



## Technical Review Board MINUTES

### DATE

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Technical Review Board was held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, in-person at the Merced County Association of Governments, 369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street Merced, CA and via webinar and was called to order by Chair Josh Pinheiro at 12:08 p.m.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Anna Nicholas, City Manager of Gustine – Vice Chair  
 Raul Mendez, CEO of County of Merced  
 Christopher Lopez, Interim City Manager of Livingston  
 Dewayne Jones, City Manager of Dos Palos  
 Greg Thompson for Lori Waterman, City Manager of Atwater  
 Scott McBride for Stephanie Dietz, City Manager of Merced\*  
 Josh Pinheiro, City Manager of Los Banos - Chair

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

None

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Hilda Sousa, Caltrans  
 Stephen Qualls, League of California\*\*

#### MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director  
 Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager  
 Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming  
 James Moore, Regional Waste Authority Director  
 Kristina Hernandez, HR & Risk Management Manager\*\*  
 Meg Prince, Senior Planner  
 Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist I\*\*  
 Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst\*\*  
 Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager\*\*  
 Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner  
 Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant I  
 Blake Dunford, Associate Planner\*\*  
 Erica Vargas, Grant Analyst\*\*  
 Griselda Villa, Public Programs Specialist\*\*

\*Arrived after roll call

\*\*Attended via Zoom

1. **Call to order/roll call**

Chair Josh Pinheiro called the meeting to order and asked that roll call be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. **Public comment**

No public comments were received.

3. **Information Items:**

a. **Merced County Association of Governments**

- i. Transportation Planning and Measure V monthly update
- ii. Technical Review Board meeting calendar – 2023
- iii. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
- iv. Draft minutes of the June 15, 2023 MCAG Governing Board Meeting
- v. MCAG newsletter – July 2023
- vi. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- vii. Regional Housing Planning monthly update
- viii. TRB attendance roster - 2023
- ix. June 2023 Board Summary
- x. Letter of Support for UC Merced's Safe Streets For All federal grant application
- xi. State Advocacy Report for June 2023

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

- i. TJPA Update

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

- i. RWA monthly update

4. **Consent calendar:**

a. **Merced County Association of Government**

- i. Approve the draft minutes of the June 14, 2023 Technical Review Board meeting

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

None.

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

None.

**Raul Mendez moved to approve the consent calendar.**

**Seconded by Dewayne Jones.**

**AYES: Raul Mendez, Scott McBride, Dewayne Jones, Anna Nicholas, Greg Thompson, Christopher Lopez, Josh Pinheiro**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

5. **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 a Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Program. 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. There is currently about \$4.75 million of Congestion Mitigation funds for eligible projects with some eligibility requirements such as transportation related, generate an emissions reduction and it must be in a nonattainment or maintenance area.

Josh Pinheiro requested further discussion regarding the removal of item 11 in the policy document. Blake Dunford explained that removing item 11 will avoid multiple cities reaching right-of-way clearance at the same time and thereby asking for construction funds at the same time. This helps avoid programming capacity issues. By removing Item 11 all projects that have guaranteed funding through construction will not have to wait until the end of fiscal year to get the construction funds.

No further comments.

**Raul Mendez moved to approve the Governing Board adopt policy update and release a Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Programs**

**Seconded by Greg Thompson.**

**AYES: Raul Mendez, Scott McBride, Dewayne Jones, Anna Nicholas, Greg Thompson, Christopher Lopez, Josh Pinheiro**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Recommend the Governing Board: Authorize an increase to the Executive Director's budget authority by \$12,000 for the purchase of two new alternative fuel vehicles; AND 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.

Xavier Garcia requested the TRB recommend the Governing Board authorize an increase to the Executive Director's budget authority by \$12,000 for the purchase of two new alternative fuel vehicles and 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. The first electric vehicle, a 2023 Chevrolet Bolt EV was purchased in March 2023 for \$31,536.36. The original board-authorized budget authority was \$70,000 of which \$38,463.64 remains available for the purchase of the second vehicle. The new quote is just short of \$50,000 which requires an additional \$12,000 in budget authority. Also, since the purchase did not occur last fiscal year, the FY 2023/24 budget requires an amendment to increase the fixed asset item by \$50,000 to reflect the total cost of purchasing the 2023 Hyundai Santa Fe PHEV.

No Comments.

**Dewayne Jones moved to recommend the Governing Board authorize an increase to the Executive Director's budget authority by \$12,000 and Amend the FY 2023/24 budget to increase the fixed asset line item to \$50,000.**

**Seconded by Scott McBride.**

**AYES: Raul Mendez, Scott McBride, Dewayne Jones, Anna Nicholas, Greg Thompson, Christopher Lopez, Josh Pinheiro**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Discussion Items:**

- a. 2023 One Voice Program Overview

Mary-Michal Rawling discussed the following:

- Successful 2023 One Voice Program
- All six mayors within Merced County participated in the program
- Preparation for the 2024 One Voice Program will commence in October 2023
- Incorporating group activities
- Begin discussion of fewer, larger regional projects/ priorities
- Move trip a week after the Los Banos Spring Fair to provide adequate planning and travel time for all jurisdictions

Josh Pinheiro expressed his enthusiasm regarding the updated plans for the upcoming 2024 One Voice Program and thanked Mary-Michal for adding this item to the agenda and providing insight to future plans.

## **TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**7. Action Items:**

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

Stacie Guzman requested a recommendation that the Governing Board adopt the FY 2023/24 capital budget. This year's fiscal budget includes an increase in the budgeted expenditures from \$19,759,009 to \$23,885,897 in FY 2023/24 due to the inclusion of an additional \$1.6 million for the modernization of TJPA's farebox collection system.

No further comment.

**Greg Thompson moved to recommend the Governing Board adopt the FY 2023/24 capital budget.  
Seconded by Scott McBride.**

**AYES: Raul Mendez, Scott McBride, Dewayne Jones, Anna Nicholas, Greg Thompson, Christopher Lopez, Josh Pinheiro**

**NOES: None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Discussion Items:**

None.

## MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

**9. Action Items:**

None.

**10. Discussion Items:**

None.

## OTHER REPORTS

**11. Executive Director's report**

Stacie Guzman presented the following updates:

- Reminder there will be no meetings in September
- TJPA's first electric buses have been delivered and will be in service in early fall
- Caltrans Director Tony Tavares will be visiting August 31, 2023
- The Bus is offering free service countywide from July 2023 to September 2023
- Regional Waste Authority will be having a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event July 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Highway 59 Landfill.
- Reminder that the deadline for Measure V Regional Project funding requests is August 1, 2023. A technical work group meeting will be scheduled before calling meetings of the east and west Regional Projects Committees.

**12. Caltrans report**

Hilda Sousa provided the following updates:

- A number of grant program decisions and funding availability will be announced soon.
- Federal Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program deadline is on July 31, 2023
- Caltrans equity index 1.0 draft is posted on the website and open to public comments

Members of the committee expressed their appreciation for the hard work Caltrans continues to do and thanked Hilda for her attendance at the Technical Review Board meeting this afternoon.

### 13. **League of California Cities update**

Stephen Qualls presented a summary of Cal Cities current policy priorities.

### 14. **Oral report - Jurisdictions**

Anna Nicholas announced her departure as the City Manager of Gustine and as a member of the Technical Review Board. She will be working for the City of Atwater as the Finance Director at the end of July.

Dewayne Jones announced the City of Dos Palos would be hosting the City/County Dinner at the American Legion Hall and the guest speaker will be Senator Caballero.

Josh Pinheiro expressed his excitement regarding the great outcome on 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and stated the City of Los Banos is currently in the process of revamping some major historical buildings throughout the city.

Scott McBride discussed some open positions the City of Merced is currently recruiting for, including a City Engineer, Economic Development Director, City Planner, City Attorney - more information is available online. Scott invited all attendees to the groundbreaking of their new Regional Sports Complex on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Christopher Lopez gave a 4<sup>th</sup> of July update and stated there are currently multiple positions open with the City of Livingston.

Raul Mendez spoke about the \$49.6 million grant they received from CalSTA for the Castle Commerce Center/Inland Port Project.

Greg Thompson congratulated Anna Nicholas for her new position with Atwater and also announced they have hired a City Engineer.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:40 p.m.**