



**Housing and Homelessness Workshop and  
Regular MCAG Governing Board  
Transit Joint Powers Authority Board  
Regional Waste Management Authority Board**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE**

**Thursday, June 15, 2023**

The workshop of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Vice Chair Pedrozo at 2:31 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  
Director Rodrigo Espinosa

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

None.

\*arrived after roll call

\*\*Attended virtually

**MCAG STAFF PRESENT**

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director  
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director  
James Moore, Regional Waste Authority Director  
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel  
Meg Prince, Senior Planner  
Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist  
Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner\*\*  
Mauricio Torres, Associate Planner  
Patrick Womble, Environmental Resources Manager  
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager  
Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist  
Kristina Hernandez, HR and Risk Management Manager\*\*  
Natalia Austin, Senior Planner  
Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager\*\*  
Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst\*\*  
Navneet Mattu, Staff Services Analyst\*\*  
Kyle Loreto, Diversion Programs Manager  
Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant\*\*

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10\*\*

Dennis T. Agar, Caltrans District\*\*

Christy McCammond, City of Los Banos

Stacy Souza Elms, City of Los Banos

Leah Brown, City of Merced

Scott McBride, City of Merced

Margaret Arechiga, Senator Padilla's office

Jose Delgadillo, CAC

Councilmember JT Mann, City of Livingston\*\*

DRAFT

## WORKSHOP

### 1. Call to order

#### a. Roll Call

At this time, Vice Chair Pedrozo called the meeting to order and asked that roll call be taken. A quorum is not required for the workshop portion of the meeting.

### 2. Public comment

None.

### 3. Discussion on Regional Homelessness and Housing

John Ceccoli presented information about policies and programs related to addressing homelessness and housing efforts in Merced County.

## REGULAR MCAG GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

### 4. 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. Griselda Villa led the roll call and stated that a quorum was present. Director Pareira gave the invocation and Jose Delgadillo led the pledge of allegiance.

### 5. Approval of Agenda

Director Pedrozo moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday, June 15, 2023. Seconded by Director Nagy.

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 6. Public Comment

Margaret Arechiga, District Director for Senator Padilla, welcomed all board members to contact her to discuss their priorities.

No further comment.

## 7. Citizens Advisory Committee report

Jose Delgadillo presented the Citizens Advisory report.

## 8. Caltrans Report

Dennis Agar and Marlon Regisford presented the Caltrans Report and discussed the following topics:

- Sonora pass on Hwy 108 is open.
- Preparation for wildfires has begun.
- Continue to focus on vision zero.
- Protect Program part of Federal Funding Opportunity is accepting applications now through August 18, 2023 more information of grants.gov.
- Caltrans equity index 1.0 draft is currently posted on the website and open to public comments with a deadline of June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Federal Safe Streets For All Program deadline July 10<sup>th</sup> for all applications.
- A pavement rehabilitation project commences in July for South Route 59 located by Merced County Fair Grounds.

Director Espinosa inquired how the street crossing project on Gerard in Merced is going. Mr. Regisford will follow up with an update.

Director Pedrozo inquired about the end date for the current work being performed on Hwy 99. Mr. Agar responded with an expecting end of the year completion of current work being performed on the 99.

Director Llanez announced the City of Los Banos will be hosting a town hall in July, more information to come. He also requested an email or letter of all completed projects as well as current projects taking place on Hwy 152 and 165.

Director Silveira requested an update on the work being done on Highway 165. He also recommended Caltrans visit Hwy 152 and Volta Road that may need a roundabout or traffic light.

Director Pareira showed his appreciation for Caltrans continuing to update process on Hwy 140 and V street and requested an update on all Hilmar projects to which Mr. Agar agreed to send out an email.

No further comment.

## 9. Information Items:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
  - i. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update
  - ii. Governing Board attendance roster
  - iii. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events

- iv. MCAG newsletter – June 2023
- v. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- vi. Regional Housing Planning update
- vii. Letter to Caltrans Director Tony Tavares
- viii. May Governing Board summary
- ix. State Legislative Report: May 2023
- 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.

10. **Consent calendar:**

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
  - i. Approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
  - ii. Approve FY 22/23 Regional Surface Transportation Program apportionments, distribute claim forms, and adopt resolution 2023/6-15-01 disbursing funds
  - iii. Cancel September Governing Board meeting
  - iv. Set the blended farebox recovery ratio for FY 2023/24 for Transit Joint Powers Authority of Merced County
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
  - i. Adopt resolution 2023/06-15-02 authorizing the purchase of fareboxes
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
  - i. Reject the claim of Rigoberto Alvarado
  - ii. Reject the claim of Rosa Vega de Alvarado
  - iii. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for litter collection services in the amount of \$255,557 for a total of five years with Adopt a Highway Maintenance Corporation
  - iv. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a three-year contract with two additional one-year terms, for on-call landfill surveying services, in a total amount of \$250,000 with the selected vendor, Quad Knopf, Inc.
  - v. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a one-year contract with two additional one-year terms, for transportation and processing services, in the total amount of \$300,000 with the selected vendor, Mid Valley Disposal.

Director Silveira requested to pull item 10ciii for separate consideration.

Director Pedrozo moved to approve the consent calendar not including item 10ciii.

Seconded by Director Llanez.

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- iii. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for litter collection services in the amount of \$255,557 for a total of five years with Adopt a Highway Maintenance Corporation

Director Silveira expressed his concerns regarding the 5% annual increase over the course of contract as it will be a total of a 20% increase.

James Moore replied that the annual increases are largely due to the cost of salaries and fuel over the next 5 years.

No further comments.

Director Pareira moved to approve the Executive Director to enter into a contract for litter collection services in the amount of \$255,557 for a total of five years with Adopt a Highway Maintenance Corporation  
Seconded by Director Llanez

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

**NOES – Directors Pedrozo, Silveira**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

### 11. Action Items:

- a. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for a multi-jurisdictional local Road Safety Plan

Natalia Austin outlined the purpose and scope of work for a multi-jurisdictional local Road Safety Plan as proposed by Fehr & Peers. The plan will help analyze, identify, and prioritize roadway safety improvements on local roads. The project will be funded with state FY 22/23 Sustainable Communities Formula and FHWA Planning carryover funds.

Director Silveira moved to approve the Executive Director to enter into a contract for a multi-jurisdictional local Road and Safety Plan.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Adopt MCAG's Other Programs Budget for FY 2023/24

Nav Bagri summarized the request to adopt MCAG's Other Programs Budget for FY 2023/24. The proposed other programs budget for this year has an increase of \$826,183 that is made up of 99% in expenditures associated with salaries, potential merit increases and increase in health benefits. The other 1% is for direct services and materials.

Director Pedrozo moved to adopt MCAG's Other Programs Budget for FY 2023/24

Seconded by Director Silveira.

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c. Issue draft Multijurisdictional Roles and Responsibilities agreement to jurisdictions for review and execution and authorize staff to execute a contract amendment with Rincon Consultants for SB 244 technical analysis.

Meg Prince presented the draft Multijurisdictional Roles and Responsibilities agreement to jurisdictions for review and execution and the proposed amendment with Rincon Consultants for SB 244 technical analysis. MCAG coordinated with participating jurisdictions to develop a cost sharing agreement for the \$40,000 contract amendment and the SB 244 Technical Analysis will be prepared at no cost to MCAG.

Director Silveira asked if the City of Livingston would be able to participate later if they changed their mind.

Meg Prince stated that it was determined they don't have any disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

Director Silveira inquired how they came out with the cost breakdown. Meg Prince stated there was no strict methodology but based on the level of effort each jurisdiction anticipating and their comfort level in which they can contribute.

Director Silveira moved to approve the draft Multijurisdictional Roles and Responsibilities agreement to jurisdictions for review and execution and authorize staff to execute a contract amendment with Rincon Consultants for SB 244 technical analysis.

Seconded by Director Pareira.

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Director Silveira moved to nominate Vice-Chair Pedrozo as the new Chairperson and Director Llanez to serve as Vice-Chair commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Seconded by Director Pareira

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

**NOES – None.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- e. Request to Waive Attorney-Client Privilege Re: City of Livingston’s questions regarding the JPA Agreement

After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken on this item.

## 12. Discussion Items:

None.

## TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

## 13. Action Items:

- a. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Merced College for student transportation services

Jose Perez presented the Memorandum of Understanding with Merced College for student transportation services for three years with two additional one-year terms extensions. This MOU with Merced College will help subsidize fares for unlimited fixed-route service for all Merced College Students enrolled for the 2023 through 2026 academic years.

Director McDaniel inquired how the tracking of students participating takes place. Jose Perez responded stating they can track how many students utilize this program based off the use of student IDs.

No further comments.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Merced College for student transportation services.

Seconded by Director Moran

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Adopt the 2023/24 Operating Budget and Authorize “Maintenance – Equipment” line-item budget authority in the amount of \$1.2 million



Nav Bagri presented the 2023/24 Operating Budget and request to authorize the “Maintenance – Equipment” line-item budget authority in the amount of \$1.2 million. The 2023/24 operating budget has an increase of \$965,415 in revenue over the 2022/23 operating budget.

Director Silveira requested to make a correction regarding the discrepancy in the operating revenue under National Express (Paying for Ecolane) variance total. Nav Bagri agreed to update the correct variance.

No further comments.

Director Silveira moved to adopt the 2023/24 Operating Budget and Authorize “Maintenance – Equipment” line-item budget authority in the amount of \$1.2 million

Seconded by McDaniel

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **14. Discussion Items:**

- a. Revised FY 2023/24 Draft Capital Budget

Nav Bagri discussed the revised FY 2023/24 Draft Capital Budget due to an increase of \$3,885,897 taking the budgeted expenditures from \$19,759,009 in FY 2022/23 to \$23,885,897 in FY 2023/24. The revised budget includes \$1.6 million for the modernization of TJPA’s farebox collection system. The current fareboxes installed on the TJPA fleet are no longer available from the vendor and obtaining parts for maintenance has become difficult. A total of 74 buses including three spares will be upgraded with the new farebox collection system estimating a total amount of \$1.6 million dollars.

No further discussion.

### **MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

#### **15. Action Items:**

- a. Adopt 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget

James Moore presented the 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget with no changes from the draft presented in May. For the fiscal year 2023/24 revenue, the staff is projecting an increase in revenues of \$1,152,970.

Director McDaniel moved to adopt 2023/24 Operation and Capital budget

Seconded by Director Llanez

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Authorize importation of solid waste to both RWA disposal sites for an additional 48 months (August 2027)

James Moore requested the Board authorize importation of solid waste to both RWA disposal sites for an additional 48 months. Continuing to import out-of-county waste through August 2027 will allow RWA to benefit from the additional revenue through the completion of existing debt.

Director McDaniel moved to authorize importation of solid waste to both RWA disposal sites for additional 48 months.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the construction of the Highway 59 landfill gas collection and control system improvements in the amount of \$583,705 with BSE General Engineering, Inc.

Patrick Womble summarized the request to Authorize the Executive to enter into a contract for the construction of the Highway 59 landfill gas collection and control system improvements in the amount of \$583,705 with BSE General Engineering, Inc.

Director Pereira moved to approve to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the construction of the Highway 59 landfill gas collection and control system improvements.

Seconded by Director Espinosa

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

**NOES – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### 16. Discussion Items:

None.

### OTHER REPORTS

#### 17. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Stacie Guzman discussed the following topics:

- Measure V Regional Projects deadline August 1, 2023
- Thanked Directors for all the outreach they made with the free fare rides on The Bus
- MCAG is hiring in all departments
- Working with Politico Group to invite Caltrans Director Tony Tavares to tour Merced County
- Thanked Chair Serratto for his term as Chair of the Board

## 18. **Directors' Reports**

Director Pareira stated Sierra Renewables will be contacting RWA regarding landfill gas opportunities.

Director McDaniel expressed his appreciation for all staff at RWA for a great visit to the landfill on Highway 59 and requested all signage on the landfill 59 be updated.

Director Silveira thanked James Moore and staff for a great visit to the Billy Wright landfill in Los Banos.

Director Llanez thanked the City of Merced and County Sheriff Departments for their fast response regarding a 2-year-old in the middle of the roadway traveling in north Merced.

Director Pedrozo thanked Chair Serratto for his term as Chair at the Governing Board. He also recommended everyone visit The Bus' yard.

Director Moran recommended all Directors take a trip in the YARTS bus to Yosemite.

Chair Serratto expressed his appreciation for the cleanliness of The Bus.

## 19. **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Chair Serratto adjourned the meeting at 4:59p.m.

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/s/