



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE

Thursday, January 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Vice Chair Josh Pedrozo at 3:02 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director Jose Moran
Director Daron McDaniel
Director Rodrigo Espinosa
Director April Hogue
Director Josh Pedrozo, Vice Chair
Director Lloyd Pareira
Director Scott Silveira
Director Paul Llanez
Director Shane Smith for Matthew Serratto, Chair
Director Brian Raymond for Mike Nelson**

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Pat Nagy

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist I
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist
Blake Dunford, Associate Planner**
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Kristina Hernandez, HR and Risk Management Manager**
Meg Prince, Senior Planner**
Daisy Zaragoza, Procurement and Planning Specialist
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist**
Angelina Linan, Administrative Assistant I
Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst I**

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Danielle Lagorio, SJCOG **
Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10 **
Hannah Cohn**
Frank Urloda, **
Jennifer Riedeman, **
Nick Jensen, **
Yvette Davis, **
Patti Dossetti, **
Raul Mendez, **
Eric Zetz, **
Nirorn Than, City of Los Banos
Ed Noriega, Mark Thomas

*arrived after roll call

**attended via zoom

1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Invocation
- c. Pledge of allegiance

Mary-Michal Rawling led the roll call and stated that a quorum was present. Director Pareira gave the invocation and Director Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of agenda

Director Silveira moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday, January 19, 2023 except Item 4 which will be postponed until the next meeting when Council Member Cale can be present.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Raymond, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Public comment

Mary Michal Rawling introduced Angelina Linan as new Administrative Assistant.

4. Recognition of outgoing Directors: Director Cale

This item was tabled.

5. Citizens Advisory Committee report

Madeline Brown presented the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) report.

Director Silveira thanked Madeline for attending the meeting and asked if she finds value in being a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Ms. Brown stated she is an advocate for the Citizens Advisory Committee as her current research work is focused on transportation planning and policy within the community. She believes having members who get together to strongly advocate for our communities is very valuable.

Director Smith also noted his opinion, as a past member of the CAC, that the Committee is a valuable asset to both MCAG staff and the Board.

6. Caltrans Report

Marlon Regisford presented the Caltrans report and discussed the following topics:

- Activation of approximately 1,200 electronic highway signs across the state to display urgent safety messaging
- Governor Newsom has signed an emergency proclamation throughout California to support the ongoing response to the recent winter storms
- Activated District 10 emergency operation center located in the district office in Stockton

- Caltrans is working with local partners to respond to the storm and will be poised to recover from damages
- Prioritizing staffing for maintenance teams: they have 4,000 crew members statewide working 12-hour shifts
- Placing equipment at critical locations to prepare for additional flooding and mudslides to respond to emergencies that come up moving forward
- Monitoring bridges as each river levels rise, and water flows increase. Community members are recommended to visit quickmap.dot.ca.gov, quickmap app, or call 1-800-427-road for traffic information and real-time traffic conditions.
- Reminding drivers to move over to allow work crews, highway patrol officers and emergency personnel to perform important tasks to keep the roads open
- Traffic advisories: South route Highway 59 is closed south of Merced, river remains overflowed from Dickerson Rd. to Sandy Mush Rd., Mariposa County state route 140 remains closed in both directions due to rockslides, crews are working to clear the roadway, no ETA for opening those roads back up at the time
- Sustainable transportation planning grant guide - Currently have call opened and are having workshop on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Director McDaniel thanked Caltrans for doing a great job mediating traffic safety for community members in areas impacted by the storms, including Hwy 140 and Planada. He asked if there is an ETA for the resolution of the road damages from the flooding for those areas. Marlon is following up with the maintenance team and will reach out to Director McDaniel with an update.

Director Espinosa shared his concerns with the Mariposa Creek crossing bridge and entrance. He requested an update on Henry Miller Road at Highway 33 in Santa Nella, Planada and Merced, as well as Livingston controlled brush burns debris that has not been removed which has been there for months.

Director Silveira requested a follow up on the Mariposa creek crossing on Highway 59. He stated that this highlights the need to expedite due to traffic being re-routed to local roads, local roads were not designed to handle that kind of traffic and this diversion is tearing up our local roads. He would like to request reimbursement for the damage of having the highway traffic routed on local roads. Numerous calls are being received due to these road conditions. He also asked when the call for projects will be released for Clean Parks Grants. He mentioned they may have potential for submitting for a couple of those projects. He would appreciate some insight on when the calls for projects will be released so they can be ready to submit.

Director Llanez wanted to report a concern with Pacheco Blvd. at H St. Traffic coming from H and going on Pacheco going eastbound; vehicles are not stopping at the limit line causing congestion at the intersection. He is concerned with the limit of fluid movement of traffic.

Vice Chair Pedrozo appreciates Caltrans for their work and efforts they have done to address issues caused by the storms but would also like his request of signs on Highway 99 to not be forgotten. He also supports Director Silveira's comments regarding traffic being diverted onto local roads causing damage which should not be used for these types of situations.

7. Information items:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Transportation Planning and Measure V update
 - ii. MCAG Governing Board calendar – 2023
 - iii. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events

- iv. Draft minutes of the January 11, 2023 Technical Review Board meeting
- v. MCAG newsletter – January 2023
- vi. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- vii. Regional Housing Planning update
- viii. FY 2022/23 Quarter 2 Governing Board summary
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. TJPA monthly update
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. RWA monthly update

So noted.

8. Consent calendar:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
 - ii. Affirm adoption of Resolution No. 2021/10-21-03 authorizing the MCAG Governing Board and all of its subordinate committees to hold virtual meetings in accordance with AB 361
 - iii. Approve the 2023 Holiday schedule
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. None.
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. Act of Extension of Personal Injury Claim

Director McDaniel moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Raymond, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

9. Action items:

- a. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the preparation of an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan in the amount of \$158,105 for a total of six months with Wildan Energy Solutions

Blake Dunford summarized the request to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Wildan Energy Solutions for the preparation of an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan.

Director Llanez moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the preparation of an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan in the amount of \$158,105 for a total of six months with Wildan Energy Solutions.

Seconded by Director Smith.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Raymond, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Approve the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program Priorities

Elizabeth Forte presented the request to approve the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program Priorities.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program Priorities.

Seconded by Director Espinosa.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Raymond, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Accept Audited Measure V Financial Statements for FY 2021-2022

Nav Bagri summarized the request to accept Audited Measure V Financial Statements for FY 2021-2022.

Nav Bagri shared the concerns expressed by the Citizens Oversight Committee about expenditure reports from jurisdictions not being received in a timely manner, causing delays in reporting the information to the Citizens Oversight Committee for review. In addition, there are several vacancies on the Citizens Oversight Committee which they encouraged the jurisdictions to fill. The COC also encouraged the Board members to reach out to their jurisdictions' staff to encourage the timely reporting of the expenditures each jurisdiction incurs.

Director Silveira inquired if jurisdictions are aware that they are not reporting their expenditures in a timely manner. Staff replied in the affirmative.

Stacie Guzman reiterated the reporting issues have impacted the ability for the Citizens Oversight Committees to do their job in a timely manner. She is developing a memorandum that MCAG will distribute to the jurisdictions, as well as the Board, identifying the main issues and offering suggestions on how to move forward to invest in the Citizens Oversight Committee process. This will include opportunities to have the jurisdictions present at COC meetings to highlight projects and answer questions from the COC about expenditures.

Director Moran requested that all the Directors and all the alternates be copied on emails that are being sent to the staff requesting submission of these reports as an additional effort, making the Directors aware of when these reports are due so that they are aware of when the expenditure reports are not being submitted timely by their respective jurisdictions.

Director Smith suggested staggering the reporting so that it is not at the end of the quarter.

Director Pareira requested an email to be sent to the Board and jurisdictions noting the reporting deadlines and tardy reports.

Director Silveira moved to accept the Audited Measure V Financial Statements for FY 2021-2022.

Seconded by Director Moran.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Raymond, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Approve 2023 Appointments to Regional Boards and Commissions

Stacie Guzman summarized the request for the 2023 Appointments to Regional Boards and Commissions.

Director Hogue nominated Director Nagy for the vacant City position on the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council.

Director Silveira nominated Director Llanez for the vacant Board Member position on CalVans.

Director Pedrozo and Hogue indicated they want to remain in their positions with CalCOG.

Director McDaniel nominated Pedrozo as the alternate for the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and Director Espinosa indicated he wanted to remain as the Board member.

Director Silveira moved to approve the 2023 Appointments to Regional Boards and Commissions as stated.

Seconded by Director Pareira.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Raymond, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Discussion items:

a. 2023 One Voice program

Mary-Michal Rawling presented an update on the 2023 One Voice program.

Director Silveira encouraged this information to also be carried by Directors to jurisdictional staff to ensure prioritization of One Voice tasks and emphasized that deadlines need to be met and stated that late submissions should not be included in the platform.

Vice Chair Pedrozo underscored the impactful nature this program offers for its attendees while creating a unified voice for the communities it serves and also agreed that deadlines should be met.

b. Update on JPA renewal process

Emily Haden presented an update on the JPA renewal process noting the final meeting of the attorneys resulted in consensus on a final draft that she will distribute to the jurisdictions' legal counsels.

Director Moran requested an email be sent to the corresponding cities including this information, so city staff are aware of the information beforehand.

Emily Haden confirmed she will accept all changes in the red line version, make sure formatting is correct and will re-distribute the agreement to each jurisdictions' legal counsel who will then work with their city managers to place on their respective agendas.

Vice Chair Pedrozo encouraged this information to be taken forward by Directors to their cities to make sure this is completed as quickly as possible.

c. Pioneer Road Complete Streets Project presentation

Elizabeth Forte introduced Nirorn Than with City of Los Banos and Ed Noriega with Mark Thomas who summarized the Pioneer Road Complete Streets Project presentation.

Directors McDaniel and Pareira stated the project appears to be a more local project rather than a regional project and would suggest the project to be presented in a manner that emphasizes the regional benefits rather than a local project for Los Banos.

Director Pareira inquired if traffic controls will be established at the intersections and emphasized the benefits of roundabouts. He asked if the project was being planned for the full build out of four lanes.

Director Llanez inquired if roundabouts were being considered with the use of commercial traffic as well as the difference between having two lanes vs four lanes and how this might affect local traffic.

Director Silveira asked how the project will affect businesses that are already on Pioneer Road from entering and exiting. Director Silveira thanked the City of Los Banos staff for being present at the meeting.

City of Los Banos staff stated the project is not meant as a bypass for Highway 152 and will have restrictions on vehicle loads but that it will also be designed with emergency use accommodations for commercial traffic. The businesses on Pioneer Road will retain access to entry and exit points, however they are hoping that this will discourage commercial vehicles from using Pioneer Road as a detour for Highway 152. Los Banos staff mentioned the right of ways have been purchased and reserved for the development for four-lanes, however there may be a potential for cost savings if four-lane widening is not implemented.

Staff was asked if the project scope change from a 4 lane widening project to an “improvement project” affects any of the funding that has been dedicated to the project through MCAG. Stacie Guzman expressed that with Measure V Funding staff may need to complete a language cleanup with the implementation plan update that is due this year. The LPP highway infrastructure program and the regional improvement program would not have restrictions. Elizabeth Forte shared that the project may be more competitive for state grants with considerations like roundabouts and not a full widening project.

Director McDaniel recommended as an example of a successful roundabout being on Sylvan Ave. by Enochs High school in Modesto which allows for more free flowing of traffic and eliminating congestion.

d. Dibs Annual Report Presentation

Danielle Lagorio with SJCOG summarized the Dibs Annual Report Presentation.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

11. Action items:

- a. Authorize the purchase of eight full-size diesel buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,335,140.

Nav Bagri summarized the request for the purchase of eight full-size diesel buses.

Director Pareira inquired on the justification for the need of eight full-sized buses versus purchasing smaller sized buses.

Nav Bagri summarized the request for eight full-sized buses is due to the need of fleet replacement of current bus fleet inventory. These buses can convey 29-31 passengers along with two wheelchair stations.

Stacie Guzman stated she will prepare information on the fleet replacement plan for review so the Directors can see where staff has downsized previously retired buses and replaced them with smaller buses, however with some of our commuter routes, larger buses are needed. The amount requested is the maximum amount budgeted and staff will continue to review the fleet and assess whether all eight buses are required to be the large sized models to become more efficient. She asked the Board to act and allow her the flexibility to evaluate the need of potentially different bus sizing while allowing for the purchase of said buses. The bus sizes will continue to be evaluated, with the understanding that any changes to the bus sizing will be reported to the Board.

Vice Chair Pedrozo agreed with Director Pareira's statement regarding the need to be efficient with this purchase. He stated that there is a bus stop near his home by Merced College which is busy, but buses are never full.

Director McDaniel inquired about the last time there were 31 commuters on the bus at the same time. He stated that he has seen 1-2 commuters on a bus riding within his district.

Director Silveira moved to authorize the Executive Director to purchase buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,335,140 with the understanding that the need will be reassessed prior to purchase to determine both the number of buses needed as well as whether the purchase of larger or smaller buses is warranted.

Seconded by Director Pareira.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Pareira, Pedrozo, Smith, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Discussion items:

None.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY-

13. Action items:

None.

14. Discussion items:

None.

OTHER REPORTS

15. Executive Director's report

Stacie Guzman discussed the following topics:

- Gave recognition to John Costa, Kuljit Singh, Patrick Womble and other staff who came in to work on Saturday and on the holiday to assist with the debris removal efforts.
- Welcomed and re-introduced Angelina Linan to the Board. Advised the Board that emails will be coming from her as Joy Young has retired.
- San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference – this is an annual Valley conference that each of the COGs take turns hosting. San Joaquin COG will be hosting this year at the Great Wolf Lodge. The standing policy is for MCAG to pay for hotel and registration fee for its Policy Council members, alternate and any Board members. If anyone is interested, please let her know and staff will take care of the arrangements.
- New Board Member orientation will be held on February 9, 2023, from 2-5 p.m. Orientation is geared towards New Board members and alternates. It is open to all Board members, alternates, city managers and staff. Everyone will be provided an updated Board binder.
- After Board meetings, staff will be providing a bulleted action list that will be used as updated summaries for cities to then use as standing reports for their jurisdictions. This has been provided quarterly but will now be sent after Board meetings by Stacie or her executive assistant, Stephanie Jackson.
- Caltrans reported Highway 140 remains closed just above Midpines. YARTS service cannot be provided beyond Midpines at this time until the rockslide is cleared.

16. Directors' Reports

Director Silveira thanked Stacie and Highway 59 landfill staff for staying later and opening gates earlier to assist with removal of debris for the storm flood victims.

Vice Chair Pedrozo seconded the thank you to Stacie and Highway 59 landfill staff for all their efforts in making themselves available for these unexpected issues that were presented.

Director McDaniel thanked the City of Livingston; their Police Department was helpful with road closure and control. City of Atwater CalFire also participated with the efforts as well.

Director Espinosa thanked the County and OES personnel for the support with Planada, Merced and McSwain efforts.

Director Llanez congratulated Dos Palos on the hiring of a new police chief. Also, Habitat for Humanity in Merced and Stanislaus Counties will be conducting an event that will be distributing care packages for teens who were evacuated in Planada. And finally, the Los Banos Interim City manager had a baby and may not be available immediately to answer emails.

Vice Chair Pedrozo thanked everyone for all the work they have done during these challenging times.

17. Adjournment

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Vice Chair Pedrozo adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

/s/

Angelina Linan, Administrative Assistant I