



STOCKTON PORT DISTRICT

Board of Port Commissioners

March 16, 2026

Pursuant to notice duly given, the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District was held on March 16, 2026, at the meeting place on the Port's West Complex in Room 165 located at 315 Fyffe Avenue in Stockton, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Anthony Barkett, Vice Chairman
Michael Patrick Duffy
Gregory Page
Allen Sawyer, Chairman
Margaret Shea Stephens
William R. Trezza
Miguel Villapudua

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kirk DeJesus, Port Director
Jason Katindoy, Deputy Port Director
Katie Miller, Deputy Port Director
Jeff Wingfield, Deputy Port Director
Jason Cashman, Director of Environmental
Affairs
Joshua Doberneck, Chief of Police
Rod Iwashita, Director of Engineering & Facilities
Rhonda Nelson, Director of Real Estate & Port
Development
Paula O'Keefe, Director of Finance & Accounting
Sylvester Aguilar, Real Estate Marketing
Manager
Nathan Birtwhistle, Risk Manager
Kraig Higashi, Police Lieutenant
Cassondra Hollins, Human Resources Manager
Joe Vezzali, Commercial Manager

Jared Wilkey, Maritime Strategic Operations
Manager
Linda Fistolera, Human Resources Analyst II
Jennifer Luong, Human Resources Analyst II
John Luebberke, Port Counsel
Melanie Rodriguez, Secretary to the Board

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen Sawyer at 3:30 p.m. Chairman Sawyer presided and Melanie Rodriguez, Secretary to the Board, acted as Secretary for the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Instituted in 2000, the Employee of the Year program recognizes outstanding contributions of Port employees toward achieving Port goals and objectives. Once a year, Port department managers nominate employees who, in their judgment, demonstrate outstanding job performance, loyalty, initiative and commitment to the Port of Stockton.

Previous recipients of the Employee of the Year award:

Nick Jones	Port Warehouse Foreman	1999
Fred Klumpp	Port Maintenance Coordinator	2000
Nan Chavez	Human Resources Analyst	2001
Steve Cookerly	Carpenter Foreman	2002
Barbara Snyder	Senior Secretary	2003
Yvonne Ishimoto	Assistant to the Director & Commission Secretary	2004
Rita Hernandez	Senior Accounting Technician	2005
Allen Standley	Port Police Officer	2006
Jan Perryman	Senior Accounting Technician	2007
Larry Lockmiller	Account Supervisor, Operations	2008
Jason Cashman	Environmental Specialist III	2009
Esmeralda Correa	Accounting Technician	2010
Melanie Rodriguez	Human Resources Technician	2011
Ricardo Navarro	Electrician	2012
Jeannine Anchartechahar	Accounting Technician III	2013
Wally Wallick	Police Support Technician II	2014
Kristy Emerson	Accounting Technician III	2015
Alejandro (Alex) Perez	Mechanic	2016
Lacy Edwards	Senior Operations Clerk III	2017
Elise Hermesky	Administrative Assistant II	2018
Daniel Bautista	Shipping and Receiving Clerk	2019
Janice Dias	Developing and Planning Specialist I	2020
Everardo Mendoza	General Laborer	2021
Schaffe Rodriguez	I.T. Technician II	2022

Tracy Fanucchi
Daniel Talamantes

Senior Administrative Assistant
I.T. Technician I

2023
2024

Acknowledgment and presentation to Daniel Talamantes, 2024 Employee of the Year

In recognition of his designation as the 2024 Employee of the Year, Port Director DeJesus acknowledged Mr. Talamantes and presented him with his framed photograph.

Presentation to Cara Pickering, 2025 Employee of the Year

On behalf of the Port Commission, Chairman Sawyer honored Cara Pickering as the recipient of the Port's Employee of the Year award for 2025. Ms. Pickering was presented with a trophy.

Cara has been an invaluable member of the Port for almost 12 years. She started as a part-time temporary Maintenance Clerk in 2014 and shortly thereafter became a regular full-time employee. In 2016 she was promoted to Administrative Assistant I and in 2021 to Administrative Assistant II. This year, she received her latest promotion to Senior Administrative Assistant and is now also being honored for her hard work and dedication to the Port. Cara's rapport with staff, calm presence, and commitment to Port values distinguish her amongst her peers. She has consistently demonstrated exceptional reliability, initiative and professionalism. Her accuracy, organization, and follow-through have made her an essential partner to Maintenance operations and to the services the department provides across the Port. She regularly acts as a liaison to internal partners, escalates concerns appropriately, and provides dependable backup support whenever needed. In her daily duties, she monitors and responds to all 811 dig tickets for our utilities, coordinating closely with the plumbers on required replies. She also tracks man-hours and costs associated with Port damage claims in collaboration with Real Estate, Maritime, and Risk Management. In addition, Cara has taken on the full scope of requisition and purchase order duties for the Maintenance Division (work previously handled by five foremen). Cara's positive attitude and eagerness to support others are hallmarks of her work. She is always willing to help, always approachable, and consistently fosters a collaborative environment. Her support extends across departments, and she routinely assists with the coordination of major Port events. Her work ethic, adaptability, and commitment to excellence embody the very best of the Port's values. Her contributions have had a measurable and lasting impact on our operations, our staff, and our culture.

Ms. Pickering's name will be engraved on a perpetual plaque and her professional portrait will be displayed in the lobby of the Port Administrative Building throughout 2026.

Additionally, Cara will receive special recognition in the Port's 2025 Annual Report.

In addition to Ms. Pickering, the following Port employees were nominated for the 2025 Employee of the Year award: Senior Accountant Michelle Chavez, Office Assistant Stacy Matson, Human Resources Technician II Mariana Solis

CONSENT CALENDAR

In compliance with Stockton Port District Commission Governance Policy Statement #105, the Consent Calendar items of business, having been provided to each member of the Board prior to this meeting, the Commissioners present acted upon the following Consent Calendar items of business under one vote.

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged that there were no requests to address the Port Commission on this matter.

Commissioner Trezza moved, to adopt the following resolutions:

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026 RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Resolution #8635: RESOLVED, that the minutes of the RE-ORGANIZATION meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District held on the 17th day of February 2026, as the same are endorsed on Page No. 007 to Page No. 012, inclusive, of Minutes Book No. 68, be and they are hereby approved.

AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL

Resolution #8636: RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District hereby authorizes one or more Commissioners to travel to San Diego, California, for the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) CSDA's 2026 Special District Leadership Academy Conference, May 11 – 14, 2026; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the travel expenses incurred by Commission delegates who participate in CSDA's 2026 Special District Leadership Academy Conference shall be paid by the Stockton Port District.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE STOCKTON PORT DISTRICTS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE USE OF MILITARY STYLE EQUIPMENT AND APPROVAL TO CONVERT SIX EXISTING SHOTGUNS TO LESS-LETHAL BEAN BAG ROUND DEPLOYING SHOTGUNS

Resolution #8637: RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District that the Police Department's Annual Report of the Use of Military Style Equipment is hereby accepted, as presented; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District hereby authorize the conversion of six (6)

existing shotguns be converted to a less-lethal bean bag round deploying shotguns; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Port Director is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to ensure that the provisions of this resolution are appropriately effected.

Resolutions #8635, #8636 and #8637 were passed by the following vote:

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR:	Barkett, Duffy, Page, Sawyer, Stephens, Trezza, Villapudua
COMMISSIONERS AGAINST:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSTAINING:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	None
COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:	None

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged that there were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR THE PORT DIRECTOR TO EXTEND THE CURRENT ELECTRICAL OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE MASTER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BOCKMON & WOODY FOR ONE YEAR FOR A TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED \$1,691,444.64

Director of Engineering and Facilities Iwashita provided an executive summary on the agenda item. The staff report was provided to each member of the Board prior to the meeting and was also available as a link on the Agenda posted on the Port's website.

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged that there were no requests to address the Port Commission on this matter.

Commissioner Villapudua moved, to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #8638: RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District that the Port Director is hereby authorized to extend the current Master Professional Services Agreement with Bockmon & Woody Company, Inc. for one (1) year to March 23, 2026, for an amount not-

to-exceed \$1,691,444.64 (One Million Six Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Four and 64/100 Dollars); and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Port Director is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to ensure that the provisions of this resolution are appropriately effected.

Resolution #8638 was passed by the following vote:

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR:	Barkett, Duffy, Page, Sawyer, Stephens, Trezza, Villapudua
COMMISSIONERS AGAINST:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSTAINING:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	None
COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:	None

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR THE PORT DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR TERMINAL SUPPORT SERVICES WITH METROPOLITAN STEVEDORE FOR THREE YEARS PLUS TWO 1-YEAR OPTIONS; AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT INCREASE OF \$2,000,000 TO FY 2025-2026

Deputy Port Director Katindoy provided an executive summary on the agenda item. The staff report was provided to each member of the Board prior to the meeting and was also available as a link on the Agenda posted on the Port's website.

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged that there were no requests to address the Port Commission on this matter.

Commissioner Duffy moved, to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #8639: RESOLVED, by the Stockton Port District Board of Commissioners that the Port Director is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Metropolitan Stevedore Terminal Support Services for a term of three years plus two 1-year extensions for an amount not-to-exceed \$5,000,000.00 (Five Million and no/100 Dollars); and

RESOLVED FURTHER, by the Board of Commissioners of the Stockton Port District that the Port Director is hereby authorized to

amend the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Budget to appropriate an additional \$2,000,000.00 (Two Million and no/100 Dollars); and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Port Director is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to ensure that the provisions of this resolution are appropriately effected.

Resolution #8639 was passed by the following vote:

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR:	Barkett, Duffy, Page, Sawyer, Stephens, Trezza, Villapudua
COMMISSIONERS AGAINST:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSTAINING:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	None
COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged there were no Committee Reports.

PORT DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Port Director DeJesus expressed appreciation to the Port Managers for submitting nominations for the Employee of the Year Award.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

The Commission welcomed Miguel Villapudua the newly appointed County Commissioner.

Commissioner Stephens shared that the San Joaquin Council of Governments has included the Roth Road Project in their One Voice Project list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged there were no Public Comments.

CLOSED SESSIONS:

- A. PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE §54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR: RECEIVE REPORTS FROM, GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO AND CONFER WITH PORT NEGOTIATOR KIRK DEJESUS REGARDING LABOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 3
- B. PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, POTENTIAL LITIGATION: ONE CASE

At 4:06 p.m. Chairman Sawyer announced that, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, an executive session would be conducted by the Board of Commissioners pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 and §54956.9. The general public and other Port staff was excused from the meeting and the closed sessions commenced at 4:09 p.m. Port Director DeJesus, Deputy Port Director Katindoy, Deputy Port Director Miller, Deputy Port Director Wingfield, Chief of Police Doberneck, Director of Engineering and Facilities Iwashita, Director of Real Estate and Port Development Nelson, Director of Finance and Accounting O'Keefe, Risk Manager Birtwhistle, Port Police Lieutenant Higashi, Human Resources Manager Hollins, Commercial Manager Vezzali, Maritime Strategic Operations Manager Wilkey, Human Resources Analyst II Fistolera, Human Resources Analyst II Luong and Port Counsel Luebberke remained for the executive sessions.

At 4:39 p.m., Chairman Sawyer re-opened the meeting in public session. He reported that the Port Commission took no formal, reportable action during the Closed Session.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR THE STOCKTON PORT DISTRICT BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS TO DECLARE THE ROSS ISLAND VESSELS AT THE PORT ABANDONED PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA HARBORS & NAVIGATION CODE §522

Chairman Sawyer acknowledged that there were no requests to address the Port Commission on this matter.

Commissioner Barkett moved, to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #8640: WHEREAS, the Stockton Port District is a public agency of the State of California and is authorized to exercise the removal of abandoned property within the jurisdiction of the Stockton Port District; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Harbors & Navigation Code §522, a vessel left unattended, moored or otherwise located on public property or navigable waterways for a period longer than 30 days without permission and in a condition indicating abandonment, may be declared abandoned; and

WHEREAS, the Stockton Port District, has determined that the three (3) vessels described as:

- Vessel Name/Description: Brusco 100/Derrick Barge Columbia
- United States Coast Guard Number: 252611
- Location: Port of Stockton West End of Dock 20
- Vessel Name/Description: Ross Island No. 8/Dredge
- United States Coast Guard Number: 657873
- Location: Port of Stockton West End of Dock 20
- Vessel Name/Description: Unknown/Pontoon Float Barge
- United States Coast Guard Number: Unknown
- Location: Port of Stockton 100 feet West of the West End of Dock 20

have been left unattended and meet the criteria for abandonment under the California Harbors & Navigation Code §522; and

WHEREAS, the proper notice has been provided to the registered owner as required by law and no removal has occurred within the statutory period; now, therefore it be

RESOLVED, that the Stockton Port District Board of Port Commissioners hereby declares the above-described vessel abandoned pursuant to the California Harbors & Navigation Code §522 and authorizes its removal, storage and disposal in accordance with applicable law; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Port Director is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to ensure that the provisions of this resolution are appropriately effected.

Resolution #8640 was passed by the following vote:

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR:	Barkett, Duffy, Page, Sawyer, Stephens, Trezza, Villapudua
COMMISSIONERS AGAINST:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSTAINING:	None
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	None
COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:	None

ADJOURNMENT

On behalf of the Stockton Port District Board of Commissioners, it was announced by Chairman Sawyer that today's Commission meeting would be adjourned in memory of Kazuo "Kaz" Higashi Port Plumber.

Kaz was born in a Japanese Internment Camp on March 25, 1943, in Manzanar, California. He passed away in Manteca, California on February 24, 2026, at the age of 82. Kaz began his career with the Port on August 1, 2000, serving as a plumber with dedication, skill, and quiet professionalism until his passing. Over the years, he became a familiar and respected presence throughout the Port. Prior to working for the Port Kaz worked as a plumber at GSA Rough and Ready Island. He worked as a plumber for over 40 years. He also served honorably in the United States Army as a Sergeant where he fought in the Vietnam War. Outside of work, Kaz found peace outdoors. He loved fishing, spending time in nature and was an avid gardener who especially enjoyed planting trees. Kaz is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, June and his 4 children Felix Garcia, Lisa George, Kris Higashi, and Port Police Lt. Kraig Higashi.

On behalf of the Commissioners, Port Director and staff, sincere sympathy and condolences are extended to the family of Kazuo "Kaz" Higashi.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. by Chairman Sawyer.

Melanie Rodriguez
Secretary to the Board

Chairman Allen Sawyer