

RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL OF CALIFORNIA

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2025 - 1:00 PM (Pacific)

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order, Establishment of a Quorum, and General Announcements

Panel Members present: Boris Heifets, James Gasper, Jennifer Mitchell, Kelly Lee, Daniele Piomelli, Judy Aoyagi.

Panel members absent: Martine D'Agostino.

Quorum established.

RAPC Staff Present: Tanveer Khan, Executive Officer

2. Introduction of new Panel Member

Panel Chair Jennifer Mitchell welcomed and introduced Panel Member Judy Aoyagi, the new Designee for the California Public Health Officer. Panel Member Aoyagi provided a brief overview of her background as a Pharmaceutical Consultant Specialist in pharmacy practice, regulatory compliance, and public health policy.

3. Approval of Panel Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2025

Panel Chair Mitchell asked for any changes or corrections to the October 10, 2025 Panel meeting minutes draft, and hearing none, entertained a moment to approve. Panel Member Lee moved to approve and Panel Member Heifets seconded the motion. Chair Mitchell confirmed that the meeting minutes stood approved.

4. Discussion of Changes Related to AB 1103 and SB 470

Panel Chair Mitchell thanked Assemblyman Ward for submitting and writing Assembly bill AB 1103. She explained that the bill updates the legislative language around RAPC, modernizing it and allowing for the expedited approval of protocols under certain circumstances. Panel Chair

Mitchell added that the bill also clarifies that RAPC no longer needs to review and approve studies on alcohol and substance use disorder unless these specifically involve a Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substance. Panel Chair Mitchell explained that the details regarding how the bill will change processes will be posted on the RAPC website before the end of the year. The bill will sunset in two years, but can be renewed, allowing this period to test it and make sure it is right.

Separately, Panel Chair Mitchell said SB 470 allows RAPC to continue to hold its public meetings remotely. Panel Chair Mitchell explained that this was a change made during COVID, and the bill sunsets in 2030, but allows it to be re-approved.

Panel Chair Mitchell invited questions from Panel members regarding either of the two new laws. Panel Member Gasper asked whether all Schedule III, VI, and V drugs are outside of the jurisdiction of RAPC review, no matter what they are being used for. Panel Chair Mitchell confirmed this is correct. Panel member Gasper asked what happens with studies currently approved using other schedules of drugs. Chair Mitchell responded that according to the legislative language, an annual progress report will be needed for these studies for year 2025, but going forward, RAPC will no longer need any level of reporting for that type of study.

Panel Member Piomelli asked about potential rescheduling of cannabis and if that could mean RAPC would no longer look at cannabis in the future. Panel Chair Mitchell confirmed that if cannabis is rescheduled to a schedule III, cannabis would no longer be under the purview of RAPC. Panel Chair Mitchell clarified that if any psychedelic is rescheduled as a Schedule III or below, it will no longer be under RAPC purview.

Public Comment

No public comment.

5. 2026 Panel Meeting Dates

Panel Chair Mitchell explained that during the interval since meeting dates were selected in October, some scheduling conflicts arose with requests to revisit the meeting dates for 2026. She asked Executive Officer Khan for comment. Executive Officer Khan summarized the conflicts with the meeting dates and times and proposed solutions. With no conflicts expressed or votes made to oppose the changes, the standard meeting time in 2026 was moved from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm, the meeting date for June was moved to June 19, and the meeting date for October was moved to October 16. Panel Chair Mitchell said that Panel members could check their calendars again for December and revisit that at a later time.

Public comment:

No public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

Panel Chair Mitchell, Panel Members Boris Heifets, James Gasper, Kelly Lee, Daniele Piomelli and Judy Aoyagi entered closed session under Government Code Section 11126, subd. (c)(20).

OPEN SESSION

6. Meeting Adjournment

Panel members reentered open session and roll was taken. Panel Members present: Panel Chair Mitchell, Panel Members Boris Heifets, James Gasper, Kelly Lee, Daniele Piomelli and Judy Aoyagi.

Quorum was established.

The next scheduled Panel Meeting was confirmed to be on Friday, February 13, 2026 at 1:30 pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Public Comment:

No Public comment.