



# 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 4:33 p.m., on April 22, 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, Paul Marquez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Audino, Seth Eberhard, Terri King, Christina Lehn, David Hamilton County Counsel

VISITORS PRESENT: None

### UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

### MINUTES – March 25, 2009

A motion was made and seconded (Craighead / Chin) to approve the Minutes of March 25, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

### KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

#### A. General Transportation Items

##### 1. FY 2009-2010 Transportation Development Act

Mr. Eberhard stated that the FY 2009-10 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) funding is estimated to be \$3 million and that there is no State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. Claims were received by KCAG prior to the April 1st deadline. Allocations will be revised after the 2009 population estimates are released on May 1st. Revised claim forms will be sent out after that time. Mr. Eberhard presented the detailed review of the LTF application and claim summaries from applicants.

Chairperson Neves opened the public hearing for unmet transit needs. There being no testimony provided, the hearing was continued until the May 27th meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments. Mr. Eberhard indicated that there was no testimony at the KCAPTA meeting on March 25th nor have there been any written comments submitted to KCAG.

Mr. Eberhard stated that the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) has met and discussed unmet transit needs and the status of current transportation services by transit operators. The SSTAC will meet following the close of the comment period. The approval of apportionments, claims, and unmet transit needs determinations is scheduled to take place at the June meeting.

2. FY 2008-09 Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds

Ms. King indicated that Caltrans has provided the FY 2008-09 apportionment of federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to KCAG as \$1,259,755. These funds can be traded for nonfederal dollars at a one to one exchange rate. In order to do this, a resolution must be made authorizing the Executive Director to sign an agreement with Caltrans for the apportionment of the regional funds. The exchanged fund will be distributed to the County of Kings and the incorporated cities based on an agreed upon formula.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to adopt Resolution No. 09-06, authorizing the Executive Director to sign the agreement for the exchange of FY 2008-09 STP funds for nonfederal dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Federal Transportation High Priority Project Request

Ms. King stated that, in anticipation of the expiration of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) in September 2009, the U.S. House of Representative Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is requesting the submittal of High Priority Projects (HPP) to be considered for inclusion into the bill that will replace SAFETEA-LU. The 12th Avenue and 19th Avenue interchanges, which are currently in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), are projects staff is considering submitting to Congressman Jim Costa. These projects are programmed in later years of the STIP and staff anticipates that more funding for the projects will be needed due to a potential delay because of the State budget problems and thus an increase in cost. Ms. King indicated that requests must be sent to Congressman Costa by Friday, April 24th.

Ms. King distributed three draft letters of support for HPP funds submittals from the City of Hanford for the 12th Ave. interchange in the amount of \$5 million, the City of Lemoore for the 19th Ave. interchange in the amount of \$3 million, and the County of Kings in the amount of \$5.3 million dollars for regionally significant farm-to-market road rehabilitation. In addition, the San Joaquin Valley COGs have agreed to support funding for SR 99 projects. Ms. King indicated this attached letter of support was for information only.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Chin) to approve letters of support for the three project submittals of High Priority Projects to Congressman Costa. Motion carried unanimously.

## **B. Caltrans Reports**

Mr. Marquez stated that funding for the SR 198 Expressway is delaying the start of the advertisement for construction. The project will not be receiving any ARRA funding. Caltrans is waiting for bond funds to become available for this project. Uncertainty about when bond funding will be available is preventing Caltrans from providing a construction date. Mr. Marquez also stated that Caltrans, to avoid entering the political realm, cannot provide letters of support for the projects being suggested to Congressman Costa for inclusion in the legislation replacing SAFETEA-LU.

Mr. Marquez continued by discussing the status of 12th Avenue project. Caltrans is currently in the Environmental Document phase and are evaluating configuration of the eastbound off-ramp at the southeast quadrant of the interchange. Caltrans is anticipating that document will be approved sometime around October 2009.

For the 19th Avenue project, Caltrans staff has met with the city of Lemoore to discuss utility relocation, drainage, and right-of-way issues. Right-of-way certification should occur around September 2009.

The deadline for the state's Safe Routes to School program was April 15. District 6 received 46 applications for this year's allocation of \$3.4 million of Safe Routes to School funding, of which two were from Kings County. One of the applications from Kings County was for the construction of pedestrian and bicycle improvements at Garden Side School for \$754,000. Additionally, the City of Lemoore submitted an application for curb extensions, signage, and speed displays at Liberty Elementary, Cinnamon Elementary, Meadow Lane Elementary, Lemoore Elementary, and PW Engvall Elementary for \$270,000. The District will review and score the applications at the end of April. These will then be submitted to headquarters where successful applications will be announced. The exact time of the announcement is at this point unknown but staff will report back with more information.

Member Hornsby inquired about the status of the traffic study at SR 41 and Bush Street in Lemoore. Mr. Marquez indicated that Caltrans has been working with the City of Lemoore planning and public works staff on interim and long term improvement strategies.

## **C. Correspondence**

Ms. King presented a letter from the California Department of Transportation Division of Rail regarding the availability of the California State Rail Plan, which is now available online. Questions or comments are being accepted via email.

## **D. Staff Comments**

Ms. King indicated that staff is still looking at the option of putting the \$3 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds toward the SR 198 Expressway project, but there are still questions about the eligibility of bond money for other projects.

Ms. King indicated that staff is currently in Bakersfield attending the CTC Town Hall meeting to give a presentation on Kings County that outlines the state and highway projects (both current and future priorities), funding availability issues, the challenge of keeping project costs down when programming in multiple STIP years, and the success of the vanpool program.

Ms. King reported that KCAG has received the agreements from Caltrans for the Environmental Justice grant for the Kettleman City Community and Safety Study. Staff will begin work on this project shortly.

**E. Commissioner Comments**

None

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

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

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

1. Regional Blueprint Update

Ms. Lehn provided an overview of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council meeting on April 1st. The Policy Council voted to approve the B+ Scenario and the Smart Growth Principles. Members Craighead and Barba were present at this meeting. Ms. Lehn indicated that the B+ Scenario is an amalgamation of the eight San Joaquin Valley counties' locally-preferred scenarios that was combined by UC Davis. Extensive public outreach was done to select these eight scenarios. Ms. Lehn provided a handout of the Smart Growth Principles, a representation of the B+ scenario, and an outline of the tasks that will be undertaken during the fourth year grant for Blueprint implementation.

2. Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Funding Request

Ms. King stated that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley was established by Governor Schwarzenegger to create advocacy for Valley programs and projects. It is a public/private organization with Sid Craighead serving as the KCAG representative. Partnership Staff is current housed at the Fresno State campus with Mike Dozier serving as the Director. Staff funding for the partnership was initially provided by the State of California; however, funding for the Partnership is not in the FY 2009-2010 State budget.

The Partnership is requesting funding from the COGs to address a \$142,000 budgetary shortfall. KCAG's portion of this would be \$5,500 with each of the incorporated cities and the County of Kings being responsible for funding a share of the sum. Ms. King distributed materials with the Partnership's budget and some documents detailing the success of the Partnership since its inception. Ms. King indicated that COG funding for the partnership cannot come out of existing state and federal transportation planning funds and instead it has from come from general fund shares from the local agencies.

Mr. Dozier spoke regarding the Partnership's status. He indicated that the Partnership was originally funded with \$5 million from the state and will run out at the end of June. The Partnership is seeking funding from a variety of sources, including grants. COG funding of the Partnership would send a powerful message to the state, who is interested in seeing the Partnership obtain funding through and collaborate with local agencies.

Ms. King asked whether the COG funding would support all ten work groups of the Partnership or if it would just support the transportation work group. Mr. Dozier stated that it would fund the Office of the Secretariat who will work with the work groups to meet their budgeting needs. Mr. Dozier indicated that nine out of the ten work groups are prepared to continue working without any funding. Mr. Dozier also stated that communication and legislative advocacy would continue through the Partnership. The Partnership assembled the Regional Economic Recovery Work Plan as requested by the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency in preparation for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He also indicated that the Partnership intends to continue this role in the future.

Ms. King asked if the Partnership plans on seeking state funding in the future, or if the COGs would be asked for funding every year. Mr. Dozier stated that, at this point, they do not anticipate asking the COGs for funding in the future.

Mr. Barba asked if the funding requests of Kings County would get proportionally larger with time if the COGs continued to provide funding for the Partnership. Mr. Dozier said that the Partnership does not anticipate asking for funding in the future. The Partnership is being touted across the state as an example of regional cooperation.

Chairperson Neves asked if the Partnership's request has been turned down by any of the other COG boards. Mr. Dozier indicated that the only other COG board they have been to is Fresno's, who unanimously approved the request. The item was also presented at the Madera Transportation Commission earlier that day, but Mr. Dozier did not know the result of that meeting.

Commissioner Hornsby indicated that the current economic environment might make it difficult for cities to commit to providing funding to the Partnership. Ms. King indicated that, if approved, the funding would be included into the 2009-2010 Budget and Work Program. The funding of the Partnership would be an increase to the draft budgets already submitted to the cities and the County of Kings. Mr. Chin stated that, although the City of Hanford is trying to save money, they would be willing to support the Partnership if it received a majority vote.

The Commission decided to table the item until next month in order to give time for each Commissioner to canvass the opinions of their local staff. Approval of the funding would be in conjunction with the approval of the 2009-2010 Budget and Work Program. It would also be contingent on the majority approval of the other COGs' funding requests.

3. Area wide Planning Review No. 09-01 Caltrans Div. of Transportation Planning – FY 09-10 Federal Planning Funds

Mr. Eberhard reported Caltrans is applying for a complete grant for FY 09-10 Federal Planning Funds of \$40,788,933, the Division of Transportation Planning will be providing a local match of \$5,284,638. The City of Hanford and City of Hanford Public Works commented that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to ratify comments of staff and other reviewers regarding Area wide Planning Review No. 09-01. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Area wide Planning Review No. 09-02 Caltrans Div. of Transportation Planning – FY 09-10 Federal Transit Planning and Research Funds

Mr. Eberhard reported another Caltrans application for Federal Funds of \$16,572,401 with an additional local match of \$2,147,132 from the Division of Transportation Planning in addition to the requested funding. This will be applied towards the Transit Planning and Research Program. The City of Hanford and City of Hanford Public Works commented that it does not duplicate or conflict with their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to ratify comments of staff and other reviewers regarding Area wide Planning Review No. 09-02. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Area wide Planning Review No. 09-03 Caltrans Div. of Transportation Planning – FY 09-10 State Planning and Research Studies

Mr. Eberhard reported another Caltrans application for Federal Funds of \$6,059,625 with a \$1,514,906 local match for FY 0-09 State Planning and Research Studies. This is for Regional Blueprint Planning statewide with \$5 million and a Partnership Planning Grant Program match of \$1,059,625. The City of Hanford and City of Hanford Public Works commented that it does not duplicate or conflict with their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Lerma) to ratify comments of staff and other reviewers regarding Area wide Planning Review No. 09-03. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2010 Census Complete Count Committee

Ms. Lehn indicated that she prepared this item at the request of the Chair. Ms. Lehn stated that, in preparation for the 2010 Census, local jurisdictions form Complete Count Committees. These are volunteer organizations that are established by a tribe, local government, or community leaders to increase awareness about the census and mobilize community responses. Committees usually include individuals from different cross sections or the community. These individuals then work to design and implement a plan.

Committees are formed by the highest elected official in a particular area. The jurisdictions of Corcoran, Lemoore, and Avenal have begun work on their Complete Count Committees. Mr. Craighead inquired as to whether or not the City of Hanford has organized a committee. Mr. Chin indicated that, at this time, they have not. Chairperson Neves stressed the importance of having all citizens participate in the Census. Ms. King stated that KCAG encourages all local jurisdictions to have a committee as transportation funding apportionments to Kings County are based on the Census population.

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
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**A. Correspondence**

None

**B. Staff Comments**

Ms. King stated that next month the adoption of the 2009-2010 Overall Work Program and Budget, the conclusion of the Transportation Development Act and the Unmet Needs Hearing, and the election of chair and vice chair will be on the agenda next month.

**C. Commissioner Comments**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director