



# Kings County Association of Governments

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

## MINUTES

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 4:32 p.m., on March 25, 2009 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Barba, Dan Chin, Sid Craighead, Mary Hornsby, Ray Lerma, Joe Neves, Malcolm Dougherty

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Audino, Victoria Hall, Terri King, Christina Lehn, David Hamilton County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: Roman Benitiz, Willard Rodarmel, James Jepson

### UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

### MINUTES – February 25, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2009. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Chin and Lerma abstaining.

### KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

#### A. General Transportation Items

##### 1. 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment No. 4

Ms. King reported last month there was an amendment to the FTIP adding in funds that were provided by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. We can now program projects against those funds for the sub-allocated apportionment. The revised apportionment is \$3.2 million for local road projects and \$2.2 million for transit projects to Corcoran Area Transit and KCAPTA. Member agencies agreed on a gas tax formula for distribution of the \$3.2 million for local roads. Those local agencies came up with project lists which meet the criteria for federal funds. These projects can be 100% federally funded and you can add local funding as well. This FTIP amendment includes local road rehabilitation project utilizing \$3.2 million in federal ARRA funds, \$810,000 in local funds from the cities, and \$200,000 from the county.

There are also three ARRA funded transit projects, including diesel bus replacements and data terminals for KCAPTA and one for Corcoran to purchase buses and equipment.

In addition to the local projects, Caltrans is proposing to use the State's ARRA funds for a highway maintenance project for an overlay on various locations between SR 33 and SR 41 near Cholame for \$3.2.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Barba) to approve the 2009 FTIP Amendment No. 4 to program projects using the ARRA funds with the adoption of Resolution 09-04. Motion carried unanimously.

## 2. American Recovery Reinvestment Account Funds

Ms. King stated that in addition to the sub-allocated ARRA funds, there are additional ARRA funds available to Kings County for transportation projects. According to current legislation the remainder of these funds is to be distributed through the STIP formula process. However, there is a bill racing through the Senate and Assembly to change the law to have the funds instead go through the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) process. This would provide more flexibility but less funding. According to the bill there is \$2.6 billion coming to the State, with 62.5% to go to the regions distributed by population according to the RSTP formula and 37.5% to the State.

The bill also discusses if a region wants to swap these funds to be used on a stalled bond project, such as SR 198, we would be repaid at a later date with bond money for an eligible project. Even though our two interchange projects are not part of the bond project they are on SR 198, which has a Corridor Systems Management Plan that was required for the bond funds. The 19th Ave. project is in need of right-of-way funds. We could do a STIP amendment to move STIP money to right-of-way and utilize the repaid bond funds for construction to get that project moving because the time line fits the criteria for the ARRA money. The 12th Ave. project is not quite as far along to fit into the criteria of when the funds must be awarded. With the existing process, we are required by Friday to submit what we are proposing for ARRA funding on STIP projects. Tulare has proposed to commit up to \$10 million of their share and we are working with Caltrans partnering to get as much money as we can to get this project under construction.

Mr. Dougherty stated he wanted to make clear the repayment of the stimulus. If we use our economic stimulus on the bond project the repayment comes back in programming authority. The amount of money you can reprogram on another project it is not going to be cash back.

In response to a question from Commissioner Craighead, Ms. King stated that Caltrans is seeing what it can do with their stimulus funds and that we submitted a list of projects to the Business Transportation and Housing (BT&H) Agency for the stimulus money through the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The Policy Council is responsible for the transportation project list which was submitted last Friday to the BT&H and is considered as a safety net if additional ARRA funds become available. We submitted the SR 198 project to the State for ARRA money to the BT&H, but there is not very much money available and there are a lot of projects needing money.

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Barba) to approve the commitment of ARRA funds for the SR 198 Expressway project to supplant Prop. 1B funds to be programmed in the next FTIP amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

3. FY 2008-09 California Transit Assistance Fund Designation

Ms. King stated that Prop. 1B created a \$1 billion Transit System Safety, Security and Disaster Response Account. These funds are distributed to local transit agencies as the California Transit Assistance Fund (CTSF) via the State Transit Assistance (STA) formula which is population and revenue based. For FY 08-09 the total amount available is \$178,723 which would be distributed between KCAPTA and the City of Corcoran. KCAG are the authorized agents designated to receive these funds through the population formula.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to adopt Resolution No. 09-05 designating the KCAG Executive Director as the authorized agent for the California Transit Assistance Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Caltrans Reports**

Mr. Dougherty reported that the proposed legislation to change the economic stimulus fund distribution in California went to the Senate on Monday and was approved 36 to 0. It is being discussed in the legislature today and supposed to be voted on tomorrow. That proposed legislation would give 37.5% of the \$2.57 billion economic stimulus in the State of California to Caltrans; \$625 million would be going to the SHOPP. Generally speaking the San Joaquin Valley did very well in the overall list of projects and all told there is approximately \$120 million of SHOPP projects for the San Joaquin Valley, which is a much larger share than we typically see in the state wide funds being distributed. Of the remaining \$300 million which is under the discretion of Caltrans, we are planning on placing that on stalled bond projects. There is a very short list of projects that is being considered for those funds. About six projects, including the SR 198 project, is on that list of projects and it would take the State of California, Caltrans, King County and Tulare County to pool their economic stimulus funds to get the SR 198 project moving and we are looking at potentially some \$50 million from the state stimulus to add to Kings and Tulare to get that going. We will find out soon as far as that list being approved by the Secretary whether or not SR 198 will move forward. If it is not the beneficiary of economic stimulus it will still be funded by bond money funds, but there is some uncertainty when those bond funds will be available.

Mr. Dougherty reported that the State of California Treasury went out to test the market on selling bonds this week to see if there would be a market for \$4 billion worth of bonds. They were pleasantly surprised that they sold \$6.5 billion worth of bonds in a very short amount of time. That was a very positive sign that it frees up the opportunity for some infrastructure funds. Of course now the fight will begin if the bond funds go to transportation or whether it goes to other infrastructure.

**C. Correspondence**

Ms. King noted the handout for the California Transportation Commission's Town Hall meeting scheduled in Bakersfield, for April 22nd. Commissioner Neves pointed out is on the same day as our next regularly scheduled meeting. She stated that the meeting is an opportunity for representatives from the Kern, Fresno, Kings and Tulare region to provide an overview of goods movement concerns, freight rail activities and growth impacts. There is also time at the end for individuals to talk about specific county issues. The city managers and County CEO office have been notified requesting if they would like any elected official to speak. Commissioner Neves stated if any members felt the need to address any issues, he suggested working with KCAG to draft a letter which could be read into their agenda.

**D. Staff Comments**

None

**E. Commissioner Comments**

None

<b>KCAG COMMISSION</b>
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**A. General Commission Items**

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on March 25, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Chin / Barba) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on March 25, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Regional Blueprint Scenario

Ms. Lehn stated we have been discussing the Blueprint scenarios for several months and on April 1st elected officials from the eight county San Joaquin Valley Policy Council will be coming together. They will be meeting in Fresno and adopting a regional blueprint and also the smart growth principals which are included as a handout. She summarized the four scenarios and their different residential densities and stated that KCAG staff in the last few weeks has made several presentations to elected officials throughout our county. Provided as a handout was a letter from the King County General Plan Advisory Committee that recommended either scenario B or B+, which was based on locally defined regional growth inputs of the Kings County Preferred Scenario and referenced the substantial amount of effort that went into recent local General Plan Updates. Ms. Lehn also noted that the Corcoran City Council and Planning Commission have both officially endorsed B or B+ scenarios, and attendees of the City County Coordinating meeting also supported scenarios B or B+. Ms. Lehn noted that the other handout is a matrix of supported smart growth principles that each County has identified.

A motion was made and seconded (Lerma / Hornsby) to recommend scenario B+ with B as an alternate scenario to take to the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2009 Fall Policy Conference

Ms. King reported the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Fall Policy Conference will be held October 1 and 2, 2009 in Fresno at the Holiday Inn.

4. CalCOG Regional Issues Forum

Ms. King reported the CalCOG's Regional Issues Forum will be held in Monterey April 30 and May 1, 2009. She noted that there are some important items on the agenda, including Regional Targets Advisory Committee and Strategic Growth Council, public transit funding, implementation of SB 375, and the impact of new and upcoming Federal Legislation and Regulations on California. Commission Barba commented on the price of the conference considering the financial state we are in now.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### A. Correspondence

None

### B. Staff Comments

Ms. King discussed the Joint Land Use Study between LNAS, Kings and Fresno Counties. Grant funding was available for this project and KCAG has offered and been accepted to administer the grant, which would be funded through the grant for us to pay the bills for any consultants and prepare the quarterly financial status reports. We have just been provided with sample applications and will be writing the application with the assistance of the stakeholders soon. There have been discussions of who should be on the voting committee with four identified so far and another member to be added. It was recommended perhaps the Farm Bureau or Economic Development Commission be a fifth voting member. Membership on a Technical Committee was also discussed. Commissioner Neves suggested Westlands Water District or Kings River Irrigation District be involved.

Ms. King reported that there are some High Speed Rail workshops being held around the Valley and Ms. King attended as a private citizen and discussed topics from that workshop.

### C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Craighead stated he was appointed to the California Partnership to the San Joaquin Valley and attended the Partnership meeting last week and discussed items from that meeting. Water was one of the main topics and UC Merced is having their first graduating class and they are working with other cities to keep the new doctors in the Valley.

Commissioner Neves stated there was another accident at Whitley Ave. and SR 43 and rumble strips were discussed as part of a safety improvement.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director