



# MINUTES

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

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 3:01 p.m., on June 26, 2024, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Martin Devine, 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, Julio Gonzalez, Teresa Nickell

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Zoom: Kristie Baley, City of Lemoore, Community Development; Cynthia Baruch, Lemoore Naval Air Station

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

None.

### **B. Roll Call**

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present. Commissioner Neves welcomed Martin Devine, Hanford City Councilmember, to the KCAG Commission.

### **C. Unscheduled Appearances**

None

### **D. Minutes**

#### **1. Minutes of May 22, 2024**

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Devine stated he read the minutes and inquired whether he could vote on this item since this is his first meeting. The reply was he may vote on this item or abstain. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

## II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

### A. General Transportation Items

#### 1. FY 2024-25 Transportation Development Act

Teresa Nickell stated that 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. Seven requests for transit services were received by KCAPTA during the public hearing process. KCAG staff concurs with the recommendation letter by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), that there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdictions of Corcoran and Avenal and that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within the jurisdictions of Hanford, Lemoore, and the County of Kings. The unmet transit needs to be addressed by KCAPTA will be to provide a new bus route to the Lemoore Naval Air Station for access to Lemoore and Hanford destinations, and to provide Saturday service on Route 15 to Visalia.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Palmerin) to adopt Resolution No. 24-06 to approve the determination that there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdictions of Corcoran and Avenal and that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet identified within the jurisdictions of Hanford, Lemoore and the County of Kings. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to adopt Resolution No. 24-07 to approve the apportionment and allocation of the FY 2024-25 Local Transportation Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Devine) to adopt Resolution No. 24-08 to approve the apportionment and allocation of the FY 2024-25 State Transit Assistance fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

#### 2. Final Zero Emission Bus Implementation Plan

Kayley Clay stated that in accordance with California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT), KCAG has helped develop a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Implementation Plan for both Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) and Corcoran Area Transit (CAT). The regulation aims to have all California transit agencies gradually transition to a completely zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. Both ICT plans for KCAPTA and CAT were deemed sufficient and accepted by the agencies' as well as CARB in 2023. These plans will guide both transit agencies as they start their transition to zero-emission fleets. Utilizing a modeling tool, KCAPTA and CAT decided battery electric buses were the best option for their agencies to phase their fleets into. The Final ZEB Implementation Plan for both KCAPTA and CAT serves as a living document that will guide both agencies to an entirely zero-emission fleet by the year 2040.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Orth) to accept the Final ZEB Implementation Plans for KCAPTA and CAT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. FY 2023-23 Transportation Development Act Financial and Compliance Audits

Jennifer Morales reported that the California Administrative Code requires claimants of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds to submit financial statements and compliance audits to the State Controllers Office 180 days after the close of the fiscal year. The KCAG Transportation Policy Committee approved an extension for the submittal of the FY 22-23 audit reports to the SCO for an additional 90 days and they are now due to be submitted. The FY 22-23 Audit reports have been completed for the County of Kings, City of Hanford, and the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency. No problems or unauthorized use of TDA funds were identified in the completed audits and it was found that the agencies are following all applicable TDA laws.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Devine) to accept the final FY 2022-2023 TDA Financial and Compliance Audits for the County of Kings, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency, and the City of Hanford for submittal to Caltrans and the State Controller's Office, and to authorize the County of Kings Auditor to release any Transit Development Act fund allocations to the City of Hanford and the County of Kings. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**B. Caltrans Report**

Michael Navarro stated that Caltrans planning grant awards will be announced this week; Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant opportunity for Cycle 12 was released earlier this month with applications due September 9, 2024; Public outreach for the SR 99 multimodal project report was conducted; and Clean California project awarded in Avenal will start this summer.

Michael Navarro reported that the SR 41 Stratford bridge replacement work continues, with possible opening in August; the SR 41 pavement rehabilitation near Kettleman City from Quale Ave. to Nevada Ave. is ongoing; reconstruction on SR 41 north of SR 198 going to Excelsior Avenue will continue into August; obtaining a permit for the SR 41 and Bush Street roundabout is anticipated this summer; the SR 41 Reef City pavement rehabilitation project from the Kern County line to the I-5 and SR 41 separation is ready for advertisement; and the SR 41 and Grangeville Blvd. signal project is waiting on materials.

Commissioner Neves asked if traffic counts show how much of Kettleman City traffic is related to I-5 traffic versus SR 41 traffic, since SR 41 traffic was rerouted to Avenal. The reply was that Caltrans did monitor traffic, however due to varying driver decisions it may not be possible to know exactly.

Commissioner Orth inquired whether Caltrans monitored traffic to determine the increase in traffic along the detour route and local roads, and if so, are local jurisdictions compensated for the increased traffic effect on local roads. The reply was that Caltrans used state highway systems as the detour route, therefore local agencies were not compensated.

**C. Correspondence**

None.

**D. Staff Comments**

Terri King reported that the Draft 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis were released for review and comment and that a public hearing would be held at the July 24, 2024, meeting.

**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 May 22, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Devine) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on June 26, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-03

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of The Valley Church in Lemoore is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the FY 2024 Mentoring Programs for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System grant. The grant applicant is requesting funds to provide support, education, and victim assistance to youth and their families through their Life to Victory - Justice for Our Youth program and will utilize these grant funds to administer their outreach ministries. KCAG staff received written comments from seven agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Devine) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-03. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-04

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of The Valley Church in Lemoore is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$650,000 from the FY 2024 Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Substance Misuse grant. The Lily of The Valley Church, through their Life of Victory Youth Outreach Program, offers

mentoring services to youth with substance use or at risk for substance misuse while guiding them towards college and career goals and will utilize these grant funds to administer their outreach ministries. KCAG staff received written comments from seven agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Devine / Orth) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-04. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-05

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of The Valley Church in Lemoore is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$450,000 from the FY 2024 Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, specifically for projects related to Specialized Services to Abused Parents and their Children. The Lily of The Valley Church offers mentoring services to families and youth through their Life of Victory - Disarming Violence program and will utilize these grant funds to administer their outreach ministries. KCAG staff received written comments from seven agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs. It was asked if KCAO submitted comments. The reply was that no comments were received from KCAO.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Devine) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-05. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-06

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of The Valley Church in Lemoore is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$450,000 from the FY 2024 Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program through the Office on Violence Against Women. The Lily of The Valley Church offers mentoring services culturally specific on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault services to Black Americans in Kings County through their Life of Victory – Save Our Communities Program, and will utilize these grant funds to administer their outreach ministries. KCAG staff received written comments from seven agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Devine) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-06. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-07

Teresa Nickell stated that the Lily of The Valley Church in Lemoore is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$475,000 from the FY 2024 Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence,

Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program. The Lily of The Valley Church offers mentoring services culturally specific on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault services to Black Americans in Kings County through their Life of Victory - Saving Our Communities program, and will utilize these grant funds to administer their outreach ministries. KCAG staff received written comments from seven agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

Commissioner Verboon asked if a Lily of The Valley Church representative was present to verify the difference between this application and the previous. The reply was there was not. There was some discussion regarding the importance of having a Lily of The Valley Church representative in attendance. It was clarified by KCAG staff that the KCAG Commission role is to offer the service of providing areawide review and opportunity for comment from others on a project for which an agency has requested federal grant funding, and not to approve the project itself.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Devine) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-07. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

7. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-08

Teresa Nickell stated that the City of Avenal is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program grant, funded through the National Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA). The city will provide local matching of \$50,000, for a total of \$250,000 for their project. The city will develop its Vision Zero Action Plan, which will provide a comprehensive set, or a single safety action plan to support and facilitate the City's growth in multimodal and systemic roadways while ensuring safety strategies are included. KCAG staff received written comments from six agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Orth) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-08. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

8. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-09

Teresa Nickell stated that the Avenal Community Health Center is applying for a grant award of \$600,000, available through the Health Center Program, administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The applicant will provide \$135,100 of program income, for a total project cost of \$735,100. The Health Center Program grant will provide funding to the Avenal Community Health Center to expand their mental health and substance use disorder services for the community of Avenal. KCAG staff received written comments from six agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Devine) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-09. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9. Legal Counsel Contract Term Extension

Terri King reported that the current contract for Professional Services by Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, LLP, expires on June 30, 2024, with one remaining one-year extension on the current agreement. KCAG has received excellent legal services from Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, LLP, with Kris Pedersen serving as KCAG's General Counsel, while also maintaining access to all the attorneys and experience of the firm. A copy of the Term Extension and Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services for a period of five years, with the option, upon mutual agreement, to extend for four (4) additional one (1) year periods is attached.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve the one (1) year extension option, from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025, with Herr, Pedersen & Berglund, LLP to provide legal services for KCAG. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

10. San Joaquin Valley Voice Trip to Washington DC and Out of State Travel

Terri King stated that the federal Valley Voice trip will take place September 8-12, 2024, with meetings on the 10th and 11th. MPO staff, in consultation with Jen Covino of Simon and Company, and other partners, will be compiling a list of legislative and regulatory priority advocacy items for consideration that will be included in a Valley Voice brochure to participants and attendees. A summary of regional priorities and key focus areas was provided. Since this is considered a lobbying activity, the cost of the trip must be funded with local city and county funds. The cost of the trip is estimated to be about \$2,000 per person depending on the air fare. KCAG staff is requesting out of state travel authorization to attend the 2024 Valley Voice trip. Commissioner Verboon and Preciado as Members of the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council volunteered to attend.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Devine) to authorize out of state travel for the Executive Director and two Commissions to participate in the 2024 Valley Voice Washington, D.C. trip on September 8-12, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

11. KCAG Employee Compensation – Executive Director

Terri King reported that during a closed session discussion at the special meeting of the KCAG Commission on May 22, 2024, the KCAG labor negotiator received instructions to have KCAG staff prepare for your action a salary and benefits compensation resolution for a 4% salary increase for the KCAG Executive Director, effective June 24, 2024, the first pay period in FY 2024-25, with the adoption of Resolution No. 24-02.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to approve a salary and benefit package for the KCAG Executive Director to include a 4% salary increase, effective June 24, 2024, the first pay period in FY 2024-25. The motion carried by the following vote:

12. Election of New Officers

Terri King said the election of officers shall be held on the regular meeting of June each year, and the term of office shall commence on July 1. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be chosen by a majority of the members from its own membership. Nomination for the office of Chair was opened.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to nominate Commissioner Neves for the office of Chair and to close nomination for the office of Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Devine) to elect Commissioner Neves to the office of Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Commissioner Neves opened the nominations for the office of Vice-Chair.

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Verboon) to nominate Commission Palmerin for the office of Vice-Chair.

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

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Devine) to close nomination for the office of Vice-Chair and to elect Commissioner Palmerin as Vice-Chair. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

**IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Correspondence**

None.

**B. Staff Comments**

Terri King introduced Julio Gonzalez as the newest KCAG staff member. She reported that the REAP 2.0 grant funding was reduced by approximately \$40,000,000 and that new MPO amounts will be released later; and that next month's agenda will include additional Areawide Clearinghouse items and TDA fiscal and compliance audit reports.

Commissioner Verboon left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

**C. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Preciado announced that Avenal will have a 4th of July celebration.



Commissioner Palmerin said that Corcoran had an event at their Veterans Park and expressed gratitude for comments by Commissioner Verboon.

Commissioner Devine stated that a City Councilmember resigned, and a new Councilmember was appointed. A revenue measure was approved for the November Ballot. He expressed gratitude for the appointment to the KCAG Commission.

Commissioner Orth said the Lemoore City Manager recruitment is almost completed and that the new city budget has been approved.

Caltrans Representative Michael Navarro wished everyone a safe 4th of July.

Commissioner Neves thanked the City of Hanford for removing four thousand pounds of illegal fireworks off the streets. Commissioner Devine also praised the work by local fire department and law enforcement.

**V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for July 24, 2024**

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director