



## Citizens Advisory Committee MINUTES

### DATE

Friday, June 2, 2023

The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Friday, June 2, 2023, in-person at Merced County Association of Governments office, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA and via webinar and was called to order by Chair Rene Gutierrez at 8:34 a.m.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jose Delgadillo, Citizen at Large  
 Rene Gutierrez, Citizen at Large, Chair  
 Ursula Stock, Citizen at Large, Vice Chair \*  
 Jean Okuye, Agriculture \*  
 Michelle Symes-Thiara, Education  
 Jack Jackson, Citizen-at-Large  
 Maddie Brown, Student\*\*

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Jensen, Water/Irrigation  
  
 Yamilet Valladolid, Healthcare  
 Paul Villareal Jr., Goods Movement  
 Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Economic Development  
 Vacant, Construction  
 Vacant, Small Business  
 Vacant, Real Estate  
 Vacant, Citizen-at-Large  
 Vacant, Commerce/Finance  
 Vacant, Engineering

#### MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist I\*\*  
 Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director  
 Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming\*\*  
 Blake Dunford, Associate Planner\*\*  
 Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager\*\*  
 Meg Prince, Senior Planner\*\*  
 Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist  
 Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant\*\*  
 Adam Perez, Assistant Transit Manager\*\*  
 Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner  
 Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist  
 Mauricio Torres, Associate Planner  
 Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager  
 Natalia Austin, Senior Planner  
 Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant

#### 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 not present. Chair Rene Gutierrez led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Public comment**

None.

3. **Information Items:**

a. **Merced County Association of Governments**

- i. CAC highlights of the May 5, 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 – June 2023
- vii. Draft minutes of the May 18, 2023 MCAG Governing Board Meeting
- viii. Letter to Caltrans Director Tony Tavares
- ix. 2023 One Voice program summary

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

None.

So noted.

4. **Consent calendar:**

a. **Merced County Association of Government**

- i. Approve the minutes of the April 7, 2023 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
- ii. Approve the minutes of the May 5, 2023 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
- iii. Recommend the Governing Board approve FY 22/23 Regional Surface Transportation Program apportionments, distribute claim forms, and adopt resolution 2023/6-15-01 disbursing funds

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

- i. Recommend the Governing Board adopt resolution 2023/06-15-02 authorizing the purchase of fareboxes

**Due to the lack of a quorum present in-person, no action was permitted to be taken.**

Ursula Stock joined the meeting via in-person at this time.

## MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

### 5. Action Items:

- a. Recommend the Governing Board set the blended farebox recovery ratio for FY 2023/24 for Transit Joint Powers Authority of Merced County

Mauricio Torrez presented the blended farebox recovery ratio for Transit Joint Powers Authority FY 2023/24. The Transit Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) is requesting the urbanized ratio be reduced to 15% from 20% due to lower ridership and higher operational cost. Merced County Association of Governments developed a methodology that was approved by the board November 2022 with Caltrans approving the blended farebox ratio January 2023.

**Due to the lack of a quorum present in-person, no action was permitted to be taken.**

- b. Recommend the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for a multi-jurisdictional local Road Safety Plan

Natalia Austin is requesting the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a one-year contract with Fehr & Peers for a multi-jurisdictional local road safety plan in the amount of \$224,910. The plan will provide structures identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing roadway safety improvements on local roads. Benefits of this plan include helping non-motorists and making roads safer for pedestrians and motorists.

**Due to the lack of a quorum present in-person, no action was permitted to be taken.**

Jean Okuye joined the meeting via in-person at this time.

- c. Recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve MCAG's Other Programs Budget for FY 2023/24

Rene Ruiz presented the Merced County Association of Governments other Programs Budget for FY 2023/24 for approval. The budget for FY 2023/24 will increase by \$826,183, majority of this increase is due to staff salaries and benefits, as well as indirect costs while a smaller portion is for direct services and materials. All the increase is due to costs in health benefits, retirement contributions, potential merit increases, and future overtime for staff at working at Regional Waste.

No action was taken.

- d. Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for FY 2023/24

Nav Bagri recommended this item be moved to next month's meeting on July 7, 2023 due to no quorum present.

No action was taken.

## 6. Discussion Items:

- a. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update

Elizabeth Forte introduced Xavier Garcia who presented the Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update and discussed the following topics:

- Progress continues on the 'Finish the 99' initiative
- Upcoming request for project funding in the upcoming Interregional Transportation Improvement Program
- On March 15, 2023 Caltrans released a request for proposals to develop state route 99 comprehensive multimodal corridor plan
- Tulare six-lane and Paige Avenue interchange improvement project is ready for construction

No questions or discussion.

- b. Regional Housing Planning monthly update

Meg Prince gave an update on the Regional Housing Planning

- Expenditure deadline for REAP 1.0 funds is June 2024
- Reap 2.0
- MCAG will release Regional Housing Trust fund and housing consortium study for public review and comment once done reviewing.

No comments.

## TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

## 7. Action Items:

- a. Recommend the Governing Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Merced College for student transportation services

Jose Perez presented the Memorandum of Understanding with Merced College to sponsor fares for unlimited fixed-route services for Merced College students enrolled for the 2023 through 2026 academic years. TJPA and Merced College staff will continue to work together to discuss various options for the future of the program.

There were no questions or comments.

No action was taken.

**8. Discussion Items:**

a. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County monthly update

Jose Perez gave an update on the Transit Joint Powers Authority including:

- The Bus is providing free shuttle service to the 2023 Merced County Fair June 7 through June 11, 2023
- Public outreach for The Bus continues to be made regarding holidays, detours, and service adjustments
- Bus Stop shelter installations will continue go up all around the County

There were no questions or comments.

## OTHER REPORTS

**9. Committee report**

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

Jose Delgadillo presented the 2023 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

**10. Announcements**

None.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 09:10 a.m.**