



ITEM 1

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Location:
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

Directors	MPOs
Patricia Taylor	Madera County Transportation Commission
Terri King	Kings County Association of Governments
Elisabeth Hahn for Rosa Park	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Tony Boren	Fresno Council of Governments
Stacie Guzman	Merced County Association of Governments
Ted Smalley	Tulare County Association of Governments
Terri King	Kings County Association of Governments
Ahron Hakimi	Kern Council of Governments
Andrew Chesley	San Joaquin Council of Governments

Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 7, 2020 Directors' Meeting

P. Taylor

There was a motion to approve the May 7, 2020 Directors' Committee Minutes.

First Motion: Andy Chesley
Second Motion: Ahron Hakimi
Motion Carried

Madera County
Transportation
Commission
Patricia Taylor - Chair

Kings County
Association of
Governments
Terri King - Vice Chair

Tulare County
Association of
Governments
Ted Smalley

Kern
Council of
Governments
Ahron Hakimi

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<http://sjvcogs.org>



Stanislaus
Council of
Governments
Rosa Park

Merced County
Association of
Governments
Stacie Dabbs

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments
Andrew Chesley

Fresno
Council of
Governments
Tony Boren

2001 Howard Rd, Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637



DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. **MPO Activity During Coronavirus**

P. Taylor

Chair Taylor guided discussions about coronavirus measures and activities among MPOs. Madera is still working remotely but are staggering hours, while keeping physical distancing and continuing with online meetings through June. Ahron Hakimi reported that Kern COG is slowly bringing back employees starting Monday but only allowing half of total staff a day. They have encouraged telecommuting twice a week. Stacie Guzman reported that MCAG offices will remain closed to the public through July. In addition, they have implemented physical distancing in the office, and they are working on staggered schedules. Andy Chesley noted SJ COG opened to the public on Monday, but they have since closed it down again. They will reopen in a week and a half and expect a modified work schedule. Ted Smalley noted that TCAG will be opening office doors June 15. They are slowly bringing back employees and encouraging telecommuting twice a week. Tony Boren reported Fresno COG staff reported back as of Wednesday. Elisabeth Hahn noted they are able to have all staff in the office and still keep social distancing.

3. **Guest Speaker: Egon Terplan, Senior Advisor to Governor Newsom**

Egon Terplan, Senior Advisor to Governor Newsom, applauded the group for their efforts of encouraging telecommuting in their offices and discussed the importance of continuing these efforts in the future. Egon discussed Regions Rise Together and the roles of MPOs In The Economic Recovery of California. He noted a launch of an economic recovery strategy for Bakersfield and Kern County with a range of industries and strategies. It is important for COGs to be key participants in economic recovery discussions. Egon noted the governor established a task force for economic recovery and asked for COGs to share their regional data, in order to see where there are declines and growth in their respected areas. Discussion ensued.

4. **RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality Update and Discussion**

R. Niblock

Ryan Niblock reported that the 2018 SCS has been approved for Fresno County and the rest of the counties are in process of being approved. He noted that because the 2014 SCS and the 2018 SCS are similar, CARB should be moving quicker to approval. Last week CARB held a webinar on the third round of SCS submittal packages. CARB will have separate meetings with the Valley to help identify what data requests are reasonable. Ryan mentioned that he and CARB have a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday to discuss EMPAC 17 conformity determination challenges and identify potential solutions. The 2021 FTIP decided to move forward with option 1 that was discussed in the meeting last month. Option 1 would push back the FTIP schedule by five months and would be due March 1st, 2021 and final approval of the 2021 FTIP would be by April 16, 2021. Andy Chesley asked how the groundwork efforts are coming along with the 2022 SCS. Ryan noted that CARB will be send their liaison to observe some of the public meetings. Tom Jordan added that EPA proposed approval for extension for 2016 2.5 Plan earlier in this spring. He noted that they need to publish the approval by the end of the month, or it will move the counties into a five percent plan. They have been working with EPA staff to answer any questions.

5. **California Transportation Funding**

P. Taylor

Program and Project Funding Updates:

- ***Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (SJCOG & MCAG)***

Patricia Taylor reported that Caltrans is submitting for the SR 99Tulare and Madera projects. Ahron Hakimi reported that they are also working on an application for the SR 46 project and they submitted it to Caltrans within the last week. They are looking for a letter of support from the COG directors and the elected officials. Patricia suggested for Michael prepare a letter for all the individual application once that information becomes available.

Ryan noted that the Port of Stockton is trying to put an application together and he is working with staff to see what eligible.

- ***Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (Fresno COG)***

Andy Chesley reported that SJ COG was not ready to submit an application at this time. No other updates were provided

- ***State Transportation Improvement Program***

Ted Smalley advocated keeping as many projects in the Valley on schedule as possible and suggested preparing ahead of time so projects can be delivered on schedule. Patricia Taylor concurred on moving projects forward. Andy Chesley commented on Passenger Rail activity and other efforts.

- ***ATP Cycle 5 Call-for-Projects (due June 15)***

No updates were provided

6. SJV REAP Committee for Housing

R. Phipps/M. Sigala

Receive Update

Robert Phipps reported that correspondence was sent out regarding HCD master funding agreement for the first 25 percent application. The master agreement was delayed at the accounting and legal department at HCD because of language stated that the state can withdraw funds because of the revised budget. Since then, HCD has communicated that the governor's budget does not show any indication of eliminating those funds. HCD has not provided a master agreement but it is expected next week. Robert reported that the second application for \$5.5 million was filed last month. HCD commented and is now requesting a resolution to accompany the application. This will be on the working group's agenda for the June 26th meeting. The two applications total about \$11 million of the \$18.5 million coming to the Valley. A third application would be needed for the remaining funds. Robert also noted that there is an RFP out for a project manager. Andy Chesley briefly discussed the regional work done in the San Joaquin County pertaining to priorities and funding. Michael Sigala noted that he and Robert are working on a draft agenda for the REAP meeting on June 26.

Paul McDougal briefly discussed the LEAP program and noted that the deadline to submit an application is July 1. There are about 50 applications submitted and the goal is to have all 539 jurisdictions in the state to apply. Liaisons have been set up for each jurisdiction to assist in submitting an application. There were discussions about emails being sent to the local jurisdictions and getting the message out. Bill Higgins reported that there is a language in the Trailer Bill that would extend the LEAP deadline to the end of the year, however, the bill is still pending.

7. Regional Policy Council

M. Sigala

Discuss Agenda Items for June 26, 2020 Meeting

Michael Sigala briefly reviewed the proposed agenda and asked the Directors for their input. Stacie Guzman commented on Valley Voice and suggested identifying a federal platform and narrowing the focus on only a few items and pinpointing other opportunities. The directors seemed to concur and further discussion ensued. No other input was provided.

8. Administrative

M. Sigala

Review and Approve Meeting Calendar for FY 2020-21

Michael Sigala reviewed the FY 2020-21 meeting calendar for the Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee and opened up the meeting for any input.

9. I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study

A. Hakimi

Receive Update

Linda Urata gave a quick update and noted that they expect a report in July that emphasis on the freight patterns they have been studying for the past few months.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. Caltrans Directors' Report

S. Ehlert/D. McElhinney

Sharri Ehlert, District 6 Director, noted that they are continuing to telework and don't have an official opening yet. Sharri mentioned they have processed and exempted three projects for SB 743 analysis, which include, 1) South Madera six lane widening 2) South Fresno Interchange 3) 99 rehab project. The fourth project, Tulare 99 widening, is still in process for exemption. Sharri noted she only has two weeks left and there is no word of her replacement. Michael Navarro noted that the SB 743 analysis they are using is out for comment and they expect feedback by June 17.

Dan McElhinney, District 10 Director, highlighted 580-205 Altamont Pass. This month they will provide a letter to the working group with key topics.

Ken Baxter reminded the directors the California Transportation Plan 2050 schedule is to be presented to CTC on June 23 and they hope to go public on June 24 for a 45-day review. They expect to have a final document available by December of this year. In addition, Ken reported that he is planning to retire on June 30.

11. California High Speed Rail

D. Gomez

Diana Gomez reported construction has continued through the Covid pandemic and are averaging about 600 worker per week. Diane noted they will be opening some roads in Madera County. Diana mentioned the business plan that was due in April was pushed back because of Covid. As a result, they are adding additional language as to how they are going to move forward with design and environmental work due to Covid. Diana noted they circulated several environmental reports and more is to be expected in the near future.

12. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail

D. Leavitt

Dan Leavitt reported the San Joaquin ridership has been growing since the last report with now up to 600-900 passengers. However, they are still 20-25 percent of ridership since before the Covid crisis and they are restricting only 50 percent passenger rate per car. He noted that they cut the budget in half and are looking into cost cutting measures for the next year or two. Dan discussed keeping \$5 million in the Valley and Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project. Dan provided a recap of the activities going on right now; 1) Sacramento extension, comments are expected soon, 2) Ceres and Modesto construction expected this year, 3) Project level expansion from Ceres to Merced NOP is out, 4) Madera Station relocation environmental draft will be out in the next couple of months.

13. Valley GO (MioCar) and Valley Flex (Vamos & VoGo)

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala reported all three programs are suspended because of the Coronavirus but are looking into start back up soon. CalVans is no longer in the program and they were able to create non-profit and secure vehicle assignment of the leases. Michael noted CARB mentioned that due to the budget cuts the addition funds set aside for the program may be at risk. They will know more in the next weeks. In order to keep these programs afloat they may need more help from the COGs. Bill Higgins provided further comments.

14. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

F. Cardoza

Frida Cardoza reported the California Partnership will be having a virtual meeting on June 19. The meeting will cover two topics; 1) Covid 19, update on health and impact on the economy, and 2) San Joaquin Valley needs and funding for infrastructure. The Annual Housing Summit was canceled and instead will be hosting a series of webinar throughout the year.

OTHER ITEMS

15. Director Items

Ted Smalley commented on how good the information sharing has been in regards to SB 743 analysis.

Patricia Taylor noted seeing draft proposal for reauthorization in the next transportation bill and asked if any directors had any comments. Ben Kimball noted that were three new programs that may be available for the Valley.

Andy Chesley highlighted all the work done to the develop the integrated ticketing application.

16. Public Presentations for Items not on Agenda

None

Meeting Adjourned at Approximately 12:00 P.M.

Appendix A – Additional Meeting Participants

In Attendance:	
Individual(s)	Organization(s)
Ben Kimball	Tulare County Association of Governments
Michael Sigala	Valleywide Coordinator, Sigala Inc
Ryan Niblock	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Dan Leavitt	San Joaquin JPA
Michael Navarro	Caltrans D6
Matt Fell	Merced County Association of Governments
Kristine Kai	Fresno Council of Governments
Travis Yokoama	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Dylan Stone	Madera County Transportation Commission
Frida Cardoza	Fresno State OCED
Jeff Findley	Madera County Transportation Commission
Diana Gomez	California High Speed Rail
Tom Dumas	Caltrans D10
Bill Higgins	California Council of Governments
Robert Phipps	Fresno Council of Governments
Kameron Kubose	Fresno State OCED
Sharri Ehlert	Caltrans District 6
Dan McElhinney	Caltrans District 10
Steve Dial	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Derek Winning	Tulare County Association of Governments
Robert Brady	Tulare County Association of Governments
Scott Carson	FHWA
Rene Gutierrez	San Joaquin JPA
Jasmin Armanin	FHWA
Diane Nguyen	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Aric Barnett Lynch	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Christin Corrales	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Tom Jordan	SJVAPCD
Linda Urata	Kern Council of Governments
Becky Napier	Kern Council of Governments
Egon Terplan	Senior Advisor to Governor Newsom
Ken Baxter	Caltrans District 10