



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location:

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

Directors	MPOs
Terri King	Kings County Association of Governments
Ahron Hakimi	Kern Council of Governments
Patricia Taylor	Madera County Transportation Commission
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
Diane Nguyen	San Joaquin Council of Governments

Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 3, 2020 Directors' Meeting

Terri King

There was a motion to approve the December 3, 2020 Directors' Committee Minutes.

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

Kings County
 Association of
 Governments
 Terri King - Chair

Kern
 Council of
 Governments
 Ahron Hakimi - Vice Chair

Tulare County
 Association of
 Governments
 Ted Smalley

Madera County
 Transportation
 Commission
 Patricia Taylor

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Stanislaus
 Council of
 Governments
 Rosa Park

Merced County
 Association of
 Governments
 Stacie Guzman

San Joaquin
 Council of
 Governments
 Diane Nguyen

Fresno
 Council of
 Governments
 Tony Boren

<http://sjvcogs.org>



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 Lemoore, CA 93245

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. MPO Activity During Coronavirus

T. King

Madam Chair Terri King guided discussions about coronavirus measures and activities among MPOs. Terri King reported KCAG had few employees in the office and telecommuting occurring. Stacie Guzman (MCAG) reported only two staff in the office with several outbreaks occurring in some of their other operations, including a staff death. Ted Smalley (TCAG) reported a majority of staff telecommuting.

3. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

R. Niblock

Ryan Niblock reported the request for proposals for the air quality consultant resulted in one submittal from Trinity Consultants. The Directors indicated support for Trinity. Regarding conformity challenges with EMFAC 2017, Ryan reported a meeting with CARB scheduled for tomorrow. Data from the Valley has been submitted to CARB and the meeting is for resolving technical matters moving forward. Lastly, regarding EPA, Mary Nichols of CARB is no longer considered for Director. Terri King reported the review of their SCS is still pending. Andy Chesley's letter to CARB was noted and Bill Higgins indicated he would follow up on the letter. Kristine Cai noted CARB has responded to Fresno COG's technical memo regarding their SCS. Ahron Hakimi responded that Kern COG has met with CARB over their technical memo.

4. California Transportation Funding

T. King

Program and Project Funding Updates:

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

There was no update provided.

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

There was no update provided.

Discussed ensued about the future of CTC funding related to minimizing capacity enhancing and widening projects, and the inherent lack of a "bottoms up" approach to transportation planning. Bill Higgins noted the need for the construction and labor industries to provide input on this. Patricia Taylor also noted to need to coalesce around this matter. Discussion ensued regarding "completing what we started" pertaining to our regional transportation system, particularly SR 99. Ted Smalley indicated the need to coalition build around this matter. Gus Khouri noted other regions with similar concerns. Tony Boren noted the will of the people in approving local sales tax measures, which at times is different from state priorities. Additional discussion ensued regarding a "finishing what you started" campaign for SR 99, and it being the focus of Valley Voice Sacramento. Tony Boren suggested getting CTC Commissioner Eager engaged in this effort. Further discussion ensued about a letter from multiple stakeholders in the valley advocating and further coalescing around this. Directors approved of this. Diana Gomez of Caltrans noted an upcoming workshop for SR 99. Ted Smalley offered to lead an effort around SR 99 completion.

- ***State Transportation Improvement Program***

There was no update provided.

5. Valleywide Household Travel Survey

K. Cai

Kristine Cai, Fresno COG, noted a valleywide staff meeting to further discuss the survey. The scope of the survey (universe of sample) is being expanded and the cost has increased. Valley staff has met with the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) to discuss utilizing \$350k in REAP funding for the survey provided housing questions are incorporated into the survey. There appears to be concurrence from HCD. Kristine went over funding contributions from various sources for the survey effort, including the intent to apply for a Sustainable Planning Grant from Caltrans to support the survey. Kristine noted the need to submit additional documentation to HCD.

6. SJV REAP Committee for Housing

R. Phipps/M. Sigala

Robert Phipps noted the MOU among all eight MPOs is executed. Several MPO invoices have been received by Fresno COG. The RFP for REAP Housing services was noted; nine of the ten submittals have been shortlisted for further engagement if needed. Interviews for the Comprehensive Housing Report were conducted and two consultants, Mintier Harnish and Raimi + Associates have been selected to jointly work on it. Michael Sigala provided additional detail on the scope of work and budget for the Report. Michael noted a \$500k budget for the Report. Ahron Hakimi motioned for approval to contract with Mintier and Raimi for a not-to-exceed collective amount of \$500k, Patricia Taylor seconded. Motion approved.

7. Regional Policy Council

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala noted the next Regional Policy Council for January 22nd and asked the Directors for input on agenda items. Valley Voice Sacramento and election of new officers was noted, additional committee appointments and inviting CTC Commissioner Eager were additional items noted for inclusion on the agenda. Ted Smalley noted inclusion of the “finish the SR 99” coalition as well.

Valley Voice Sacramento was discussed and Michael Sigala asked for the Directors to approve utilizing Gus Khouri for Valley Voice. The Directors approved utilizing Gus. Gus proceeded to go over a potential platform concept and meeting ideas. Gus suggested focusing on CAPTI and executive orders and meeting with a few select legislators and the Governor’s Office, versus additional meetings with Caltrans and CARB that have been done in the past. Ted Smalley stressed focusing on SR 99. Discussion around potential meeting dates ensued. Approximately seven meetings were identified.

8. California Inland Port

T. Boren

Tony Boren provided a brief update noting the Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant application due on February 12th. Letters of support templates will be circulated.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. Caltrans Directors’ Report

D. Gomez/D. Agar

Diana Gomez, District 6 Director, noted high covid cases continue with construction and maintenance crews. Diana noted a decrease in traffic volume. Average speeds are up. There are more job openings due to recent staff retirements. Homeless encampment polices were noted; District 6 is working with the City of Fresno to move homeless populations into recently purchased hotels. Work on Highway 41 in south Fresno County was noted – a phased approach, no passing, k-rail, then four lane development. This is considered a safety project, not a widening project. Dennis Agar, District 10 Director, introduced Marlon Regisford, deputy director. Dennis mentioned the upcoming summit on SR 99.

10. California High Speed Rail

G. Fernandez

There was no update provided at this time.

11. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail

D. Leavitt

Dan Leavitt noted the January 22nd JPA board meeting. Election of officers and certification of Madera Amtrak relocation will be on the agenda. A draft business plan for High Speed Rail will be out for review in April. Dan asked for continued inclusion of passenger rail in the Valley Voice platform. The new Chair for the Assembly Transportation Committee was noted as favoring the diversion of high speed rail funding to southern California.

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

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala noted about 60 percent of normal operations for Miocar and the fare integration into Vamos in the north valley has occurred. Extension funding contracts with CARB has been executed.

13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

E. Gonzalez

Patricia Taylor asked about the vacancies and appointments.

OTHER ITEMS

14. Director Items

15. Public Presentations for Items not on Agenda

Meeting Adjourned at Approximately 12:11 P.M.

Appendix A – Additional Meeting Participants

In Attendance:	
Individual(s)	Organization(s)
Ben Kimball	Tulare County Association of Governments
Elisabeth Hahn	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Michael Sigala	Valleywide Coordinator, Sigala Inc
Ryan Niblock	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Rene Gutierrez	San Joaquin JPA
Michael Navarro	Caltrans District 6
Matt Fell	Merced County Association of Governments
Kristine Cai	Fresno Council of Governments
Jeff Findley	Madera County Transportation Commission
Dylan Stone	Madera County Transportation Commission
Bill Higgins	California Council of Governments
Robert Phipps	Fresno Council of Governments
Rob Ball	Kern Council of Governments
Brenda Veenendaal	Fresno Council of Governments
Trai Herr	Fresno Council of Governments
Tom Dumas	Caltrans District 10
Diana Gomez	Caltrans District 6
Dennis Agar	Caltrans District 10
Nabeelah Abi-Rached	Caltrans
Meg Prince	Fresno Council of Governments
Evelyn Espinosa	Madera County Transportation Commission
Dylan Stone	Madera County Transportation Commission
Steven Ingoldsby	Tulare County Association of Governments
Roberto Brady	Tulare County Association of Governments
Dan Leavitt	San Joaquin JPA
Marlon Regisford	Caltrans District 10
Braden Duran	Fresno Council of Governments
Becky Napier	Kern Council of Governments
Gus Khouri	Khouri Consulting
Grace Magsayo	Caltrans