



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 3:02 p.m., on January 22, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Lou Martinez, Patricia Matthews, Joe Neves, Alvaro Preciado, Doug Verboon

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Caleb Brock

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jeanette Zamora-Bragg

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

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen via phone

VISITORS PRESENT:

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 December 11, 2024

A motion was made and seconded (Preciado / Neves) to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brock, Martinez, Matthews, Neves, Preciado
Abstain: Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Appointments

Teresa Nickell stated that the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is an advisory body to the regional transportation planning agency regarding the unmet transit needs of the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means within Kings County. There are eight members of the SSTAC whose terms are expiring in January 2025 and KCAG staff was able to confirm each member's desire to continue participation on the SSTAC for a three-year term, with the exceptions of Jim Christian, Craig Wilson, Peggy Wilson, Alan Decker, and Ben Fernandez. KCAG has received three new membership applications related to specific areas of expertise and eligibility for consideration from Brenda Tamayo-Pagan, Leslie Corchado, and Jared Raper.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to approve the reappointment of three members and the appointment of three new members to serve three-year terms on the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brock, Martinez, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

B. Caltrans Report

Caleb Brock reported that Director Gomez's last official day was December 26, 2024 and that there is an interim director until the permanent permission is filled. California received \$98 million in Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants, with 10 projects awarded, including \$15.3 million for Hanford. The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program call for applications is due today and there will be a public engagement workshop for the SR 99 corridor plan update.

Commissioner Verboon stated that the SR 41 off-ramp onto Bush Street is heavily congested with traffic backing up on SR 41. There was some discussion regarding the need to use an alternate route during peak hours, when school is starting or at the end of workday. Caltrans stated that a series of roundabouts are being planned for the area to help with the traffic circulation.

Commissioner Preciado requested an update regarding the 10 or so lights that are not working along SR 269. Although those lights are in Fresno County, PG&E believes those lights belong to the City of Avenal.

Regarding projects it was reported that the of City of Avenal enhancements art project along SR 269 and SR 33 is anticipated to start later this year; the SR 41 Kettleman City roundabout is in the right-off-way acquisition phase; 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 SR 198 and 9th Avenue interchange is in the draft project report phase; the Reef City CAPM project is anticipated to start in early 2025; and the Hanford and SR 198 CAPM project is in the environmental phase with construction anticipated in 2027.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

None.

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 January 22, 2025

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on January 22, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Martinez, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

2. Governor's FY 2025-26 Proposed State Budget

Terri King said that the Governor released the budget on January 10, 2025. The agenda contains a report from CalCOG that outlines the housing and transportation budget. There are no major changes to the current funding. The revised budget will be available in May 2025.

3. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-20

Teresa Nickell stated that the Hanford Municipal Airport is applying for a discretionary grant in the amount of \$150,575 from the U.S. Department of Transportation Airport Improvement Program. The funds would be used for Design Phase I to remove Taxiway B, and Preliminary Design Phase II to remove segment of Taxiway D. KCAG staff received written comments from five agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

There was some discussion regarding the economic opportunities and benefits to improving the airport runways.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-20. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Martinez, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

4. Areawide Planning Review No. 24-21

Teresa Nickell stated that the City of Hanford is applying for a discretionary grant in the amount of \$422,800 from the National Park Service Save America's Treasures Program. The Carnegie Museum of Kings County is in dire need of restoration through several critical capital improvements. The City plans to match the federal funding requested with \$422,800 in General Funds, for a total project cost of \$845,600. KCAG staff received written comments from five agencies stating that the project does not duplicate or conflict with any of their programs.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Matthews) to recommend that the KCAG Commission's comments include and ratify those of staff and other reviewers regarding Planning Review No. 24-21. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Martinez, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

5. Appointment to KCAG Representatives to Committees

Terri King reported on the vacancies to the KCAG Sub-committees. Commissioner Matthews and Commissioner Preciado volunteered to serve on the Personnel Committee and Commissioner Martinez volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Verboon outlined the role on the California Council of Government (CalCOG). Commissioner Matthews volunteered to serve as the alternate representative.

Commissioner Verboon outlined the role on the San Joaquin's Joint Powers Authority. Commissioner Martinez volunteered to serve as the alternate representative.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Preciado) to appoint Commissioners to the committees to which they volunteered to represent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Martinez, Matthews, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King stated that the Sacramento Valley Voice trip is scheduled for March 11-12, 2025. A summary of the elected officials whom the delegation will be meeting with was provided. The draft legislative priorities are being developed. There will be a

Regional Policy meeting this Friday to discuss the federal budget policy and legislative update, and the California budget policy and legislative update.

Next month's agenda will include election for Chair and Vice Chair; the Draft FY 2025-26 Overall Work Program; the FY 25-26 Transportation Development Act estimates; and the second quarter financial report.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Preciado was appointed as the City of Avenal Mayor.

Commissioner Verboon was voted as Chairman for the second year.

Commissioner Matthews was appointed City of Lemoore Mayor.

Commissioner Martinez thanked everyone for the warm welcome to the KCAG Commission.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2025

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director