



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 3:10 p.m., on June 28, 2023, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA and via Zoom.

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

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT:

A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances

None.

B. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

C. Unscheduled Appearances

None.

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of April 26, 2023

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Verboon) to approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2023, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Activities

Teresa Nickell stated that before the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) may approve the FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds to claimants for streets and road purposes, a determination that there are no unmet public transportation needs that are reasonable to meet must be made. The City of Corcoran, the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA), and KCAG have held separate public hearings for public testimony regarding unmet transit needs. Four requests for transit services were received by KCAPTA during the public hearing process for its jurisdictions. After evaluation with the performance criteria, it was determined each of the requests is an unmet transit need that is not reasonable to meet.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to adopt Resolution No. 22-04 approving the determination that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to adopt Resolution No. 23-05 approving the apportionment and allocation of the FY 2023-24 Local Transportation Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Verboon) to adopt Resolution No. 23-06 approving the apportionment and allocation of the FY 2023-24 State Transit Assistance fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro stated that Caltrans received 29 applications for the Clean California local grant program from District 6, with three from Kings County. The state Reconnecting Communities Program applications are due September 20, 2023. There are also several federal programs, the Reconnecting Communities Program, Neighborhood Action and Equity, and a multi modal discretionary grant program, with over \$5.5 billion in combined funds. The Caltrans planning grant award will be released at the end of next month.

Regarding projects, Michael Navarro reported that the Clean California project in Avenal should be awarded next month, with work starting in the summer; the Kettleman City Roundabout is scheduled for summer of 2024; the SR 41 Stratford bridge replacement construction is scheduled to begin in December 2023, along with the detour along SR 41; Caltrans is planning several pavement rehabilitation projects along SR 41 during 2024, while continuing minor road repairs; and road work and signal modification at SR 41 and Grangeville is scheduled for this summer.

Commissioner Verboon inquired about the time frame for pavement rehabilitation along SR41. The response was the project will be longer than 6 months.

Commissioner Neves discussed Caltrans' involvement with the road project along Avenal Cut-Off. The response was that Caltrans' project manager has been in contact with the County of Kings. Commissioner Preciado requested to be included in the planning of this project as it is related to the city of Avenal.

Michael Navarro expressed commendation to the City of Corcoran for the new Gateway Park. Commission Verboon stated that County Supervisor Valle was instrumental in helping secure additional funding for the Gateway Park Memorial. Commissioner Palmerin also expressed gratitude for the efforts of County Supervisor Valle.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

Terri King said that the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans are working on the fund estimate for the next State Transportation Improvement Program cycle. Previously, Kings County advanced their share of funds for the SR 198 and 19th Ave. interchange and continues to pay that debt. However, there may be funds available for the 2026 STIP Cycle. The next anticipated STIP project is the SR 198 and 9th Ave. interchange.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

III. KCAG COMMISSION

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on June 28, 2023

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Morrow) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on June 28, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. Areawide Planning Review

Teresa Nickell stated that Self-Help Enterprises is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$425,000. The applicant will provide \$9,000,000 from State funding and \$126,761 from program income in addition to the requested grant, for the construction of a least 18 low-income housing located in Housing Preservation Grant target rural areas. The comment period ended June 16, 2023, and staff received written comments from agencies that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 23-01. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. Regional Early Action Planning 2.0

Terri King reported that KCAG's region maximum award of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 program for our region is \$2,060,590. KCAG submitted both REAP 2.0 applications for the initial advance allocation of \$206,059 and the full application for the remaining \$1,854,531, which is to be suballocated to local agencies for projects or planning activities that would meet the criteria of the REAP 2.0 program. KCAG conducted outreach workshops in May to provide information about the REAP program, assist in determining the suballocation process and identifying types of desired projects and programs from stakeholders. Included in the agenda materials is a summary of the workshops. A draft application scoring criteria and methodology has been developed. KCAG staff organized a subcommittee of local agency representatives to assist in finalizing the scoring criteria methodology, application, and suballocation formula targets. Once the State has approved the Full Application, KCAG will develop a REAP 2.0 application package and release a call for projects. KCAG will also conduct a workshop following the call for projects to review the application process with potential applicants.

Commissioner Morrow inquired how the final figures were reached. The reply was the varying figures are based on a combination of base amounts with the remaining distributed by population and housing percentages.

A motion was made and seconded (Morrow / Verboon) to approve the REAP 2.0 scoring criteria and methodology for inclusion in the revised Full Application for submittal to HCD and State partners. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. Authorize Out of State Travel for San Joaquin Valley Voice Trip – Washington, DC

Terri King stated that previously this Commission approved Commissioners David Orth, Alvaro Preciado, and the KCAG Executive Director to participate in the 2023 Washington D.C. Valley Voice trip. KCAG staff is requesting out of state travel authorization for the 2023 Valley Voice trip.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to authorize out of state travel for two KCAG Commissioners and the Executive Director to participate in the 2023 Valley Voice Washington D.C. trip on September 11-14, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6. Legal Council Contract Term Extension

Terri King reported that in 2017 the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) Commission approved the Term Extension and Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services for Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, and LLP to provide legal services for KCAG and entered into a contract. The contract was for a period ending June 30, 2021, with the option, upon mutual agreement, to extend for four additional one year periods. The current contract extension expires on June 30, 2023.

For the latest one year extension, Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, and LLP is proposing a new hourly rate for Attorney time at \$225 per hour and paraprofessional time billed at rate of \$110 per hour. Litigation work would be

billed at a rate of \$235 per hour for attorneys. In addition to the fees for the legal services rendered, KCAG will be responsible for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred on KCAG's behalf, including, but not limited to, copying at a rate of \$0.25 per page, postage, facsimile at a rate of \$1.00 per page for outgoing facsimiles, telephone, and other similar costs.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the one year extension option, with the revised rate schedule, for the period of June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024, with Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, LLP to provide legal services for KCAG. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

7. KCAG Employee Compensation – Executive Director

Kris Pedersen stated that at the May 24, 2023 KCAG Commission meeting during closed session, the labor negotiator received instruction to return to the Commission a resolution for a 3% salary increase for the Executive Director, until the pending evaluation is completed. Also, the Commission instructed the labor negotiator to prepare for discussion a salary compensation resolution after the completed evaluation.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to adopt Resolution 23-04 to approve the compensation changes for the Executive Director. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

8. Election of New Officers

Terri King stated that the KCAG Bylaws require that the Chair and Vice Chair shall hold office for one fiscal year and that the election of officers shall be held on the regular meeting of June each year. The nominations for new officers were opened.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Verboon) to nominate Joe Neves as Chair for the KCAG Commission, to close nominations, and elect Joe Neves as Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Commissioner Neves opened the nomination for Vice-Chair.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Verboon) to nominate Sid Palmerin as Vice-Chair for the KCAG Commission, to close nominations, and elect as Sid Palmerin as Vice-Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

C. Adjourn to Closed Session – 4:12 p.m.

1. Closed Session for the Discussion of the Following:

- a. Performance Review – Executive Director
Public employee performance evaluation review, pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of Government Code section 54957

D. Adjourn Closed Session / Reconvene Open Session – 4:21 p.m.

No final action was taken, therefore there is nothing to report.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King said that next month's TPC meeting on July 26, 2023, may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. Therefore, the next meeting may be August 23, 2023.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Neves stated that the Avenal Cut-off Road rehabilitation project will be for 15 miles and divided into five phases, eventually reaching the California Aqueduct.

Commissioner Preciado inquired about the City of Avenal's request to the County of Kings for an additional two miles of road rehabilitation on Avenal Cutoff Road. The reply was that currently the plans only call for rehabilitation up to the California Aqueduct. Commissioner Preciado inquired about the Tulare County roundabout project. The reply was there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tulare Ag Center interchange, on property donated by the Pereia Family.

Commissioner Palmerin stated that this month's Farmers' Market in Corcoran has been cancelled.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for July 26, 2023

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director