



Citizens Advisory Committee MINUTES

DATE

Friday, March 3, 2023

The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Friday, March 3, 2023, in-person at Merced County Association of Governments office, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA and via webinar and was called to order by Chair Rene Gutierrez at 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jose Delgadillo, Citizen at Large
 Rene Gutierrez, Citizen at Large, Chair
 Maddie Brown, Student
 Paul Villareal Jr., Goods Movement
 Jean Okuye, Agriculture
 Ursula Stock, Citizen at Large, Vice Chair
 Mike Jensen, Water/Irrigation***
 Paul Ward, Commerce/Finance
 Yamilet Valladolid, Healthcare* left at 9:34am
 Jack Jackson, Citizen-at-Large left at 9:22am

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Beltran, Engineering
 Bryan Kroeger, Construction
 Michelle Symes-Thiara, Education
 Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Economic Development
 Jaswinder Singh, Real Estate
 Vacant, Small Business
 Vacant, Citizen-at-Large

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Mauricio Torres, Associate Planner**
 Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director**
 Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist**
 Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming**
 Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
 Meg Prince, Senior Planner**
 Angelina Linan, Administrative Assistant I
 Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager**
 Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst**
 Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
 Ty Phimmasone, Senior Planner
 Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner**
 Natalia Austin, Senior Planner**

OTHERS PRESENT

None

*Arrived after roll call

**Attended via Zoom

1. **Call to order**

- a. Roll Call
- b. Pledge of allegiance

Chair Rene Gutierrez called the meeting to order and asked that roll call be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present. Chair Gutierrez led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Public comment**

None.

3. **Information Items:**

a. **Merced County Association of Governments**

- i. CAC highlights of the February 3, 2023 meeting
- ii. Sign-up sheet for CAC representative to the MCAG Governing Board meetings - 2023
- iii. CAC calendar – 2023
- iv. CAC attendance roster – 2023
- v. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
- vi. MCAG newsletter – March 2023
- vii. Draft minutes of the February 16, 2023 MCAG Governing Board Meeting
- viii. February Governing Board summary

b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**

So noted.

4. **Consent calendar:**

a. **Merced County Association of Government**

- i. Approve the minutes of the February 3, 2023 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting

Paul Villareal Jr. moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Ursula Stock.

AYES: Maddie Brown, Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Paul Ward, Paul Villarreal Jr., Yamilet Valladolid

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

5. Action Items:

- a. Recommend the Governing Board authorize contract for \$89,948 with Stantec Consulting Services to prepare a Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan.

Jose Perez presented this item to the Committee. A short discussion took place about energy sources used to power electric vehicles and meeting the CARB mandated deadlines.

Jose Delgadillo moved to recommend the Governing Board authorize contract for \$89,948 with Stantec Consulting Services to prepare a Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan.

Seconded by Jean Okuye

AYES: Maddie Brown, Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Paul Ward, Paul Villarreal Jr., Yamilet Valladolid

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Recommend the Governing Board adopt the 2023 One Voice regional policy platform

Mary-Michal Rawling reviewed the 2023 One Voice program and the proposed legislative platform which includes the policy priorities submitted by the MCAG member agencies.

Paul Ward moved to recommend the Governing Board adopt the 2023 One Voice regional policy platform.

Seconded by Jack Jackson.

AYES: Maddie Brown, Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Paul Ward, Paul Villarreal Jr., Yamilet Valladolid

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Recommend the Governing Board adopt Regional Transportation Plan amendment 1, Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment 3, and air quality conformity analysis

Elizabeth Forte presented this item including the information that future rail projects were not included in the adopted regional project list. Ms. Forte also shared that the deadline for comments was March 15 and so far, staff have received no comments including at the public hearing held on March 2nd. Ty Phimmason added that project limits have been changing and they need to be consistent which why there is a need for these proposed changes.

Jose Delgadillo moved to Recommend the Governing Board adopt Regional Transportation Plan amendment 1, Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment 3, and air quality conformity analysis.

Seconded by Paul Villareal Jr.

AYES: Maddie Brown, Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Paul Ward, Paul Villarreal Jr., Yamilet Valladolid

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this time Jack Jackson left the meeting.

6. Discussion Items:

a. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update

Elizabeth Forte highlighted the following items from the staff report:

- Finish the 99 initiative
- Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan
- Staff are working on two grant submissions to Caltrans regarding climate adaptation planning and a study to look at equity, environmental justice, and health in planning.

There were no questions or discussion.

b. Regional Housing Planning update

Meg Prince presented information on the following:

- REAP 1.0 status report
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure Capacity Assessment
- Multijurisdictional housing element – a website will launch in June regarding this work

c. Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program 2.0 Draft Scoring Criteria

Meg Prince provided an overview of this item and asked committee members to provide feedback on the scoring criteria to her by the end of the month, prior going to the Governing Board for approval on March 16. She stated that this criteria aligns with state guidelines.

Jose Delgadillo commented that there are often problems with the location of public/affordable housing projects, that they are often found to be discriminatory.

Chair Gutierrez thanked those who were able to come to the ribbon cutting yesterday for a new housing development in Merced.

d. Draft FY 2023/24 Budget

Nav Bagri and Elizabeth Forte presented the draft FY 2023/24 MCAG budget. They provided an overview of the agency's accomplishments from the current fiscal year, various projects that MCAG continues to administer as

well as new projects that will be funded or completed in the coming year such as an electric vehicle readiness plan, a local road safety plan for the region, the multijurisdictional housing element, a consolidated transit study, and more.

A short discussion ensued; questions from the committee were answered by staff. There were no concerns by any committee members about the proposed budget.

At this time Yamilet Valladolid left the meeting.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

7. Action Items:

None.

8. Discussion Items:

- a. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County monthly update.

Jose Perez presented the monthly update for The Bus including the following:

- Ridership statistics from the previous month
- Public outreach events for the spring

There were no questions or discussion.

OTHER REPORTS

9. Committee report

- a. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee

Paul Ward reported that there has been no meeting yet for the month of March so there is no report. Mr. Ward also indicated that the CAC will need to fill his position on the Air District CAC as he resigning from the MCAG CAC effective next month. Staff will place an agenda on next month's agenda for the committee to nominate a replacement.

10. Announcements

Chair Gutierrez thanked Mr. Ward for his service to the CAC and offered him a certificate of recognition for his contributions to the committee and to MCAG.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:54 a.m.