



MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 3:01 p.m., on September 25, 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, David Orth, Joe Neves, Alvaro Preciado, Doug Verboon

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Navarro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Sid Palmerin

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Joel Gandarilla, Jennifer Morales, Kayley Clay, Julio Gonzalez

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Patricia Matthews, City of Lemoore Mayor; Zoom: Cynthia Baruch, Lemoore Naval Air Station; Adam, Chris, Scott (by one name only)

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 August 28, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Devine) to approve the Minutes of the August 28, 2024, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

None

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro stated that the Clean California Project in Avenal has started; the Kettleman City roundabout is in the right-off-way acquisition phase resulting in going to the condemnation process and delaying the project until 2026; due to cooler overnight weather the rubberized rehabilitation project on SR 41 is in winter suspension; it is anticipated that the permit for the roundabout on Bush Street at SR 41 will be issued this winter; and SR 41 segment of unfinished two lane project is scheduled to start construction in spring of 2025.

Commission Verboon expressed safety concerns regarding 6th Ave. and SR 198 intersection.

Commission Neves stated the need for a left-turn lane on SR 41 at Stratford. Caltrans is aware of the traffic safety concerns.

Commissioner Orth related a flipped car accident along SR 41 and one of the Stratford entrances. There was further discussion regarding safety needs in the area along SR 41.

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 September 25, 2024

No action required.

2. San Joaquin Valley Voice – Washington DC Meetings Summary

Terri King provided a summary of the Valley Voice Trip to Washington DC. A written summary highlighting the talking points and meetings was provided to the Board.

Commissioner Verboon reported that the trip allowed us to accomplish much in a short period of time and the meetings provided an opportunity to present local needs. The delegation also met with the Department of Transportation and Federal Rail Administration. He provided a summary of the meetings and events.

Commission Preciado expressed appreciation for the meeting with the Department of Energy and emphasized the need for funding for rural communities. There was further discussion regarding acquiring additional funding for the rural community. It would benefit our community to submit projects that closely meet Department of Transportation and Federal Rail Administration criteria grant programs.

3. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-14

Terri King stated that Corcoran Westgate Manor, LP, is applying for a Section 515 Rural Rental Housing loan in the amount of \$2,930,607 to finance the rehabilitation or remodeling of 44 low-income housing units and to supplement an existing 515 loan transfer to the new owner. KCAG staff received written comments from three agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Preciado) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-14. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Devine, Neves, Orth, Preciado, Verboon

Absent: Palmerin

4. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-15

Terri King stated that the Kings County Sheriff's Office is applying for a FY 2024 Project Safe Neighborhoods formula grant in the amount of \$368,809 from the Department of Justice. The focus of the program will promote innovative solutions to specific issues, including firearm crimes and identifying advanced technology equipment and software to further support law enforcement in reducing violent crime and creating safer communities. KCAG staff received written comments from four agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Orth) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-15. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Devine, Neves, Orth, Preciado, Verboon

Absent: Palmerin

5. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-16

Terri King stated that Lily of The Valley Church is applying for a competitive grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Department of Justice - Office on Violence Against Women's FY 2024 Financial Assistance Grant. The Church offers mentoring services on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault services to Black Americans in Kings County through their Life of Victory Helping Hands program and will utilize the grant funds to administer their outreach program.

KCAG staff received written comments from four agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Devine) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-16. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Commissioner Verboon left the meeting at 3:34pm

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King said that next month's agenda will include a resolution for the signing of the expiring master funds transfer agreement with Caltrans; Triennial Performance Audit consultant selection; Areawide Clearinghouse reviews; and rescheduling the November and December TPC meetings to December 11, 2024. She noted that the application period for REAP 2.0 is open until October 25, 2024 and that the deadline to spend the Valleywide \$2.1 million portion of REAP 1.0 funds is December 2024. Cities are encouraged to submit documented expenses for the Housing Element. October 17 and 18, 2024, is the California Transportation Commission meeting in Bakersfield to approve the allocation request for environmental document of the SR 198 and 9th Ave. interchange.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Preciado stated that Avenal Cutoff Road project will start in a few weeks. There will also some crack sealing and slurry seal projects on some city roads.

Commissioner Devine stated that the city is reviewing the proposed bicycle and pedestrian network as related to the Active Transportation Plan and that there will be several pop-up events allowing the community opportunities to provide related input and comments.

Commissioner Orth stated that the 100-year time capsule opening will be September 26, 2024, at the old City Hall building.

Patricia Matthews stated that the Cemetery Walk event will be Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Commissioner Neves said he and his wife participated in the Suicide Prevention Walk in Avenal.

There was some discussion regarding electrical bicycles using pedestrian walk paths and the related safety concerns.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for October 23, 2024

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director