



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 3:06 p.m., on February 28, 2024, in the Hanford City Council Chambers, Civic Auditorium at 400 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA.

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

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Sid Palmerin

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Danyeale Leap, Kings County Human Resources; Frank Senteno, City of Hanford Public Works; Logan Odneal, Field Representative for CA 33rd District Assemblymember Devon Mathis

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 January 24, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2024, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2024-25 Transportation Development Act Estimates

Teresa Nickell stated that Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are composed of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. Based on the current State budget, there will be \$1,878,275 in STA funds allocated to Kings County in FY 2024-25. The Kings County Auditor provided an estimate to KCAG of LTF funds to be available for apportionment and allocation during the next fiscal year. The estimate of the FY 2024-25 LTF for KCAG member agencies is \$6,400,000. KCAG must advise expected claimants of the area apportionments within the county by March 1st of each year. Each claimant is required to hold a public hearing and have both an adopted resolution stating their findings on unmet transit needs before funds can be allocated for road purposes, and required environmental documents within their jurisdiction, and then submit their claim packages to KCAG by April 1.

2. Draft FY 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget

Terri King stated that KCAG is required to annually prepare a draft Overall Work Program (OWP) for its planning activities and submit it by March 1 to Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and others for review and comment. KCAG's FY 2024-25 apportionment of Federal planning funds is \$797,00 and \$59,302 in Federal Transit Act funds. Funding sources for next year's OWP include Federal Planning funds; Toll credits; SB 1 Formula Grant funds; Local Transportation Fund; Planning, Programming and Monitoring funds; Abandoned Vehicle Abatement funds; Regional Early Action Planning funds; and City and County general funds. The total cost for next year's proposal is \$1,916,500 and included in the budget is the cost of new computers and office furniture for the new KCAG offices to be ready by July 1, 2025. Total expenditures of \$955,248 for salaries and benefits and expenditures of \$340,752 for Services and Supplies (not including consulting services).

Commissioner Verboon asked if KCAG will be occupying office space in the new KCAPTA Transit Center. The reply was affirmative, in 2025.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the release of the draft FY 2024-25 Overall Work Program for review and comment. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro stated that the Clean California program will be sunseting in 2024 and that the Clean California Community Days will be the week of April 19-22, 2024. Caltrans planning grants have been received from the Cities of Avenal and Corcoran. Regarding projects, Michael Navarro reported that Caltrans continues to work on the Kettleman City roundabout and right of way; the SR 41 Stratford bridge replacement is under construction with the detour route from SR 198 toward I-5, however, traffic along the Avenal Cut-off is picking up; the SR 41 pavement rehabilitation near Kettleman City from Quale Ave. to Nevada Ave. will be completed in two phases, with

construction completed in the summer of 2024; the interim roundabout at Bush St. and SR 41 is in the permitting phase, with construction anticipated to begin in the spring of 2024; the SR 41 widening project in Fresno County from Excelsior Avenue is in the design phase; the SR 41 Reef City pavement rehabilitation project from the Kern County line to the I-5 and SR 41 separation is in the design phase, with construction starting in spring of 2025; and the pavement preservation project on SR 41 from Nevada Avenue to SR 198 is scheduled for construction in the summer of 2024. There was discussion regarding the impact of the SR41 closure period.

Commissioner Preciado inquired about the feasibility or advisability of the City of Avenal refurbishing a section of Avenal Cut-Off Road. The reply was Caltrans will report back regarding this question. Commissioner Preciado also asked who is responsible for the Kettleman City pedestrian bridge project. The response was that Kings County is the lead agency for this project.

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.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on February 28, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on February 28, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. FY 2023-24 Second Quarter Financial Report

Jennifer Morales reported on the second quarter financial report to Caltrans for the period of October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 summarizing the expenditures and revenues for the fiscal year and a reimbursement request for federal funds expended. For FY 2023-24 Quarter 2, a total of \$252,467 in federal funds will be received as reimbursement for eligible activities, total expenditures were \$268,535, and total revenues received were \$394,051.

3. Nominations for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Terri King stated that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley was established in 2005 by Governor Schwarzenegger and is a public-private partnership focused on improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life, while working to address the unique challenges facing the region. The Partnership is guided by a board of directors, consisting of more than 30 members and there is currently an open seat for an elected official from Kings County. The Partnership is requesting that KCAG submit a list of three nominees for appointment for the Kings County elected official position. KCAG has received interest from Lemoore Councilmember Dr. Frank Gornick, who has previously served on the Partnership under the Schwarzenegger administration.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the nominees for appointment to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley for submittal to the Governor's Appointment Unit. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. 2024 Valley Voice Sacramento

Terri King reported that the 2024 Valley Voice Sacramento legislative trip will be on Wednesday and Thursday, March 13-14, with Commissioners Verboon and Preciado attending. The agenda for the Valley Voice trip and legislative platform are included in the agenda packet.

5. Deputy Director Job Specification and Salary

Terri King stated that to facilitate succession planning for KCAG, staff has worked with the Human Resources Department to develop a job specification and salary range for a KCAG Deputy Director position. Attached to the agenda packet is the proposed Job Specification, which is an at-will, management level, exempt positions. The draft FY 2024-25 KCAG budget includes a proposed salary range for the KCAG Deputy Director position at 276.5 with a monthly salary range of \$9,419 - \$11,492. The total annual cost for the position including retirement, insurance and taxes would be approximately \$153,237.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Preciado) to approve the KCAG Deputy Director job specification and salary range of 276.5. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King reported that the Regional Planner recruitment is open; there will be a High-Speed Rail Station Area Planning meeting on March 8, 2024; and Patricia Matthews

is the new large-city representative for the Regional Early Action Planning Housing Committee for the San Joaquin Valley. CalVans hired a lobbyist to help them submit a letter to Caltrans to request to be designated an eligible recipient of Federal Transit Act Section 5311 and 5307 grant funds. The concern is monies will be diverted from other agencies. However, it appears CalVans has abandoned the idea for the time being.

Commissioner Neves stated that the CalVans bylaws may contain a do not compete clause. Kris Pederson reminded the Commission that because of KCAG's withdrawal from CalVans, there are no voting rights.

Commissioner Preciado asked if there was a benefit to withdrawing from CalVans. The response was there was concern regarding CalVans' financial practices and KCAPTA has a successful vanpool program as an option.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Preciado said that Avenal hired an engineering firm to act on new community development projects.

Commissioner Morrow indicated that Hanford is moving forward with a new tax measure.

Commissioner Orth said that Panda Express is near opening and that the city has a new interim City Manager.

Commissioner Verboon stated that Hanford has a new Fire Chief, Salvador Flores from the Imperial County Fire Department.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 2024

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director