



## Citizens Advisory Committee MINUTES

### DATE

Friday, July 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Friday, July 7, 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 Vice Chair Ursula Stock at 8:30 a.m.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jose Delgadillo, Citizen at Large  
Yamilet Valladolid, Healthcare  
Jean Okuye, Agriculture  
Ursula Stock, Citizen at Large, Vice Chair  
Jack Jackson, Citizen-at-Large

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Economic Development  
Rene Gutierrez, Citizen at Large, Chair  
Michelle Symes-Thiara, Education  
Mike Jensen, Water/Irrigation  
Paul Villareal Jr., Goods Movement  
Vacant, Real Estate  
Vacant, Student  
Vacant, Real Estate  
Vacant, Commerce/Finance  
Vacant, Engineering  
Vacant, Small Business  
Vacant, Citizen-at-Large  
Vacant, Construction

#### OTHERS PRESENT

None

#### MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant\*\*  
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director\*\*  
Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist\*\*  
Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming\*\*  
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager  
Meg Prince, Senior Planner\*\*  
Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist\*\*  
Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant I  
Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner  
Mauricio Torres, Associate Planner  
Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst\*\*  
Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager\*\*  
Erica Vargas, Grant Specialist I\*\*  
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager  
Blake Dunford, Associate Planner\*\*

\*Arrived after roll call

\*\*Attended via Zoom

1. **Call to order**

- a. Roll Call
- b. Pledge of allegiance

Vice Chair Ursula Stock called the meeting to order and asked that roll call be taken. It was determined that a quorum was not present. Jose Delgadillo led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Public comment**

None.

3. **Presentation: Recognition of FY 2022/23 Chair Rene Gutierrez**

This item was moved to next month's meeting on August 4, 2023 due to Rene Gutierrez being absent at this month's meeting.

4. **Information Items:**

a. **Merced County Association of Governments**

- i. CAC highlights of the June 2, 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 – July 2023
- vii. Draft minutes of the June 15, 2023 MCAG Governing Board Meeting
- viii. June Governing Board summary
- ix. Letter of Support for UC Merced's Safe Streets For All federal grant application

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

None.

5. **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. Approve the minutes of the June 2, 2023 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
- iv. Recommend the Governing Board:
  - A. Authorize an increase to the Executive Director's budget authority to \$12,000 for the purchase of two new alternative fuel vehicles;  
AND
  - B. Amend the FY 2023/24 budget to increase the fixed asset line item to \$50,000 for the purchase of two new alternative fuel vehicles.
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**  
None.

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

## MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

### 6. Action Items:

- a. Recommend the Governing Board Adopt Policy Update and Release Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Programs

Blake Dunford requested a recommendation for the Governing Board to adopt the Policy Update and Release Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Program. There is currently about \$4.75 million of Congestion Mitigation funds for eligible projects with some eligibility requirements such as must be transportation related, generate an emissions reduction and it must be in a nonattainment or maintenance area. The Carbon Reduction Program currently has about \$900,000 in funds available for eligible projects that include Rail and Transit, Bike and Pedestrian, and Electric vehicles and EV charging facilities.

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

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

This action item was moved to next month's meeting on August 4, 2023 due to no quorum being present.

### 7. Discussion Items:

- a. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update

Mauricio Torrez gave an update on the Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update

- Progress continues the 'Finish the 99' initiative
- Federal Transportation Improvement Program Formal Amendment 11 is set to be released for public comment in July.
- EV Readiness Plan survey will close by the end of July 7, 2023

- The 2023 Measure V plan update is in progress

Ursula Stock inquired if Finish the 99 current projects have a completed date. Elizabeth Forte stated there is currently no end date foreseen for current projects, but an update will be disclosed once available.

b. Regional Housing Planning monthly update

Meg Prince gave an update on the Regional Housing Planning monthly update

- REAP 1.0 funds deadline is June 2024
- Outreach for Multijurisdictional Housing Element is scheduled for July 2023
- REAP 2.0

No comments.

## TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

### 8. Action Items:

- a. Recommend the Governing Board adopt the FY 2023/24 capital budget

Nav Bagri requested a recommendation for the Governing Board to adopt the FY 2023/24 capital budget. The budget for this fiscal year reflects an increase in budgeted expenditures from \$19,759,009 in FY 2022/23 to \$23,885,897 in FY 2023/24. Projects such as bus stop improvements and repairs, purchase of three battery-electric buses ordered in August 2021 and electric infrastructure for electric buses will be carried over from year 22/23 to next fiscal year. New projects include the replacement of 13 cutaway replacements for fixed-route, paratransit, and Micro Bus services. In addition, the revised budget includes an additional \$1.6 million for the modernization of TJPA's farebox collection system.

Ursula Stock inquired about the longevity of the new farebox systems. Nav Bagri responded stating the fareboxes are expected to last around 10 years with maintenance done regularly and if bus parts are kept up to date.

No further comment.

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

### 9. Discussion Items:

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

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

- Ridership data for May 2023 is now available.
- A total of 479 passengers were provided free shuttle services to the Merced County Fair
- For July-September TJPA is providing free fares for all on fixed-routes and the Micro Bus
- Data collection is ongoing for the Zero Emission Roll-Out Plan

No questions or discussion.

## OTHER REPORTS

### 10. Committee report

Jose Delgadillo gave the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District update. The Clean Air Rooms Program is offering free filtration units to Valley residents in disadvantaged communities. More information is available online at [valleyair.org/roompurifier](http://valleyair.org/roompurifier).

### 11. Announcements

Mary-Michal Rawling announced that Maria Ceja is the new MCAG Administrative Assistant and is also the Clerk to the CAC and MCAG Governing Board.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:25 a.m.**