



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 3:05 p.m., on December 11, 2024, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Richard Fagundes, David Orth, Sid Palmerin, Joe Neves, Alvaro Preciado

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: George Buell, Martin Devine, Patricia Matthews;
Zoom: Cynthia Baruch, Kristie Baley

A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances

None.

B. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

C. Unscheduled Appearances

None.

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of October 23, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Palmerin / Preciado) to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2024, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Navarro, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado
Abstain: Fagundes

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2025-26 Overall Work Program Activities

Terri King reported that each year KCAG is required to develop an Overall Work Program (OWP) and submit the OWP to Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration by March 1, for review and comments. Funding sources to accomplish the OWP efforts include federal planning funds, estimated to be \$790,120 in new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), \$59,224 in new Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and \$164,572 in SB 1 Formula apportionments, along with unused funds carried over from the prior year. A summary of the work activities expected to be conducted during the next fiscal year was provided.

2. FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act Audits Extension

Jennifer Morales stated 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, submit a report of the fiscal and compliance audit of the financial statements to the State Controller. The accounting firm of Moss Adams is preparing the audits of each claimant, including the Kings County Association of Governments, County of Kings, and the cities of Hanford, Lemoore, Avenal, and Corcoran. It is anticipated that the auditor will not be able to submit draft audit reports in time so that KCAG can accept and submit them to the State Controller. In accordance with Section 6664 of the California Administrative Code, the regional transportation planning agency (KCAG) may grant an extension of up to 90 days for the submittal of the audit reports.

Commissioner Neves inquired if the delays are common. The response was that it is, but that a new auditor was selected by the County which this year has had many delays and over expenditures. However, the contract under the County of Kings will expire after this audit and staff is recommending that KCAG prepare and release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select its own auditor, instead of an auditing firm under contract with the County of Kings.

A motion was made and seconded (Preciado / Orth) to approve an extension for the submittal of the FY 2023-24 TDA audits be granted and that the State Controller be notified of the extension. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Navarro, Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado

Absent: Fagundes

Commissioner Fagundes left the meeting at 3:16 pm.

3. FFY 2023-24 Annual Federal Funds Obligation Report

Kayley Clay stated that Federal regulations require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) either publish or make available to the public an annual listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the proceeding federal fiscal year. KCAG has prepared the annual report of obligated projects for the Federal Fiscal Year FFY 2023-24 and is available on the KCAG website. The listing shows that during FFY 2023-24 KCAG Member Agencies and state

agencies on behalf of the region obligated approximately \$44 million (and \$166,736 de-obligated) for streets, roads, and highway projects and approximately \$13.4 million for transit projects within Kings County.

B. Caltrans Report

Michael Navarro stated that the notice for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunities was released, and the Caltrans grant application guide was released in October, with applications due January 22, 2025. Regarding projects it was reported that the Clean California project in Avenal has started; the SR 41 Kettleman City roundabout is in the right-off-way acquisition phase, including the condemnation process and delaying the project until 2026; the Stratford and Lemoore CAPM project is in winter suspension and expected to start in June 2025; the permit for the temporary roundabout at Bush Street is anticipated to be released in January; the design for the SR 41 segment of unfinished two lane project in Fresno County is scheduled to be completed in May 2025, with construction in fall of 2025; the Reef City CAPM project is anticipated to start in early 2025; Caltrans is reviewing the safety concerns at the Stratford entrance at Laurel Avenue and SR 41.

Commission Neves recommended combining the safety threshold for all three Stratford entrances along SR 41 as a segment.

Commissioner Orth inquired about the roadwork on SR 41 near Shandon. The reply was that the project is under District 5 but will ask about its progress.

Commissioner Preciado asked about the SR 269 and Avenal Cutoff intersection collision rate, and street lighting. The reply was Caltrans will review this issue.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

Terri King stated that the California Transportation Commission allocated the funds for the initial phase of the 9th Ave and SR 198 interchange. KCAG expressed appreciation for the work of Caltrans Director Diana Gomez, who will be retiring.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

III. KCAG COMMISSION

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on December 11, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Preciado) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on December 11, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado
Absent: Fagundes

2. FY 2024-25 Quarter 1 Financial Report

Jennifer Morales reported on the quarterly financial report for the period of July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, submitted to Caltrans. A total of \$242,058.64 in federal funds will be received as reimbursement for eligible activities. Total expenditure for the First Quarter was \$291,889.38 and total revenues received were \$300,000.00.

3. 2025 KCAG Meeting Calendar

Terri King said there are no changes to the KCAG yearly calendar schedule for TAC or TPC meetings. However, the meeting location will be adjusted once the KART Transit Center and KCAG offices are operational.

4. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-19

Teresa Nickell stated that the City of Avenal is applying for a discretionary grant in the amount of \$7,900,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Drought Response Program. This Program is designed to provide States, Tribes, and local entities with federal funding to increase water supply reliability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts concerning drought conditions which impact disadvantaged communities. KCAG staff received written comments from one agency 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. 24-19. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado
Absent: Fagundes

5. Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 Local Suballocation Grant Program

Julio Gonzalez stated that the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Strategic Growth Council, and the California Air Resources Board established the Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0) program, of which KCAG received an allocation of \$1,939,379. KCAG developed a Local Suballocation Grant Program to allocate the funds for eligible projects. The KCAG Commission approved the scoring criteria and methodology, application, and suballocation formula at its meeting on June 23, 2023. KCAG released a call for applications in August and put together a scoring committee of five members, one person from each representative of CARB, HCD, Caltrans, Kings County Area

Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA), and Fresno Council of Governments to review the applications received in October. Applications were received from the cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford, and Lemoore for their targeted share of REAP 2.0 funds. The County of Kings did not apply. A summary of each applicant's proposed project was provided, which included the following:

City of Avenal - Water Master Plan: \$172,728

City of Corcoran - Lakeview Terrace- Pickerell Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: \$234,317

City of Hanford - Modernizing GIS and Permitting Processes: \$455,000

City of Hanford - Updates to General Plan: \$250,000

City of Lemoore - Future Residential Growth Study: \$120,000

City of Lemoore - Infill Development Accelerating Project: \$135,000

City of Lemoore - Water Supply Study: \$95,000

A motion was made and seconded (Orth / Preciado) to approve the applications and award the REAP 2.0 Local Suballocation Grant Program funds to each applicable jurisdiction; and Authorize the KCAG Executive Director to enter into contracts with each of the four awarded jurisdictions for the expenditure of REAP 2.0 Local Suballocation Grant Program funds. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Neves, Orth, Palmerin, Preciado
Absent: Fagundes

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King said that the January agenda will include the appointments to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and KCAG Subcommittees, and Areawide Clearinghouse Review applications. She noted that KCAG offices will be closed December 24, 2024, through January 1, 2025; KCAG staff will meet with Caltrans regarding the Overall Work Program; and KCAG Staff will request Form 700 from incoming and outgoing Commissioners.

Commissioner Neves presented a Service Award on behalf of KCAG to David Orth and Martin Devine for their service on the KCAG Commission.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Palmerin stated that Corcoran held their 105th consecutive Christmas parade.

Commissioner Preciado stated that Avenal also held their holiday parade last week and two Christmas tree lighting events, and that there will be a toy drive in December.

Commissioner Orth stated that Lemoore's parade was well attended, with 128 parade floats; the Lemoore Fire Department put up the city Christmas tree; and the old K-Mart building was sold with a Tractor Supply Company store moving in.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for January 22, 2025

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director