



Tipping Fee Study Workshop and Regular MCAG Governing Board Transit Joint Powers Authority Board Regional Waste Management Authority Board

TIPPING FEE WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023

The Tipping Fee Study Workshop was held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Chair Matt Serratto at 2:02 p.m. The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Chair Matt Serratto at 3:03 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director Jose Moran (Regular Meeting Only)
 Director Daron McDaniel
 Director Rodrigo Espinoza
 Director April Hogue (Regular Meeting Only)
 Director Pat Nagy
 Director Josh Pedrozo, Vice Chair
 Director Lloyd Pareira
 Director Scott Silveira
 Director Matthew Serratto, Chair
 Director Paul Llanez
 Director Mike Nelson*

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

*arrived after roll call

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
 Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
 Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist**
 Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming**
 Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
 James Moore, Regional Waste Authority Director
 Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
 Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant
 Kristina Hernandez, HR & Risk Management Manager**
 Meg Prince, Senior Planner
 Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist
 Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist I**
 Daisy Zaragoza, Procurement and Planning Specialist**
 Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager
 Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst**
 Navneet Mattu, Staff Services Analyst**
 Adam Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
 Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
 Ty Phimmasone, Senior Planner
 Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner**

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Congressman Duarte, 13th District of California

Sam Samra, District Director, Office of Congressman Duarte

Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10**

Raul Mendez, CEO County of Merced

Ben Goldeen**

Mid Valley Disposal**

Joe Heisdorf**

Georgiena M Vivian**

Analy Castillo-Stantec**

**Attended virtually

Tipping Fee Study Workshop

1. Call to order

- a. Roll call

At this time, Chair Serratto called the meeting to order and asked that roll call be taken. Mary-Michal Rawling led the roll call and stated that a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

- a. None

3. Discussion on RWA Tipping Fee Study

RWA Director James Moore led the discussion of scenarios based on input from the first workshop. The following comments were offered and discussed:

- Director Silveira commented that he liked the idea that everyone will pay the same and it will be phased in over time. He would like to see the increase start in Fiscal Year 2024/25.
- Director Llanez asked if the gate fee rate increase will be in line with other gate rates.
- Director Nagy agreed with Director Silveira and questioned how the rate increase will be spread over time.
- Director Pareira asked for clarification on the timeline of accepting imported waste. He stated that if rates are going to double then we need to look at ways to mitigate illegal dumping.
- Director Espinoza commented he would like to stay with the geographic status quo and to start Fiscal Year 2023/24.
- Director Nagy stated the rate increase is based on per ton not per person, and that we can't quantify varying freight cost so he agreed with Director Silveira on normalizing rates across the jurisdictions.
- James Moore stated that freight rates are different between jurisdictions.
- Director Silveira asked for clarification of the decision making for process for rate increases.

REGULAR MCAG GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

4. 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 Chair Serratto led the pledge of allegiance.

5. Approval of Agenda

Director Silveira moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday, March 16, 2023, with a modification to move item 16a to be heard before item 12a.

Seconded by Director Pareira.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

7. Guest Speaker

Congressman Duarte expressed his support of the Merced County community and presented the following topics:

- His congressional committee assignments
- Importance of dredging local rivers and creeks
- Community funding projects for the valley
- Introduced his district staff
- Invited the Board to set up a meeting with himself and Caltrans to discuss transportation issues

Director McDaniel commented that the Congressman's accessibility has been excellent especially during the flooding crisis, and he is thankful for the Congressman's committee assignments.

Director Silveira commented that YARTS has submitted a community project funding proposal to the Congressman's office for six buses and stated this is a local solution to a federal problem.

Director Nelson commented that he appreciated the Congressman's support for Merced County.

Executive Director Stacie Guzman thanked Congressman Duarte for attending the Board meeting.

8. Citizens Advisory Committee report

Maddie Brown presented the Citizens Advisory report.

9. Caltrans Report

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

- The current State of Emergency issued from both the State and Federal Governors due to the recent storms.
- Cognizant of ongoing highway closures and the District is looking at short term as well as long term solutions.
- Trying to add scope to the Mariposa Bridge for a more comprehensive solution.

- Highway safety improvement funding was awarded to the County in the amount of \$1.4 million.
- Guidelines for California State Rail Plan draft is out for review on the state website.
- Reconnecting Communities federal program is out for review.
- Clean California Community Days are March 17th through March 27th.
- Caltrans suggests use of the real time traffic app, quickmap.dot.ca.gov.
- Regarding Hwy 140 and V Street intersection, Caltrans has reached out to the City of Merced and are awaiting a response so they can coordinate solutions with them.
- Regarding signage for Le Grand, they have not received the final concurrence from the County as of yet.
- Caltrans is submitting scope for Mariposa Creek, if they don't receive positive feedback, they will take further steps and will have additional conversation and will include Director Silveira.

Director Silveira's requested a designated detour route for south Hwy 59 so Caltrans would be responsible for damage to local roads. Mr. Regisford will reach out to his maintenance team regarding the posted signage and see if they can propose a route that makes sense.

Director Silveira requested Mr. Regisford put Hwy 152 on his radar for the poor condition it is in.

Director Espinoza offered the following information regarding missing signage: using the coordinates near Sandy Mush, Healy Rd., Gurr Rd., possibly Northbound of Mission.

Director Llanez echoed Director Silveira regarding the poor condition of Hwy 152 and added Hwy 165. He said these are new poor conditions from the last time Hwy 165 was addressed, and the condition of Hwy 152 is extremely bad throughout town.

Director Moran witnessed a "big rig" hit a bridge on Hwy 99 in Merced and asked about assessing the integrity of the bridges after the Hwy 99 maintenance projects are completed. Mr. Regisford will ask his team to look at bridges within the project area.

Director Espinoza expressed concern that lane #2 is very dangerous at night and the curves are tight along with the glare of oncoming traffic lights and going to create accidents. He asked if Caltrans is going to elevate the concrete medians with boards. Mr. Regisford stated that Caltrans has installed the boards in other project areas, and he is going to check with his project team to see if they have considered it there.

10. Information Items:

a. Merced County Association of Governments

- i. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update
- ii. MCAG Governing Board calendar – 2023
- iii. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
- iv. MCAG newsletter – March 2023
- v. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule

- vi. Regional Housing Planning update
- vii. February Governing Board summary
- viii. Draft minutes of the March 8, 2023, Technical Review Board meeting
- 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.

11. Consent calendar:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023, MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
 - ii. Approve FY 2022-23 Budget Amendment 2
 - iii. Accept FY 2021-22 Financial Statements
 - iv. Reappoint CAC Healthcare and Citizen-at-large representatives
 - v. Approve Measure V Transit funding agreement
 - vi. Authorize a contract in the amount of \$89,948 with Stantec Consulting Services to prepare a Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. Accept FY 2021-22 Financial Statements
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. Approve FY 2022/23 Budget Amendment 1
 - ii. Accept FY 2021-22 Financial Statements

Director Silveira moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Llanez.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

12. Action Items:

- a. Provide direction on structure and schedule of proposed landfill tipping fee rate increase

RWA Director James Moore gave a review of the requested direction RWA is seeking after holding a second workshop prior to the board meeting. The discussion was as follows:

Director Silveira confirmed that a final action would be on the April Governing Board agenda and asked if the Board would be able to review rates regularly. Staff answered affirmatively.

Director Silveira stated he is in favor of, over the course of nine years, all jurisdictions to be at the same rate, starting in fiscal year 2024/25 not fiscal year 2023/24.

Director Hogue agreed with Director Silveira and pointed out that Dos Palos is currently going through a Prop 218 water rate increase and their garbage rates are also increasing this year. It would be too drastic to the community she represents to increase rates next fiscal year.

Director Pareira asked MCAG Director Guzman if it is possible to gather additional hauling rate information for the April board meeting. Director Guzman stated it would depend on the jurisdictions to supply the information but that RWA staff would inquire. Kyle Loreto stated he may be able to find some rates online but others he would need to contact the jurisdictions since the information is tied to their individual utility bills. Staff can bring back what they are able to collect. Kyle Loreto stated that such information depends on jurisdiction size and could be affected by commercial rates. Director Pareira stated his concern is that we are going to have constituents paying different rates, he requested an overview, stating it's the jurisdictions load to bear. Kyle Loreto asked Director Pareira if it is residential or commercial data, he is interested in? Director Pareira answered he really didn't have a specific choice.

Director Espinoza stated he would rather go with the geographic status quo.

Director Llanez stated with geographic status quo we don't know how we got there. He would like to normalize everything and commented he doesn't think a rush for a 218 process would be fair.

Director Pedrozo agreed with a fiscal year 2024/25 start and to normalize rates.

No public comments were received.

Chair Serratto indicated the vote would be split into two parts: direction on the start date of the rate increase and whether or not to base rates on the geographic status quo or to normalize rates across the jurisdictions.

Director Silveira moved that the increase in rates begin in Fiscal Year 2024/25.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

AYES – Directors Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto

NOES – Director Espinosa

MOTION CARRIED.

Director Pedrozo moved to normalize rates across the jurisdictions.

Seconded by Director Llanez.

AYES – Directors Hogue, Llanez, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto
NOES – Director Espinosa
ABSTAIN – Director Moran
MOTION CARRIED.

13. Discussion Items:

None.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

14. Action Items:

- a. Adopt the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program 2.0 Draft Scoring Criteria

Meg Prince gave a power point presentation illustrating the proposed Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program 2.0 Scoring Criteria, and explained how it was developed.

Director Silveira asked if the scoring percentages could be adjusted, proposing a new weighted scoring of 30% to accelerating infill development, 25% affirmatively furthering fair housing and 20% reducing vehicle miles traveled. He stated that the original percentages would make sense in a more metropolitan area, but in the valley one could travel across the entire county just to acquire a birth/death certificate. He asked if changing the scoring would put the region's plan in jeopardy of a rejection.

Ms. Prince stated that the State would likely be satisfied with the new weighted scoring criteria.

Chair Serratto asked how staff arrived at the proposed scoring criteria.

Ms. Prince stated that a model was used from Santa Barbara's scoring criteria and said it would make sense to focus on infill because that also reduces VMT.

Director Silveira moved to approve the item with the condition of a new weighted scoring criteria as follows: 30% to infill development, 25% for affirmatively furthering fair housing, and 20% to reduce vehicle miles traveled or something similar to the above if the state shows resistance to the proposed change.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto
NOES – None
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Adopted the 2023 One Voice regional policy platform

Mary-Michal Rawling gave a power point presentation outline the proposed 2023 policy platform. She noted that the board members had three fact sheets in front of them from the City of Merced that were turned in after the agenda was completed. She noted that Ben Goldeen was on Zoom in the event the board had any questions for him. Ms. Rawling also stated that one of the delegation meeting dates of April 13, 2023, conflicts with a Cal Cities conference so she will be reaching out to the delegates regarding their availability that day..

Director Nelson moved to approve adoption of the 2023 One Voice regional policy platform as presented.
Seconded by Director Pareira.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Adopt the Regional Transportation Plan Amendment 1, Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3, and air quality conformity analysis

Executive Director Guzman handed out an amended checklist with a change as requested by Caltrans and stated that the amended checklist will be included in the approved document.

Elizabeth Forte presented information on the following:

- Stated this item consists of a two-part action, adopting of the addendum for the EIR and approving the FTIP amendment 1.
- She also stated there was a public hearing held March 2, 2023, and there were no public comments.

There were no comments from the public nor were their questions from the dais.

Director Nelson moved to approve adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan Amendment 1, Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3, and air quality conformity analysis.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

AYES – Directors Espinosa, Hogue, Llanez, Moran, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira, Serratto

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Note: Directors Espinoza, Pareira, Pedrozo left the meeting at this time.

15. Discussion Items:

- a. Overview of the draft FY 2023/24 budget

Deputy Executive Director Nav Bagri and Elizabeth Forte gave a power point presentation summarizing the draft FY 2023/24 MCAG MPO budget.

Deputy Director Bagri noted that the final draft submittal to Caltrans is May 17th, and he summarized that there is an increase of 39% due to cost-of-living adjustment, potential merit increases, two new positions and increases to both professional services and supplies.

Chair Serratto questioned the need for a separate conference room for MCAG to host board meetings. Deputy Executive Director Bagri stated that it would be a place to host the Governing Board meeting as well as other boards and committee meetings which MCAG also hosts.

Executive Director Guzman stated that staff has outgrown the existing conference room and can no longer utilize the existing camera system as it cannot view everyone in the room. She stated this expansion and improvement of the existing conference room would also incorporate the technology required to host virtual meetings. Executive Director Guzman also noted that action on the budget does not automatically change policy of holding board meetings at County building, but it does give provide an alternative location as an option.

Note: Director Nelson left the meeting at this time.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

16. Action Items:

None.

17. Discussion Items:

None.

OTHER REPORTS

18. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Guzman wished Elizabeth Forte a happy birthday.

19. Directors' Report

Chair Serratto thanked Director Espinoza for partnering with him to go to Planada on March 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as a part of "Clean California".

20. Adjournment

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Chair Serratto adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

/s/

Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant