

San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

c/o Tulare CAG ♦ 5961 S. Mooney Blvd. ♦ Visalia, California 93277 ♦ 559-733-6291 ♦ FAX 559-733-6720

REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL Wednesday, June 26, 2009 at 10:00 AM

PHYSICAL LOCATION OF MEETING

Council of Fresno County Governments, Sequoia Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 ♦ Fresno, CA 93721 ♦ 559-233-4148
Draft Executive Minutes

Members Attending:

Judy Case, County of Fresno, Fresno COG	Ann Johnston, City of Stockton, SJCOG
Rico Aguayo, City of Fowler, Fresno COG	Chuck Winn, City of Ripon, SJCOG
Sam Ramirez, City of Delano, Kern COG	Farrell Jackson, City of Oakdale, StanCOG
Max Rodriguez, County of Madera, MCTC	Jeff Grover, County of Stanislaus, StanCOG
Tony Barba, County of Kings, KCAG	Allen Ishida, County of Tulare, TCAG
Steve Mindt, City of Madera, MCTC	Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville, TCAG
Bill Spriggs, City of Merced, MCAG	

List of Others Attending is included as Appendix A

1. Open Meeting

A. Action: Introductions

Supervisor Rodriguez opened the meeting, roll call was taken and there was a quorum to conduct business.

B. Action: Open for Public Comments for Any Item Not on the Agenda.

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes. *Note: The general public may comment on Listed agenda items as they are considered.*

There were no public presentations.

2. Consent Items:

A. Approval of April 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2009 Conference Call Minutes and May 8, 2009 Conference Call Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Grover (Stanislaus) and seconded by Supervisor Ishida (Tulare) to approve the Consent Item as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

3. TIGER Program Update

Ted Smalley (TCAG) gave a summary of the TIGER Program. Executive staff fielded minor questions from the Council.

4. Valley Position on Potential Designation for 99

Ted Smalley (TCAG) presented the item, explaining the cost and benefits of potentially designating SR 99 as an interstate. He reported that the COG Director's voted on the item, where 6 of the COGs were in opposition of the designation and two of them were in support.

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TS/BG

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Council of
Fresno County
Governments

Kern
Council of
Governments

Kings County
Association of
Governments

Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

Tulare County
Association of
Governments

Andrew Chesley gave a report on why many COGs are not in support of this designation. Interstate designation comes with additional requirement associated with it. The level of scrutiny and responsibility is more prevalent for an interstate and therefore there are more regulatory hurdles to overcome.

Following discussions, Supervisor Grover (Stanislaus) moved, and Mayor Mindt seconded, to oppose the designation of highway 99 as an interstate. A vote was called for and the motion carried with the following dissents: Supervisor Case (Fresno), Councilmember Aguayo (Fresno), Supervisor Ishida (Tulare), Councilmember Boyer (Tulare)

5. Blueprint Update

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) reported on comments that were made by Caltrans at the Valley Planners Group, plans for Blueprint in the fourth year budget, and the Blueprint Awards.

Bill Spriggs (Merced) discussed the need for the Blueprint to have benefits, like not having to do a SEQUA.

Ms. Steck further reported that staff will be putting out an RFP for a Valleywide document.

6. SB375 Update

Andrew Chesley (SJCOG) gave an update on SB 375, explaining the various issues involved with implementation of SB 375.

7. FTIP/RTP Coordinated Effort Presentation

Cari Anderson (Anderson Consulting) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2010/2011 FTIP/RTP Process, outlining the major tasks and coordination efforts in order to comply with all requirements.

8. Regional Transit Effort

Jesse Brown (MCAG) reported on the regional transit effort, stating the need to improve transit services between counties. Mr. Brown proposed approval of the plan.

A motion was made by Mayor Ramirez (Kern) and seconded by Supervisor Barba (Kings) to approve the Regional Transit Effort plan. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Short Haul Rail Efforts – Discussion Item

Supervisor Alan Ishida (Tulare) reported on the short haul rail efforts, stating the growing need for such a system. Mr. Ishida stated it is a difficult task to organize such an effort. Mr. Ishida suggested that the Policy Council collaborate in an effort to lobby that rail is an important issue make the Valley position be known.

10. Recommended Positions on Key Legislation

Elizabeth Wright (TCAG) reported on the impacts of 3 different bills; SB 406, SB 716, and Assembly Constitutional Amendment 15.

Ms. Wright reported that Senate Bill 406 authorizes a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Council of Governments (COG), or Regional Transportation Commission to impose a surcharge of either \$1 or \$2 per registered motor vehicle within its jurisdiction for Regional Blueprint Planning or development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy as required by SB 375. This bill is supported by Calcog with a strong recommendation that the state impose the fee since SB 375 is an unfunded state mandate. Other large MPOs have taken a more firm position to support the bill only if amended to require that the state collect the fee or to oppose it altogether. It is understood from conversations with the Governor's office that he would not sign the bill if this amendment was made.

Following discussions, a motion was made by Councilmember Spriggs (Merced), and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo (Fresno) to support SB406 if amended. A vote was called for and the motion failed.

Ms. Wright reported that Senate Bill 716 would redefine “rural areas” to include those with a population of less than 500,000 as of the 2000 Census for purposes of Transportation Development Act (TDA) expenditures. The population threshold would be readjusted after each Census. The current definition of “rural areas” is based off the 1970 Census. This change will affect Fresno, Kern, and San Joaquin Counties in the Valley, defining them as urban. These counties will no longer be able to use their Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for streets and roads, and all LTF will be required to be spent on transit. An amendment is being proposed to allow an exception to the rural definition for those counties that have 4,500+ miles of maintained public roads within their jurisdiction. If this amendment is successful, Kern and Fresno counties would be exempt from this requirement. It is unclear at this time whether than amendment will be accepted.

Following discussions, a motion was made by Supervisor Ishida (Tulare), and seconded by Supervisor Grover (Stanislaus) to oppose SB 716. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wright reported that Assembly Constitutional Amendment 15 (Arambula) reduces the voter approval threshold for special transportation taxes to 55%. It is supported by the Self Help Counties Coalition and Calcog, among others. The Policy Council has approved supporting the voter threshold reduction to 55% in the adopted Legislative Platform. It was requested that the Policy Council reaffirm their position of support and authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Ramirez (Kern), and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo (Fresno) to reaffirm support for ACA-15 and authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

11. High Speed Rail Advocacy

Ted Smalley (TCAG) reported that the San Joaquin Partnership has transferred the Transportation Workgroup Effort under the purview of this Regional Policy Council. There is considerable effort taking place regarding the High Speed Rail (HSR). The bond for HSR was just approved and funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are available for HSR. Mr. Smalley recommended that members from the Regional Policy Council volunteer to work on policy advocacy for High Speed Rail.

The following Council Members volunteered to work on policy advocacy for High Speed Rail:

- Sam Ramirez
- Judy Case
- Bill Spriggs
- Ann Johnston
- Steve Mindt

12. SJV Transportation Lobbying trip to Sacramento – July 1, 2009

Tony Boren (Fresno COG) reported that Fresno COG will be traveling to Sacramento to lobby against the unfunded mandate of SB 375.

13. Other Items of Interest

There were not other items of interest presented.

14. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Friday, October 2, 2009 - 1:30 pm, Holiday Inn Downtown, Fresno (following Regional Policy Conference) (**Note:** Additional meetings or conference calls may occur as needed and will be duly noticed)

Appendix A

Others Attending:

Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Ron Brummett, Kern COG
Darrel Hildebrand, Kern COG
Terri King, KCAG
Patricia Taylor, MCTC
Jesse Brown, MCAG
Andy Chesley, SJCOG
Vince Harris, StanCOG
Ted Smalley, TCAG
Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Elizabeth Wright, TCAG
Eric Von Berg, URS Corp.
Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG
Suzanne Martinez, Fresno COG
Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans
Margie Kirn, MCAG
Candace Steelman, MCAG
Rachel Avdino, KCAG
Cari Anderson, CA Consulting
Carrie Bowen, High Speed Rail