

San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

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REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 11:00 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
Sam Ramirez, City of Delano, Kern COG	Steve DeBrum, City of Manteca, SJCOG
Michael Rubio, County of Kern, Kern COG	Jeff Grover, County of Stanislaus, StanCOG
Sid Craighead, City of Avenal, KCAG	Jim Ridenour, City of Modesto, StanCOG
Max Rodriguez, County of Madera, MCTC	Allen Ishida, County of Tulare, TCAG
Bill Spriggs, City of Merced, MCAG	Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville, TCAG
Mike Nelson, County of Merced, MCAG	

List of Others Attending is included as Appendix A

1. Open Meeting

- A. Action: Introductions
Supervisor Rubio (Chair) opened the meeting. There was a quorum present 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 June 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes and September 17, 2009 Conference Call Minutes
- A motion was made by Mayor Johnston (San Joaquin) and seconded by Supervisor Grover (Stanislaus) to approve the Consent Item as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Brownfield Grant Proposal

Jesse Brown (MCAG) gave a summary of the Brownfield Grant Proposal. COG Directors have reviewed the proposal and recommend participating with ABAG.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rodriguez (Madera) and seconded by Mayor Johnston (San Joaquin) to approve participation with ABAG. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

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

4. San Joaquin Valley Partnership Update

Mike Dozier (SJV Partnership) reported that the SJV Partnership Quarterly Meeting would take place on Thursday, October 22, 2009 with the Annual Summit to follow that would have a focus on elected officials. There is no cost for the Annual Summit.

5. High Speed Rail Update

Carrie Bowen (CHSRA) gave an update on High Speed Rail (HSR) and thanked the Council for supporting staff's recommendation in regards to the ARRA funding. She invited the Council to attend a press conference in regards to HSR tomorrow (Friday, October 2, 2009, 11:00 a.m.) at the Amtrak Station. Staff is continuing with all of the studies involved in the Merced to Bakersfield span. She stated that the next area that would require collective valleywide efforts would be support for the ARRA funding package and help with streamlining environmental and permit processes.

Ms. Bowen addressed the RFEI (Requests for Expressions of Interest) for the HSR Maintenance Yard, stating that she did not have a due date on RFEI yet. Ms. Bowen also stated that interested Cities would not have to complete an environmental document. The CHSRA would complete that as part of their environmental document

6. Blueprint Update

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) reported that staff is working diligently on the Blueprint. Current efforts are focused on getting the Valleywide Vision Document together, working on toolkits that will help jurisdictions integrate the blueprint in their general plans, and keeping an eye on AB32 and SB375 to update modeling capacities and assist jurisdictions with what implementation of these bills will mean at the local level as well as the impact on regional transportation plan development. Ms. Steck disseminated a task sheet detailing the progress of all fourth year tasks.

Ms. Steck fielded minor questions from the Council that focused on the idea of adding incentives to the project that would entice more jurisdictions to support the Blueprint.

7. Legislative Update

Candice Steelman (MCAG) gave an update on legislative issues, reporting that the Governor has not yet signed or vetoed any of the over 700 bills that were put in front of him. It is assumed that he will most likely sign SB575, but a signature on SB406 is in question. Ms. Steelman reported that when the State budget is revisited again in January, it is likely that the State Legislature will look towards transportation funding to close budget gaps, as funding has been taken from so many other areas. Ms. Steelman then reported that the federal highway bill expired and that the California Senators have not been able to get any road projects in transportation funded and are diverted efforts towards mass transit funding. Lastly, Ms. Steelman stated that staff would be asking for discussions on state and federal platforms at the November Regional Policy Council meeting.

Chairman Rubio asked that a discussion on SB406 be added to November's Agenda, which addresses the fact that, if signed, the legislation would require each valley COG Board to make a decision about whether to assess \$1 or \$2 surcharge on vehicle registration to fund the modeling costs associated with SB 575.

8. San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Endorsement of the State Route 99 Business Plan

Tony Boren (Fresno COG) gave a brief background on the item.

Malcolm Dougherty (Caltrans) reported that Mr. Allen McCuen made all of the presentations to each of Valley boards in recent months as an information item and also seeking comments on SR99 Business Plan document. The original Business Plan was approved and endorsement from this body is requested so that the Business Plan can be finalized.

Allen McCuen (formerly with Caltrans) reported that several drafts were put together and one-on-one meetings were held with each of the Valley COG directors. Comments were received and included in the document where appropriate. The document is in its final draft stage and is available on the Caltrans website.

After confirming that no time constraints existed in finalizing the document, A motion was made by Supervisor Case (Fresno) and seconded by Mayor Johnston (San Joaquin), to postpone an endorsement on the State Route 99 Business Plan until the Council's November meeting to allow time for all members to review the document. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Regional Policy Council Board Development

Chairman Rubio reported that this item was placed on the agenda in order to formalize any action that was taken during the previous session held earlier in the day. Mr. Rubio directed staff to meet with Mr. Dozier and have a discussion about the possibilities and the opportunities that exist in furthering an effort to act as one valley on a number of issues.

The moniker for the lobbying trips to Sacramento and Washington DC were discussed where it was confirmed that the moniker for the Valley trip is 'Valley Voice'. There is a Valley Voice trip to Sacramento, a Valley Voice trip to Washington and then there are individual "One Voice" trips.

A suggestion was made to find ways to reduce some of the multiple efforts that exist and to combine them. It was further suggested that staff be given direction to bring back recommendations on how to streamline advocacy and governance efforts.

Chairman Rubio directed staff to develop a 'Manifesto Paper' that clarifies the role and direction of the Regional Policy Council. Mr. Rubio asked Jesse Brown (MCAG) to meet with Mr. Briggs, as he was the developer of the original 'Manifesto Paper' idea. Mr. Rubio asked that any progress on this direction be presented at the next Council meeting.

A comment was made regarding whether or not the water issue should be discussed by each of the 8 COGs. It was suggested that every member take this issue back to their individual COGs to see if the water issue is a policy issue that should be addressed at the Regional Policy Council.

Chairman Rubio directed staff to formalize the priorities that were listed at the Development Meeting that was held previously, discuss the processes that will be involved and how to move forward with them, and start the planning process for next year's Development Meeting.

10. Other Items of Interest

Tony Boren (Fresno COG) informed the Council of minor housekeeping items related to the Fall Policy Conference to be held immediately following the meeting.

Chairman Rubio thanked Fresno COG and all of the Directors for putting all of the day's meetings and conferences together.

11. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Friday, November 20, 2009

12. ADJOURN to San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Fall Policy Conference at Holiday Inn Downtown

Appendix A

Others Attending:

Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Jesse Brown, MCAG
Ron Brummett, Kern COG
Andy Chesley, SJCOG
Vince Harris, StanCOG
Terri King, KCAG
Ted Smalley, TCAG
Patricia Taylor, MCTC
Ken Baxter, Caltrans
Carrie Bowen, CA High Speed Rail Authority
DM Cowell, SJCOG
Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans
Mike Dozier, SJV Partnership
Margie Kirn, MCAG
Suzanne Martinez, Fresno COG
Alan McCuen, Formerly with Caltrans
Jim Perrault, Caltrans
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Candice Steelman, MCAG
Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Derek Winning, MCTC