



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE

Thursday April 20, 2023

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Chair Matt Serratto at 3:02 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director Jose Moran
Director Daron McDaniel
Director April Hogue
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

Director Rodrigo Espinosa

*arrived after roll call

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
Jasleen Kaur, Accountant I**
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
Erica Vargas, Grant Specialist I**
Meg Prince, Senior Planner**
Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist
Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist I**
Natalia Austin, Senior Planner**
Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager**
Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst**
Navneet Mattu, Staff Services Analyst**
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner**
Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10**

Raul Mendez, CEO, County of Merced**

Linda James**

Dalia Costa**

Frank**

Derek, Bowles Farms

Maddie Brown, CAC

German Cervantes, Agromin

Patrick Womble, RWA

Kyle Loreto, Diversion Programs Manager

Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant**

**Attended virtually

DRAFT

REGULAR MCAG GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

1. Call to order

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

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. Director McDaniel gave the invocation and Chair Serratto led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Pedrozo moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday, April 20, 2023. Seconded by Director Moran.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. Citizens Advisory Committee report

Maddie Brown presented the Citizens Advisory report.

5. Caltrans Report

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

- District 10 will be partnering with Caltrans Headquarters to honor the fallen employees for the National Work Zone Awareness week April 27, 2023 at 11:00 am. The memorial is open to the public and will be available to broadcast live on YouTube; the link will be available on Caltrans website.
- California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated 1.1 billion for projects including some funding for Merced County.
- Caltrans is currently working on a transit policy to prioritize transit with the objective of facilitating the delivery of projects, as well as strengthening partnerships with local transit agencies.

- Caltrans Road Safety Action Plan has been released.
- Federal Safe Street and Roads grant program eligible to cities, counties, and all local entities is open until July 10, 2023. Any questions can be emailed to Marlon Regisford or Tom Dumas.
- Reconnecting Communities Workshop - Tuesday May 9, 2023
- Ramp closure in Merced on G street and R street through April 28, 2023

Chair Serratto requested an email from Caltrans with more information on the reconnecting communities workshop.

Director McDaniel requested a list of the bridges that will be receiving funding for Merced County and asked if Marlon would be attending the Policy Council Conference next week. Marlon confirmed his attendance.

Director Nagy thanked Caltrans for all the hard work being done and shared his concern regarding major potholes located south of Gustine on Highway 140 and on Highway 33 north of Sullivan Road.

6. **Information Items:**

a. **Merced County Association of Governments**

- Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update
- Draft minutes of the April 12, 2023 Technical Review Board minutes
- Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
- MCAG newsletter – April 2023
- City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- Regional Housing Planning update
- March Governing Board summary

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

- TJPA monthly update

c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**

- RWA monthly update

So noted.

7. **Consent calendar:**

a. **Merced County Association of Governments**

- Approve the minutes of the March 16, 2023, MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
- Approve contract for agenda management software with Rock Solid Technology
- Adopt by resolution Formal Amendment #6 to the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program
- Appoint Jose Delgadillo and Rene Gutierrez to serve as the primary and alternate City representatives to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee

- v. Reject the claim of Serhii Nalobin
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. None
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the February 22, 2023 Regional Waste Management Authority Board workshop
 - ii. Reject the claim of Raymundo Mena-Mondragon

Director McDaniel moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

8. Action Items:

- a. Set a blended farebox recovery ratio for FY 2023/24

Mauricio Torres requested that the Board set the blended farebox recovery ratio to 16.3% for TJPA effective fiscal year 2023-2024 which commences July 1, 2023.

Director Pedrozo moved to approve the blended farebox recovery ratio for FY 2023/24 to 16.3%.

Seconded by Director Moran.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Adopt the Overall Work Program for FY 2023/24

Nav Bagri presented the request to approve the FY 2023/24 overall budget summary.

Director Nagy requested clarification regarding the expenditures on fixed assets for the MCAG conference room, as well as why the professionals and special services went over one million dollars.

Stacie Guzman reiterated that the overall budget presented to the Board has not changed from the draft that was presented last month.

Director Silveira asked if UC Merced would be funding the whole study with \$100,000.

Nav Bagri responded that UC Merced is funding half of the study with MCAG providing the other half for a total of \$200,000.

Director Pedrozo moved to adopt the Overall Work Program for FY 2023/24.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Amend the 2023 One Voice Legislative Platform

Mary-Michal Rawling presented an amended 2023 One Voice program that incorporated additional policy priorities put forward by the City of Dos Palos. The Delegate from Dos Palos would be Director Hogue who has been participating in the Delegation meetings.

Director Silveira moved to amend the 2023 One Voice Legislative Platform.

Seconded by Director Nagy.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this time Director Pareira joined the meeting.

- d. Award the 2023 Anna Maria Fuentes scholarship to Merced High School senior Zon Forest Moua

Mary-Michal Rawling announced that the Scholarship Selection Committee unanimously nominated Zon Forrest Moua of Merced High School to receive this year's Anna Maria Fuentes award. Moua is first in his class with a 4.75 GPA. and plans to attend Stanford and pursue a career in biomedical engineering and biochemistry. Ms. Rawling thanked Directors Pedrozo, Espinosa and Moran for their participation in the Selection Committee.

Director Pedrozo stated the decision was difficult to make due to all candidates being exceptional. However, Zon Forest Moua maintained a good GPA with all of his extracurricular activities made the decision easy.

Chair Serratto thanked everyone who made the selection and congratulated Zon Forest Moua for the award.

Director Moran moved to award the 2023 Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship to Zon Forest Moua.

Seconded by Director Llanez.

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

NOES – None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **Discussion Items:**

None.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

10. **Action Items:**

- a. Adopt resolutions for Low Carbon Transit Operation Program funding in the FY 2023/24 budget

Jose Perez presented the two resolutions for Low Carbon Transit Operation Program funding. Transit Joint Powers of Authority for Merced County received its ninth year of funding of \$715,252 total that will be split into two separate projects. The first project will go toward the 'Merced County no fare left behind' program which provides free transportation service to the Los Banos fair as well as the Merced fair totaling \$350,000. The remaining \$365,252 goes toward capital funds for electrification improvements.

Chair Serratto remarked about the 'Above and Beyond' award TJPA received.

Jose Perez explained it was due to all the efforts TJPA staff put forward through the flooding and evacuation events in January, and all the extra work all the staff put in to help the community.

Stacie Guzman stated peers in the Valley were the ones who nominated TJPA for the 'Above and Beyond' award.

Director Hogue moved to adopt resolutions for Low Carbon Transit Operation Program funding in the FY 2023/24 Budget Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. **Discussion Items:**

None.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

12. **Action Items:**

- a. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the construction of a Low-NOx flare

Patrick Womble requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with BSE general engineering for its second phase of the Low-NOx flare project for Highway 59 landfill. At the beginning of March, RWA released an IFB and received three bids with no protest. BSE General Engineering was the lowest bidder with a project price of \$319,841.83. The project is being covered by capital funds budgeted for in FY 2022-23. Phase two is the integration of the flare into the current flare gas collection system. Phase one began last year and is currently being manufactured and is scheduled to be delivered in June 2023.

Director Pereira moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the construction of a Low-NOx flare.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for development and operation of the Highway 59 organic waste transfer/processing facility with California Wood Recycling, Inc. dba Agromin

James Moore requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter a contract with California Wood Recycling, Inc. dba Agromin. Philip Mainolfi gave a brief presentation of Agromin's two phase proposal; phase one would bring participating agencies into compliance commencing July 1, 2023. Phase two would be the conversion to Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP). It's a 10-year agreement with two, five-year extension options as well as a \$300,000 fee that will be remitted to the Authority.

Director Silveira questioned Derek from Bowles Farm regarding what the company foresees doing with the product.

Derek from Bowles Farm stated they are a 165-year-old farm located in Los Banos, they received their permit back in 2017 which initiated the partnership they have with Agromin. Bowles Farm is looking to give back to the community by crafting organic fertilizer and providing healthy goods.

Director Silveira stated although he does not agree with SB 1383 in general, he is very proud of the project and the opportunity it will bring to others in the county.

Director Nagy inquired about the tipping fee presented earlier and how they connect with the tipping fees being discussed in the next action item.

Kyle Loreto stated the tipping fee was a processing fee, as the material comes in the trucks get weighed and the jurisdiction will get billed that weight for material; there is an additional fee from the RWA that will be included.

Director Silveira moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for development and operation of the Highway 59 organic waste transfer/processing facility with California Wood Recycling, Inc. dba Agromin

Seconded by Director Llanez.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Adopt new tipping fee structure and implementation schedule

James Moore requested the Board adopt a new tipping fee structure and implementation schedule as directed last month. Rate increases will begin July 1, 2024 and over the next nine years will be adjusted incrementally until the end of 2033 when all jurisdictions will be paying same rate for all materials being brought in to RWA.

Director Nelson moved to adopt the new tipping fee structure and implementation schedule.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

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

NOES – Director Pereira

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Discussion Items:

- a. None

OTHER REPORTS

14. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Stacie Guzman discussed the following topics:

- She and Elizabeth Forte worked with new state lobby partners Politico Group on a recent trip to Sacramento where they met with several State agencies.
- Thanked Chair Serratto and Vice Chair Pedrozo for attending the CAL Act conference as well as thanked the staff for all their hard work. Recognized Chair Serratto for the basketball championship.
- Announced the upcoming annual conference in Manteca for San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council. Director McDaniel will be opening the second day of the conference with welcoming remarks and Merced County will be recognized with a Blueprint Award at the conference.
- Compost giveaway Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 8:00-12:00 at RWA.
- For the first time The Bus will be offering free shuttle service for the Los Banos fair and will continue to do so for the fair in Merced like previous years.
- Measure V report is now available in English and Spanish in hard copy and on the MCAG website.

15. Directors' Reports

Director Pedrozo shared his appreciation for The Bus and all the staff for all their hard work. Director Pedrozo also expressed enthusiasm to have peers nominate and accept TJPA for the 'Above and Beyond' award.

Director Moran suggested the Board start an Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship fundraiser that is specifically directed toward the scholarship.

Director Hogue shared the City of Dos Palos council approved the MCAG agreement. The City will also be going out to bid for its water plant. Director Hogue invited the Board to attend the Heartbeat Walk-A-Thon April 29, 2023 at the Dos Palos track in honor of Kristina McDaniel who passed away from a stroke. Director Hogue, with the help of Kristina's family have been able to give away fourteen scholarships and is hoping to meet their goal of \$5,000 this year. Lastly, Director Hogue stated DES will be hosting their one-hundred-year celebration May 12, 2023.

Director McDaniel shared April 19, 2023 was the 168th anniversary Merced County broke off from Mariposa. He also reported he was at the San Joaquin Valley Voice.

Director Llanez shared the City of Los Banos held it's Rotary Crafting event that concluded with them raising sufficient funds to do 22 High School scholarships, and thanked Director Silveira for volunteering to be the auctioneer. On April 22, 2023 the City of Los Banos will be hosting an Autism Meet and Greet at the City's Fire Department.

16. **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Chair Serratto adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

_____/s/
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager