant.

And so we reached out to all of them. They self selected out.

And then this process will include a request for information.

So not quite.

Not quite the same thing as an RFQ, but it will include a request for information that we're asking them to submit their.

Nic, we have Kofi and Chris.

Kobe first.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 43:24

Yeah. Thank you so much.

Did I understand that this was appropriated? Did from the state two years ago or three years ago?

Did we encounter?

Did we encumber those dollars from the state?

As in did did we are those state did this.

Did this state?

Are those dollars leave the state coffers or what not, you know, to get into ours.

OC **Operations Cluster** 43:48

They have not yet the grant it paid on a personal basis.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 43:50

OK.

OC **Operations Cluster** 43:53

We have the add.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 43:53

OK.

I think that's a problem because state dollars when they're appropriated in the state budget, you have one year to encumber it. If you don't encumber it, then you know it's it's no longer part of your appropriation. If I also thought I heard you say they have to.

Appropriate these dollars in this year's budget.

OC **Operations Cluster** 44:12

No, they what we were saying is that they are going to be approving a time extension on the grants itself and that all of their grants have to be included in their legislative package.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 44:32

Well, then you're talking to me about the budget, the legislative budget.

OC **Operations Cluster** 44:35

2.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 44:36

Budget is the Budget Act, and if you're talking to me about an amount of money that was appropriated two years ago and you, the state, hasn't incurred it stayed in the state coffers, that means the mechanism for next year is to reappropriate those dollars through the budget can.

You make sure that there's this reappropriation item in the current budget.

That the you know going through is going through the legislature.

Because otherwise I'm worried that you're doing all that stuff for nothing.

OC **Operations Cluster** 45:05

So yeah, I can. I can.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 45:05

So can we make sure that at the state level, these dollars are still available?

OC **Operations Cluster** 45:10

Absolutely. And we've been in touch that the money has been set aside in in state parks. So they're holding the funding.

And our request tip for the extension of the two year extension to state parks and they indicated that like Kristen said that they can't 100% guarantee that it will be approved for a two year extension, but they haven't seen one.

DB **Deondria Barajas** 45:21

Goodbye.

OC **Operations Cluster** 45:36

Denied a request for extension denied.

Yet so they were feeling confident about it.

But in June, July, we'll continue to be checking in with them on a quarterly basis at state parks to give them progress, updates and monitor.

Monitor any action that needs to be taken on the budget to ensure the funds are secure for the next for the next two years.

KK **Kouassi, Koffi** 45:58

Can we please make sure with them when we talk to state parks or if we can get an e-mail right now like, well, which item of appropriation is this?

Are these dollars in and again, when you were talking about, oh, they have to get it reprovved.

Let's let's please make sure that we know more about that, because if we're talking about the reappropriation through the budget process.

We we got to make sure what it is because otherwise again like Tommy was saying like department state departments are looking into places where they're gonna cut.

So we just wanna make sure.

Those dollars are still there.

So first question is which item budget item in whichever Budget Act two years ago was that approved in if you have an incumbent with if and if it has to go through some sort of legislative process like the Budget Act or whatnot, what reappropriation item is this a?

Part of because again, I just want to make sure that you, we the state still has the authority prior to even.

Us, you know, trying to kind of get those dollars here.

OC **Operations Cluster** 47:00

Thank you.

You too.

Yes, Chris.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 47:06

Yeah. Thank you.

Just a couple questions.

The first was how that that list of communities you read off a little earlier.

Can you clarify how those were selected again?

OC **Operations Cluster** 47:19

They were well, they were selected through our conversation with Supervisor District 4.

They were provided to us.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 47:27

OK.

OC **Operations Cluster** 47:27

By supervisor.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 47:28

Got it. OK, I understand.

Thank you.

And then just clarify, did you start engaging County Council back in October or?

Did you start engaging them sooner than that?

OC **Operations Cluster** 47:47

He probably engaged them often on him.

So we we did engage them trying to remember the date, but when we were preparing to, there was a motion that Supervisor Han put forward to accept the state or to to like to for the resolution to accept the state money for the \$5,000,000 grant.

And we were engaging with County Council from that point on, that item particular and how to complete the paperwork with state grant.

To make sure we were doing it correctly.

And so, since that time, that was our first interaction with County Council related to this project.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 48:33

OK. And that was for the purpose of?

Generally making sure.

Your approach to the sole source was legally sufficient.
Was was that the only purpose for engaging with them?

OC **Operations Cluster** 48:48

So at that point it was to accept the fill out the complete the grant contract. Our County Council has experienced with state parks grants.
So we were engaging on that item and then come end of last year in the fall time period, we started talking with them with County Council about sole source approach.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 49:11

OK. And that was roughly around the time you decided to pursue a sole source approach that you were contemplating doing some sort of competitive solicitation up until that time?

OC **Operations Cluster** 49:24

We we were not.
We we knew that we given our given our capacity limitations, we knew that we didn't have the capacity really to do a full.
Solicitation process to identify CPA.
So we had been engaging with both district to explore a sole source and what would be supported and were directed that submitting it through a board letter process was was was the preferred way.

DB **Deondria Barajas** 49:49

Oh geez.

OC **Operations Cluster** 49:54

And so, you know, we are.
We are here to do that and I'll say too that at this point we all we had originally started talking about the sole source in October.
You know, anytime delays that we've experienced due to a number of things have we're we're kind of in that eating into our administrative period where we need to drop the contract and do the heavy lift of the actual engaging of the CPA.
So that's we're kind of in a we're.

We're under a huge time pressure at this point.

And I think everyone a lot of the transitions we've had with our administrative deputy and so forth.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 50:30

OK.

So.

OC **Operations Cluster** 50:35

So that's further creates some more additional pressure.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 50:41

OK, OK.

So it's I I'm hearing that you you pretty much understood from the beginning that competitive solicitation was not going to be possible?

So you knew since the since the board approved SD4's motion, it was gonna be a sole source.

But it sounds like a lot of the delays revolved around.

Developing the the contract for the third party administrator taking you from.

2023 up until the fall of 2025 is in my understanding, like the cause of the problem in the timeline correctly.

OC **Operations Cluster** 51:21

I would just update one thing, which is to say we began really engaging on the procurement process and the sole source and what it would be with SD4 in the summer of last year.

So yeah, so kind of summer and then we started having those conversations to determine the direction that we would go. And then in the fall when that direction was clear and had been determined, then we began and like we follow back up with County Council to really start.

Putting the process in place.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 51:57

The direction being that you wanted to use.

A third party administrator via a sole source agreement.

OC **Operations Cluster** 52:06

And via sole source board letter, yes.

AC **Ah San, Chris** 52:10

OK.

Thank you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 52:14

There are any other questions?

Seeing none, we have received your Social Notice memo. Thank you.

All right. Item number four, we're now at #5. Thomas Rhinos of the Columbus. If there's anyone who wants to provide more comments, then use the team.

Raise your hand function.

If you're unable to raise your hand, I please unmute your device.

Nope, you didn't have one, Diana.

You have one minute.

I'll begin your time when you start speaking.

MD **Morales Calderon, Diana** 52:54

Hi, good afternoon.

My name is Diana Morales and I am the executive director of the Seller Arts Foundation.

Just wanted to provide some comment around item 4.

That was just up.

I have just wanted to make some suggestions around the communities that are expected to to be served through the the the grants funding. I want to highlight city of Paramount, City of Compton.

And Florence Firestone, which have all been communities that have been part of the conversations around SE LA, the Sala arts, the Sala Cultural Center, and then I just want to highlight a concern around including other communities that haven't been part of those conversations, including Pico Rivera. I'm happy.

To have a conversation about it.

And happy to connect with the department and SD4AS needed.

Thank you.

OC **Operations Cluster** 53:53

Thank you.

Is there any else online who would like to provide comment?

Say nothing.

No, it's the city. I was gonna say.

OK.

Yeah. OK. Thank you.

All right, that is item number five, public comment.

And now we're item number six, adjournment.

It is 2:53 PM and offices with drink. Thank you so much.

Thank you.

● **Thomas Luscombe** stopped transcription