



Citizens Advisory Committee MINUTES

DATE

Friday, April 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Friday, April 7, 2023, was held in person at the 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 8:32 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jose Delgadillo, Citizen at Large
 Rene Gutierrez, Citizen at Large, Vice Chair
 Jack Jackson, Citizen-at-Large
 Mike Jensen, Water/Irrigation *
 Bryan Kroeger, Construction
 Jean Okuye, Agriculture
 Ursula Stock, Citizen-at-Large
 Michelle Symes-Thiara, Education
 Paul Villarreal Jr., Goods Movement
 Jose Chavez Diaz, Healthcare alternate for Yamilet Valladolid
 Maddie Brown, Student

STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director **
 Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
 Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist**
 Adam Perez, Assistant Transit Manager **
 Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming**
 Meg Prince, Senior Planner**
 Mauricio Torres, Associate Planner
 Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist
 Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst**
 Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner**

 Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager**
 Erica Vargas, Grants Specialist **
 Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant **
 Alex Arroyo, Procurement Specialist **
 Maria Ceja

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jaswinder Singh, Real Estate

Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Economic Development
 Vacant, Small Business
 Vacant, Engineering
 Vacant, Citizen-at-Large
 Vacant, Commerce/Finance

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. Ursula Stock led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public comment

None.

3. Information items:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. CAC highlights of the March 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 – April 2023
 - vii. Draft minutes of the March 16, 2023, MCAG Governing Board meeting
 - viii. March Governing Board Summary
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**

None.

4. Consent calendar:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the March 3, 2023, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
 - ii. Recommend the Governing Board approve a contract for agenda management software with Rock Solid Technology
 - iii. Recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt by resolution Formal Amendment 6 to the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**

None

Bryan Kroeger moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Jose Delgadillo

AYES: Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Bryan Kroeger, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Maddie Brown, Jose Chavez Diaz, Paul Villareal Jr.

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Action items:**

- a. Recommend the Governing Board set a blended farebox recovery ratio for FY 2023/24

Mauricio Torres presented this item and reviewed the formula for recovering fare rates for The Bus and explained that MCAG sets the rates for TJPA every year to ensure they remain eligible for funding.

Jose Delgadillo moved to recommend the Governing Board set a blended farebox recovery ratio for FY 2023/24.

Seconded by Paul Villareal Jr.

AYES: Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Bryan Kroeger, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Maddie Brown, Jose Chavez Diaz, Paul Villareal Jr.

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Recommend the Governing Board adopt the Overall Work Program for FY 2023/24

Nav Bagri presented this item to the Committee and reviewed changes in the proposed FY 2023/24 budget. Bryan Kroeger asked about the conference room changes and Nav Bagri explained the planned construction project.

Michelle Symes-Thiara moved to recommend the Governing Board to adopt the Overall Work Program for FY 2023/24.

Seconded by Maddie Brown.

AYES: Jose Delgadillo, Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Bryan Kroeger, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Maddie Brown, Jose Chavez Diaz, Paul Villareal Jr.

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Nominate a primary and/or alternate representative to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee

Mary-Michal Rawling outlined the duties associated with volunteering to represent the CAC on the Valley Air District's (APCD) CAC. Jose Delgadillo asked about the funding from APCD and Elizabeth Forte gave a review of their available grant programs. Chair Gutierrez nominated Jose Delgadillo as a primary and volunteered himself as the alternate.

Jean Okuye moved to appoint Jose Delgadillo as the primary representative to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee and Chair Gutierrez as the alternate.

Seconded by Michelle Symes-Thiara

AYES: Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Bryan Kroeger, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Maddie Brown, Jose Chavez Diaz, Paul Villareal Jr.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Jose Delgadillo

MOTION CARRIED

- d. Recommend the Governing Board amend the 2023 One Voice Legislative Platform

Mary-Michal Rawling provided an overview of the policy priorities proposed to be included in the 2023 One Voice program by Dos Palos. Paul Villareal commented that Dos Palos has serious water issues, and this is an important issue.

Paul Villareal Jr. moved to recommend the Governing Board amend the 2023 One Voice Legislative Platform.

Seconded by Bryan Kroeger.

AYES: Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Bryan Kroeger, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Maddie Brown, Jose Chavez Diaz, Paul Villareal Jr., Jose Delgadillo

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Discussion items:

a. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update

Elizabeth Forte presented the Transportation Planning and Measure V update and discussed the following topics:

- Finish the 99 initiative to improve safety of the corridor
- \$1.6 billion budget for RFP to develop a Hwy 99 improvement plan
- EV readiness - Entering outreach phase in May and will be distributing a survey to the public at fairs and other events
- Release of the Measure V annual report that focused on active transportation projects
- Reviewed new plans/projects coming up in the next fiscal year
- Grant received from APCD for agency EVs

There were no questions or discussion.

At this time Mike Jensen joined the meeting.

b. Regional Housing Planning update

Meg Prince gave an overview of items in the staff report.

There were no questions or discussion.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

7. Action items:

a. Recommend the Governing Board adopt resolutions for Low Carbon Transit Operation Program funding in the FY 2023/24 budget

Nav Bagri summarized the request to recommend the Governing Board adopt resolution for Low Carbon Transit Operation Program funding in the FY 2023/24 budget.

Chair Gutierrez asked to consider offering free bus service to other local events with high attendance.

Bryan Kroeger moved to recommend the Governing Board adopt resolutions for Low Carbon Transit Operation Program funding in the FY 2023/24 budget.

Seconded by Jack Jackson.

AYES: Rene Gutierrez, Jack Jackson, Bryan Kroeger, Jean Okuye, Ursula Stock, Michelle Symes-Thiara, Maddie Brown, Jose Chavez Diaz, Paul Villareal Jr., Jose Delgadillo, Mike Jensen

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Discussion items:

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

Adam Perez presented the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County monthly update and discussed the following topics:

- Ridership data overview
- New bus purchases/delivery
- Still waiting for ZEV buses
- New bus shelters replacement
- ZEV plan – will provide ongoing updates

Jose Delgadillo asked when the new buses would be available, and Adam Perez stated that some are already in service.

Ursula Stock asked for a comparison of current ridership numbers vs. pre-pandemic ridership and Nav Bagri answered that The Bus is currently at 60% over pre-pandemic ridership.

Chair Gutierrez asked when the North Merced Transit Hub would be opening up and Nav Bagri answered that the City still needs to complete the project.

OTHER REPORTS

9. Committee reports

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

Jose Delgadillo gave the following updates:

- EPA approved CA to phase out diesel burning trucks
- EPA issued waiver to begin phasing in ZE-Trucks
- Six other states have adopted the same rule and implementation plan
- Shared SJVAPCD media release document

Ursula Stock commented that she disagrees with the pressure to go electric when there are no good green energy sources and doesn't like nuclear power.

Paul Villareal Jr. commented that he doesn't agree with EV regulations and many EV-Truck rules will impact the movement of goods.

10. Announcements

Jean Okuye suggested that a recommendation be made to the Governing Board to look at the Strong Towns Initiative and asked them for a presentation.

Chair Gutierrez attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new bike shop in Merced. CARB has an e-bike grant program.

Chair Gutierrez thanked Mr. Kroeger for his service to the CAC and offered him a certificate of recognition for his many years of contributions to the Committee and to MCAG.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:31 a.m.