



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE

Thursday, August 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board was held on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA and was called to order by Chair Pedrozo at 3:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

- Director Josh Pedrozo, Chair
- Director Jose Moran*
- Director McDaniel
- Director Pat Nagy
- Director Mike Nelson
- Director Lloyd Pareira
- Director Scott Silveira
- Director Shane Smith for Matthew Serratto
- Director Paul Llanez, Vice Chair

DIRECTORS ABSENT

- Director April Hogue
- Director Rodrigo Espinosa

*Arrived after roll call

**Attended virtually

MCAG STAFF PRESENT

- Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
- Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant
- Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
- Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
- Mauricio Torres, Associate 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
- James Moore, Regional Waste Authority Director
- Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
- Adam Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
- Meg Prince, Senior Planner**
- Alexandra Arroyo, Procurement Specialist**

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Marlon Regisford, Caltrans District 10**

Raul Mendez, County of Merced**

Jacob Alvarez**

Kiana Valentine, Politico

Chris Lee, Politico

Mitchell Vincaguera, NorCal Carpenters Union

Rosa Romero**

STAFF CONTINUED

Kyle Loreto, Diversion Programs Manager**

Daizy Zaragoza, Procurement and Reporting Analyst**

Rene Ruiz, Accounting Manager**

Patrick Womble, Environmental Resources Manager

Erica Vargas, Grant Specialist**

DRAFT

1. **Call to order**

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

At this time, Chair Pedrozo called the meeting to order and asked that roll call be taken. Maria Ceja led the roll call and stated that a quorum was present. Stacy Cooley gave the invocation and Director Nagy led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Director McDaniel moved to approve the MCAG Governing Board meeting agenda for Thursday, August 17, 2023.

Seconded by Director Nagy.

AYES – Directors Smith, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Silveira, Llanez, Pedrozo

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Public Comment**

Mitchell Vincaguera with NorCal Carpenters Union discussed Assembly Bill 2011 that went into effect July 1st 2023. It will provide streamlined CEQA exempt review for certain affordable and mixed housing projects. The bill will be able to help generate more affordable homes quickly and provide living wage jobs for local residents. NorCal Carpenters Union has created a template application for MCAG to adopt and would like to have further discussion at the convenience of members.

Juan Martinez with United Way thanked the Board for fixing the canal off Buhach in Atwater that was damaged by Nutria.

4. **Reports and Presentations**

a. **Citizens Advisory Committee**

No report.

b. **Caltrans District 10**

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

- Clean Transportation Program Innovative through California Energy Commission Charging Technology Program Deadline September 8th

- Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Program
- Local Technical Assistance Program
- Call for applications for Recycling Program - Deadline September 13th
- California Environmental Protection Agency hybrid and zero emission trucks and bus voucher incentives projects
- Caltrans will announce awardees by the end of August for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program

c. State legislative update

Stacie Guzman introduced Kiana Valentine and Chris Lee with Politico Group to discuss current projects being worked on as well as future projects. Kiana Valentine discussed working with the Newsom Administration and how State transportation and housing dollars are accessed by MCAG.

5. 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 – August 2023
- v. City-County Dinner Host Rotation Schedule
- vi. Regional Housing Planning update
- vii. July Governing Board summary
- viii. Draft minutes of the Technical Review Board meeting of August 9, 2023
- ix. Quarterly report on Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Board approved contracts
- x. 2024/25 Unmet Transit Needs Schedule

b. Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County

- i. TJPA monthly update
- ii. Quarterly report on Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPA) Board approved contracts

c. Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

- i. RWA monthly update
- ii. Quarterly Report on Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (RWA) Board approved contracts

So noted.

6. Consent calendar:

- a. **Merced County Association of Governments**
 - i. Approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023 MCAG Governing Board, Transit Joint Powers Authority Board, and the Regional Waste Management Authority Board meeting
 - ii. Adopt Resolution No. 2023/08-17-01 authorizing the submittal of the FY 2023-24 SGR project list
 - iii. Adopt the Final Regional or Local Housing Trust Fund or Consortium Feasibility Study
 - iv. Adopt Formal Amendment 11 to the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program via Resolution 2023/08-17-02
 - v. Reappoint member of Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
 - vi. Appoint representatives to the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee
- b. **Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County**
 - i. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a five-year contract for Two-Way Bus Communication Services in the amount of \$217,058
 - ii. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a three-year contract for mobility on demand software development and implementation in the amount of \$387,177 with the selected vendor, Via Mobility
- c. **Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority**

None.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

AYES – Directors Smith, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Silveira, Llanez, Pedrozo

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

7. Action Items:

- a. Authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement for staff augmentation services with LSA

Elizabeth Forte requested the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement for staff augmentation services. The contract is recommended with a fixed budget until expended because these services are uncertain at this time and highly dependent on the SCS review process with CARB. The recommended budget is \$80,000. The work would be performed on an as-needed basis at an agreed upon hourly rate until the budget is expended, or the agreement is terminated or amended.

Director Smith inquired how long the person would be on staff as a consultant; Elizabeth Forte stated the agreement is for a fixed budget on an as-needed basis so time may vary and for that reason they are requesting a dollar amount.

Director Pareira moved to approve the Executive Director to execute an agreement for staff augmentation services with LSA.

Seconded by Director Smith

AYES – Directors Smith, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Silveira, Llanez, Pedrozo

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Discussion Items:

a. Draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan

Blake Dunford presented the Draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan which includes 10 preferred locations for new publicly owned electric vehicle charging stations across the county. The draft plan includes a review of existing conditions, which include the existing stations by type of charger and jurisdictional compliance with both regulations. The draft plan will help in identifying existing and potential sites for electric vehicle charging stations, policies and funding, and will educate and inform the community and stakeholders about electric vehicles and associated infrastructure.

Director Silveira inquired where the funding will come from. Blake responded stating they are looking at a few different options like CMAQ, Nevee Program, CFI Program and any other available funding.

Director Smith inquired about the process regarding how the charging stations would be charged. Blake responded stating they are looking into solar, or in some areas linking to the grid would be more beneficial.

b. Transportation Project and Funding Programs update

Elizabeth Forte presented the update on transportation projects and funding programs that include:

- Programming of Buses and Bus Facilities Formula Funds
- Regional Surface Transportation Program
- Measure V
- Transportation Development Act
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Federal Transit Administration Funds

Director Silveira inquired if the CMAQ funding would carry over year to year. Elizabeth Forte confirmed the money would carry over.

c. Draft Guidelines for MCAG's Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Grant Programs

Xavier Garcia discussed the guidelines for MCAG's Regional Early Action Planning program that includes the eligibility for MCAG's \$3.9 million in formula funding. Merced County Association of Government's funding application proposed utilizing the funding to develop two grant programs, a Local Suballocation Grant Program, and a Regional Competitive Grant Program. MCAG will release a 30-day public review comment period beginning August 15, 2023.

There were no questions or discussion.

TRANSIT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

9. Action Items:

- a. Adopt resolution 2023/08-17-03 authorizing the Federal Transit Administration Section - 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant application submittal for Vehicle Replacement Project

Nav Bagri presented resolution 2023/08-17-03 authorizing the Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant application. The goal is to replace existing vehicles that have reached the end of their life. Replacement is crucial to prevent safety risks, maintain system reliability, and reduce maintenance costs. The maximum allowable funding request for a bus is at \$140,000 per bus, the total cost for nine buses would amount to \$1,260,000, however TJPA is seeking funding for half the cost at \$630,000.

Director Silveira inquired whether the buses were budgeted. Nav responded they are not budgeted as of now but they are in the 2025/2026 plans; but due to the complexity of the grant, TJPA staff is working on the grant ahead of time to prepare for future applications.

Director Silveira moved to adopt resolution 2023/08-17-03 authorizing the Federal Transit Administration Section - 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant application submittal for Vehicle Replacement Project.

Seconded by Director McDaniel

AYES – Directors Smith, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Silveira, Llanez, Pedrozo

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Discussion Items:

None.

MERCED COUNTY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

11. **Action Items:**

- a. Approve FY 22/23 budget amendment #1 moving \$4,900,000 in excess operating revenue to the capital improvement projects budget

Nav Bagri presented the FY 22/23 budget amendment #1. Currently, RWA has \$4,900,000 in excess operating revenue with the proposed allocation for these monies being as follows: \$3.2 million into the project 80037 HWY 59 - Infrastructure Project, \$900,000 to project 80047 HWY 59 - Infrastructure Project permitting, Design, and Construction Management, and \$600,000 to Billy Wright future cell expansion. Furthermore, staff is also proposing adding a new project, 80064 HWY 59-CEM trailer by allocating \$200,000 to this project.

Director Silveira inquired whether there was a breakdown available on which landfill had more excess operating revenue. Nav Bagri responded stating he does not have that information on hand but could provide it to the Directors after the meeting.

Director Nagy moved to approve the FY 22/23 budget amendment #1 moving \$4,900,000 in excess operating revenue to the capital improvement projects budget.

Seconded by Director Pareira

AYES – Directors Smith, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Silveira, Llanez, Pedrozo

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Authorize the Executive Director enter into a contract for the construction of Highway 59 landfill facility improvements in the amount of \$8,938,691 with the selected vendor, TBS Contractors.

James Moore discussed the contract for the construction of Highway 59 landfill facility improvements in the amount of \$8,938,691 with the selected vendor, TBS Contractors. The improvements include construction of a heavy vehicle maintenance shop, enclosed recyclable materials transfer facility, a new fuel storage and dispensing area, a new Household Hazardous Waste facility, and associated utility and other infrastructure improvements needed to efficiently run operations. This phase also includes improvements to the resource and recovery area, new recyclables transfer facility building, and additional paving and utility work.

Director Pareira moved to authorize the Executive Director enter into a contract for the construction of Highway 59 landfill facility improvements in the amount of \$8,938,691 with the selected vendor, TBS Contractors.

Seconded by Director Nagy

AYES – Directors Smith, McDaniel, Nagy, Nelson, Pareira, Silveira, Llanez, Pedrozo

NOES – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. **Discussion Items:**

None.

At this time, Director Moran joined the meeting.

OTHER REPORTS

13. **Executive Directors Report**

Executive Director Stacie Guzman discussed the following topics:

- Reminder Director Tavares will be coming to Merced on August 31st, 2023
- Met with Caltrans Tony Tavares Director and Cal State Secretary Toks Omishakin at the Women in Transportation dinner hosted last week.
- Free Fare Rides on The Bus through the end of September 2023
- Thanked Director Pareira for informing her of the micro grant opportunity through Clean Air Coalition
- No meetings in September

14. **Directors' Reports**

Director Nagy attended the California Vanpool annual retreat.

Director Llanez thanked everyone involved with the Measure V plan. The City of Los Banos is currently having 37 new ADA sidewalk corners put within the city limits, focusing on the schools first. On September 9th the City of Los Banos will have a ribbon cutting for the renovated basketball court that is open 24 hours a day. Lastly, the wall on the community center will be renovated with murals.

Director Nelson expressed how great his trip to Yosemite National Park was on YARTS.

Director Pedrozo expressed his interest in having all Board members come together to discuss ways to get people to ride The Bus and also recognized a bus driver who went above and beyond helping out a passenger.

15. **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the MCAG Governing Board, Chair Serratto adjourned the meeting at 4:31p.m.

Maria Ceja

/s/

Maria Ceja, Administrative Assistant I