



ITEM 1

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 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
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
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. April 2, 2020 Directors' Meeting

P. Taylor

There was a motion to approve the March 5, 2020 Directors' Committee Minutes.

First Motion: Ted Smalley
Second Motion: Stacie Guzman
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 CTC reported staff is remotely working from home and are preparing procedures to return to work. MCAG reported 100 percent of staff is working from home but are preparing for reopening. Kern COG will be implementing a process to bring back staff into the office, in addition, they are looking to implement telecommuting at least one day a week. TCAG reported following a three-step process in allowing staff in the office, they are looking at staggered work groups and using telecommuting as a tool. There was some discussion regarding implementing telecommuting policies as a statewide mandate. There was some concern with the Kings County Association of Governments regarding mandated telecommuting policies.

3. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

R. Niblock

Update and Discussion

Ryan Niblock reported that CARB and EPA verbally announced that the current EMPAC adjustment factors released in November will continue to be used in conformity analysis, even after SAFE Rule Part II is released in June. Ryan noted several options to approach the 2021 FTIP schedule: 1) complete the 2021 FTIP and submit to Caltrans in December or January rather than October, 2) forgo 2021 FTIP and complete an FTIP in 2022, or 3) forgo the 2021 FTIP and bump up the 2023 FTIP. Ryan recommends option one and all MPO's seem to agree. Ryan gave a brief update on the RTP and noted that the 7 of 8 MPO's are still awaiting approval of the 2018 SCS. Ryan is proposing a meeting with all MPO's and Mitch Wise from CTC to discuss SCS approval timing issues. Ahron Hakimi does not think a meeting is necessary since all MPO's are currently in compliance and operating under the 2014 SCS. Andy Chesley concurs but would like to see if CARB feels the same way. There was direction for Ryan to inquire and ask for clarification from CARB and CTC. Ryan also touched on the 2022 SCS review and noted that it is dependent on a resolution of EMPAC 2017. As of right now, 5 of 8 are not passing conformity. However, there is progress to simplify the 2022 SCS review process by holding meetings to evaluate CARB templates and identify any questions that can arise. Tom Jordan highlighted that the EPA proposed approval of extending the 2006 PM 2.5 plan to 2024. The proposed approval comment period closed at the end of April but needs to be finalized by the end of June.

4. California Transportation Funding

P. Taylor

Program and Project Funding Updates:

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

Ryan Niblock reported that each of the program submission deadlines have been pushed back from late June to July. CTC staff recommendations for all programs will occur by November 12. Michael Sigala noted that they are currently working on letter of support for; State Route 46, City of Tracy International Parkway, Stockton Diamond Grade Separation, Tulare and Madera SR 99.

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

Michael Sigala reported that they are also working on a letter of support for Valleylink.

- ***State Transportation Improvement Program***

No update was provided

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

Patricia Taylor reported that the ATP deadline was moved to September.

5. SJV REAP Committee for Housing

R. Phipps/M. Sigala

Receive Update

Robert Phipps reported that the initial application for \$4.7 million was approved a month ago. HCD has encouraged them to apply for additional funding of \$5.5 million in a second application. The second application will require a resolution from the working group, however, the next meeting is not until June. There is a delay from HCD with regards to the master funding agreement and they have not provided a timeline. Michael Sigala asked for clarification if the directors would like to meet prior to the end of June concerning adopting a resolution for the second application. Kristine Kai had questions on how the funding will be disbursed to each COG. Stacie is in support in having a meeting before June. Elisabeth Hahn had questions about language in the RFP about consultant handling of sub allocations. Robert noted that the RFP is in draft format and expects additional comments before its final. Michael mentioned that the Governor’s revised budget would be coming out next week and it may have information on housing funding.

6. FY 2020-21 Valleywide OWP

M. Sigala

Discuss and Consider Approving

Michael Sigala briefly reviewed the FY 2020-21 Valleywide OWP and noted that he added ecosystems of shared mobility projects, REAP, updated the conference and directors schedule and updated the budget. Michael asked the directors to consider and approve the FY 2020-21 Valleywide OWP and advised that the action to approve would also include the Air Quality contract and the Valleywide Coordinator contract for the coming year.

There was a motion to approve the March 5, 2020 Directors’ Committee Minutes.

First Motion: Ahron Hakimi
Second Motion: Ted Smalley
Motion Carried

7. I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study

A. Hakimi

Receive Update

A written quarterly report was provided to the directors prior to the meeting. Linda Urata provided a verbal report and highlighted some key points in the report. She noted that they held a kickoff meeting to get everything started, but due to the COVID 19 pandemic the project was slightly delayed. Some of the UC Davis research team was stranded in China and India preventing them to return to the United States. With that said, UC Davis has made progress on the initial phases of the summary of the study. There are continuing efforts for potential funding for the next phase. Terri King commented that KCAG is willing to provide additional funding.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8. Caltrans Directors’ Report

S. Ehlert/D. McElhinney

Sharri Ehlert, District 6 Director, noted they are looking at a reopening strategy and telecommuting and providing equipment to staff with RDS (remote desktop service). They are still moving forward with construction projects and bidding projects at this point. All construction staff, field staff, maintenance staff and inspectors are still working. There was one project in District 6 that has been delayed because the contractor is not working due to COVID. They will know more in the revised budget expected in May. Sharri noted that because of SB 743, and how they mitigate VMT, is impacting several projects such as the SR 99 Tulare and Madera projects. She also noted after reviewing the departments list for the Congested Corridor Program and the TCEP, there were no valley projects listed.

Ken Baxter reported that the Caltrans plan 2050 will be going before the commission on June 23rd. The ITSP draft is expected to be released Dec 2020. The District 10 Climate Change Adaptation and the District 10 Active Transportation Plan reports have been pushing back with a final document to be released in March 2021. Michael Sigala asked about the 99 Business plan. Ken reported that they have not received any comments from the directors and believes it is final.

9. California High Speed Rail

D. Gomez

No update was provided

10. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail

D. Leavitt

Dan Leavitt noted that rail service is taking a hard hit with both the San Joaquin's and Ace train ridership down 90 percent respectively. Dan noted that they are now seeing an increase from 300 to 500-600 passengers a day and growing. The train service operating frequencies have been cut in half. They are working with the state on the San Joaquin's to further reduce cost. There are a lot of activities still going on right now: 1) Ace extension, 2) Ceres and Modesto construction expected this year, 3) Project level expansion from Ceres to Merced is underway, 4) environmental work on the Madera Station relocation, and 5) joint project between ACE and the San Joaquin's for the Sacramento extension. Dan mention that the JPA board meeting is set for May 29th.

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

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala reported that MioCar service has been suspended because of COVID. CalVans will no longer be participating in the program as of March 31st and a new non-profit entity has been setup to assume the vehicles and operations once the suspension is lifted. Project partners are working closely with ARB and the SJVAPCD on this transition. There was a short discussion on the financial stability of CalVans.

12. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

F. Cardoza

Eduardo Gonzalez reported that they are rescheduling the June 12 meeting from an in-person meeting in Livingston to a virtual meeting. They are trying to improve broadband infrastructure within the valley and recovery as cities start to reopen. Terri King inquired about appointments at the Governor's office on the Partnership vacancies. At this point all appointments are on hold until the Fall.

OTHER ITEMS

13. Director Items

Andy Chesley noted the they have 135 vanpools between San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties. He also noted transit ridership has had a significant hit. There is concern that the new normal after COVID, that we will see more vehicles on the road than before. Andy announced he is retiring in December 2020.

Bill Higgins reported that state is projecting a \$40 billion shortfall.

Ted Smalley noted that TCAG has been approved to go to bonding, but there are a lot of issues to work through.

Ahron Hakimi noted that the price of oil has plummeted, and Kern County is considering layoffs because of this.

14. Public Presentations for Items not on Agenda

None

Meeting Adjourned at Approximately 11:55 A.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
Michael Navarro	Caltrans Planning D6
Dan Leavitt	San Joaquin JPA
Matt Fell	Merced County Association of Governments
Kristine Kai	Fresno Council of Governments
Becky Napier	Kern Council of Governments
Dylan Stone	Madera County Transportation Commission
Rob Ball	Kern Council of Governments
Jeff Finley	Madera County Transportation Commission
Tom Dumas	Caltrans D10
Bill Higgins	California Council of Governments
Robert Phipps	Fresno Council of Governments
Sharri Ehlert	Caltrans District 6
Dan McElhinney	Caltrans District 10
Elisabeth Hahn	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Nabeelah Abi-Rached	California DOT
Trai Her	Fresno Council of Governments
Alex Marucci	Trinity Consultants
Rene Gutierrez	San Joaquin JPA
William Barret	American Lung Association
Eduardo Gonzalez	OCED/CA Partnership
Aric Barnett Lynch	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Tom Jordan	SJVAPCD
Linda Urata	Kern Council of Governments
Ken Baxter	Caltrans D10