

CALIFORNIA

Film Commission

MINUTES

California Film Commission Special Board Meeting

December 18, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Wendy Greuel (Chair)
Josh LaFarga (Vice Chair)
Jennifer Gonring (Secretary) Senator
Ben Allen
Arturo Barquet
Brian Brokaw
Andy Davis
Steve Dayan
Bonnie Goldfarb
Karen Horne
Peter Kaufman
Janet Knutsen
Kathy Le Backes
Alevtina "Alya" Michelson Supervisor
Holly Mitchell
Senator Steve Padilla
Suzy Shuster

CFC STAFF

Colleen Bell
Yetee Osunsanmi
Leah Medrano
Fanshen Cox
Joseph Cruz

GUESTS

Kristi Cortez
Tara Khonsari
Lauren Pizer Mains
Carolyn Angius
Sheila McFarland
Robbie Staenberg
Sarah Meza

I. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME; INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS/GUESTS – Wendy Greuel, Chair

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m., Roll Call and Attendance taken to establish quorum.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT – Wendy Greuel, Chair

Chair Greuel welcomed members and thanked staff for their work leading into year-end, noting the recent announcements related to the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program and the importance of convening the Board to consider emergency regulations.



III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Colleen Bell, Executive Director

Director Bell thanked the Board and staff for their collective efforts on the California Film & TV Tax Credit Program. Director Bell provided some statistics from yesterday's press release from our final film round of 2025.

The newly expanded Film & Television Tax Credit Program opened for applications for the first round within 1 week of the new legislation being signed into law in July of this year. This latest round caps off the mid-way point of Program 4.0 (4 of 8 rounds). Program 4.0, has in less than six months, generated:

- 28 Film projects approved
 - 5 non-independent films
 - 5 independents over \$10 million
 - 18 independents under \$10 million
- \$116.2 CAL Amount (**not included in the press release**)
- \$562 million in economic activity expected across California
- \$337 million in qualified expenditures
 - Inclusive of \$209 in qualified wages
- 4837 cast and crew jobs total
 - 3666 crew
 - 1171 cast
- 22,614 background performers (measured in days worked)
- 831 shooting days statewide
 - 17 projects will shoot 286 days out of zone
 -

Program 4.0 Overview and progress to date

- The newly expanded Film & Television Tax Credit Program opened for applications for the first round within 1 week of the new legislation being signed into law in July of this year
- This latest round caps off the mid-way point of Program 4.0 (4 of 8 rounds)
- Program 4.0, has in less than six months, generated:
 - \$4.17 billion in economic activity
 - More than 25,000 cast and crew jobs
 - Over 4,000 filming days statewide

As mentioned in previous board meetings, we have undergone extensive meetings and listening sessions with stakeholders in the drafting process of these regulations which the board will vote on today.

IV. TAX CREDIT PROGRAM REPORT – Leah Medrano, Tax Credit Program Deputy Director

In July of 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1138 into law, allowing the California Film Commission to administer Tax Credit Program 4.0. In order to ensure the continued operation of the Tax Credit Program, the CFC has prepared an emergency regulations package for adoption. The emergency regulations language includes amendments and additions to further clarify statutory language under AB 1138; changes were clearly marked on the review document provided to you prior to this meeting. More specifically, definitions and timeline parameters were included for animated projects and large-scale competition shows – new categories added under AB 1138.

Should the board approve the adoption of these emergency regulations today our next steps include issuing a notice to the public to start the public comment period, and then submission to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Once approved and enacted, the adopted emergency regulations will allow the California Film Commission Tax Credit Program to continue to operate, allowing animation and large-scale competition shows to be eligible as early as January 2026, while we work on the certificate of compliance which will make the regulations permanent.



The timeline for the emergency regulations is limited, which is why we will be moving to make the regulations permanent immediately following the adoption to ensure that the emergency regulations do not expire. We anticipate future changes to be implemented, such as regulatory language on the 3% cap increase for recurring TV series and the 2% uplift for hiring career pathways trainees, through the regular rulemaking process which will begin as early as February 2026.

Board members engaged in discussion regarding the application requirements for animated projects, including concerns related to greenlight timing, development timelines unique to animation, and the potential impact on live-action productions.

CFC Director Bell and Tax Credit Program Deputy Director Medrano clarified that:

- The emergency regulations are intended to ensure projects apply in good faith and are ready to proceed
- Any refinements or policy adjustments may be addressed during the permanent rulemaking process
- The Board may revisit the animation provisions at a future meeting, as early as February 2026.

Chair Greuel noted consensus to move forward with adoption of the emergency regulations as presented, with a commitment to revisit animation-specific issues in early 2026.

V. VOTE TO APPROVE 4.0 TAX CREDIT PROGRAM EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

With no public comments during the Board meeting on the 4.0 Tax Credit Emergency Regulations, Chair Greuel put forth a vote to approve the 4.0 Tax Credit Emergency Regulations. CFC Board member Andy Davis moved for a motion, seconded by Steve Dayan, to approve the 4.0 emergency regulations and to authorize the Director of the CFC to submit the regulations and supporting documentation to the Office of Administrative Law for formal review. 4.0 Emergency Regulations was approval by the board with boardmember Arturo Barquet abstaining.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Wendy Greuel, Chair

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.