Gavin Newsom
Governor

Dee Dee Myers
Director

Emily Desai
Chief Deputy Director

Scott Dosick
Deputy Director,
California Competes
Tax Credit Program

Jee Liyanage
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California Competes

Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

And (via teleconference)
Central Valley Community Foundation
1260 Fulton St, Fresno, CA 93721

And the California Competes Tax Credit (CCTC) Committee Meeting was live streamed for public viewing on Zoom.

MEMBERS:

Dee Dee Myers, *Chair*
Director
Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Fiona Ma
State Treasurer

Joe Stephenshaw, *Director*
Department of Finance

Todd Walters, *Appointee of the Senate Committee on Rules*

Madeline Janis, *Appointee of the Speaker of the Assembly*

MINUTES

OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Chair Scott Dosick called the meeting of the California Competes Tax Credit Committee (Committee) to order at 1:07pm.

Members Present: Chair Dosick (representing the Director of GO-Biz), Khaim Morton (representing the State Treasurer), Danamona Andrianarimanana (representing the Department of Finance), Todd Walters (representing the Senate Committee on Rules). Madeline Janis (representing the Speaker of the Assembly) joined remotely via videoconference.

B. Approval of Minutes from April 30, 2026, Committee Meeting

Chair Dosick asked if there were any questions from the Committee or public comments on Agenda Item B regarding the minutes from the April 30, 2026, meeting. He and Member Janis confirmed there were no public comments at either the Sacramento or Fresno locations.

Action Moved/Seconded: Members Morton/Janis
Yes: Members Andrianarimanana, Morton, Janis, Walters, Dosick
No: None

C. Deputy Director's Report
- **Agenda Overview - Agreements with 6 Businesses, Total Tax Credits: $130,750,000**

Chair Dosick reminded members of the public in Sacramento that if they want to make a public comment, then they may fill out one of the public comment cards located at the entrance of the room. For those attending remotely from Fresno, Chair Dosick asked that they inform Member Janis of their intent to comment on the appropriate agenda item, and that Member Janis would in turn inform Chair Dosick. All members of the public making comments were asked to provide their full name, and organization (if applicable), and agenda item for comments. Names and organizations are optional and for identification purposes only, so we may introduce them when the Chair asks if there are any public comments for the current agenda item. Public commenters were requested to limit their comments to no more than 3 minutes.

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) recommended 6 tax credit awards totaling just over $130.7 million. Chair Dosick noted these awards will support the creation of over 2,000 new full-time jobs with an average weighted annual salary over $110,000 and will bring in more than $1.3 billion in new capital investment. These awards include two businesses that will establish their first presence in California. He stated that CalCompetes is also gratified to see companies not only choosing California, but committing to the inland counties of Kern and Imperial, both of which experience chronically high unemployment and poverty. Both of these awards will help to diversify the local economy and create new employment opportunities that would otherwise not exist. Each of the businesses recommended for award certified in its application and clearly demonstrated that this credit will be a significant factor in their decision or ability to commit to new full-time job creation in California.

Chair Dosick expressed his appreciation for the CalCompetes team for their outstanding analysis and customer service.

D. Discussion and Approval of California Competes Tax Credit Agreements
Total Recommended Tax Credits: $130,750,000
Total Recommended Tax Credits after Adjusting for S-Corporation Law[1]: $130,750,000

Chair Dosick proposed removing Agenda Item D-1 and D-3 from consent for additional discussion and requested a separate vote on Item D-2, D-4, D-5, and D-6. Chair Dosick asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public on any items not pulled for further discussion under Agenda Item D. Chair Dosick confirmed that there were no public comments. Chair Dosick called for a motion to approve Agenda Item D except for Items D-1 and D-3.

Action Moved/Seconded: Members Morton/Janis
Yes: Members Andrianarimanana, Morton, Janis, Walters, Dosick
No: None

E. Discussion and Approval of Recommendations for California Competes Tax Credit Recapture
Total Tax Credits Recommended to be Recaptured: $35,211,833
Total Tax Credits Recommended to be Recaptured after Adjusting for S-Corporation Law[2]: $35,626,833

Chair Dosick asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public on any of the items under Agenda Item E.

Member Janis asked why Agenda Item E-3, EnergySource Minerals LLC, was recommended for full recapture. Chair Dosick explained that companies receiving a California Competes Tax Credit Agreement have five years to satisfy the contractual milestones outlined in the Agreement, including capital investments, net increase in full-time jobs, and minimum and average wage commitments. He stated that a full recapture indicates that the company did not satisfy any of its annual contractual milestones during the five-year Agreement term.

[1] One-third of the California Competes Tax Credit may be utilized by an S-Corporation to offset the tax on net income at the S-Corporation level (R&TC §23803(a)(1)). The remaining two-thirds is disregarded and may not be used as a carryover for the S-Corporation (R&TC §23803(a)(2)(A)). However, the full amount of the California Competes Tax Credit is also passed through to the S-Corporation's shareholders (R&TC §23803(a)(2)(F)).

[2] One-third of the California Competes Tax Credit may be utilized by an S-Corporation to offset the tax on net income at the S-Corporation level (R&TC §23803(a)(1)). The remaining two-thirds is disregarded and may not be used as a carryover for the S-Corporation (R&TC §23803(a)(2)(A)). However, the full amount of the California Competes Tax Credit is also passed through to the S-Corporation's shareholders (R&TC §23803(a)(2)(F)).

Ms. Janis asked whether Chair Dosick knew if the project had not moved forward, noting that the project involved lithium extraction technology and represented an important investment for California. Chair Dosick stated that he did not have that information but would follow up with Member Janis after the meeting.

Chair Dosick and Member Janis confirmed that there were no public comments. Chair Dosick called for a motion to approve Agenda Item E.

Action Moved/Seconded: Members Walters/Morton
Yes: Members Andrianarimanana, Morton, Janis, Walters, Dosick
No: None

F. Discussion and Approval of Recommendations for Modified California Competes Tax Credit Recapture

Total Recommended Tax Credits to be Recaptured:	**$1,297,500**
Total Recommended Tax Credits to be Recaptured after Adjusting for S-Corporation Law[3]:	**$1,313,333**

Chair Dosick asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public on any items under Agenda Item F. He and Member Janis confirmed that there were no public comments. Chair Dosick called for a motion to approve Agenda Item F.

Action Moved/Seconded: Members Walters/Andrianarimanana
Yes: Members Andrianarimanana, Morton, Janis, Walters, Dosick
No: None

D-1. The Quartz & Silicon Materials Company Ltd.

At the request of Chair Dosick, Assistant Deputy Director Jee Liyanage described the company and the proposed tax credit Agreement to the Committee. The Quartz & Silicon Materials Company Ltd. (Quartz) is proposing to establish its first presence in California by opening silicon ingot and silicon wafer manufacturing facilities in Chula Vista and Calipatria. Their products will be used in the manufacturing of solar energy technologies. In exchange for a

[3] One-third of the California Competes Tax Credit may be utilized by an S-Corporation to offset the tax on net income at the S-Corporation level (R&TC §23803(a)(1)). The remaining two-thirds is disregarded and may not be used as a carryover for the S-Corporation (R&TC §23803(a)(2)(A)). However, the full amount of the California Competes Tax Credit is also passed through to the S-Corporation's shareholders (R&TC §23803(a)(2)(F)).

$45 million tax credit, Quartz is proposing to create 894 new, full-time jobs and make $679 million in investments. Quartz has certified in its application that absent award of the California Competes Tax Credit, its project may occur in another state.

Quartz indicated in its application that it plans on deploying a two-phase project to begin its manufacturing operations in the US. In Phase One, Quartz plans to establish a precision silicon wafer fabrication facility in Chula Vista. Phase Two involves the establishment of a silicon ingot production facility in Calipatria in approximately 3 years. If awarded the credit, Quartz indicated that it is willing to commit the job and investment growth to Chula Vista and Calipatria, CA, the latter of which is a chronically high poverty and unemployment location in California.

Ms. Liyanage introduced Paul Saffron, Quartz's Chief Operating Officer, who was available to answer the Committee's questions.

Member Walters asked whether Quartz planned to utilize labor from Mexico given the proximity of the Chula Vista facility to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mr. Saffron stated that the company did not intend to do so.

Mr. Walters asked about the size and status of the proposed Chula Vista facility.

Mr. Saffron stated that Quartz intends to establish its initial operations in an existing warehouse facility in Chula Vista. He explained that utilizing an existing facility would provide the shortest timeframe between commencement of construction activities and production. Mr. Saffron noted that the proposed facility is approximately 200,000 square feet and substantially ready for occupancy, requiring only tenant improvements following the company's next round of funding.

Member Andrianarimanana asked about the types of jobs that would be created and the training required for those positions.

Mr. Saffron stated that the project would create a variety of manufacturing, administrative, compliance, accounting, business administration, and sales positions. He noted that the manufacturing operation would utilize sophisticated equipment and that Quartz intends to establish an internal workforce development program to support employee training and advancement.

Member Janis asked about the operational differences between the Chula Vista and Calipatria facilities and the allocation of proposed jobs between the two locations.

Mr. Saffron stated that both facilities would perform similar functions; however, the Calipatria facility would include a full production line with silicon-pulling capabilities, while the Chula Vista facility would operate a partial production line. Mr. Saffron stated that the Calipatria facility would include a full production line with silicon-pulling capabilities and would require a significantly larger facility with approximately 50-foot ceilings. The project would require an estimated $400 million to $500 million in capital investment, compared to approximately $250 million to $300 million for the Chula Vista facility. Mr. Saffron stated that the Calipatria project remains in the planning and design phase and is anticipated to be developed approximately two to three years after the Chula Vista facility becomes operational. Quartz anticipates allocating approximately 549 employees to the Chula Vista facility and approximately 400 employees to the Calipatria facility.

Ms. Janis asked about the permitting status of the Chula Vista project. Mr. Saffron stated that Quartz is working with the property owner and the City of Chula Vista regarding the proposed site. He noted that project planning has been underway for more than six months and that support received from GO-Biz and local officials contributed to the company's decision to pursue California over competing states.

Ms. Janis asked about permitting and entitlement considerations for the proposed Calipatria facility. Mr. Saffron stated that the project remains in the preliminary planning stages and that Quartz is evaluating locations with the necessary infrastructure, including water, power, and appropriately entitled land, to streamline future development and approvals.

Chair Dosick asked for clarification regarding the timing of the Calipatria facility.

Mr. Saffron stated that Quartz intends to begin development activities shortly after commencing operations in Chula Vista and anticipates the Calipatria project would become operational within two to three years. He noted that the company's employment and investment projections reflect this timeline.

Ms. Janis asked about the ownership structure of Quartz. Mr. Saffron stated that Quartz is a private company owned by Graphene & Solar Technologies Limited, a publicly traded company, and noted that he serves as Chief Operating Officer of the parent company.

Ms. Janis discussed the potential value of partnerships with labor and community organizations and asked whether Quartz would be open to those discussions. Mr. Saffron stated that Quartz had already begun discussions with representatives of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and was open to continuing those conversations. He noted that the company supports workforce development initiatives and values employee training and advancement opportunities.

Ms. Janis stated that community and labor partnerships can provide valuable workforce development resources and support for historically underserved communities. Mr. Saffron agreed and noted that Quartz intends to invest significantly in employee training and career development. The company promotes from within and aims to establish a long-term workforce capable of supporting future expansion. He added that, if its California operations are successful, Quartz may consider additional projects in the state.

Ms. Janis expressed appreciation for the information presented and indicated her support for the project.

Member Morton thanked Quartz for choosing California and commended the company's commitment to workforce development. He encouraged Quartz to continue coordinating with GO-Biz regarding permitting and project implementation to avoid delays that could affect project timelines and financing. He asked about market demand for Quartz's products.

Mr. Saffron stated that demand is driven in part by federal Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) compliance requirements, which incentivize domestic manufacturing and supply chains independent of Chinese influence. He explained that Quartz intends to supply solar wafer products to U.S. solar cell and solar panel manufacturers.

Ms. Janis asked for additional information regarding the company's products. Mr. Saffron explained that Quartz plans to manufacture solar wafers, a key component used in the production of solar cells and solar panels. Quartz intends to operate as an independent supplier to domestic solar manufacturers. Mr. Saffron stated that China currently accounts for approximately 99 percent of global solar wafer production and that Quartz seeks to expand domestic manufacturing capacity within the United States.

Chair Dosick opened the item for public comment.

Samuel Appel, Policy Director for UAW Region 6, introduced himself and stated that his organization represents approximately 100,000 workers across a variety of industries and sectors. Mr. Appel expressed appreciation for the discussions that had already taken place

between UAW representatives and Quartz and stated that both parties had agreed to continue conversations regarding the potential development of a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). He clarified that the discussions did not guarantee that an agreement would be reached, but that both parties had expressed a willingness to continue engaging on the topic.

Community Benefits Agreements are legally binding agreements between companies and community and labor organizations that establish commitments intended to provide community benefits. He explained that CBAs can support local hiring, workforce development, apprenticeship opportunities, community investment, and clear benefits for workers and surrounding communities.

A CBA could be particularly beneficial for the proposed project because access to quality jobs in Imperial County is often dependent on outreach and community engagement. He noted that labor and community organizations can help connect residents from disadvantaged communities with employment opportunities and training resources. Mr. Appel referenced previous projects, including New Flyer and Build Your Dreams, as examples where community engagement and workforce development efforts contributed to successful outcomes.

The project could provide significant economic opportunities for Imperial County, particularly given recent job losses in the region and high unemployment rates in certain communities. He noted that the closure of a sugar beet processing facility resulted in the loss of approximately 700 jobs and stated that the Quartz project could represent an important economic investment in the area.

Environmental and community impacts should be considered as the project moves forward. The proposed manufacturing process may involve high-heat operations and chemical inputs and that transportation between the Chula Vista and Calipatria facilities could raise additional community and environmental considerations. Mr. Appel stated that a CBA can provide a framework for addressing such concerns while building community support for large-scale projects. He described the coalition of labor and community organizations active in the region and stated that those organizations maintain strong community relationships and workforce training programs, including programs focused on manufacturing and the green economy. He expressed support for the project and appreciation for Quartz's willingness to continue discussions regarding a potential CBA. Mr. Appel also encouraged the Committee to revisit the topic at a future meeting.

Chair Dosick asked if there were any more questions or comments from the Committee or the public. Hearing none, he requested a motion for approval of Agenda Item D-1.

Action Moved/Seconded: Members Janis/Morton
Yes: Members Andrianarimanana, Morton, Janis, Walters, Dosick
No: None

D-3. Ross Dress For Less, Inc.

At the request of Chair Dosick, Assistant Deputy Director Liyanage described the company and the proposed tax credit Agreement to the Committee. Ross Dress For Less, Inc. (Ross). In exchange for a $25 million tax credit, Ross is proposing to establish a processing and distribution center in Bakersfield. This facility will require the creation of 200 new, full-time jobs and involve $494 million in investments over the next 5 years. Ross has certified in its application that absent award of the California Competes Tax Credit, its project may occur in another state. Further, Ross has certified that the new full-time employees will work in Kern County which was an Area of High Unemployment and/or an Area of High Poverty at the time Ross submitted its application.

Ross indicated in its application that it currently operates over 2,000 stores in the U.S. and 9 existing processing centers, 3 of which are located in California. Ross stated that it is undergoing a thorough site selection for a new distribution and processing facility. Once fully operational, Ross expects that the facility will employ over 1,100 full-time employees. After reviewing specific sites across multiple Western States, it has landed on two finalists: Bakersfield, California and Buckeye, Arizona. Bakersfield has become its preferred location; however, Ross has concluded that a Bakersfield facility would have specific cost burdens related to additional seismic foundation requirements, additional roadway and infrastructure requirements, and higher construction labor, energy, and permitting costs to the Arizona location. Ross stated that the $25 million CCTC would sufficiently narrow the gap and justify selecting the California site based on its broader strategic and workforce advantages.

Ms. Liyanage introduced Stephen Dunphy, Senior Vice President of Taxation; Noel Noriega, Vice President of Real Estate; John Shelnutt, Vice President of Human Resources; Lissette Estepa, Senior Manager of DE&I; Taylor Guinn, Senior Manager of Taxation; and Denise Mullis, with J.M. Mullis, who were available to answer the Committee's questions.

Mr. Dunphy thanked the Committee for its consideration and stated that Ross is headquartered in California, with approximately one-third of its operations in the state. He stated that if granted the credit, it would afford Ross the ability to open its 10th processing center in California, provide quality jobs, and expand its footprint in the state.

Member Janis asked about the jobs proposed for the facility, noting that the minimum wage listed in the application was $41,000 per year, and asked the company to speak more about the hiring and training programs associated with the project.

Mr. Shelnutt stated that $41,000 represents the minimum entry-level wage for the facility's level one roles at the in-hire rate. He noted that employees in those roles also have the opportunity to earn production bonuses and shift differentials, and that wages increase as employees advance into higher-level roles.

Ms. Janis asked whether there is a track record of moving employees into higher-level positions, noting that workers can often become stuck in entry-level roles. Mr. Shelnutt stated that approximately 90 percent of Ross's roles at various levels are filled internally. He noted that training programs for entry-level associates include English as a second language instruction and basic computer skills. As the facility ramps up and expands into second and third shifts, additional leadership, maintenance, support, and lift operator roles will become available and will provide significant promotional opportunities for associates.

Ms. Janis asked whether Ross has a project labor agreement with the Carpenters Union, whose letter of support appeared in the application, and whether the agreement includes provisions for sourcing workers from apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Noriega stated that Ross has a letter of support, rather than a formal project labor agreement, with the Carpenters Union. He stated that the agreement supports the project with quality work and that Ross is grateful for the Carpenters Union's commitment, but that he could not speak to specific provisions within that agreement.

Ms. Janis asked whether Ross has made commitments to address truck traffic and environmental impacts given that the proposed facility is in an area already burdened by pollution. Mr. Noriega stated that Ross has a company-wide sustainability program. He noted that on-site yard vehicles, referred to as hostlers, will be electric, and that the facility is intended to include both solar energy and electric vehicle charging stations for associates.

Chair Dosick asked Mr. Dunphy to clarify the difference between a traditional distribution center and a processing facility.

Mr. Dunphy stated that unlike a fulfillment operation where the same product that comes in goes out, approximately 50 percent of Ross's processing center activities require human labor to transform the product. He explained that because Ross purchases a wide variety of off-season, overstock, and closeout merchandise, ranging from garments to housewares, automation is not well suited to the operation. He stated that jobs at the facility include receiving, staging, sorting, ticketing, inventory control, and maintenance, and that goods must be processed and prepared for sale before they can be shipped to stores.

Ms. Janis asked about the permitting and entitlement status of the proposed Bakersfield site. Mr. Noriega stated that Ross has not yet begun the permitting process, but that the site is already entitled and zoned for manufacturing, with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process having been completed by the prior property owner. He confirmed that Ross intends to avail itself of the existing CEQA clearance.

Ms. Janis asked whether Ross would commit to using electric trucks for its operations. Mr. Noriega stated that Ross's own on-site vehicles will be electric, but that inbound and outbound transportation is handled entirely by third-party carriers, and that the use of electric vehicles by those partners would depend on the carriers themselves.

Ms. Janis asked whether Ross would be open to engaging in a community benefits agreement with local organizations. Mr. Shelnutt stated that Ross would be open to hearing ideas and having those discussions.

Member Morton asked Mr. Shelnutt to elaborate further on the job ramp-up trajectory and the opportunities for advancement beyond the initial 200 positions.

Mr. Shelnutt stated that the 200 jobs represent the early opening headcount, likely reflecting a partial year of operation in year one. The facility typically ramps quickly, with existing Ross processing centers operating at roughly 1,100 to 1,500 total associates across three shifts. He stated that Ross offers consistent shift schedules to support associates with family planning, and that entry-level roles including lift equipment operator positions are trained on-site with no prior experience or English language requirement.

Mr. Morton also encouraged Ross to remain in contact with GO-Biz's permits streamlining unit should any permitting needs arise outside the entitled area and asked to receive Ross's

sustainability plan following the meeting to identify opportunities to align with programs available through the State Treasurer's Office for fleet electrification.

Chair Dosick confirmed that there were public comments on this item.

Gustavo Aguirre, Assistant Director for the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment, introduced himself to the Committee via Zoom from the Fresno location. He stated that his organization works with community groups in Kern County to ensure that projects with significant air quality and traffic impacts, such as warehousing and distribution centers, mitigate those impacts and provide meaningful community benefits. He stated that the $25,000,000 tax credit would provide little to no benefit to the local community while substantially increasing local harm. He expressed concern about wages, noting that the proposed starting pay is only marginally above minimum wage. He urged the Committee to either deny the application or delay the vote to allow time for the company to negotiate a community benefits agreement with local representatives. He noted that his organization has negotiated such agreements with other warehouse operators in the county and offered those as models.

Phoebe Seaton, Co-Executive Director of the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, introduced herself to the Committee via Zoom from the Fresno location. She stated that her organization is based in Fresno and has offices throughout the San Joaquin Valley, Coachella Valley, and Sacramento, including in Bakersfield. The organization has worked on land use and distribution center issues across multiple communities and urged the Committee to ensure that a full analysis of environmental impacts be conducted in partnership with community residents as the project moves forward.

Natalie Delgado, with the Central California Environmental Justice Network, introduced herself to the Committee via Zoom from the Fresno location. She stated that her organization works to uplift low-income communities of color through community, grassroots organizing, and regulatory engagement. She expressed concern that the proposed facility, at approximately 160 acres, would exacerbate air quality conditions in Bakersfield, which already experiences some of the worst air quality in the nation. She noted that heavy-duty truck traffic associated with distribution centers exposes surrounding communities to nitrous oxides and PM 2.5 particulates, creating both short- and long-term health impacts. She urged the Committee not to approve any tax credit without first consulting community representatives and incorporating their concerns.

Ingrid Brostrom, Program Director for Climate and the Rural Economy at the UC Merced Community and Labor Center, introduced herself to the Committee via Zoom from the Fresno location. She stated that her organization conducts research on issues of community, labor, and the environment. She referenced a Kern Strategic Workforce Development Report produced by the Labor Center, which found that warehousing employment in the region has grown faster than any other industry in recent years but has experienced the steepest wage decline of any current industry, with annual wages falling approximately 20 percent between 2011 and 2021. She noted that only supervisors, who represent approximately five percent of the warehouse workforce, earn above a living wage. Occupational injury and illness rates in the warehousing sector are among the highest in the state, and that warehouse workers had the second earliest average age of death among the county's largest industries. She added that research conducted by the Labor Center found significantly higher risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes for people living within 1,000 feet of truck routes, and recommended minimizing truck traffic near residential areas and requiring zero-emission commercial trucks. She stated that community benefits agreements and project labor agreements are recognized strategies for addressing community and labor concerns with new warehouse developments.

Ms. Janis asked the company, in light of the public comments received, whether it would be willing to meet with the community organizations present and work toward addressing some of the concerns raised. Mr. Shelnutt stated that Ross is always open to meeting with anyone willing to help improve conditions for associates and noted that Ross, as a California-based company, already has practices in place to address many of those concerns.

Mr. Dunphy further referenced Ross's 2024 Corporate Social Responsibility Report and noted that the company has reduced its emissions by 31 percent over the last six years. He described facility-level sustainability measures including air purging systems, energy-efficient conveyor systems with automation shut-off sensors, LED lighting with occupancy sensors that have reduced energy use by 13 million kilowatt hours per year, and battery-powered forklifts. He also noted that Ross has reduced road miles by 900,000 through route optimization and ships by rail where applicable.

Ms. Janis asked specifically whether Ross would commit to requiring its third-party carriers to use clean trucks. Mr. Dunphy stated that Ross does not own its own trucks and works with transportation partners to optimize loads and reduce emissions. He acknowledged that a direct requirement on carriers is not currently in place.

Member Morton requested an opportunity to review Ross's sustainability plan and encouraged the company to consider how its existing sustainability practices could be applied to the Bakersfield project, particularly route optimization and the use of electric vehicles to minimize truck traffic, air pollution, and impacts to local roads.

Member Janis asked Chair Dosick and the other Committee members whether consideration of the item could be postponed until the end of the month to allow Ross an opportunity to meet with community members and determine whether some of the concerns raised could be addressed before the Committee voted on the Agreement. Ms. Janis suggested a special meeting on approximately June 29 or 30 and asked whether there would be sufficient time to provide the required notice. Chair Dosick mentioned that we can revisit that at the end of our questions.

Member Andrianarimanana asked about the broader community support Ross had received for the project, noting that the project would be located in an area of high unemployment and high poverty. Mr. Shelnutt stated that Ross had met with local officials, including Mayor Karen Goh and her team, regarding the proposed site and the need for jobs in the specific area of Bakersfield. He stated that local officials were supportive of the project because it would provide employment opportunities for the local community outside of the agriculture and oil industries. Mr. Dunphy identified City Manager Clegg as another local official with whom Ross had met, and Ms. Mullis added that Ross had also met with the Deputy Police Chief, who expressed support for the creation of jobs in Southern Bakersfield.

Chair Dosick noted that Kern County has historically experienced relatively high unemployment and stated that this was one of the reasons GO-Biz was supportive of the project. He asked Mr. Shelnutt whether it would make operational sense to run the facility with only 200 employees.

Mr. Shelnutt stated that it would not.

Chair Dosick asked about the likelihood of the facility reaching approximately 1,100 employees over the following eight years. Mr. Shelnutt replied that the likelihood is 100 percent.

Chair Dosick asked Mr. Shelnutt to clarify the entry requirements for the facility's positions. Mr. Shelnutt confirmed that no prior experience or English language proficiency is required for entry-level positions.

Chair Dosick asked about the wage progression for employees who remain in entry-level roles. Mr. Shelnutt stated that employees receive annual wage increases of approximately three to four percent.

Chair Dosick asked about the facility-wide performance bonus program. Mr. Shelnutt stated that the average blue-chip performance bonus across Ross's California supply chain operations is approximately $2.44 per hour across all production-level associates and described it as a meaningful opportunity for employees.

Chair Dosick asked whether Ross provides health benefits to its employees. Mr. Shelnutt confirmed that it does.

Chair Dosick asked what kind of plans are offered. Mr. Shelnutt stated that Ross offers standard HMO and PPO-type plans, with Ross covering 70 percent of the cost and the employee contributing 30 percent.

Chair Dosick asked whether coverage extends to family members. Mr. Shelnutt confirmed that it does, noting that the 70 percent coverage applies to individual, employee-plus-one, and full family plan elections.

Mr. Dunphy stated that Ross had opened its two most recent facilities outside of California, including a facility currently being developed in North Carolina. He stated that, as a California-based company, Ross would like to locate the proposed facility in California and urged the Committee to allow the project to move forward.

Chair Dosick acknowledged the concerns raised during the meeting and asked whether Ross would commit to meeting and engaging in productive discussions with the individuals who provided public comment and their colleagues in the area. Mr. Dunphy confirmed that Ross would.

Ms. Janis asked whether Ross would specifically commit to meeting with Mr. Aguirre and the other community leaders who had come to the meeting. Mr. Shelnutt confirmed that Ross would. Mr. Dunphy stated that community leaders should reach out to him directly to schedule those meetings, and Chair Dosick offered to facilitate the connections in the same manner as GO-Biz had done for prior applicants.

Mr. Morton asked that the City of Bakersfield and the Mayor's office also be included in those conversations as plans move forward. Mr. Dunphy affirmed that the company would welcome that involvement.

Chair Dosick encouraged Ross to utilize GO-Biz's Permit Streamlining Unit to assist the company in navigating federal, state, and local permitting requirements. He also encouraged Ross to work with the State Treasurer's Office regarding programs that support fleet electrification. Acting Chair Dosick noted that the proposed facility would not open for at least three years, providing Ross time to work with its transportation partners and pursue additional opportunities to support the electrification of its partners' fleets.

Chair Dosick asked if there were any further questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public. Hearing none, Chair Dosick called for a motion to approve Agenda Item D-3.

Action Moved/Seconded: Members Andrianarimanana/Morton
Yes: Members Andrianarimanana, Morton, Janis, Walters, Dosick
No: None

G. Public Comment

Chair Dosick and Member Janis stated that there were no further requests for public comments received.

H. Adjournment

Chair Dosick adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm