

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

CALIFORNIA STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING

**TIME:** 10:03 a.m.  
**DATE:** Thursday, January 22, 2026  
**PLACE:** California State Lottery Headquarters  
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**A P P E A R A N C E S**

**California State Lottery Commission**

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Chair of the Commission  
Commissioner

Keetha Mills  
Vice Chair of the Commission  
Commissioner

Tiffani Alvidrez  
Commissioner

Ukau Dungca  
Commissioner

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Deputy Director of Sales & Marketing

Farida Sarwari  
Assistant to Commission

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Recording Secretary

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1           The next item is the consideration of the approval  
2 of the agenda.

3           Commissioners, does anyone want to suggest any  
4 changes to today's agenda in any respect? Hearing none, do  
5 I hear a motion to adopt the agenda?

6           **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Move to approve.

7           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Second.

8           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
9 please call the roll?

10          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

11          **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

12          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

13          **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

14          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

15          **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

16          **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

17          **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

18          The next item on the agenda is item No. 5,  
19 approval of the minutes. Are there any corrections to the  
20 minutes?

21          **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Oh, I do have a correction.  
22 I'm sorry, I forgot to mention this. There's one of the  
23 action items that showed that I both moved and approved. So  
24 I can't remember where it was.

25          **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Double dipped.

1           **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes. I don't think that's  
2 correct. So maybe we can fix that. Just sent it.

3           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** It's action item  
4 8(a), Juniper Network Switch Refresh.

5           **MS. SARWARI:** We'll get that fixed by checking the  
6 minutes.

7           **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Thank you.

8           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** We will review those  
9 at the next Commission meeting for approval.

10           The next item on the agenda is the informational  
11 item. I'll start with our director's comments.

12           **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** Good morning,  
13 Commissioners.

14           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Good morning.

15           **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** I'd like to start this  
16 morning with a sales summary.

17           I'm happy to report that we've surpassed \$5  
18 billion in sales over the first half of the fiscal year.  
19 Not only is that exceeding the revised goal, but it's also  
20 10 percent over last year's sales at the halfway mark.

21           Powerball really came through at the end of the  
22 year and helped us end 2025 on a high note. A Powerball  
23 sequence that began in September rolled a phenomenal 46  
24 times to an advertised jackpot of \$1.7 billion on Christmas  
25 Eve.

1           While the lucky winner was in Arkansas, one ticket  
2 in Chino Hills missed just the power number that night and  
3 so they won a \$2.8 million consolation prize.

4           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Not too bad.

5           **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** My kind of prize.

6           Beyond our lucky players, this Powerball sequence  
7 provided millions to California communities in the form of  
8 approximately \$18 million to our retail partners for  
9 commissions and sales bonuses, and more than \$126 million  
10 for our California public schools.

11           Meanwhile, Super Lotto Plus, our \$1 in-state game  
12 that also shares two draw days with Powerball, has continued  
13 to benefit from the extra player traffic the multistate  
14 games have brought in this year.

15           Sales continue to outperform goal and they're  
16 outpacing last year's sales. Scratchers had another solid  
17 holiday season as Californians gave the gift of play.  
18 December alone brought in almost \$700 million in sales and  
19 \$100 million in contributions to education.

20           Through the first half of the year, Scratchers is  
21 still ahead of goal and last year's sales. Daily games are  
22 still a bit below goal due to smaller rolling prizes than  
23 anticipated.

24           Hot Spot, on the other hand, had its highest  
25 selling week ever on record in December. Its sales are

1 performing as expected.

2           On the contributions front, we are exceeding goal  
3 with more than \$1 billion earned for supplemental funding to  
4 public education from the first half of the year. This is  
5 \$155 million more than we anticipated at this time, and we  
6 are ahead of last year by about 17 percent. Overall, it's  
7 been a really solid first half of the year, thanks in part  
8 to some good jackpots.

9           I want to turn to industry sales. Last fiscal  
10 year we were the second largest lottery in the U.S.-based on  
11 sales. Florida, as you know, was the top selling lottery,  
12 and we've been in those positions of Florida number one,  
13 California number two, for the past five fiscal years. And  
14 last year we trailed Florida by only \$183 million. The gap  
15 between the two lotteries was much larger back in fiscal  
16 year 2020-2021 and so we have been shortening that gap.

17           The sales figures that we use for these rankings  
18 include revenues from traditional lottery games, but it  
19 excludes sales from video lottery terminals and instant  
20 games sold over the internet as California doesn't have  
21 those. Data for the first quarter of the current fiscal  
22 year that was just recently released indicates that  
23 California is now the number one lottery in the United  
24 States. Big round of applause for all of our employees  
25 who've done a phenomenal job.

1           Sales from July through September totaled more  
2 than \$2.49 billion in California with Florida having sales  
3 of \$2.43 billion over that same period.

4           While we were ahead of Florida by \$60 million in  
5 the first quarter of this fiscal year, during the same  
6 period last year in 2024, Florida exceeded California sales  
7 by \$2 million, and we should have our second quarter sales  
8 update in approximately a month and, fingers crossed, we're  
9 still going to be in that number-one position.

10           Both Florida and California saw higher sales this  
11 summer compared to the summer of 2024, and at the next  
12 slides, we'll look at sales by the key product categories to  
13 show how we were able to surpass Florida.

14           Looking at Scratchers, or instant tickets as  
15 they're often called in other states, we see that both  
16 California and Florida had similar rates of sales gains  
17 during the summer of 2025.

18           As such, our Scratchers sales were not the primary  
19 driver behind our rise to the top. It is interesting to  
20 note that both Texas and New York experienced sales declines  
21 in their instant ticket sales.

22           Overall, slightly more than half of all U.S.  
23 lotteries saw a dip in their instant ticket sales in summer  
24 2025 compared to the prior summer. The 9 percent increase  
25 in sales that we saw in the first quarter for our Scratchers

1 sales, if we look at that and compare it to the same quarter  
2 in the prior fiscal year, it's the fourth best in the U.S.

3 Florida's gain was the second best in the nation,  
4 and South Carolina had the largest percentage increase at 13  
5 percent.

6 All lotteries saw gains in their draw game sales  
7 during the summer of 2025. Our 38 percent increase was much  
8 higher than the gains that we've seen in other top selling  
9 lotteries.

10 We'll look specifically at Powerball sales in the  
11 next slide as it is -- as its big jackpot in September 2025  
12 appeared to be the key factor in how we surpassed Florida.

13 This past summer the Powerball jackpot climbed to  
14 \$1.8 billion in September. In that quarter, California sold  
15 nearly \$340 million in Powerball tickets. This is \$247  
16 million more than in the summer of 2024 when Powerball's  
17 biggest jackpot was just \$258 million.

18 Florida saw \$150 million increase in their  
19 Powerball sales during the summer of 2025, about \$97 million  
20 less than here in California, and, as I mentioned, we don't  
21 have the numbers yet for February, but we had a wonderful  
22 December thanks to Powerball.

23 For us to finish the fiscal year as the top  
24 selling lottery in the U.S., we'll likely need to have  
25 stronger sales in Florida and other products like Scratchers

1 since we can't just rely on getting another huge jackpot in  
2 the remaining months.

3 That's my update to you today, and I'm happy to  
4 answer any questions that you might have.

5 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Any questions?

6 Thank you.

7 **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** All right. We'll keep  
8 it up.

9 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Harj, that's really, really  
10 amazing, and really congratulations to you and the team. I  
11 know it's a lot of hard work.

12 There's a lot of numbers in there and a lot about  
13 sales. Can you tell a quick story about why those numbers  
14 matter? You were talking about your education conferences  
15 and you're seeing these firefighting.

16 **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** Yes.

17 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** You named several of them that  
18 we were talking about just in general. Tell one story about  
19 why those numbers matter.

20 **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** Sure.

21 Well, absolutely. Obviously, whatever we sell  
22 that impacts what we then contribute to public education.  
23 Last year, as we've talked about quite a bit in the last  
24 fiscal year, we didn't have those big jackpots, and you  
25 actually saw that in our total contributions to education.

1           Last year, although it's still a very solid  
2 number, we only contributed \$1.9 billion to education when  
3 the previous three fiscal years before that we were donating  
4 \$2 billion per fiscal year to public education.

5           And so all of that money, as you've seen, I hope,  
6 in the commercials that we've done through our public  
7 affairs and communications channel, contribute to things  
8 like firefighting academies at community colleges, providing  
9 English as a second language books for students that need  
10 that.

11           We have wonderful nursing programs that we support  
12 and drama programs that we support, and every single dollar  
13 that we can contribute to those programs is a win for our  
14 students in California.

15           **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** That's awesome. Thank you.

16           **DIRECTOR SHERGILL-CHIMA:** Yes. Any other  
17 questions?

18           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

19           The next item on the agenda is the consent  
20 calendar. There are no items under the consent calendar for  
21 this meeting, so we'll proceed to the next action items.

22           The first action item is the Weaver & Tidwell LLP  
23 contract extension, and Nick will present the amendment  
24 (inaudible) today.

25           Good morning, Nick.

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**DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUCHEN:** Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Happy New Year.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUCHEN:** Happy New Year.

Okay. I'm requesting your approval to amend the contract with Weaver & Tidwell LLP, also known as Weaver, to exercise the final one-year extension and to increase the contract's expenditure authority.

The Lottery currently contracts with Weaver for independent financial audit services, including auditing the Lottery's financial statements annually. This is pursuant to the Lottery Act's requirement that the Lottery engage an independent certified public accounting firm to conduct an annual audit of the accounts and all transactions of the Lottery.

In addition to performing audits of the Lottery's annual financial statements, Weaver reviews the Lottery's annual comprehensive financial report and performs annual agreed-upon procedure engagements as required under the Mega Millions and Powerball agreements.

The Lottery has contracted with Weaver since 2022 to provide these services. The original contract term was June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and included two one-year options to extend and had an initial maximum contract authority of \$550,000.

And last year the Commission exercised the first

1 one-year extension and increased the expenditure authority  
2 by \$178,000, and because Weaver provides excellent service  
3 in effectively working with us to gather information, they  
4 meet our deadlines and they understand the Lottery's  
5 business operations, we now recommend exercising the second  
6 one-year extension.

7 In addition to extending the term of the contract  
8 by one year, we are requesting to increase the maximum  
9 contract authority based on the applicable contract pricing  
10 included in the second optioned year.

11 So I, therefore, ask that the Commission approve  
12 the second and final one-year extension and to increase the  
13 expenditure authority by \$186,500 to enable Weaver to  
14 continue to perform independent financial audit services for  
15 the Lottery.

16 This amendment would extend the term of the  
17 contract from June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027, and  
18 would bring the maximum amount of the contract to \$914,500.

19 With that, I'm happy to answer any questions.

20 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Does any member of  
21 the public want to address the Commission at this time  
22 regarding action item 8(a)?

23 Seeing none, do any of the Commissioners have any  
24 questions?

25 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Thanks, Nick, for the report.

1 So since this is the final year of extension, does that mean  
2 that we're embarking on a new RFP process?

3 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUCHEN:** Correct, yes.

4 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Okay. And do we anticipate  
5 that we'll be able to complete the RFP process in the time  
6 allotted to -- okay.

7 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUCHEN:** Yes.

8 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** And if I remember correctly,  
9 like this particular service and RFP process has  
10 historically not received a lot of interest. So I would --  
11 you know, and the RFP process is about generating  
12 competition and making sure we get best service, best price,  
13 you know, all of those things.

14 So I would just ask us to keep that in mind and  
15 think about are there other things that we can do to try to  
16 get more service providers interested to make sure that  
17 there is that healthy competition and ensure we're getting  
18 the best price and the best service.

19 Thank you.

20 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR BUCHEN:** Okay, thanks.

21 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Any additional  
22 questions?

23 Do I hear a motion to approve action item 8(a),  
24 Weaver & Tidwell LLP contract extension?

25 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** I move to approve.

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**COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Second.

**CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary please call the roll?

**PARTICIPANT:** (Inaudible) running away.

**MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

**VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

**MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

**COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

**MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Rasouli? Oh, sorry, he's not here.

Commissioner Dungca?

**COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

**MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

**CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes. Thank you. Thank you, Nick.

Action item 8(b), Communications Effectiveness Tracking Study Agreement Alter Agents, presented by Jim. Kayla, are you going to join too? Come on.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR HASEGAWA:** Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners.

The Communication Effectiveness Tracking Study is probably the Lottery's most important research study, as it provides insights into the behaviors and the attitudes of California adults as it relates to the Lottery.

At various meetings, I've shown charts and tables

1 with data that comes from this tracking study. This  
2 includes important metrics like the playership of our  
3 products and the perceptions that California adults have  
4 about our games and about the Lottery organization overall.

5 This agenda item is to approve a new contract for  
6 this study as the current contract will expire in May, and  
7 I'd like to have Kayla Kassis present the remainder of this  
8 item, reviewing the results of the procurement process and  
9 discussing the contract for which we are seeking your  
10 approval as she was instrumental during those steps.

11 Kayla was promoted about a year ago to the  
12 position of assistant deputy director in business planning.

13 Kayla?

14 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Welcome, Kayla.

15 **ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASSIS:** Thank you.

16 All right. So the Communication Effectiveness  
17 Tracking Study, or more commonly known as just the tracking  
18 study, fulfills several requirements in the Lottery Act.

19 Specifically, it measures the reaction of citizens  
20 of the state to existing or proposed features in Lottery  
21 games, uses an independent firm to ascertain the demographic  
22 characteristics of the players of each of the games, and  
23 analyzes the effectiveness of the communications such as  
24 advertising, promotions, and public relations.

25 To meet these requirements, the study has been

1 conducted by an independent firm for more than 30 years. In  
2 a typical year, roughly 5,000 surveys of California adult  
3 population are conducted in both English and Spanish.

4 In anticipation of the current contract expiring  
5 in May of 2026, we began a competitive solicitation in  
6 September of last year. Out of the six proposals received,  
7 Alter Agents' proposal received the most combined points in  
8 the four categories evaluated and had the lowest expected  
9 cost, demonstrating they'll provide the best value to the  
10 Lottery for these services.

11 Alter Agents is an established and respected small  
12 business with a demonstrated ability to produce large-scale  
13 brand marketing and product research to top-tier clients.  
14 They have conducted similar ongoing, multimodal,  
15 multilingual research studies for the Oregon Lottery, other  
16 entertainment companies, and has conducted the California  
17 Lottery's tracking study since 2016.

18 Alter Agents also has a deep understanding and  
19 demonstrated experience with sample recruitment and  
20 management to ensure reliable representativeness by  
21 employing industry best practices and strategies to meet all  
22 of our strict quotas and minimize fraudulent responses and  
23 biases.

24 The requested contract value of \$1.5 million for  
25 the initial three-year base term of the agreement is based

1 on an analysis of historical expenditures, as well as  
2 anticipating future initiatives and business needs.

3 As we expected, there is an increase in cost for  
4 the base monthly sample collection compared to the current  
5 contract that started in 2021. However, this increase is  
6 less than the inflation rate over this time.

7 It also tracks with research industry trends where  
8 the strict data collection methods we use for this survey,  
9 plus with it being the lowest price provided out of the  
10 qualified proposers, we feel this pricing is reasonable and  
11 competitive.

12 Beyond the base monthly sample collection, the  
13 contract also now includes funds for more as-needed services  
14 anticipated over the next three years. This includes  
15 augments for high jackpot periods, which fluctuate each  
16 year, Asian language sampling, additional analyses and  
17 reporting, and any modifications we may need to better  
18 measure the new efforts that may come out of the new  
19 strategic directions that starts next fiscal year.

20 As such, I ask that the Commission approve the  
21 tracking study agreement with Alter Agents for a three-year  
22 base term and three optional one-year extensions for a  
23 contract value of \$1.5 million.

24 I'm happy to answer any questions.

25 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you, Kayla.

1 Does any member of the public want to address the  
2 Commission at this time regarding action item 8(b)?

3 Seeing none, do any Commissioners have any  
4 questions?

5 Yeah, go ahead.

6 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Thanks, Kayla, for the  
7 presentation.

8 Is the recommended awardee, are they the current  
9 service provider?

10 **ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASSIS:** They are. They  
11 are.

12 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Okay. Thank you.

13 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** And then I just have a  
14 comment. I'm pleased to see the expanded scope for this  
15 contract even though it's kind of our current provider, but  
16 we're going to -- we're seeking to continue those services.

17 The reason why I think the expanded scope is  
18 important is because I think it really does help inform kind  
19 of that educational awareness that we're doing for not just  
20 kind of the public but it's kind of industry, government,  
21 and academia, right? That constant ongoing conversation  
22 about who we are, what we do, who we serve, and why it's  
23 important.

24 And so having some of those additional analytics  
25 done as far as the demographics, I think, is incredibly

1 helpful because it also helps dispel the myths that we're  
2 constantly combating around gambling.

3 **ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASSIS:** Yeah, I  
4 completely agree. We definitely were trying to be more  
5 proactive with this contract and make sure that we continue  
6 to evolve our methodologies and stay representative as best  
7 as we possibly can so that we can keep this as instrumental  
8 to measuring these different analytics and breaking down  
9 those myths.

10 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** So this will be huge in  
11 making sure that there's just kind of cross conversations  
12 internally within the department with a variety of entities;  
13 marketing, legislation, all of the pieces that we see  
14 represented at the executive team. Those constant  
15 conversations need to continue to happen.

16 So I'm looking forward to finding out kind of  
17 where we stand with our demographics and our players.

18 Thank you.

19 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** And I'll just echo,  
20 I know that reviewing the memo, I was really excited to see  
21 the added services as needed but also the addition of Asian  
22 language opportunities. I know that was something that we  
23 had talked about I think a few years ago actually.

24 And so I appreciate the consideration of the  
25 recommendations and your hard work in putting together a

1 great RFP and also putting together this memo with Alter  
2 Agents.

3 Thank you.

4 **ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASSIS:** Thank you.

5 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Being no more  
6 questions, do I hear a motion to approve action item 8(b),  
7 Communications Effectiveness Tracking Study agreement with  
8 Alter Agents, also known as the tracking study?

9 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Motion to approve.

10 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Second.

11 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Commissioner  
12 Alvidrez, motion to approve?

13 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Motion to approve. Sorry.  
14 Motion to approve.

15 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** We're whispering  
16 over here.

17 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Second.

18 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Thank you.

19 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
20 please call the roll?

21 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

22 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

23 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

24 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

25 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

1                   **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

2                   **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

3                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes. Thank you,  
4 both.

5                   **ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASSIS:** Thank you.

6                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Appreciate it.

7                   Chris and Sharon are competing for the most memos  
8 today. So we have Chris up first with action Item 8(c),  
9 Varonis?

10                   **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Varonis.

11                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Varonis?

12                   **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Varonis, yeah.

13                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** I was close.

14 Varonis renewal.

15                   **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Yeah, these software  
16 providers have the cleverest names for sure.

17                   Good morning, Commissioners. Pleasure to see you  
18 in person today and for 2026.

19                   First item, presenting item 8(c), the Lottery is  
20 requesting approval to renew the Varonis subscription  
21 service for a three-year term.

22                   Varonis is a threat intelligence and data security  
23 platform used to safeguard the Lottery's technical  
24 environments by identifying potential threats and preventing  
25 unauthorized access to sensitive data.

1           It provides centralized environment monitoring,  
2 coupled with advanced behavioral analytics and automation,  
3 in order to detect insider threats, reduce false positive  
4 rates, and prevent data leaks.

5           As the Lottery continues to expand its digital  
6 operations, particularly in the cloud and hybrid  
7 environments that we manage, coupled with ever increasing  
8 cybersecurity threats, Varonis has become an essential  
9 platform used to protect the Lottery's valuable information  
10 assets. Not renewing Varonis would weaken the Lottery's  
11 ability to do so.

12           Since 2022, Varonis has been renewed annually.  
13 However, we are experiencing rising costs for software  
14 subscriptions. So to lock in current pricing and to reduce  
15 the administrative overhead of doing annual renewals, we are  
16 seeking a three-year term this time around.

17           For this renewal the Lottery utilized a leveraged  
18 procurement agreement, requesting bids from resellers that  
19 participate in the Department of General Services' software  
20 licensing program. The lowest bid was submitted by ePlus  
21 Technology, Inc.

22           The Lottery recommends the Commission approve  
23 renewing Varonis for a three-year term. The total contract  
24 amount will be \$765,336 with a term date starting March 31<sup>st</sup>,  
25 2026, and ending March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2029.

1           And with that, open to any questions the  
2 Commission might have.

3           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

4           Does any member of the public want to address the  
5 Commission at this time regarding action item 8(c)?

6           Being none, Commissioners?

7           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Question.

8           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes?

9           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** So you mentioned that the  
10 contract has been in effect since 2022, I think you said,  
11 and that now we're seeing kind of a \$250,000 kind of  
12 increase.

13           **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** It's been steadily going  
14 up, yeah. It was, like, \$240,000 last time and now it's  
15 over \$250,000.

16           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** So was this contract a  
17 three-year contract initially?

18           **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** We're doing annual  
19 renewals, and then now that it's reached the \$250,000  
20 threshold and we're seeing the trend, we want to lock in for  
21 a three-year term.

22           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Got it. Thank you.

23           **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Instead of coming to you  
24 for the two --

25           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Every year. Uh-huh. Got

1 it. Thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Any additional  
3 questions?

4 Do I hear a motion to approve action item 8(c),  
5 Varonis for renewal?

6 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Motion to approve.

7 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

8 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Second.

9 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
10 please call the roll?

11 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

12 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

13 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

14 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

15 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

16 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

17 **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

18 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

19 Chris, you're up next again. Action item 8(d),  
20 Adobe Campaign Standard Renewal.

21 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Perfect. Yes.

22 For the next action item, we're requesting to  
23 renew our Adobe Campaign subscription service for a one-year  
24 term. The Lottery began using Adobe Campaign Standard in  
25 2017.

1 Adobe Campaign provides email marketing and other  
2 communication capabilities necessary to support the  
3 Lottery's sales and marketing efforts. This includes  
4 sending jackpot winning number alerts, responsible gaming  
5 tips, promotions, new game launches, and other important  
6 communications to our players and stakeholders, as well as  
7 Second Chance player account emails such as account  
8 activation notices, password resets, and Second Chance draw  
9 winner notifications.

10 The Lottery is only seeking a one-year renewal  
11 since we are currently conducting an RFP for a new email  
12 services platform, a platform that will provide a more  
13 functional, robust, and state-of-the-art email platform that  
14 will allow the Lottery to continue to leverage email  
15 effectively and efficiently and to evolve and optimize this  
16 critical communication channel.

17 The Lottery's email marketing and communication  
18 needs have changed and evolved beyond Adobe's current  
19 capabilities. The goal is to have a new email platform  
20 selected, procured, and implemented before the Adobe  
21 Campaign subscription term ends next year.

22 For this renewal the Lottery will be leveraging  
23 the state's SLP program. The lowest bid was submitted by  
24 Allied Network Solutions, Inc.

25 The Lottery recommends the Commission approve

1 renewing the Adobe Campaign Standard subscription for a one-  
2 year term. The total agreement amount will be \$470,244 with  
3 a term date starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, and ending February  
4 28<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

5 With that, I'm open to any questions the  
6 Commission might have regarding renewing Adobe Campaign for  
7 one more year.

8 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Does any member of  
9 the public want to address the Commission at this time  
10 regarding action item 8(d)?

11 Seeing none, Commissioners, did you have any  
12 questions?

13 Do I hear a motion to approve action item 8(d),  
14 Adobe Campaign Standard renewal?

15 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Move to approve.

16 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Second.

17 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
18 please call the roll?

19 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

20 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

21 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

22 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

23 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

24 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

25 **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

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**CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

All right, we're halfway there.

Action item 8(e), Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement renewal.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** For action item 8(e), we are requesting approval to renew our Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement for a three-year term.

This agreement allows the Lottery to manage current and future software licenses and cloud services needs under one agreement. These products and cloud services form the foundation of the IT services needed to conduct Lottery business operations.

For over 20 years, the Lottery has obtained substantial cost savings by procuring software licenses and services through a single master agreement.

For context, this agreement is part of three Microsoft-related agreements that we present to the Commission with one of the others being the Microsoft Office 365 agreement, which covers all of our Microsoft Office product suites like Outlook and Teams, and we get that agreement through the California Department of Technology so we can get preferential discounted pricing.

And the other agreement is the Microsoft Unified Support Agreement that provides us with premium support services that build on top of the Microsoft license

1 agreement services that we get or support services.

2 The Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement covers  
3 server enrollment services that includes operating software  
4 for our servers and other infrastructure products, our  
5 development tools, and system monitoring software.

6 It also includes cloud services which support  
7 roughly 50 percent of our competing resources for our  
8 corporate or business operations, and cloud services are  
9 used to host our public website, the mobile app APIs for our  
10 Android and iOS Lottery-developed mobile applications.

11 Maintaining our license agreement with Microsoft  
12 is required to provide the computing and software services  
13 needed to support business operations and critical  
14 applications while doing so in the most efficient and cost-  
15 effective manner.

16 For this renewal, the Lottery will be using a  
17 leveraged procurement agreement where we requested bids from  
18 resellers that participate in the state's software  
19 cooperative agreement. The lowest bid was submitted by  
20 Crayon Software Experts, LLC.

21 The Lottery recommends the Commission approve the  
22 renewal of this agreement with Microsoft for a three-year  
23 term. The total agreement amount will be \$8,556,432.66,  
24 with a term date starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, through February  
25 28<sup>th</sup>, 2029.

1           And with that, I'm open to any questions the  
2 Commission may have for 8(e).

3           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

4           Does any member of the public want to address the  
5 Commission at this time regarding action item 8(e)?

6           Do any Commissioners have any questions regarding  
7 this action item? I'll take one.

8           Hearing none, do I hear a motion to approve action  
9 item 8(e), Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement renewal?

10          **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Motion to approve.

11          **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Second.

12          **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
13 please call the roll?

14          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

15          **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

16          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

17          **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

18          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

19          **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

20          **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

21          **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

22          **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** All right. Home stretch.

23                 The Lottery operates a business intelligence and  
24 business analytics platform we call BIBA. This platform  
25 provides important reports, interactive dashboards, ad hoc

1 reporting, and analytic services to Lottery business units  
2 throughout the organization in support of operational and  
3 strategic decision making.

4 BIBA's aging on-premise infrastructure is  
5 approaching end of life and is not sustainable for the long  
6 term. To address these issues, we initiated a project to  
7 modernize BIBA using Microsoft's cloud-based analytics and  
8 reporting tools or modern tools. Leverage all the cool  
9 technologies that are capable today.

10 However, these new technologies are new to the  
11 Lottery and highly complex in nature, requiring specialized  
12 knowledge and expertise to implement, so we obtained  
13 professional services to help us.

14 We went through an informal competitive  
15 solicitation in 2023, resulting in the current contract with  
16 Astute Solutions LLC for a contract amount of \$1.4 million  
17 with a two-year term that started on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and  
18 is ending February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, so next month. The contract  
19 included two one-year options to extend.

20 In the past two years, we've made great progress  
21 such as building the required environments, getting the data  
22 load processes and the other essential plumbing in place.  
23 However, we have much work to do to finish building the data  
24 models and doing the complex report migration. Both of  
25 these require complex logic in creating new calculations and

1 require the services of Astute to help complete.

2           The delays in getting the work done are due to  
3 complexities we didn't anticipate when we first got started,  
4 and we've also had unplanned work come up through  
5 interdependent projects such as our Second Chance platform  
6 upgrade.

7           So today we are seeking Commission approval to  
8 exercise the first one-year option to extend and to add  
9 \$500,000 in expenditure authority to the current contract  
10 with Astute.

11           This will result in a new contract expenditure  
12 authority of \$1.9 million and a new contract term date that  
13 will end on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2027. We need the support of  
14 Astute in order to complete the modernization effort of BIBA  
15 and for us to take advantage of and get the most of our  
16 valuable Lottery data.

17           And with that said, I'm open to any questions the  
18 Commission might have for this request.

19           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

20           Does any member of the public want to address the  
21 Commission at this time regarding action item 8(f)?

22           Seeing none, are there questions from the  
23 Commissioners?

24           **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Thanks for the report.

25           Can you say a little bit about the revised

1 timeline for completion of the overall project? Do we  
2 anticipate this one-year extension will get us through  
3 completion?

4 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** We believe so. We have a  
5 new manager over the team. We got a project manager to come  
6 on board. They spent the past six months digging deep into  
7 the remaining work.

8 So we have high confidence we'll be able to get it  
9 done, but we do have some contingency plans in place if we  
10 find that we can't complete all of the report migration by  
11 February of 2027. We do have a contingency plan for that.

12 But for now we feel we can get it done, but we are  
13 prepared in case we can't. We don't feel we'll need  
14 Astute's services beyond February 2027 because we can pick  
15 up the remaining work with in-house staff by focusing Astute  
16 to do the work we can't do and then internal staff will pick  
17 up the work that we can do.

18 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Okay. Thank you.

19 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Do I hear a motion  
20 to approve action item 8(f), Astute contract extension?

21 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** I'll move to approve.

22 **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Second.

23 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
24 please call the roll?

25 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

1                   **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

2                   **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

3                   **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

4                   **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

5                   **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

6                   **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

7                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

8                   Thank you, Chris.

9                   **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** All right.

10                  **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** I just want to make  
11 a quick comment.

12                  Thank you for -- I know that there's a lot of  
13 items that we reviewed today, but keeping our digital  
14 environment secure and safe and up and running and the  
15 migration projects that you've been handling over the last  
16 few years has been really wonderful.

17                  And I appreciate you shoring that infrastructure  
18 up for us so that we can keep continuing to move forward  
19 with our modernization of the California Lottery. So thank  
20 you.

21                  **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Okay. Thank you. And,  
22 you know, I have a great team that help us do that. We're  
23 laser focused on making sure that we can use technology to  
24 help the business achieve our mission. So thank you.

25                  **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Pass along our

1 thanks to them as well.

2 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOPEZ:** Okay.

3 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

4 Up next, action item 8(g), Quantasy & Associates  
5 LLC contract extension presented by Sharon.

6 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Great.

7 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Good morning.

8 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Good morning. Thank you.

9 Chris and I are not in competition. We're  
10 partners. We support each other.

11 All right. This first item 8(g) for Quantasy &  
12 Associates contract extension, as a result of a formal  
13 procurement, Quantasy & Associates was awarded a contract  
14 for African American advertising and marketing services in  
15 2021 with an initial term of five years and a contract  
16 expenditure authority of \$15 million.

17 The contract includes two one-year options to  
18 extend. The initial term is set to expire at the end of  
19 this month, and the Lottery is seeking to exercise the first  
20 option to extend.

21 Quantasy is responsible for providing overall  
22 market analysis, strategy development, and positioning of  
23 the Lottery brand and its products, programs, and services  
24 within the African American consumer market.

25 Quantasy works on Lottery's marketing and

1 advertising initiatives in partnership with staff and its  
2 marketing agency partners. Exercising the first one-year  
3 contract extension will enable the Lottery to continue these  
4 essential marketing efforts without interruption.

5 While the Lottery could go out to bid for these  
6 services, the marketing contract procurement process is  
7 lengthy, complex, and places an extraordinary strain on  
8 staff resources.

9 It's not necessary to expend these resources when  
10 there is an agency partner in place and an option to extend  
11 the contract. Staff estimates there's sufficient contract  
12 expenditure authority remaining to carry out marketing  
13 activities during the extension period.

14 Lottery staff recommends the Commission approve a  
15 one-year extension to the Quantasy contract for African  
16 American advertising and marketing services, extending the  
17 term through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027, with the contract  
18 expenditure authority remaining at \$15 million.

19 And with that, I'd be happy to answer any  
20 questions about Quantasy extension.

21 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Does any member of  
22 the public want to address the Commission at this time  
23 regarding action item 8(g)?

24 Seeing none, do any of the Commissioners have any  
25 questions regarding this action item?

1           Seeing none, do I hear a motion to approve action  
2 item 8(g), Quantasy & Associates LLC contract extension?

3           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Motion to approve.

4           **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Second.

5           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
6 please call the roll?

7           **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

8           **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

9           **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

10          **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

11          **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

12          **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

13          **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

14          **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

15                 Next we have action item 8(h), Victory  
16 International Group LLC contract extension.

17          **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Okay. Thank you.

18                 As a result of an invitation for bid procurement,  
19 Victory International Group was awarded a three-year  
20 agreement for dedicated Scratchers shipping bags and an  
21 expenditure authority of \$376,000.

22                 The agreement includes two optional one-year  
23 extensions. The initial term is expiring at the end of  
24 February, and the Lottery is requesting the first one-year  
25 extension of this agreement.

1           The Lottery's distribution centers use dedicated  
2 bags to ship Scratchers tickets to over 21,000 retailers  
3 throughout the state and to ship unsold expired tickets to  
4 the northern distribution center for destruction.

5           To protect the tickets from damage during  
6 shipment, a five-milliliter tri-extruded poly bag is  
7 required because of its strength and tamper resistance.

8           Based on the projected use, staff estimates the  
9 current expenditure authority will be depleted by the end of  
10 the term and an additional \$145,000 will be required to meet  
11 the Lottery's needs during the extension period.

12           Lottery staff recommends the Commission approve an  
13 extension with Victory International Group, extending the  
14 term through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2027, and an increase of  
15 expenditure authority, bringing the maximum expenditure  
16 authority to \$521,000.

17           With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

18           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Does any member of  
19 the public want to address the Commission at this time  
20 regarding action item 8(h)?

21           Seeing none, do any Commissioners have any  
22 questions?

23           Do I hear a motion to approve action item 8(h),  
24 Victory International Group LLC contract extension?

25           **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Motion to approve.

1                   **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Second.

2                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
3 please call the roll?

4                   **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

5                   **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

6                   **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

7                   **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

8                   **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

9                   **COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

10                  **MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

11                  **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.  
12 Sharon, real quick on this. I love learning more  
13 about the bags.

14                  **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** I'm sorry I didn't bring  
15 an example today. I meant to do that, and the bags are very  
16 important. If we can't ship our Scratchers and have them,  
17 and Victory has been a provider for us in this term and will  
18 continue.

19                  So thank you.

20                  **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** The next item is  
21 action item 8(i), FedEx Corporate Incorporated Scratchers  
22 ticket delivery services contract. It's a mouthful.

23                  **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** It is. Okay. Here we go.  
24                  The Lottery's contract with Unity Courier Services  
25 for Scratchers delivery services is expiring at the end of

1 February. Scratchers sales represent approximately 75  
2 percent of Lottery revenue, and the Lottery distributes  
3 Scratchers products from two distribution centers to  
4 retailers statewide.

5 This includes daily maintenance orders as well as  
6 monthly auto ship orders of new games. Last February, the  
7 Commission awarded a contract to FedEx for ancillary  
8 shipping services with a maximum expenditure authority of \$5  
9 million.

10 The contract was completed through a leveraged  
11 procurement agreement with the National Association of State  
12 Procurement Officials or NASPO. The Lottery is requesting  
13 approval of a new contract with FedEx to become the vendor  
14 for all Scratchers delivery services.

15 FedEx began handling all monthly auto ship  
16 deliveries last June. During this period, the Lottery and  
17 its retailers have experienced enhanced parcel tracking and  
18 delivery data as well as significantly improved delivery  
19 performance.

20 FedEx consistently delivers over 98 percent of  
21 auto ship orders within two days. FedEx's capacity and  
22 proven service levels will enable the Lottery to deliver  
23 weekly to a majority of retailers and return to a just-in-  
24 time inventory model, which will improve efficiency and  
25 reduce waste.

1            Lottery staff have also verified that FedEx has  
2 the capacity to handle the increase in volume. The current  
3 FedEx agreement will be terminated and the remaining  
4 expenditure authority of \$3 million will be rolled into a  
5 new agreement that will encompass both daily and auto ship  
6 deliveries.

7            The term will be through November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with  
8 the option to extend contingent upon the extension of the  
9 state's NASPO agreement. Lottery staff estimates an  
10 additional \$6.8 million will be needed to account for all  
11 Scratchers deliveries through the end of the term.

12           Lottery staff recommends the Commission approve a  
13 new contract with FedEx for all Scratchers delivery services  
14 and an additional \$6.8 million in expenditure authority.  
15 The new contract will expire November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and will  
16 have a total expenditure authority of \$9.8 million.

17           And with that, I'd be happy to answer any  
18 questions.

19           **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

20           Does any member of the public want to address the  
21 Commission at this time regarding action item 8(i)?

22           And are there any questions from the  
23 Commissioners?

24           **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Just a comment.

25           In light of the challenges that we experienced

1 with the Unity contract, I'm pleased to see that FedEx has  
2 been brought back into the fold.

3 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Thank you.

4 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** And that we'll have kind  
5 of continued ongoing coverage from a credible vendor.

6 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Yes. We're looking  
7 forward to having consistency and not have to worry about  
8 our --

9 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Piecemeal.

10 **DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Yeah. Yeah. So thank  
11 you.

12 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Any additional  
13 questions?

14 Do I hear a motion to approve action item 8(i),  
15 FedEx Corporate Incorporated Scratchers ticket delivery  
16 services contract?

17 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Motion to approve.

18 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Second.

19 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Will the secretary  
20 please call the roll?

21 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Mills?

22 **VICE CHAIR MILLS:** Yes.

23 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Alvidrez?

24 **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** Yes.

25 **MS. SARWARI:** Commissioner Dungca?

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**COMMISSIONER DUNGCA:** Yes.

**MS. SARWARI:** Chairman Garrison-Engbrecht?

**CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Yes.

I just want to add to Commissioner Alvidrez's comment.

I know there's been a lot of back end work of some course correction, but your diligence and the team's diligence in ensuring that deliveries are on time, that we're meeting vendor and retailer expectations is really important in continuing to build trust, not just with the state and our players but with our team who works so diligently in supporting our mission.

So I know it hasn't been easy on your end but thank you for all your hard work on this.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR ALLEN:** Thank you. It's really been a team effort, and I want to call out Rich McNeese, Sean Longwood, Antonio Herrera, and really many more in the distribution team, field team, throughout the Lottery for assisting us through this period and setting us up on this new contract and thank you for your support today.

**CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you, Sharon. Appreciate it.

The next item on the agenda is item 9, public discussion.

Secretary, is there any public discussion cards?

1                   **MS. SARWARI:** No, we do not have anyone.

2                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you.

3                   Next on the agenda is the commissioner general  
4 discussion. Do any of the Commissioners have anything to  
5 bring up at this time for discussion?

6                   I have one thing, and I would like to invite  
7 Carolyn Becker to come up to the front.

8                   **COMMISSIONER ALVIDREZ:** You're in trouble.

9                   **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Some of you might  
10 know, but this will be Carolyn's last Commission meeting  
11 with us, so on behalf of the Commissioners and California  
12 Lottery, I want to take a moment to thank you for your  
13 extraordinary service as our deputy director of public  
14 affairs as she prepares to leave the department at the end  
15 of the month.

16                   From the moment Carolyn stepped into this role,  
17 she brought both vision and action. She took a thoughtful  
18 look at operations within public affairs and made meaningful  
19 recommendations to strengthen the division, restructuring  
20 the team, and bringing a diverse and talented group of  
21 public information officers who elevated our work across the  
22 board.

23                   Shortly after you began, the governor's office  
24 recognized your expertise and asked how to borrow you to  
25 assist in the statewide COVID-19 messaging during an

1 unprecedented and challenging time. I didn't think I was  
2 ever going to say that again. It might still be. I don't  
3 know.

4           Upon your return, you continued to lead with  
5 creativity and purpose, launching a paid media public  
6 affairs program that told our story in a very powerful way,  
7 highlighting how our resources are used by featuring real  
8 students and real teachers, and the direct impact our  
9 investments have on their lives. You've also built a public  
10 affairs team that is knowledgeable, strategic, and proactive  
11 rather than reactive.

12           You've made relationship building a priority,  
13 regularly engaging with local media and strengthening our  
14 trust and credibility on behalf of the department. You've  
15 also been a steady and generous partner to the department  
16 and the directorate, consistently assisting with press  
17 conferences, media interviews, and national conferences,  
18 ensuring that we're always prepared, confident, and well-  
19 represented.

20           Your contributions have left a lasting mark on  
21 this department. We will truly miss you and your leadership  
22 and your professionalism and your collaborative spirit.  
23 We're deeply grateful for your service and wish you nothing  
24 but best and continued success in all your endeavors.

25           Thank you, Carolyn, and you'll always be part of

1 the Lottery story.

2 **MS. BECKER:** Wow. Thank you, Commissioner. It's  
3 not often I'm speechless. Thank you so much for those kind  
4 words. Good thing I wore my waterproof mascara today. I  
5 didn't expect that. That's really lovely, and it's been an  
6 honor to be here for five and a half years.

7 I shared with you all earlier I'm taking just a  
8 professional pause to figure out where I want to go next,  
9 but this will also always be a part of my story, my  
10 professional story, my personal story.

11 That's what has kept me here as long as I've been,  
12 is the people and the dedication to our mission. This is a  
13 values-based organization, and it shows every day, and we  
14 have incredible leadership carrying that forward, and I  
15 wouldn't be making this decision for myself if I didn't have  
16 the confidence in the team behind me.

17 So thank you again. That was really nice.

18 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** Thank you, Carolyn.

19 **MS. BECKER:** Cheers.

20 **CHAIRMAN GARRISON-ENGBRECHT:** The next item is  
21 scheduled meetings. We have tentatively scheduled the next  
22 Commission meetings for March 26<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>,  
23 September 24<sup>th</sup>, and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026. All meetings will  
24 be held in Sacramento. Save the date.

25 Without any additional items, this meeting is

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adjourned.

**(MEETING ADJOURNED)**

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