



Kings County Association of Governments

339 W. "D" Street, Suite B, Lemoore, California 93245
(559) 582-3211 extension 2654 ❖ FAX (559) 924-5632
www.countyofkings.com/kcag

Member Agencies: Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, County of Kings
Chair – Ed Martin ❖ Vice Chair – Joe Neves

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Ed Martin, Chairperson, at 4:30 p.m., on January 23, 2008 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ed Martin, Joe Neves, Tony Barba, Dan Chin, Ray Lerma, Paul Marquez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Sid Craighead

STAFF PRESENT: Seth Eberhard, Victoria Hall, Terri King, Chris Lehn; Kyle Sand, County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: Judy Finney, Allison Picard, Ron Hughes, Lou Camara, Keith Bergthold, Elaine Azevedo, David Thomas, Angie Offenburger

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MINUTES – December 5, 2007

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to approve the Minutes of December 5, 2007. Motion carried with Commissioner Lerma abstaining.

KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Social Service Transportation Advisory Council Reappointments

Mr. Eberhard reported the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is a committee required by the Transportation Development Act to help identify unmet transit needs. The SSTAC represents the disabled, low income and people over the age of 60 who use public transit. For 2008 there are three members whose terms have expired and are up for reappointment. These members have been contacted and have expressed interesting serving for another 3-year term. A resident of Avenal has also expressed interest in becoming a member and would also need to be appointed.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Lerma) to reappoint Dave Nave for KART, Vince Velo for JTO and Leanne Brown for Kings County Public Health, and appoint Arlene Santino to new 3 year terms to the SSTAC. Motion carried unanimously.

2. FY 2006-07 TDA Financial Audits Extension

Ms. King stated the California Administrative code requires that each claimant of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds annually and within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year submit a report of the fiscal and compliance audit of the financial statements to the State Controller. The accounting firm of Brown Armstrong, CPAs is currently undertaking the audits and they hope to be finished soon. KCAPTA is having their own audit done and this evening there will be an item on their agenda to accept their audit, Since the audits for KCAG and the cities and have not yet been completed, we can grant up to a 90 day extension and report that to the State Controller's office.

Motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to grant an extension for the submittal of the TDA audits and that the State Controller be notified of the extension. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Final 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. King reported we are to program our fund targets for this round of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) through the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). In our discussions we have talked about funding the three state highway projects currently included in the STIP of which we need additional funds and to program construction funds for the 19th Ave. project. We needed \$350,000 for the SR 198 expressway project, however we did receive an additional \$588,000 in federal funds. So instead of using RIP funds, we will use the federal money.

In order to fund the construction costs of the 19th Ave. project which includes \$2.8 million for Caltrans construction support and \$22 million for actual construction cost, we need to ask for an advance from the CTC. Included in the 2008 RTIP we have justified the need for the advance and how we meet those criteria for the RTIP, but we won't know if the CTC can approve the advance until they receive all of the RTIPs state wide to see how much money is available.

In addition, we had some Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds originally programmed that will be shifted around. In the draft document no additional Planning Programming Monitoring (PPM) funds were proposed, however in case the advance is approved and no new funds would be available, \$75,000 is proposed in FY 11-12 for PPM.

Commissioner Martin asked how the advance works if there are any other costs. Ms. King replied we are asking for an advance from FY 2010 STIP fund target and borrowing future funds. Any new funds wouldn't be available until later years of the next STIP cycle to fund any new cost increases. Commissioner Chin asked what if construction costs exceed our advance requested. Ms. King stated that the 19th Ave. project is scheduled to begin construction and to award a contract in June 2010 and the latest cost estimates have been used.

Commission Martin opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward, he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve the final 2008 RTIP with the adoption of Resolution No. 08-01. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Caltrans Reports

Mr. Marquez reported on Caltrans's status of the Corridor System Management Plan for SR 198 expressway project. Caltrans is currently working on performance measures to assist in the needs assessment of the corridor and will be working with traffic operations. We will share that information with the project development team which is comprised of local agency staff as well as KCAG staff. In regards to the SR 198 Expressway project, the tree removal has started and we are targeting to have that complete by February 1st. Of the properties that need to be acquired, we have acquired 11 of the 59 parcels at this point. The Caltrans consultant is finalizing the design on the preferred alternative for the 12th Ave. interchange project, and the finalized design will be forwarded to Caltrans within 3 to 4 weeks for us to review. For the 19th Ave. interchange project the land consultant is working with the traffic forecast information that Caltrans recently forwarded to them to verify the configuration and Caltrans will arrange a meeting shortly with the city of Lemoore staff to discuss the project. He provided a summary of the progress on other Caltrans projects.

Mr. Marquez reported that the 2008-09 Transportation Planning Grant call for applications ended on January 11th and that Caltrans District 6 received 18 applications. The Kettleman City grant application was one of the seven Environmental Justice applications received. The grants will go through the review process first within the Caltrans District office and then to Caltrans headquarters and recommendations with then be forwarded to Business Transportation and Housing Agency for the awards which will be announced after the State budget is passed.

C. Correspondence

None

D. Staff Comments

Ms. King reports that we have successfully submitted the Environmental Justice Grant for Kettleman City, but we won't know if we received funding for a few months. We feel it is a great application and hopefully we will get funded.

E. Commissioner Comments

None

KCAG COMMISSION

A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on January 23, 2008

Commissioner Martin mentioned that if there were no objections he would like to move Item #8 up to #2 due since one of the presenters has to leave. There were no objections.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on January 23, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

2. KCAG Salary Compensation Study

Ms. King stated this board authorized in June a classification compensation review to study the appropriate job titles and salary ranges for the purpose of employee retention and recruitment for KCAG. This study was undertaken by the Human Resources Department and consisted of reviewing the Planner and Executive Secretary Positions only. However at this point only the Planner Positions have been reviewed. KCAG staff sent job specifications and salary information from various COGs throughout the Valley and then current staff sent position analysis questionnaires to Human Resources for review. The Human Resources Department presented their findings to us. The handout is the report from Human Resources Department as well as another comparison prepared by KCAG staff. These findings were presented to the KCAG Personnel Committee consisting of Ed Martin, Sid Craighead, and Tony Barba on December 5th.

Ms. Picard presented the Human Resources Department's staff report to the Commissioners with the recommendation of a 5% salary increase. Ms. King presented a report based on job specifications from other Valley COGs in a comparison study and noted that we are in direct competition with Fresno, Tulare, and Madera for personnel. Based on the additional information, KCAG Staff is recommending a 15% salary increase effective January 28, 2008, and to change the titles from Planner I – IV series to Regional Planner I – IV. Commissioner Barba noted that we have the money now, but will the money be there in the future. Ms. King stated that this and prior years there has been an excess of federal apportionment planning funds that we haven't used and we use minimal State and local funds for match. It is reasonably expected there will be future funds available to pay for salary increases.

Motion was made by and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to approve salary increase of 15% for the Planner Series I-IV effective January 28, 2008 and retitle to Regional Planner I-IV series. Motion carried, with Neves and Chin voting against.

3. Metro Rural Loop Study Participation

Ms. King introduced Keith Bergthold, Assistant Planning Director, City of Fresno who is here to discuss the Metro Rural Loop. They are the lead on a grant they received from the San Joaquin Valley Partnership to study this concept.

Mr. Bergthold gave a presentation of the Metro Rural Loop Study and asked the Commissioners to join the feasibility study. Representatives from KCAG, cities and the County will be asked to participate in the meetings with the first to be sometime in February. Commissioner Martin expressed interest in participating in the study.

A motion was made and seconded (Lerma / Barba) to recommend that KCAG participate in the Metro Rural Loop study. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Final Public Participation Plan

Ms. Lehn stated that we have been working on the Public Participation Plan (PPP) for several months now in response to the Federal mandate SAFETEA-LU. Amongst other things, SAFETEA-LU requires that COGs take additional consultations steps early in the planning process to include stakeholders and resource agencies. The 2007 RTP was found to be non SAFETEA-LU compliant in regard to the PPP component. We will be sending this plan to Federal agencies once it is approved by KCAG to have it and the RTP re-evaluated for SAFETEA-LU compliance.

The PPP details the steps that KCAG takes when we have public meetings or when we conduct our projects. The PPP also details specific steps to the RTP and Federal Transportation Improvement Program. Today is the conclusion of the 45-day public comment and review period. Comments were provided from Commissioner Barba, Proteus, and City of Hanford. Prior to the 45-day public comment period we received comments from Caltrans and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Commissioner Martin opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made and seconded (Lerma / Chin) to approve the Public Participation Plan with the adoption of Resolution No. 08-01. Motion carried unanimously.

2. FY 2007-08 OTP Amendment No. 1 – Resolution No. 08-02

Ms. King stated KCAG prepares an Overall Work Program (OWP) each year to identify the activities we do. The Merced County Association of Governments, on behalf of the eight Valley COGs submitted an application and was awarded a planning partnership grant from Caltrans to study the need for a regional transit system, called the San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study. Since it was awarded, we need to show our share of the local match funds in our FY 2007-08 OWP. A total of \$50,000 valley wide in local transportation funds are required as a match and KCAG's share of that is \$1,930. This study is proposed as Work Element 502.07 in this year's work program. We expect the project to carry over since it is so late in receiving the approval, so it will be in next year's work program as well.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to approve Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2007-08 Overall Work Program to add the San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study with the adoption of Resolution No. 08-02. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Blueprint Status Quo and Scenario Development

Ms. Lehn reported since last May the planners from all the member agencies in addition to KCAG staff have been working together to develop the Kings County Blueprint Status Quo. This is part of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint process. The Status Quo is the projected land use footprint based on information provided by local agency planners which is a "business as usual" trend based on the last 5 to 10 years. We took those trends and input them into UPlan which is a land use modeling software technique used, and produced a map based on a future population of 352,000, which is the Department of Finance's projected 2050 projection. Kings County is doing exactly what the other counties have been doing and once all the eight counties have their status quo approved, we are then going to take them and quilt them together to create a San Joaquin Valley Status Quo.

The next step is to create scenarios and once those are completed they will be compared to the base case status quo. Scenarios are "what if" planning assumptions. For example what if we choose to preserve all the existing agriculture land, how does that change our growth footprint for the year 2050. Do we consume more acres less acres. Consequently what if we decide to grow more compact, is it 15% or 20% how does that change our land use footprint. The planners have identified several preliminary scenarios. The first is the status quo which is based on the recent trends; the second is agricultural and resource protection; the third is new cities, expanded communities, and compact cities; and the fourth is economic development. The regional scenario is going to use such things as High Speed Rail and Metro Rural Loop and we will look at them valley wide to evaluate all the pros and cons of each scenario. In conclusion, staff will be going to out to the city councils and planning commissions and providing a detailed presentation of this information. We will be gathering comments and then gather the planners together and ask them to create some final scenarios. Once the scenarios are complete, we will go to a public process and in May of this year ask the public to vote on a scenario and how we want Kings County to grow.

Commissioner Neves mentioned that he would like to see a half mile buffer around the prison facilities and the two mile green belt that the county has established around LNAS.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves /Chin) to approve the Kings County Blueprint Status Quo. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Regional Housing Needs Allocation

Ms. King stated Council of Governments are charged with developing a Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (RHNA). The next effort has to be done by August 31, 2008 in time for the cities and county to do their housing elements that are due the following year. We are responsible for developing a proposed methodology for distributing the regional housing need to the county and to each city in the county. The State Department of Housing and Community Development has determined that the total regional housing needs of Kings County and its jurisdictions for the period of January 2007 through June 2014 is 11,489 total housing units. These are further broken down by income levels of very low at 22%, low at 17%, moderate at 20%, above moderate 40%. KCAG is charged with certain tasks to get this done by the August 31, 2008 deadline.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Chin) to accept the housing need determination and approve the schedule to develop and adopt the Kings County RHNA Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Winter Policy Conference

Ms. King stated the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Fall/Winter Policy Conference was rescheduled to be held in Stockton January 31st to February 1st. Information was included on registration and what the schedule is for those two days. We hope that you can attend and we will make the arrangements for you. A Policy Council meeting will be held as well. One of the items on the agenda is a session on a legislative policy for the San Joaquin Valley. Many of the COGs have "One Voice" trips planned to Sacramento and Washington, DC to specifically talk to the legislators and express their needs. They work throughout the year to identify what their list of projects are and on what they want to focus. We have scheduled a valley wide "One Voice" trip on March 12th to Sacramento and staff is looking for a KCAG representative to attend. This is an opportunity for the cities and county to present their needs to State Legislators.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None

B. Staff Comments

None

C. Commissioner Comments

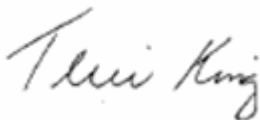
None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



Terri King, Executive Director