



# MINUTES

## **I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 3:00 p.m., on March 22, 2023, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Joe Neves, David Orth, Sid Palmerin, Alvaro Preciado, Doug Verboon

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kalish Morrow

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Joel Gandarilla, Jennifer Morales, Kayley Clay, Teresa Nickell

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Taylor Dihel, City of Hanford; Via Zoom: Alan Glen, AECOM; Heather Corder, KCAPTA; Kristie Baley, City of Lemoore; Christine Chavez

### **A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances**

None. No action taken.

### **B. Roll Call**

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

### **C. Unscheduled Appearances**

None.

### **D. Minutes**

#### **1. Minutes of February 22, 2023**

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Preciado) to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2023, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon  
Abstain: Navarro  
Absent: Morrow

## II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

### A. General Transportation Items

#### 1. FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act Summary

Teresa Nickell stated that for FY 2023-24 the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) estimate is \$6,200,000 and the State Transit Assistance (STA) estimate is \$1,902,091. The claim forms and other required documentation have been sent to the claimants and must be returned to KCAG by April 1st. Included in the agenda packet is a breakdown of the FY 2023-24 LTF and STA apportionments and allocations.

#### 2. Final Regional Corridor Needs Study

Terri King stated that KCAG hired consultant AECOM to develop the Regional Corridor Needs Study (RCNS) for the Hanford-Lemoore urbanized areas within Kings County and to identify transportation project needs along State Routes 41, 43, and 198. The goal of the study is to identify highway locations that have potential needs for safety and operational improvements, determine conceptual improvements and costs. An administrative draft of the RCNS was provided to the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to solicit initial feedback and comments. All comments received from the PAC were addressed and included in the public draft before release.

Alan Glen, from AECOM, provided a PowerPoint presentation which included the project overview, the study process, safety priority locations, capacity review, approach, and priority projects list in order of highest priority to lowest; SR-41/Jackson Ave., SR-43/Idaho Ave., SR-198 from 14th Ave. to 11th Ave., SR-41/Fremont Ave., SR-41/Hanford Armona Rd., SR-41 from Bush St. to Grangeville Blvd., SR-43 from Grangeville Blvd. to Fargo Ave., SR-43/Flint Ave., and SR-41/SR-198 Interchange.

There was a brief discussion regarding the benefits of the improvements.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Verboon) to approve the Final Regional Corridor Needs Study. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Navarro, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon  
Absent: Morrow

#### 3. FY 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Financial and Compliance Audits

Jennifer Morales reported that the California Administrative Code requires that each claimant of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds annually and within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year (late December) submit a report of the fiscal and compliance audit of the financial statements to the State Controller. The accounting firm of Hudson Henderson & Co. has prepared the audits of each claimant, under a contract with Kings County as part of the single audit procedures. Each of the audit reports are final, with the exception of the cities of Corcoran and Avenal audit reports, which are still under review. No problems or unauthorized use of TDA funds were identified and the audit reports found that these agencies are in compliance with all applicable TDA laws. KCAG was required to complete a Single Audit for FY 2021-2022, as our federal awards expenditures exceeded the \$750,000 threshold.

Commissioner Orth asked if delays in submitting audit reports is common. The reply was affirmative, especially this year when cities have been faced with finance staff turnover.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Verboon) to accept the final FY 2021-2022 TDA Financial and Compliance Audits for submittal to Caltrans and the State Controller's Office for Kings County Association of Governments, County of Kings, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency, the City of Hanford, and the City of Lemoore. Also, to authorize the County of Kings Auditor to withhold any Transit Development Act fund allocations to the City of Corcoran, and the City of Avenal, until such time as their audit reports are received. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Navarro, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon  
Absent: Morrow

**B. Caltrans Report**

Michael Navarro reported that the Clean California local grant program is underway with a call for local grants issued and that Clean California days are from March 17-27, 2023; Caltrans Planning Grants applications process has closed; road damage due to heavy rains has impacted the roads in Kings County; Caltrans has met with the City of Avenal regarding their Clean California project; Kettleman City roundabout project is in the design and right of way phase; SR 41 and Stratford bridge replacement is scheduled for construction in Dec 2023; there will be an open house at the Riverdale High School regarding the project in Fresno County on SR 41 to complete the four lane section; and the Kettleman City road rehab project from Quail Avenue to Nevada Avenue will be ready for construction in June 2023.

Commissioner Preciado asked if the Clean California project efforts in Avenal will be impacted or removed due to the possible safety and parking needs improvements along SR 33 within Avenal. The response was that Caltrans will follow up with the project manager and was not fully aware of the possible shoulder improvements.

**C. Correspondence**

None.

**D. Staff Comments**

None

**E. Commissioner Comments**

None.

**III. KCAG COMMISSION**

**A. Roll Call**

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

### **C. General Commissioner Items**

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on March 22, 2023

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on March 22, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado, Verboon  
Absent: Morrow

2. 2023 Valley Voice Sacramento

Terri King stated that the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) and elected officials from the region will be participating in the 2023 Valley Voice Sacramento legislative trip on Wednesday, March 29th, with a reception for our state legislators on Tuesday, March 28th. Commissioner Verboon will be participating with KCAG staff for this regional collaboration. A draft agenda of the 2023 Sacramento Valley Voice meetings and the brochure that includes the regional priorities and associated fact sheets and talking points for the key focus areas are attached. A summary of the regional priorities was presented and a report on the meeting summaries will be provided to the KCAG Commission following the trip

3. Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP) 2.0 – Workshops and Application Scoring Methodology

Terri King stated that KCAG's region maximum award of Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP) 2.0 is \$2,060,590. KCAG submitted both REAP 2.0 applications for the initial advance allocation of \$206,059 and the remaining \$1,854,531 full application before the December 31, 2022 deadline set by California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and other State partner agencies. HCD staff is reviewing the full application and conducting an interactive process with KCAG staff to finalize the grant award. On March 2, 2023, KCAG posted the full application on the website for a 21-day public review and comment period. The purpose of REAP 2.0 program grant funds is supporting transformative planning and implementation activities such as accelerating infill and affordable housing development; reducing vehicle miles traveled; and increasing transit ridership, walking, and biking as primary modes of transportation. The REAP 2.0 initial application funds will be used to conduct equitable targeted outreach to develop the local REAP 2.0 program. KCAG will be utilizing the current contract with Civic Solutions to include additional tasks and funding necessary to conduct the REAP 2.0 public outreach. KCAG will be conducting workshops beginning in March and is developing a stakeholder list and outreach materials. A suballocation formula and application scoring methodology is to be developed, as well as a project application that would be submitted by the local agency to KCAG in order to verify eligibility by evaluating each project using the State goals and objectives for the program with HCD concurrence. Attached is a draft REAP 2.0 scoring methodology that has been submitted to HCD for preliminary review and comment.

4. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Workshop Series

Terri King introduced the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) flyer announcing AFFH workshop dates in connection with the REAP 1.0 program.

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **A. Correspondence**

None.

##### **B. Staff Comments**

Terri King stated that the deadline to program KCAG's share of \$940,918 in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)-COVID funds for the current cycle is nearing. With no time to conduct a call for projects, a review of currently programmed projects resulted in swapping Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the Kettleman City SR 41 Roundabout and Dana Circle Road Connection project. This will allow time for a call for projects to reprogram the CMAQ funds. Next month's agenda will include additional Transportation Development Act information, review of claims and unmet transit needs hearing; approving the Final FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program, and a closed session item for Executive Director performance evaluation. A meeting of the Finance Committee will be scheduled for April 4, 2023. It was also noted that Conflict of Interest Form 700 reminders will be sent to all those who have not submitted a form.

##### **C. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Palmerin stated that the Gateway Park Veterans Memorial dedication will be April 29, 2023 and in May, the city will hold a celebration in the picnic area at the Gateway Park.

Commissioner Preciado stated that Avenal is replacing several miles of the city water main and installing additional shut-off valves. The O'Reilly's Auto Parts store construction is progressing well. The Easter celebration will be April 1, 2023.

Commissioner Orth said that Lemoore's Easter Egg Hunt is April 8, 2023.

Commissioner Verboon said there will be a townhall meeting for those living in the Island District regarding possible flood preparations.

There was further discussion regarding the impact recent heavy rains have had on this region with road closures.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023**

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director