



Meeting with Transportation Secretary Kim

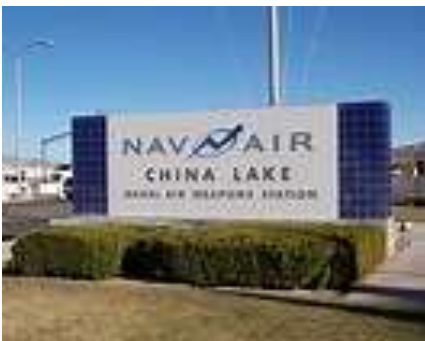
On October 1, Ahron Hakimi, Rob Ball, Becky Napier and Chairman Smith met with California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary, David Kim and Deputy Secretary for Communications, Garin Casaleggio. Issues discussed included the following:

- Governor Newsom's Executive Order (EO) N-19-19 signed on September 20, 2019. This EO calls for CalSTA to leverage \$5 billion in annual transportation spending to align the state's climate goals with transportation spending in accordance with the state's smart growth principles; reduce VMT by directing discretionary investments in support of housing near jobs; reduce congestion by encouraging people to shift from cars to other modes of transportation; and fund transportation options that reduce GHG emissions such as transit, bike and pedestrian modes.
- Funding for State Route 46.
- The Safe Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Rule. Specifically the withdrawal of the 2013 California Clean Air Act Waiver, invalidating EMFAC (used for conformity determinations) and making clear that federal law preempts state and local tailpipe Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions standards as well as Zero Emissions Vehicle Mandates.
- Potential work around for the SAFE Rule by granting all MPOs what was approved for SANDAG - extending the current RTP for two years.
- Nationally Significant Freight Routes in Kern County - Interstate 5, SR 99, and SR 58.
- California High Speed Rail issues.



Secretary Kim answered questions related to the topics of discussion, asked that more information be provided on funding for State Route 46 and on the planned San Joaquin Valley Freight Zero Study. Everyone considered the meeting a success.

China Lake Receives Aid From the Federal Government



Senator Dianne Feinstein recently announced that she has secured \$585 million to fund repairs to damaged facilities at the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake caused by the 6.4 and 7.1 magnitude earthquakes that hit July 4 and 5 of this year. House Republican Leader, Kevin McCarthy, announced that he was able to include a provision for \$100 million in the National Defense Authorization Act that passed soon after the natural disaster hit. Local leaders have been working with military and political officials at every level to ensure that China Lake is able to fulfill its critical mission for national security. The base sustained nearly \$4 billion worth of damage. The estimated cost to repair or replace infrastructure has topped \$2.2 billion and the cost to replace damaged equipment is estimated to be even higher. Senator Feinstein is quoted as saying "The base is a one-of-a-kind facility that's critical to the Navy's mission. I am told there are no other options but to rebuild China Lake".

California High Speed Rail

During a recent meeting at the Wasco Veterans Hall, Diana Gomez, Central Valley Regional Director of the California High Speed Rail Authority, presented an overview of the progress on the construction of the Bakersfield to Merced section. Gomez stated that stations are planned for Merced, Fresno, Hanford and Bakersfield. She stated "there will not be a station in Shafter or Wasco, although it is expected that Amtrak will continue to serve Wasco." Antonio Canete, representing California RR Builders LLC, the contractor building the 21-mile segment between the Kern county line and Poplar Avenue showed photos and explained the construction on that segment. He anticipated completion of the segment in 2021.



Kern River Bike Path Extension

The Kern COG Transportation Technical Advisory Committee recommended to the Kern COG Board approval of a project that will loop the eastern end of the Kern River Bike Path around the Kern River Golf Course and reconnect it to the path heading west. It will provide a continuation along the river and around the Kern River Golf Course and back to Lake Ming. The project was awarded \$464,005 in Transportation Development Act Article 3 money to be allocated by Kern COG over three fiscal years. Construction is likely to begin in summer of 2021, when the full funding amount becomes available.

In the meantime, engineers and administrators with the County of Kern have been working on devising a workable extension of the west end of the bike path and acquiring right of way that will stretch the path all the way to the Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area. Kern County Public Works Manager, Yolanda Alcantar describes the latest vision for the Kern River Bike Path as "Lake to Lake". For Bill Cooper and Rich O'Neil, co-founders of the Kern River Parkway this represents fulfillment of a dream.

Delano Police Department Receives Three Grants Totaling \$100,000

Police Chief Robert Nevarez has a burning vision for Delano: All Delano streets will be a safe venue for families to enjoy. Chief Nevarez stated "As you know, we stand committed with the Department of Justice mission to positively impact our communities youth and provide a healthy culture". Now the department is getting rewarded by the state for its push to build trust with Delano residents. At the beginning of the year, Chief Nevarez and his staff discussed different ways to increase its presence, while improving overall public safety. With that in mind the department applied for three state grants and were fortunate to receive approval on all three.



California Alcoholic Beverage Control awarded the department a \$25,000 grant to increase protection for youth while addressing problem locations that have contributed to an increase in crime. The California Office of Traffic Safety awarded a \$40,000 grant to fund various activities intended to reduce deaths and injuries on Delano's roads. The California Department of Justice awarded a \$35,000 grant to combat illegal tobacco use among minors. Two officers who have been in the forefront of the community involvement push are Community Service Officer Rafael Silva and Corporal Jose Madrigal. The two men were awarded the Jeffrey Nacua Award on October 7 by Chief Nevarez.

Upcoming Events

- November - 2019 Kern Regional Award Call for Projects
- November 6 - Kern health Wellness Fair
- November 7 - Trucking with clean Fuels conference - Fresno
- November 13 - City of Bakersfield Health Fair
- November 26 - Regional Award Nominations Due to Kern COG