



# 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 – Ray Lerma ❖ Vice Chair – Dan Chin

## MINUTES

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Ray Lerma, Chairperson, at 4:32 p.m., on July 22, 2009 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California. Chairperson conducted roll call.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: David Ayers; Tony Barba; Sid Craighead; Ray Lerma; Joe Neves; John Plourde; Al Dias

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Audino; Bruce Abanathie; Seth Eberhard; Victoria Hall; Terri King; Chris Lehn; Johannah Hartley, County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: Paloma Clark, County Counsel; Greg Gatzka, Kings County Community Development Dept.; Ron Hughes Kings County Area Public Transit Agency

### UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

### MINUTES – June 24, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Barba) to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2009. Motion carried unanimously, with Lerma and Ayers abstaining.

### KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

#### A. General Transportation Items

##### 1. 511 Traveler Information System Options

Mr. Eberhard reported the 511 program provides information on traffic and weather conditions as well as public transit information. An agreement with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) could allow the San Joaquin Valley counties to be included in the baseline system at no cost. In addition, Fresno COG as the project manager for the Valley COGs presented two additional upgrade possibilities for the system. Option I – continue current service with SACOG at little to no cost, Option II – create a separate system for the Valley with start up and operating costs, and Option III – a hybrid of both with greater start up and operating costs.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to continue the support of Option I. Motion carried unanimously.

## 2. High Speed Rail Alignment and Station Alternatives

Ms. King reported the environmental process and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the Merced to Bakersfield segment of the proposed high speed rail system is underway. There have been several meetings regarding each segment. At the last High Speed Rail, Technical Assessment Group (TAG) meeting three alternative routes for the Bakersfield to Fresno segment were discussed. Attached to the agenda packet is a document which discusses possible rail alignment and station locations. Alignment A which would run along the 13th Ave. alignment in western Hanford and would have no station stop. Alignment A1 that diverts north of Corcoran to follow SR 43 would have a station stop in eastern Hanford near SR 198 and SR 43. Alignment D2 diverts north from Alpaugh to intersect at SR 198 and SR 99 in Visalia, with a stop near Visalia. It was proposed at the TAG meeting that Alignment A would be dropped from future consideration.

Ms. King stated that Tulare County has established a Rail Committee, consisting of the County of Tulare and the cities of Visalia and Tulare. They are supporting the D2 alignment and will be trying to secure a station in the Visalia area. They would accept the A1 Alignment as long as there is a rail stop somewhere in the Kings/Tulare area.

Ms. King asked the Committee what direction they want to take regarding the preferred alignments and if they wanted to form a delegation to support the A1 alignment and a station near Hanford, support the Tulare County group and support the D2 alignment with a station near Visalia, or take no position. The next meeting of the TAG is in September and the alternatives analysis process is expected to be completed in October.

Commissioner Ayers commented Hanford is in opposition to alignment A and in favor of alignment A1. He stated he believes it would be to our advantage to pursue this as opposed to taking no position. The Commissioners indicated they were in support of the A1 alignment. Commissioner Lerma suggested a letter of support for the A1 alignment. Commissioner Ayers stated he would be interested in attending the TAG meetings. Ms. King indicated she would forward a link to the High Speed Rail Authority web site and all notices for the meetings to all the Commissioners. Commissioner Lerma asked Ms. King to forward the notices to the City Managers as well.

## **B. Caltrans Reports**

Mr. Dias stated the SR 198 expressway project construction was advertised June 15th and the bid opening would be August 5th. The project could be awarded in September with construction beginning in November and expected to take 24 to 30 months to complete. He stated that the 19th Ave. and 12th Ave. interchange projects are on schedule in the design and environmental phases. He reported on planned lane closures in Kings County on southbound Interstate 5, from Quebec Ave. to southbound SR 41, and on SR 33 from SR 41 to Utica Ave. Caltrans will be announcing the Cycle 8 Safe Routes to School grant awards early next week. Caltrans will have furlough days in July 10th, 17th, 24th; and starting in August 2009 Caltrans offices will be closed the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fridays through June 2010.

Commissioner Barba asked if Mr. Gatzka knew anything about the surface mining permit for the SR 198 project. Mr. Gatzka stated that the County has been informed that about a million cubic yards of dirt will be needed for the SR 198 project. The Caltrans project manager was under the assumption that the Lakeside Irrigation District had acquired a Service Mining and Reclamation Act permit from the County. As of this date the Lakeside Irrigation District does not have a permit issued from the County. Other contractors are trying to get a permit but it is a 6 to 8 month process due to State oversight from the office of Mine Reclamation review period. Caltrans is required to have a California Mine ID number associated with any material they use on construction projects. Mr. Gatzka indicated that they are working with contractors to try to help expedite the permit. They are discussing other options as well.

**C. Correspondence**

None

**D. Staff Comments**

None

**E. Commissioner Comments**

None

**KCAG COMMISSION**

**A. General Commission Items**

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on July 22, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Craighead) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on July 22, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Areawide Planning Review No. 09-06 Self Help Enterprises  
USDA Rural Development: Rural Housing Reservation Grant

Mr. Eberhard stated Self Help Enterprises is applying for an \$110,000 grant for very low income housing repair and providing \$250,000 from State funds. We have received comments from City of Hanford, Kings County Department of Public Works and Department of Public Health, stating this project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their existing programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Craighead) to ratify comments of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 09-06. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Areawide Planning Review No. 09-07 Pacific West Communities  
USDA Rural Housing Services: Rural Rental Housing Loans

Mr. Eberhard stated Pacific West Communities is applying for a \$1,000,000 grant for Senior Apartments in Lemoore and providing \$13,281,906 from State Funds. We have received comments from City of Hanford, Kings County Department of Public Works and Department of Public Health, stating this project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their existing programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Craighead) ratify comments of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 09-07. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FY 2009-10 Budget Amendment No. 1

Ms. King stated in May 2009 the FY 2009-10 Overall Work Program (OWP) and budget for transportation and regional planning activities was adopted. There are two new projects that will need additional funding in the budget. The Triennial Performance Audit covering KCAG, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency and Corcoran Area Transit for the period of FY 2006-07 through FY 2008-09 is due this year. The estimated cost of this audit is \$35,000 to be funded with Local Transportation Funds (LTF). The other project is for consulting costs to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan. The estimated consulting cost is \$100,000 which will be funded with \$80,000 from federal planning funds and \$20,000 in local LTF funds.

A motion was made and seconded (Plourde / Neves) to approve Amendment No. 1 of the FY 2009-2010 budget to include funding for consulting services to prepare the Triennial Performance Audits and the RTP Environmental Impact Report. Motion carried unanimously.

5. 2009 Legislative Update – July

Ms. Lehn discussed SB 716 which would allow Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to be claimed for farm worker vanpool purposes and be considered in the unmet transit needs process before funds could be apportioned for streets and roads. It would also update the definition of urban and rural counties which would be done with the decennial censuses regarding those counties that could not use LTF for road purposes. The Valley Councils of Governments and several Valley counties have been working with the Senator to make this bill less detrimental to the Valley. There is no progress to report at this time.

Commissioner Lerma asked how the farmworker vanpools are currently being funded. Ms. Lehn stated they are currently being funded by the KART program which Mr. Ron Hughes developed. It does not use local funds, but federal funds and other sources of revenue.

Mr. Hughes stated that the program uses farm worker vanpools and vanpools by others and have combined those projects so we can use vans from one to the other. What the legislation looks at is the fact that if you just did farmworker vanpools that in itself isn't enough to cover the cost of the vans, but there are grants out there that have been set up to allow other counties to start a farm worker vanpool project. They are only doing a farmworker vanpool project, so the concern is at the end of the life of those vans there are no funds to replace them; the grants are for the operational cost not the capital costs. Mr. Hughes stated he could not advise supporting or not supporting the bill.

6. NAS Lemoore Joint Land Use Study

Ms. Lehn reported the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) sponsors a community planning assistance program, the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) program. This helps military installations and their neighboring communities identify encroachment issues. Last year during Lemoore's general plan update efforts, a strong need to consider the encroachment threat to Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore was identified. The respective planning agencies from NAS Lemoore, the city of Lemoore, County of Kings, and County of Fresno have all come together and agreed to pursue a JLUS with NAS Lemoore. KCAG has been identified as the project sponsor and would be writing the grant application, providing administrative services, and preparing quarterly reports.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to authorize the KCAG Executive Director to submit the NAS Lemoore Joint Land Use Study application and if awarded, enter into a contract agreement with the Office of Economic Adjustment. Motion carried unanimously.

7. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Program

Ms. Lehn stated this is the 4th year of implementation for the Blueprint. The Valley COGs would like to highlight those existing projects that exemplify smart growth policies and practices. There are three categories of awards that will be given and include planning, policy, and projects. Applications are due by August 21 and awards will be presented at the Fall Policy Council meeting in October.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Correspondence**

None

**B. Staff Comments**

Ms. King indicated the next meeting items would include the Overall Work Program Amendment and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal for FY 09-10.

**C. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Barba indicated the next meeting schedule might conflict with County Budget meetings. Commissioner Ayers expressed interest in forming a committee for High Speed Rail. Commissioner Neves requested that the high speed rail item be brought back to the Transportation Policy Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director