



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE

Thursday, July 20, 2023

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Vice Chair Llanez at 3:03 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Director Josh Pedrozo, Chair***
Gurpal Samra for Director Jose Moran
Director April Hogue
Director Pat Nagy
Director Mike Nelson*
Director Lloyd Pareira*
Director Scott Silveira
Director Matthew Serratto
Director Paul Llanez, Vice Chair

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Daron McDaniel
Director Rodrigo Espinosa

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant
James Moore, Regional Waste Authority Director
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Meg Prince, Senior Planner**
Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist
Xavier Garcia, Assistant Planner
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist
Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant
Kristina Hernandez, HR and Risk Management Manager**
Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst**
Blake Dunford, Associate Planner**
Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming

*arrived after roll call

**Attended virtually

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10**

Jose Delgadillo, CAC

Tom Dumas**

Brian Hooker**

Administrator**

HDL Companies**

DRAFT

1. **Call to order**

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

At this time, Vice Chair Llanez 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 Samra led the pledge of allegiance.

Stacie Guzman recommended item 3 be presented after item 15 so that Chair Pedrozo may be online to present the recognition for Director Serratto. Ms. Guzman also requested attendance roster for Governing Board be corrected to reflect proper attendance for Director Moran and Director Espinosa.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Director Silveira moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday, July 20, 2023. Seconded by Director Samra.

AYES – Directors Nelson, Hogue, Nagy, Samra, Llanez, Serratto, Pareira, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Citizens Advisory Committee report**

Jose Delgadillo presented the Citizens Advisory report.

At this time, Chair Pedrozo joined the meeting via zoom and Director Pareira joined the meeting in-person.

5. **Presentation: Sales Tax Update**

David McPherson presented the quarterly Sales Tax Update.

6. **Caltrans Report**

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

- The deadline to apply for the State Reconnecting Communities Highways to Boulevards Program is September 20th, there is currently \$149 million dollars available.
- The deadline to apply for the Federal Highway Administration Protect Program is August 18th, currently there is \$858 million dollars available.
- Caltrans draft Carbon Reduction Strategy available for public comments until August 18th.

- Caltrans is celebrating its 50th anniversary.
- Congratulated Merced County for being awarded a \$49.6 million grant to build an inland port.

Director Silveira reminded Mr. Regisford the County of Merced applied before the deadline for the Clean California Grants and thanked Caltrans for the work on Highway 152 and Volta Road.

Director Pareira inquired about the Reconnecting Grants and would like to know if J59 would qualify for the funds and wanted an update with the HAWK system. Marlon will be following up with Director Parreira regarding his questions.

Director Silveira inquired about the process Caltrans currently has regarding businesses or property owners looking to repurchase land owned by Caltrans. Mr. Regisford stated it would be a long process due to the roadway needing to be reclassified and CTS would also be part of the process. He also stated Caltrans will need to develop a report to determine any impact and what may entail the reclassification to then include as part of an action item on the MCAG agenda.

Director Serratto requested an update on the progress of Highway 99 with Chair Pedrozo also requesting an update regarding Highway 99 for next month's Governing Board Meeting

7. **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 – July 2023
- v. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- vi. Regional Housing Planning update
- vii. Letter of Support for UC Merced's Safe Streets For All federal grant application
- viii. June Governing Board summary
- ix. State Legislative Report: June 2023
- x. Draft minutes of the Technical Review Board meeting of July 12, 2023
- xi. 2023 One Voice Program Overview

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.

8. **Consent calendar:**

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
 - ii. Reappoint Merced County representative to the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee
 - iii. Adopt Revised Other Program Budget FY 2023-24
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
None.
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**
None.

Director Samra moved to approve the consent calendar.
Seconded by Director Serratto.

AYES – Directors Nelson, Hogue, Nagy, Samra, Llanez, Serratto, Pedrozo, Pareira, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

9. Action Items:

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

Blake Dunford presented the Policy update and the release of the call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Program. Currently there is about \$4.75 million of Congestion Mitigation funds for eligible projects. 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 EV charging facilities.

Director Silveira inquired whether the one-month expectation for staff to process recommendation projects for Caltrans HQ eligibility certification would be done in house or would need to be sent out to Caltrans and if the one-month expectation was realistic. Blake Dunford stated it would need to be sent to Caltrans for review. Director Silveira would like Mr. Dunford to follow up with Caltrans to discuss realistic expectations regarding the turnaround time.

No further comments.

Director Silveira moved to approve the Policy Update and Release Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Programs
Seconded by Director Serratto

AYES – Directors Nelson, Hogue, Nagy, Samra, Llanez, Serratto, Pedrozo, Pareira, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. 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 presented this item. 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 second vehicle.

Director Pereira requested clarification if the increase was only being requested for items presented or further items. Stacie Guzman clarified that the increase was only being requested for the item presented.

Director Pareira moved to authorize 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.

Seconded by Director Nagy.

AYES – Directors Nelson, Hogue, Nagy, Samra, Llanez, Serratto, Pedrozo, Pareira, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Discussion Items:

None.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

11. Action Items:

- a. Adopt the FY 2023/24 capital budget

Stacie Guzman presented the FY 2023/24 capital budget which includes the inclusion of \$1.6 million for the modernization of TJPA’s farebox collection system. The current farebox system is obsolete and finding parts to

repair them is difficult. Therefore, TJPA is requesting the increase to upgrade to a new farebox system on current buses and the installation on new buses moving forward.

Chair Pedrozo inquired whether the new farebox systems can be removed and placed on new buses. Jose Perez stated that would be the plan to salvage all parts in working conditions including the new farebox system be removed from retired buses and transferred over to new buses, if needed.

Director Silveira moved to approve FY 2023/24 capital budget
Seconded by Director Llanez

AYES – Directors Nelson, Hogue, Nagy, Samra, Llanez, Serratto, Pedrozo, Pareira, Silveira

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Discussion Items:

None.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

13. Action Items:

None.

14. Discussion Items:

None.

15. Recognition of Service – Director Matt Serratto as Chairman of the MCAG Governing Board – July 2022 to June 2023

At this time, Chair Pedrozo presented a plaque in recognition to Director Serratto for his service as Chairman of the MCAG Governing Board – July 2022 to June 2023.

OTHER REPORTS

16. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Stacie Guzman discussed the following topics:

- New JPA term has commenced
- Congratulated Merced County for their grant
- Invited Board members to lunch with Caltrans Director Tony Tovarez on August 31

- Mrs. Guzman will be out on vacation during the week of July 24, 2023
- Women in Transportation Event: Thursday, August 10th at the Elite Venue in Fresno
- Measure V Regional Project funding requests are due August 1st
- Introduced Maria Ceja as the new Administrative Assistant for MCAG
- Reminded Board members that The Bus is currently offering Free Fares from July – September

17. Directors' Reports

Director Nagy congratulated Director Serratto for his term as Chairman.

Director Pareira expressed his appreciation for his colleagues for their accomplishment on being awarded the \$49.6 million grant.

Director Nelson stated he purchased YARTS tickets for his family and would be visiting Yosemite National Park Wednesday, July 26.

Director Hogue congratulated Director Serratto on his term as Chairman. She also invited all Board members to the City of Dos Palos' City-County Dinner on July 27th at the DES Hall.

Director Silveira expressed his excitement regarding Merced County's \$49.6 million inland port grant.

Director Samra stated he would love to visit staff at MCAG to introduce himself.

Director Llanez thanked Stacie Guzman and Matthew Serratto for their help. Director Llanez also thanked all council members for finalizing the JPA agreement.

Director Serratto congratulated Merced County for their recent accomplishments and would like for all jurisdictions to get together to discuss improvements on regional transit.

Chair Pedrozo concluded by congratulating Merced County on the awarded Inland Port grant and thanked Director Serratto for his term as Chairman.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Chair Serratto adjourned the meeting at 4:32p.m.

_____/s/
Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant I