



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE

Thursday, May 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Chair Matt Serratto at 3:05 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director Jose Moran*
 Director Daron McDaniel
 Director Rodrigo Espinoza
 Director April Hogue
 Director Pat Nagy
 Director Josh Pedrozo, Vice Chair**
 Director Lloyd Pareira
 Director Scott Silveira
 Director Matthew Serratto, Chair
 Director Kenneth Lambert for Director Paul Llenez
 Director Mike Nelson

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None.

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
 Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist
 Daisy Zaragoza, Procurement and Planning Specialist**
 Mauricio Torres, Associate Planner**
 Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst**
 Natalia Austin, Senior Planner**
 Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner**
 Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10**

Juan Martinez, United Way

Jean Okuye

Maria Ceja**

Nick Jensen**

Payton Montes**

Admin**

Bryan Hooker**

*Arrived after roll call

**Attended virtually

DRAFT

REGULAR MCAG GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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 Chair Serratto led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Silveira moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday May 18, 2023. Seconded by Director Espinosa.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this time Director Moran joined the meeting.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. Citizens Advisory Committee report

None.

5. Caltrans Report

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

- Caltrans will be celebrating Bike Week promoting bike safety and multi-mobility accessibility.
- Clean California Local Grant program has been extended until May 31st at 5:00 pm
- Available program funding opportunities include Transportive Climate Communities, Clean Transportation Program, Safe Streets and Roads for All Program and lastly, Transformative Climate Community more information available at grants.ca.gov.
- Sutter street improvements for the town of Planada will kick off July 2023, improvements include installation of new crosswalks and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon.
- Henry Miller/route 33, project is a County project therefore the County will be leading project.

Director Espinosa expressed his appreciation for all the hard work Caltrans has done.

Director Silveira expressed his concern around the landscape on Hwy 152 near Los Banos becoming too dry and tall preventing vehicles from overlooking the other side of the highway. He also requested Caltrans to reevaluate the grant application process so early applicants may receive priority if the application is received before the deadline. Mr. Regisford clarified the plan is to begin work at the intersections and move their way onto the middle dividers, he will also be submitting a request to Caltrans regarding the application process.

Vice Chair Pedrozo requested Mr. Regisford send additional information for the Safe Street and Roads for All Program.

Director Nagy inquired about the bridges that will be repaired, Mr. Regisford will be emailing him with further information.

6. Information Items:

a. Merced County Association of Governments

- i. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update
- ii. MCAG/Measure V 4th Quarter 2022 Sales Tax Update
- iii. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
- iv. Letter of Support for San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Federal-State Partnership Application
- v. MCAG newsletter – May 2023
- vi. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- vii. Regional Housing Planning update
- viii. April Governing Board summary
- ix. Quarterly report on MCAG Board approved contracts
- x. Letter of Support for High-Speed Rail Federal-State Partnership Application

b. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County

- i. TJPA monthly update
- ii. Quarterly report on TJPA Board approved contracts

c. Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

- i. RWA monthly update
- ii. Quarterly report on RWA Board approved contracts

So noted.

7. Consent calendar:

a. Merced County Association of Governments

- i. Approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023, MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting.
- ii. Authorize the execution of the agreement for services between YARTS and MCAG
- iii. Reappoint Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee members.

- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. Reject the claim of Guillermo Becerra
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. None.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Nagy.

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

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

8. **Action Items:**

- a. None.

9. **Discussion Items:**

- a. 2023 Measure V Implementation Plan Update

Stacie Guzman outlined staff's recommendation of the timeline and process to update the Measure V implementation plan that assigns the Measure V regional funding to the East and West side projects as well as the Transit allocation. Currently, the plan is updated every two years with the latest update being done in 2021. An updated Plan must be adopted by December 2023.

There were no objections to the timeline and process as presented.

Director Silveira welcomed Director Espinosa to the west side regional committee.

- b. Proposed changes to 2023 Governing Board meeting calendar

Stacie Guzman asked the Board if members wish to move the September 20, 2023 board meeting to September 28, 2023 due to Cal Cities Annual Conference and Rural Counties Representative meeting taking place the same week, or if they would like to cancel the meeting for the month of September altogether. Upon discussion the Board indicated by consensus their preference to cancel the September meeting. Due to the December board meeting landing on the 21st this year. Stacie Guzman offered to move the meeting to December 14, 2023 if there is the possibility of no quorum being present. The Board indicated by consensus that they did not want to change the December meeting date. Both discussion items will be brought as action items at the June Board meeting.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

10. Action Items:

- a. None.

Director Pareira left the meeting at this time.

11. Discussion Items:

- a. Draft FY 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget

Nav Bagri presented the TJPA Draft FY 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget which included:

- Increases for FY 2023/24 due to special services, maintenance cost, utilities, and staffing costs.
- An increase in the Operating budget of 6% due to Operation and Maintenance annual contract increase, fuel cost, staffing cost, and maintenance and equipment increases.
- Increases in the Operating Revenue such as Federal, State and Local funding including LCTOP, FTA, and Farebox revenue.
- Carry-over expenditures from FY 22/23 include 22 vehicle replacements, bus stop improvements and more.

Director Silveira requested clarification regarding National Express paying for Ecolane presented under the operating revenue. Nav Bagri responded that this was negotiated upon termination of the contract with National Express.

Chair Serratto and Director Silveira both requested clarification regarding the reason as to why ridership has fluctuated between fiscal years, specifically the spike in FY 18/19. Nav Bagri clarified the spike was due to the LCTOP program that provides free fares during summer months. Stacie Guzman added that the total amounts presented are only for fixed-route ridership. Ms. Guzman further explained ridership tends to drop due to cold weather and the holiday season.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

12. Action Items:

- a. None.

13. Discussion Items:

- a. Draft FY 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget

James Moore presented the Draft FY 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget that included:

- FY 2022/23 achievements such as an increase in tonnage for both landfills, tipping fee increase, and receiving new equipment
- Budget priorities for the FY 2023/24
- Expense projection increases in professional services, staffing, fuel, state fees/taxes

There were no comments or questions.

OTHER REPORTS

14. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Stacie Guzman gave the following updates.

- Expressed her condolences to the City of Livingston for the passing of Livingston Chief of Police, Chuck Hale.
- Thanked everyone who participated in the One Voice trip.
- Billy Wright Landfill will be hosting an event Friday, May 19, 2023 to celebrate the new scale house.
- CAC representative Maddie Brown turned in her resignation letter.
- Staff will continue to provide updates regarding RTP/SCS CARB and Air Resources Board's review and approval of the SCS.
- Caltrans distributed a news release regarding the lane shift on Hwy 99 southbound, she will forward email to board members.

15. Directors' Report

Director Espinosa stated he would like to further discuss the process for the City/County Board Chair rotation to ensure every party has an equal opportunity to serve in this capacity. He also visited the Merced Transportation Center at the Bus Station and would like to see the maintenance in the restroom being kept up. Stacie Guzman clarified the Merced Transportation Center is a City of Merced facility but that she is aware of the maintenance needed and is in discussion with the City on ways to improve the facility

Director Nelson expressed his appreciation for the successful One Voice Trip.

Director Moran also expressed his appreciation for the One Voice trip and requested a moment of silence be held before the adjournment of the meeting in memory of Chief Hale.

Director Hogue expressed her condolences to the City of Livingston and gave an update regarding the Walk-a-thon she hosted last month and raised \$3,600 for seven scholarships. Lastly, she thanked MCAG and the whole staff for the wonderful One Voice trip.

Director Silveira appreciated the free ridership program and would like more advertisement done to increase numbers. He would also like to create a resolution to charge anyone inspecting the landfill for hosting them. Finally, he expressed his appreciation for everyone who participated in the One Voice trip.

Director Lambert sent his condolences to Livingston on the loss of Chief of Police, Chuck Hale.

Director McDaniel stated the One Voice trip was very successful; he stated that he also met with the City of Gustine police chief as it was police week in Washington DC during the One Voice trip and with the Director of the COPS program.

Director Nagy expressed his gratitude that all of the Cities' Mayors were able to attend the One Voice trip and thanked MCAG and staff for their hard work on the program.

Director Pedrozo sent his condolences to Livingston for the loss of Chief of Police, Chuck Hale.

Chair Serratto held a moment of silence to honor the memory of City of Livingston Chief of Police, Chuck Hale.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Chair Serratto adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

_____/s/_____
Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant