



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE

Thursday, July 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board held on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at the City of Atwater, Council Chambers, 750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, CA and via webinar was called to order by Chair Pareira at 3:04 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director John Cale
Director Rodrigo Espinoza
Director Tom Faria
Director April Hogue, Chair
Director Daron McDaniel
Director Pat Nagy
Director Lloyd Pareira, Vice Chair
Director Josh Pedrozo
Director Matthew Serratto*
Director Scott Silveira

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Finance Director
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Matt Fell, Deputy Director - Planning
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Kyle Loreto, Diversion Programs Manager
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
Skyler Summers, Transit Assistant Manager
Joy Young, Administrative Assistant II
Eric Zetz, RWA Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Juan Aguilar

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Jose Delgadillo, Citizens Advisory Committee
Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10

*arrived after roll call

1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of allegiance
- c. Invocation

Chair Pareira called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present. Chair Pareira led the pledge of allegiance. Eric Zetz led the invocation.

2. Approval of agenda

Director Faria moved to approve the July 15, 2021 MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda. Seconded by Director Espinoza.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Public comment

None.

4. Recognition of service: Director April Hogue as Chairperson of the MCAG Governing board – January 2021 to June 2021

At this time, Chair Pareira presented Director Hogue with a plaque in recognition of her service as Chair from January 2021 to June 2021 and thanked her for her service.

5. Recognition of service: Jose Delgadillo as Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee – November 2020 to June 2021

Executive Director Stacie Guzman presented Citizens Advisory Committee representative Jose Delgadillo a certificate of recognition and thanked him for his service.

6. Citizens Advisory Committee report

Jose Delgadillo gave the Citizens Advisory Committee report.

7. Information items:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. MCAG Governing Board calendar - 2021
 - ii. Calendar of meetings, conferences, and events
 - iii. Minutes of the June 9, 2021 Technical Review Board meeting
 - iv. MCAG newsletter – July 2021
 - v. Transportation Planning and Measure V update
 - vi. FY 20/21 Quarter 4 Governing Board Summary
 - vii. Dibs Quarterly Report – January to March 2021
 - viii. RAISE Grant Letter of support – Atwater Merced Expressway
 - ix. Measure V Local Funding Formula 2021-2022
 - x. Request for intergovernmental/Clearinghouse Review from Self-Help Enterprises

- b. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. RWA monthly update
- c. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. TJPA monthly update

So noted.

8. Consent calendar:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the June 17, 2021 MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
 - ii. Approve Air Quality Conformity Analysis
 - iii. Adopt Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Exchange with San Joaquin Council of Governments
 - iv. Approve Local Transportation Fund Apportionment for Fiscal Year 2021/22
- b. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
 - i. Approve Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County Surplus Property Policy amendment
 - ii. Approve FY 20/21 Budget Amendment No. 3 and FY 21/22 Budget Amendment No. 1
- c. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. None.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Serratto, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

9. Action items:

- a. Approve changes to the 2022 One Voice Program and Execution of the One-Year Contract Extension with Townsend Public Affairs

Mary-Michal Rawling summarized the request to approve changes to the 2022 One Voice program and execution of the one-year contract extension with Townsend Public Affairs.

Director Silveira moved to:

1. Adopt the proposed updates to the 2022 One Voice program; and
2. Execute the final one-year contract extension with Townsend Public Affairs.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Serratto, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Accept the Governing Board meeting schedule adjustments for quarterly discussion on housing and homelessness

Stacie Guzman summarized the request to accept the Governing Board meeting schedule adjustments for quarterly discussion on Housing and Homelessness.

Director Pedrozo stated that we don't have an opportunity to discuss from a regional approach and this would give us that opportunity.

Director Serratto stated that he agreed with Director Pedrozo's statement.

Chair Pereira stated that he agreed that homelessness is a regional issue.

Director Pedrozo moved to accept the adjustments to the FY 2021-22 Governing Board meeting schedule to provide an MCAG Board Forum to discuss housing and homelessness issues from 2:30-3:00 p.m. at the September, December, March, and June Board meetings.

Seconded by Director Cale.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pereira, Pedrozo, Serratto, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Proposal to expand Measure V Free Fare Program for fixed route services for seniors, veterans, and ADA-eligible passengers to include all TJPA bus transit service types

Stacie Guzman summarized the requested approval of the proposal to expand the Measure V Free Fare Program for fixed route services for seniors, veterans, and ADA-eligible passengers to include all TJPA bus transit service types.

Director McDaniel moved to direct staff to expand the Measure V free fare subsidy program for seniors, veterans, and ADA-eligible passengers for fixed-route services to include all transit service types provided by the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County; and increase the Measure V free fare program subsidy cap to \$320,000 annually.

Seconded by Pedrozo.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pereira, Pedrozo, Serratto, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Discussion items:

- a. State Route 99 Campaign: Finish What We Started

Stacie Guzman discussed the partnership with Tulare County Association of Governments and the Madera County Transportation Commission to develop a strategy and consortium to launch and execute a campaign to secure the State of California's commitment to completing the remaining segments of State Route 99 from four to six lanes.

- b. Proposed Governing Board Retreat

Stacie Guzman discussed the proposal of a multi-day Governing Board retreat in October or November 2021 for the purpose of establishing agency goals and developing a framework for the renewal of the agency's Joint Powers Authority agreement which is set to expire in July 2023. Staff will send out a "save the date" calendar invitation as soon as possible.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR MERCED COUNTY

11. Action items:

- a. Authorize purchase of three (3) Battery Electric Buses

Christine Chavez summarized the request to authorize the purchase of three (3) Battery Electric Buses.

Director Espinoza moved to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Proterra in an amount not to exceed \$3,697,000 to purchase three 35-40', low floor, batter-electric buses along with associated depot chargers, options spare parts, training, and special tool; and
2. Authorize the use of Capital Reserve funding in the amount of \$241,688 in the event HVIP grant match funding does not become available prior to the invoicing of the vehicles.

Seconded by Director Faria.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Serratto, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Approve project submittal for the State of Good Repair Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Christine Chavez summarized the request to approve project submittal for the State of Good Repair Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Director Silveira moved to:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2021/07-15-03 authorizing the filling of the FY 2021-22 SGR project; and
2. Authorize the Transit Joint Powers Authority Executive Director to sign and execute the related documents as well as executing Caltrans-DMT Standard Agreement Contract.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

AYES – Directors Cale, Espinoza, Faria, Hogue, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Serratto, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Discussion items:

None.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY-

13. Action items:

- a. Authorize contract for Targeted Grazing.

Kyle Loreto summarized the request to authorize a contract for targeted grazing.

Director Silveira moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for grazing services for three-years with three, one-year options, in an amount not to exceed \$326,800.

Seconded by Director Pedrozo.

AYES: Directors Cale, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Serratto

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Approve purchase of Mobile Loading Dock System in an amount not to exceed \$161,816

Kyle Loreto summarized the request to approve the purchase of a mobile loading dock system in an amount not to exceed \$161,816.

Director Espinoza moved to authorize the Executive Director to purchase a four-trailer, mobile loading dock system in an amount not to exceed \$161,816.

Seconded by Director Cale.

AYES: Directors Cale, Faria, Hogue, McDaniel, Nagy, Pareira, Pedrozo, Serratto

NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Request for direction on preferred next steps for the Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Eric Zetz presented an update on the current status of the 'Landfill Gas to Energy' project and requested direction on the preferred next steps.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed upon by consensus to direct staff to request a meeting for Chair Pareira, Vice-Chair Serratto and staff with the Chancellor and to issue a letter outlining RWA's completion of Phase I activities and requesting confirmation of the UC's commitment to complete the project. The letter will request a response within 30-45 days. Staff was also directed to explore other business options for RWA's landfill gas while waiting for a response.

14. Discussion items:

None.

OTHER REPORTS

15. Executive Director's report

Stacie Guzman presented the Executive Director's report and discussed the following topics:

- HHW Event flyer
- Evaluation subcommittee meeting on August 19, 2021 prior to board meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Merced County Admin Building, Room 310

Stacie Guzman extended an invite for Marlon Regisford to give the Caltrans report.

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

- Broadband budget bill for fiber optics extensions in rural communities
- Caltrans Innovative Concepts call for projects
- Recent approval of the Climate Action Plan
- Roadside safety improvements project on SR 140
- SR 99 median widening project in design phase
- Ramp closures on multiple roadways

Director Cale asked if there is an update regarding the homeless encampment near SR 99 embankment. Marlon stated that he will follow up with Director Cale on his inquiry.

Director Espinoza asked if Caltrans could look at the Childs Avenue overpass as it is narrow and is a safety concern not only for pedestrians who are in the area but for school-aged children using the overpass to walk to school.

Director Silveira stated that Highway 33 between Barcellos and Cypress north of Dos Palos appears to be sinking and has created a dip that is a safety concern.

Director Silveira stated that in Santa Nella and Henry Miller Road there are signs for “No Parking” but that they are not up far enough so there is still truck parking happening by the Panda Express and McDonalds.

Chair Pareira stated that the shoulder work that was completed did not go back far enough and now the work needs to be redone on North Highway 59 and he asked that they go all the way back this time.

16. Directors’ report

Director Hogue stated that Senator Padilla, Congressman Costa and other dignitaries will be viewing the water plant in Dos Palos.

Director Espinoza thanked the City of Atwater for hosting the Governing Board meeting and encouraged everyone to have dinner before leaving town.

CLOSED SESSION

17. Public comment

None.

Closed Session item was pulled from the agenda.

18. Significant Exposure to Litigation

Pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code Section 54956.9(b):
1 potential case

19. Report from Closed Session

None.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

_____/s/
Joy Young
Administrative Assistant II