



**MCAG Governing Board
Regional Waste Management Authority Board
Transit Joint Powers Authority Board
MINUTES**

DATE

Thursday, February 15, 2018

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board held on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at the City of Los Banos, Council Chambers, 520 J Street, Los Banos, CA was called to order by Chair Espinoza at 3:05 P.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director Rodrigo Espinoza, Chair
Director Alex McCabe, Vice Chair
Director Lee Lor
Director Daron McDaniel
Director Michael McGlynn for April Hogue
Director Mel Oliveira for Joe Oliveira
Director Josh Pedrozo for Mike Murphy
Director Lloyd Pareira
Director Jim Price

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Jerry O'Banion
Director Mike Villalta

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Patti Dossetti, League of Women Voters
Joanne Lamas, Senator Anthony Cannella's Office
Tom Dumas, Chief, Office of Metropolitan Planning, Caltrans, Dist. 10
Alex Terrazas, Los Banos City Manager

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Finance Director
Stacie Dabbs, Deputy Executive Director
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Patrick Pittenger, Executive Director
Matt Fell, Senior Planner
Brooks Stayer, Regional Waste Authority Director
Jennifer Halpin, Diversion Programs Manager
Nadia Gonzalez, Financial Services Manager
Marty Yerrick, Landfill Operations Manager
Blake Dunford, Assistant Planner
Eva Garibay, Public Program Specialist
Daisy Zaragoza, Public Program Specialist

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Invocation

Director Michael McGlynn led the invocation.

3. Roll Call

4. Approval of agenda

Patrick Pittenger requested Item 22 of the agenda be removed.

Director Pareira moved to approve the February 15, 2018, MCAG Governing Board agenda with Item 22 removed.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

6. Minutes

- a. Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board meeting for January 18, 2018
- b. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County Board meeting for January 18, 2018
- c. Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting for January 18, 2018

Director Lor moved to approve the minutes of the Regional Waste Management Authority, the Transit Joint Powers Authority and the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board meeting.

Seconded by Director Oliveira.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

7. Oral Report – Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority Monthly Update

Brooks Stayer gave the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority update noting the monthly tonnage comparisons. He briefly went over the landfill expansions at Highway 59 landfill and at the Billy Wright landfill. An invitation for bids was released for the Billy Wright Landfill expansion and a pre-bid meeting will be taking place next week. He added that the Highway 59 expansion is at 60% design phase but won't be taking place until the next two years. Brooks noted that MCRWMA met with the County to discuss the access road to the 600-acre land use for the Billy Wright landfill. Tetra Tech BAS, the engineering firm conducting work for the landfill expansion project, confirmed there are no issues with building the landfill on the land and adding an access road. Brooks also reported that he met with UC Merced staff regarding the landfill gas to energy project. He added that they are working on developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and anticipates it being executed soon.

Patrick asked if MCRWMA will be able to proceed with the environmental documentation once the MOU is executed, and if the MOU will then lead up to a binding agreement.

Brooks responded that with the MOU, the UC is committing to the project. He added that the UC can't officially sign anything until the environmental review is done.

Director Pareira asked about the path to get the pipeline to the UC. He added that the Robinson estate property has been sold and if they have considered taking another route perhaps around Highway 59.

Brooks discussed the options they have thought about including direct use from the high school, which would require negotiations. Other issues discussed were an old railroad grade which may or may not exist anymore, the use of Highway 59 through Bellevue, and the high tension power lines.

8. Resolution for Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority to Administer Regional Grants

Director McDaniel moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the RWMA to submit and administer regional grants from CalRecycle for a term of five years.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

**Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price
Noes - None**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Tuolumne County – Contract for Waste Disposal

Director McDaniel moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a three (3) year waste disposal contract with Tuolumne County.

Seconded by Director Pareira.

**Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price
Noes - None**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Capital Project #80009 H56 Phase 6A LFG System Increase Authorization Request

Director Pareira moved to authorize staff to increase Project 80009 allocation by \$250,000.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

**Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price
Noes - None**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Quarterly Diversion Programs Update

Jennifer Halpin gave a presentation on the diversion programs at RWMA. She discussed changes to community clean up days for this upcoming Spring and Fall. She discussed the on-going community cleanups throughout the year that are offered to Merced residents at no cost. Jennifer added that RWMA continues to accept mattresses and paint cans. The landfill accepts up to four mattresses at no cost. Paint cans still remain the highest volume that is recycled and paint drop-off locations are in various parts in Merced. Jennifer shared information about China's importing restrictions on recyclables which is creating an excess of recyclables in California.

Director Pareira commented that his original thoughts were that China was having a backup issue but came to an understanding that the actual problem is China is not accepting the quality and contamination in the recycled material.

Brooks confirmed that the contamination in recycled material was the issue.

Director Pareira asked if pulp/almond hulls are recyclable and Jennifer stated that she will look into it and will let him know.

Director Price asked if recyclables can be taken to Turlock to which Jennifer answered that Turlock is experiencing an excess of recyclables as well.

Director Price asked if the clean-up dates are posted on the RWMA website and Jennifer confirmed that all dates are posted on the web.

12. Master Consultant Agreements Expenditure Summary

Brooks Stayer provided a summary on the master consultant agreements for environmental engineering. He mentioned that there are four main categories of environmental engineering and the agreements were obtained through procurement. They attained qualified firms from each category and Tetra Tech was one of the consultants that was chosen for two of those categories. Brooks commented this is a semi-annual report on those contracts and while the executive director signs work orders on those contracts, the main contract is approved by the Board.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

13. Oral Report – Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County Monthly Update

Patrick Pittenger gave the update on the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County noting that it was previously mentioned they have obtained four (4) new Gillig buses and now have recently received nine (9) new Ford Transit Cargo Vans that will be used for ADA paratransit services. He added that TJPAMC has been monitoring Measure V funded free rides to seniors, ADA eligible passengers and veterans since July 2017. TJPAMC has now provided more than 91,000 free rides and ridership for each month has been higher than the same month from the year before. He added that between January 2017 and January 2018 ridership has increased by 12%. Patrick also mentioned that there have been requests for bus stops and they are looking into implementing a bus pullout by Walmart in the City of Merced. The design has been completed and they are moving forward with that. He stated that TJPAMC is also in communication with Livingston Health Center to place a bus stop. Patrick added that Artis and Transit staff are working with contractors to make sure they are getting their monies worth and making sure the right services are being contracted for.

Director McDaniel asked if the 12% ridership increase was an increase in total ridership or free ridership.

Patrick Pittenger clarified that the ridership increase was a total ridership percent increase. He added there were about 63,000 riders in January of 2018 compared to 56,000 in January of 2017, and out of those 63,000 nearly 23% were free riders.

14. State Transit Assistance FY 2017-18 Claim for Quarter 1 Allocation

Director McDaniel moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit the STA FY2017/18, Quarter 1, claim form in the amount of \$255,024 to MCAG.

Seconded by Director McCabe.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

15. Caltrans Report

Tom Dumas mentioned that the pothole on SR-152 and SR-165 intersection has been taken care of. He added Caltrans is scheduled to be at the Los Banos City Council meeting to discuss the pedestrian crossing on SR-152 and 11th Street. He commented on the project updates list handed out earlier and noted the red sections are the updates on what has changed. Tom mentioned the stripping on highway 99 will be starting in the Spring. He added that they have completed the Livingston median barriers on SR-152, the Santa-Nella bride rehab, and the Fowler road realignment on SR-165. Pavement rehab has also been started on Highway 59.

Director Pareira shared that Highway 59 south of Bellevue was in bad shape, and the drains on the bridge over the Merced River on Highway 59 catch sand.

Tom indicated that we will pass this information on to be looked at.

16. Information/Discussion Only

- a. MCAG Newsletter - February 2017
- b. Dibs Quarterly Report
- c. Calendar of Meetings, Conferences and Events

17. Transportation Planning Update

Stacie Dabbs stated that Measure V has generated \$8.4 million of revenue in the first six months. She added that the implementation plan will be developed this year and will look at the first 5 years of projects to be funded. The East and West side Regional Projects Committees are working on developing the list of regional candidate projects and will ultimately make a recommendation to the Governing Board on which projects to include in the first Implementation Plan. Stacie also stated that the local projects funding agreements for Measure V will expire in June 2018. A draft two-year funding agreement is currently being circulated with jurisdictions' legal counsels and a master draft will go to the Governing Board for action in March.

Matt Fell stated that the Livingston widening project for both southbound and northbound directions on SR-99 remains in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and that funds are also being pursued by Caltrans through the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP).

Matt also stated that the draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan is on schedule to be released in April for public review and comments. Matt mentioned that the kick off meeting for the multi-use paths in Atwater and Los Banos took place last month. The feasibility studies are expected to be completed this year and will better prepare the local jurisdictions to be competitive for future active transportation grant opportunities.

18. MCAG Approval of State Transit Assistance FY 2017/18 Quarter 1 Allocation Distribution to the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County and the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Director Lor moved to approve the STA FY 2017/18 Quarter 1 Claim Forms and distribute funds to the TJPA and to YARTS.

Seconded by Director Oliveira.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Abstain – Director McDaniel

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. Request to Reduce Farebox Recovery Ratio

Director McCabe moved to approve the change in farebox recovery ratio for the TJPAMC to 15 percent.

Seconded by Director Oliveira.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

20. Appointment of Committee of the Board – Advisory Committee

Patrick discussed the proposed creation of an Advisory Committee of the Board to discuss the potential extension of the Executive Director contract. He suggested the Advisory Committee be comprised of up to four Board members and proposed the option to include the current Chair, Vice-Chair, and two Board members from the jurisdictions in line for the officer positions the following two years. He also suggested that this structure could be applied in future years as officers change.

Director McCabe moved to appoint the following members of the Board to an advisory committee as requested by the Executive Director.

- Chair – Rodrigo Espinoza
- Vice Chair – Alex McCabe
- Member – County of Merced: Daron McDaniel
- Member – City of Gustine: Joe Oliveira

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21. Appointment to the 2018 Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship Selection Committee

Director Price moved to appoint Director McCabe to the 2018 Anna Maria Fuentes scholarship selection committee.

Seconded by Director Lor.

Ayes – Directors Espinoza, Lor, McCabe, McDaniel, McGlynn, Oliveira, Pedrozo, Pareira, Price

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

22. Request from City of Los Banos to Review MCAG Board Makeup

This item was removed from the agenda.

OTHER REPORTS

23. Executive Director's Report

Patrick Pittenger informed everyone that MCAG is working on the Overall Work Program and expect to have it on the agenda for next month. Other items to expect on the agenda next month include the TJPAMC purchase of the building next door from MCAG, and a contract for architectural and engineering services for the building remodel. Patrick welcomed MCAG's new staff member, Blake Dunford. He noted that the pavement management system is well underway, and data has been collected for the Cities of Livingston and Atwater. He added that he has been working with staff on the review of CMAQ funds as well as carryover funds and options will be coming forward for jurisdictions. Patrick also mentioned that more information will be given on Proposition 69 next month and touched on the RTIF that was discussed in the previous meeting. He noted he has shared information on the RTIP with all the jurisdictions and is looking forward to jurisdiction's positions on that and bringing it to the Board.

24. Directors' Report

Director Pareira informed everyone that at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District meeting, decision makers voted to purchase two mobile source air analyzers, which consist of a van with eight testing machines.

Director Oliveira announced he has a couple of friends who will be taking part in a tiny house project which will be for rental only. He added when the plans are available he will share them. Director Oliveira mentioned the new businesses that have opened in the City of Gustine which include a new gun shop, lawn mower/chainsaw shop and barber shop. He commented that the funeral chapel is redoing all sidewalks and that the GPS Hall built a new parking lot.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE MCAG GOVERNING BOARD, THE MEETING WAS
ADJOURNED AT 4:17 P.M.**

_____/s/_____
Daisy Zaragoza
Public Program Specialist