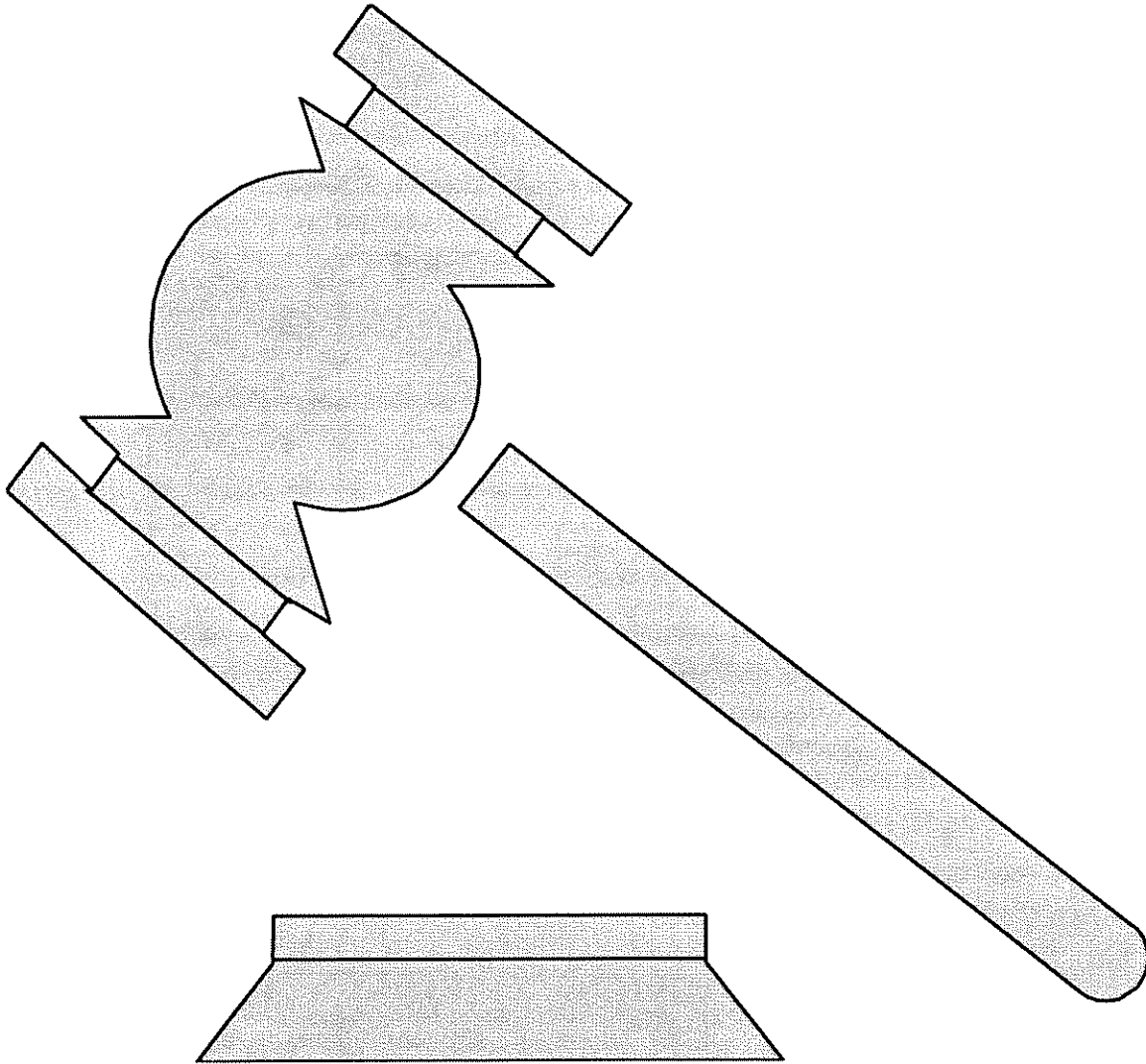




***ADMINISTRATIVE
CONSENT ITEMS
AGENDA ITEMS V. A.***

COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
Executive Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Present: Mayor Trinidad M. Rodriguez, City of Kerman, Chair
Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Lujan, City of Selma, V. Chair
Mayor Bob Whalen, City of Clovis
Mayor Trish Hill, City of Coalinga
Mayor Craig Knight, City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Rico Aguayo, City of Fowler
Councilmember Cynthia Sterling, City of Fresno
Mayor Ramon Dominguez, City of Huron
Mayor Leland Bergstrom, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
Councilmember Scott Brockett, City of Reedley
Mayor Mike Montelongo, City of Sanger
Supervisor Henry Perea, County of Fresno

Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans
Kevin Briggs, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Quorum: At the start of the meeting there were 15 members present representing 99.51% of the population and there was a quorum. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County)

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

Mayor Montelongo (Sanger) led the Board in a prayer for the family of Don Tow, Mayor of Selma, who recently passed away and also on behalf of his wife who had a stroke.

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Board on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

Project Abstract – Leroy Brown (Mr. Brown was not present at the meeting)

Attention was called to a (handout) Project Abstract from Leroy Brown on behalf of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce requesting funding from the Workforce Investment Board for \$385,000 to reach out to union and non-union employers in the building and construction trades. The requested grant would be for training and equipping 75 eligible, low-income, unemployed or underemployed adults in entry-level, building and construction skills over a fifteen-month period.

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

A motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lujan (Selma) to add the item to the agenda as an urgency item. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, it was agreed by consensus to send a letter of support to the Workforce Investment Board for the project applicant, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Introduction of New Staff

Tony Boren, Executive Director introduced Lauren Dawson as the new Air Quality Specialist.

Youth Project – Rios Company and Fresno County Election Department

Sam Norman with the Rios Company made a presentation regarding a new program for youth. The Rios Company, in conjunction with the Fresno County Election Department, is encouraging participation in the electoral process through a grassroots *Voter Education and Outreach Project* targeting African-American and Hispanic populations.

Del Rey – Representation on the COG Board

Homer Lejia with the Del Rey Community Services District made a presentation to the Board requesting that the COG Policy Board consider allowing Del Rey to sit on the Policy Board as a non-voting member. Chairman Rodriguez referred the information to Legal Counsel.

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| A. Transportation Funding Claims | Approve |
| 1. FY 2008-09 City of Fowler, Resolution 2008-27 | |
| 2. FY 2008-09 City of Huron, Resolution 2008-28 | |
| 3. FY 2008-09 City of Mendota, Resolution 2008-29 | |
| 4. FY 2008-09 City of Parlier, Resolution 2008-30 | |
| 5. FY 2008-09 City of San Joaquin, Resolution 2008-31 | |
| 6. FY 2008-09 City of Selma, Resolution 2008-32 | |
| 7. FY 2008-09 City of Kingsburg, Resolution 2008-33 | |
| 8. FY 2008-09 City of Coalinga, Resolution 2008-36 | |
| 9. FY 2008-09 City of Firebaugh, Resolution 2008-37 | |
| B. FY 2008-09 COG Measure "C" Claim, Resolution 2008-34 | Approve |
| C. Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grading Process | Approve |
| D. Administrative Amendments No. 12 and No. 14 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program | Information |
| E. California Consensus Principles on Federal Transportation Authorization | Approve |
| F. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Monthly Update | Information |
| G. Project Level Air Quality Conformity Determinations Procedures Update | Info/Discussion |
| H. California Statewide Local Needs Assessment Project | Info/Discussion |

For a summary of these items, please see the July 31, 2008 Annotated Agenda.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Silva (Mendota) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program

Tony Boren, Executive Director introduced this item. Don Hubbard, Consultant with PB Americans gave a power point presentation and answered questions from the Board. The Draft Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Final Report was included in the agenda packet.

Measure "C" (Fresno County's ½ cent sales tax for transportation purposes) was reauthorized by the voters of Fresno County in November 2006. One of the requirements of the new Measure "C" program is that a Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program (RTMF) be developed and approved by Fresno COG and the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) in coordination with all local jurisdictions. The RTMF is required to be enacted by all cities in the County and by Fresno County no later than January 1, 2009. Fees will be collected by each local jurisdiction and transmitted to the FCTA. "If any city or Fresno County should choose to not implement the RTMF program, then that Agency shall forfeit annually from the Local Transportation Program Street Maintenance Allocation an amount equal to the amount of RTMF that would have otherwise have been paid for development projects within that jurisdiction during the year".

PB Americas Inc. was the consulting firm that was selected to conduct the RTMF Study. Over the last nine months they have been working with a Regional Steering Committee consisting of Planning Directors, Public Works Directors, City Managers, industry stakeholders and interested community members in an effort to develop a RTMF Program which has "consensus support" prior to it being taken through the COG and FCTA processes and formal adoption by our member agencies.

The Draft RTMF program is being presented during the month of July to the TTC, PAC, Citizens Oversight Committee and Policy Board, as well as the Fresno County Transportation Authority, as an information/discussion item with formal adoption of a preferred option by the COG Committees in August 2008 and by the FCTA in September 2008.

Meeting Results:

TTC (July 9, 2008): discussion on the various options ended with a recommendation that the consultant develop a "phased-in" alternative for Option One (\$447 mil.) similar to what was done with Option 2 (\$278.mil.)

Citizens Oversight Committee (July 10, 2008): The Measure "C" Citizens Oversight Committee voted 6-2 in support of Option One (\$447 mil.).

Fresno County Transportation Authority Policy Board (July 16, 2008): It was suggested that the consultant develop a new alternative that is based on the \$102 million that was identified in the Measure "C" Expenditure Plan.

Policy Advisory Committee (July 18, 2008): Recommended that Option 3 (\$278 million phased-in option) be given additional detail quantifying the three phases.

Fresno COG Policy Board (July 31, 2008): The COG Policy Board received the presentation and raised questions related to the cost estimates.

Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) questioned whether Option 1 & 2 will only be State Routes and If we leave off the Tier 2 when will the prioritization take place and will we be able to fund both of the Tiers. Mr. Hubbard responded the Committee decided not to go for any local projects and didn't want the complicated shifting of monies. The list is a subset of state facilities—a lot of state roads are not subject to new development and can't be paid for from the RTMF.

Councilmember Brockett (Reedley) pointed out that the costs of projects were grossly underestimated and the estimates need to be readjusted. He would like to give what we promised to the taxpayers.

Jeffrey Reid, Central California Development Council agrees with Councilmember Brockett. He further suggested that the RTMF is not the mechanism to fix the deficit between the estimates and the actual funding and that the Plan needs to be amended. He suggested adopting the RTMF at the \$102 million that was originally spoken of and then move forward with fixing the deficit. Mr. Reid suggested, several things may need to be done to revise the overall program and one of them may be to come back and revise the RTMF. He also noted that to put it all on the back of the development community is not consistent with any of the original concepts of the proposal. The \$102 million came from a proposal presented by Mr. Reid, as a member of the Measure "C" Steering Committee, to have the developers contribute 20% of the Measure "C" funding at that time. The BIA seconded the motion and that's where the \$102 million came from. He mentioned that while he was on the Measure "C" Steering Committee, he had asked for the project list many times, knowing that would be necessary for accurate estimates but the project list was the last thing that was done. He added that if the project list had been done early, we would not have spent a mere 29% of Measure "C" funding on regional projects and would have figured out what really needed to get done and then probably still had an extra \$40-60 million (some of which is reserved for future technologies) but could go back and use that money to fill the hole.

It is now clear, based on correspondence and testimony presented at the various meetings that the Building Industry Association and the Central California Development Council (industrial/commercial builders) appear to support the \$102 million alternative. However, Dr. Gary Manross (COG consultant) has been meeting with BIA officials in an attempt to have them reconsider their position on the issue. PB Americas Inc. will be modifying the Final RTMF report and their RTMF presentation to reflect the two new alternatives and provide additional detail to Option 3 requested by the PAC.

This was an information/discussion item. COG Staff, along with the TTC and PAC will be formulating a recommendation to bring forward for action at next month's meeting.

B. Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, Project Management Plan, Resolution 2008-35

Todd Sobrado (COG) reported on this item. On January 24, 2008, the Fresno COG Policy Board approved the Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. A coordinated plan is required under the SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) passed in August of 2005. A second component of SAFETEA-LU is a Project Management Plan that describes the administration process Fresno COG will adhere to as the designated recipient for Fresno County's Federal Transit Administration funds.

The draft Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Project Management Plan was distributed to the Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee, the Policy Advisory Committee, and the Fresno COG Policy Board in the June 2008 meeting cycle. Fresno COG has not received any comments on the plan.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lujan (Selma) to approve the Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan by adoption of Resolution 2008-35. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. FY 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Regional Transportation Program Modification, Resolution 2008-26

Renee DeVere-Okie (COG) reported on this item. Fresno COG is adopting the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The 2009 Interim FTIP must be adopted and submitted to Caltrans by August 1, 2008 to be included in the overall state programming document. A 30 day public comment period was conducted, ending July 3, 2008, and a public hearing was held on June 26, 2008. Information related to comments received can be found in the Response to Comments section in the final document.

2009 Interim FTIP: The FTIP is the incremental implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan and includes programming for fiscal years 2008/09 through 2011/12. Fresno COG is adopting an Interim FTIP because Ozone and PM-10 emission budgets for the San Joaquin Valley have not been approved by EPA. Without approved budgets, the Valley COGs cannot adopt a conformity analysis and can only proceed with programming exempt projects and preliminary engineering/ environmental phases of non-exempt projects. The Interim FTIP proposed for adoption contains only the transportation projects that may proceed without a new conformity analysis.

The 2009 Interim FTIP is available on the Fresno COG website (www.fresnocog.org); hard copies are also available upon request. Please contact staff if you have any questions or comments.

The Regional Transportation Plan must be updated in conjunction with the FTIP to reflect changes in programming and text. As determined by staff, the included modifications are minor in nature and can be updated via an Administrative Modification.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Administrative Modification #1: The 2007 RTP represents the long range planning vision for Fresno County's regional transportation system through the year 2030. The RTP is a long-term strategy to meet Fresno County's transportation needs out to the year 2030. The modification clarifies the FTIP Reference Table (Exhibit 5-5), unconstrained project lists, and adds additional information regarding Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). A copy of the amendment was included in the agenda package.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, and noting a public hearing at last month's meeting, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Montelongo (Sanger) to approve Resolution 2008-26 adopting the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Administrative Modification #1 to the Regional Transportation Plan is an information/discussion item only and required no further action from the Board.

D. Public Transportation and Infrastructure Study (PTIS) Phase II Contract Award

Jeff Long (COG/FAX) reported on this item. In 2006, Fresno County Voters approved a Measure "C" half-cent sales tax for transportation. Measure "C" included a projected \$5 million reserve for the completion of the PTIS and the formation of a regional transit agency.

The PTIS will evaluate mobility needs and opportunities, and identify strategies for public transit and transit supportive infrastructure development that will result in wider acceptance and use of non-automobile transportation modes such as public transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel. In addition to the development of viable alternative public transportation options for Fresno County, this study seeks to develop ridership projections and cost estimates for various growth and development scenarios that will be used to establish a long-range plan leading to optimum connectivity within the region.

Phase I of the PTIS evaluated existing and planned land uses, mapped residential and employment densities, and identified primary travel corridors for communities outside of the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA). Phase I also reviewed existing land use policies and developed a set of transit supportive recommendations. Phase I reports are available on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org.

On April 7, 2008, a Request for Proposals for Phase II of the PTIS was released. On May 15, 2008, proposals were received from ARUP (\$2,692,441), Wilbur Smith Associates (\$2,280,000), Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. (\$2,599,481), and Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants (\$2,400,831). A proposal selection committee comprised of Fresno COG staff, Caltrans Staff, Fresno County Staff, City of Fresno Staff, City of Clovis Staff, Fresno State University Staff and public members was established to evaluate the proposals and recommend a preferred consulting team.

After the initial proposal review was completed, the Committee decided not to advance ARUP to the interview phase; however the remaining teams were invited to make formal presentations on June 9, 2008. Although the final decision was not unanimous, Kimley-Horn and Associates was favored with a majority vote.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and enter into a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates to conduct Phase II of the PTIS. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

E. Fresno Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Master Plan

Jeff Long (COG/FAX) reported on this item. Under the terms of an agreement between the City of Fresno, the Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA) and Fancher Creek Properties, LLC (Fancher Creek), the City agreed to prepare, and Fancher Creek agreed to fund a "Master Transit Plan" for the Fresno metropolitan area. As part of the final agreement, the COG was asked to manage the contract which was executed with Kimley-Horn Associates on December 13, 2006.

Although some parts of the scope of services are still being completed, the Bus Rapid Transit Master Plan has been completed. The Plan identifies key corridors within the Fresno/Clovis Urbanized Area that demonstrate strong potential for development as BRT corridors. The best candidate corridors are identified as Ventura/Kings Canyon from Fowler to Downtown Fresno, and Blackstone Avenue from Downtown Fresno to Manchester Center. The plan developed ridership and cost projections as well as outlining the steps necessary to pursue Federal Transit Administration New Starts funding.

The full document was included in the agenda packet and is available on the COG website at [www.fresnocog.org] on the home page.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) and seconded by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) to accept the Bus Rapid Transit Master Plan. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

F. Measure "C" Programs Starting July 1st: Commuter Vanpool, Farmworker Vanpool, and Senior Taxi Scrip

Melissa Garza (COG) reported on this item. Fresno COG, as of July 1st will be awarding over \$900,000 in Measure "C" subsidies and cost reimbursements to newly forming and existing vanpools originating in Fresno County. Over \$900,000 additional Measure "C" funds are available to Fresno County residents who are 70 years of age or older for taxi rides under the Measure "C" Taxi Scrip Program.

Fresno County residents who are interested in the Measure "C" Commuter or Farmworker Vanpool Programs may apply for Measure "C" subsidies that will assist in offsetting initial and continuous operating costs. Approximately \$300,000 in commuter vanpool subsidies and \$620,000 in Farmworker vanpool subsidies are available between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, on a first-come first-serve basis until the program funds are exhausted. The program is designed to get commuters to their destinations safely, improve air quality, and provide a cost-effective alternative to the single occupant vehicle. It is also designed to spark the development of new vanpools and offer financial assistance to existing vanpools to ensure that they stay on the road. Eligible subsidies and reimbursements can cover: Monthly Lease Subsidies, Start-up Costs, Driver Replacement Costs, Emergency Ride Home Program, Driver Incentives, Parking Permits and monthly vouchers issued by an eligible operator.

The Taxi Scrip Program for Seniors age 70 or older began July 1st and focuses on providing alternative, reliable and affordable transportation to Fresno County seniors. Seniors will receive a 75% discount on taxi fares by purchasing taxi scrip. That is, they may purchase up to \$100 in taxi scrip for \$25 each calendar month. There are 5 taxi companies who are currently enrolled in the program. Seniors must fill out an application and provide proof that they are 70 years of age or older and are Fresno County Residents.

Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) commented that he heard the information on the radio and thought staff had done a good job of promoting the program.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) questioned how many farmworker vans there are. Ms. Garza explained they do not have a final count as the program is new and vans are still being formed but will get the information for him.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action from the Board.

G. Caltrans Monthly Report

Malcolm Dougherty (Caltrans) gave an update on Caltrans activities as follows:

- Regarding the State Budget, the Governor has ordered all temporary/part-time State staff be laid off, except those in certain emergency service jobs. Mr. Dougherty reported this will not affect the timely completion of construction projects.
- On the Hwy. 180 East project, Clovis to Temperance is proceeding ahead of schedule.
- Hwy. 180 West is nearly complete and should be open to traffic by September.
- Hwy 41 rehabilitation work is proceeding at night and also rehabilitation work on 180 is on schedule.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action from the Board.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

IV. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Knight (Firebaugh) to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

Approve Calendar Items

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| A. Executive Minutes of June 26, 2008 | Approve |
| B. Monthly Legislative Update | Information |
| C. PB Americas Inc. Contract Extension | Approve |
| D. FY 2008-09 Overall Work Program, Amendment #2 | Approve |
| E. AB 32 – The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006--Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan | Information |
| F. Fresno COG "One Voice" Advocacy Trips in 2009 | Information |
| G. Regional Clearinghouse | Information |

	Project	Applicant
1.	Head Start Program – One Time Training and Technical Assistance Funding	Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission

For a complete summary of these items, please see the July 31, 2008 Annotated Agenda.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Perea (Fresno County) and seconded by Mayor Armando Lopez (Parlier) to approve the Administrative Consent Agenda as requested. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Model Farmland Conservation Program Update

Todd Sobrado (COG) reported on this item. On June 9, 2008, the Farmland Conservation Model Program Advisory Committee adopted the Fresno Strategic Farmland map. The map identifies the

location of the land within Fresno County that is most likely to remain economically viable for high-value commercial agriculture in the long-term, given its inherent characteristics and surrounding conditions. It is land that should receive the highest priority for conservation, and the lowest priority for non-farm development, as part of a broad strategy to sustain Fresno County agriculture. The Fresno Strategic Farmland map is intended to be a guide to land use planning and decision making and not the equivalent of a land use map with binding legal consequences. The Map was included for COG Committee review.

A couple of questions / comments came up in the July meeting cycle TTC and PAC meetings. Comments include:

Q: The activities of the Model Farmland Conservation Program are similar to those taking place by other committees such as the Blueprint, how are the activities from the Model Farmland Conservation Program different from those activities?

A: Much of the agricultural information being used by other projects such as the Blueprint and the Metro Rural Loop is coming from the activities of the Model Farmland Conservation Program.

Q: Is the Model Farmland Conservation Program doing anything to coordinate any of the conversations that have started taking place pertaining to Farmland Conservation?

A: The Model Farmland Conservation Program Steering Committee has recently become aware of the conversations and plans that have recently emerged. The Steering Committee will look into the efforts of the Fresno Historical Society and the Fresno County Farm Bureau to see what is taking place. The Steering Committee will also start paying more attention to farmland conservation activities currently being undertaken by other organizations within Fresno County.

Comment: The activities of the Model Farmland Conservation Program should be more open to the public participation process than they currently are.

Response: Comment noted.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action from the Board.

B. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's "Valley Voice" Advocacy Trips in 2009

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is in the initial stages of planning advocacy trips to Sacramento in mid-January and to Washington D.C. in late-February of 2009.

Tentative travel dates are as follows and will be confirmed at the next Regional Policy Council meeting in August:

- 1. Sacramento: Wednesday, January 28th.**
- 2. Washington D.C.: Wednesday, February 25th and Thursday, February 26th with travel days on the 24th and 27th.**

The Regional Policy Council is a 16-member council consisting of elected officials representing the eight Regional Transportation Planning Agencies/Councils of Governments in the San Joaquin Valley, and along with the Valley COG Directors, are planning their second trip to Sacramento to advocate for legislative issues of importance to the San Joaquin Valley. The legislative issues chosen will be based on the Regional Policy Council's Legislative Platform to be updated in the fall. Last year's chosen issues included advocating for Proposition 1B bond monies and for port container fees collected at the California ports to benefit the Valley and advocating for protection of Proposition 42 transportation funds from being diverted to the general fund and used for other purposes.

In an effort to build upon the Sacramento advocacy effort, the Regional Policy Council is planning on traveling to Washington D.C. to lobby for federal funding from the new federal transportation authorization act to support goods movement projects in the Valley. The current federal transportation authorization act, also known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient

Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), will expire after September 30, 2009.

Enclosed was a fact sheet on the "San Joaquin Valley National Agricultural Goods Movement & Trade Corridor Program", which is proposed to be the main focus of the lobbying effort in Washington D.C. The Regional Policy Council will seek to establish the program as part of the new federal transportation authorization act so rather than looking for an earmark for a single project, the request will be for a dedicated funding program within the legislation for Valley goods movement projects of national significance. The four main project components would be: SR 99, Trade Corridors, Grade Separations, and Rail. The projects included in the proposed program would be based on the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Action Plan, approved by our Policy Board in October 2007.

At this time, the eight-Valley COG's are being asked to approve the concept of a "San Joaquin Valley National Agricultural Goods Movement & Trade Corridor Program" as part of the new federal transportation authorization act so that we can move forward with planning for the Washington D.C. trip.

Staff will keep COG committees informed on the progress of the Regional Policy Council's Valley Voices lobbying trips to Sacramento and Washington D.C. over the coming months. For more information, please contact COG staff member Jennifer Dansby at (559) 233-4148.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Bergstrom (Kingsburg) to approve the concept of a "San Joaquin Valley National Agricultural Goods Movement & Trade Corridor Program" as part of the new federal transportation authorization act. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC

Steve Samuelian, California Consulting gave an update to the Policy Board summarizing their work activities for the past month. He called attention to information included in the packet, as well as handouts on the table.

Supervisor Perea questioned whether there is a way the Amtrak rail line can accommodate high speed rail. Clark Thompson (COG) answered that you cannot mix high speed trains with freight trains.

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) thanked Mr. Samuelian for a great job in his lobbying activities.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action from the Board.

D. California Consulting LLC Contract Renewal – State Lobbyist

California Consulting LLC. (Steve Samuelian) Fresno COG's State Lobbyist operates on a year to year contract and the contract was up for renewal beginning July 1, 2008. The current contract is for \$2,500 per month. In addition, Fresno COG has agreed to reimburse California Inc. \$150 per quarter for the cost of filing the Report of Lobbyist Employer paperwork. Fresno COG also reimburses California Consulting for pre-approved and itemized expenses and travel costs not to exceed \$1,200 per year,

This item was heard at the June PAC meeting and was tabled in order to give Mr. Samuelian the opportunity to speak with COG staff and identify the justification for his original contract request which was an increase of \$700 (28%) to the existing contract. Discussions with Mr. Samuelian resulted in him agreeing to accept whatever salary adjustment the COG Executive Director, PAC and Policy Board thought was fair and equitable.

Discussion at the July 18th PAC meeting focused on what was a fair and equitable salary adjustment for California Consulting LLC. during these difficult budgetary times. Fresno COG Executive Director Tony Boren recommended a Cost-of-Living adjustment of 3.5% consistent with

COG employees COLA for FY 2008-09. After extended discussions which centered on the extremely tight budgets that all cities and the County are facing this year, including some that are asking for employee give-backs (Clovis) and others who are providing no cost-of-living adjustments, the PAC voted unanimously to recommend that no salary adjustment be given to California Consulting LLC. for FY 2008-09.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) to approve payment of \$3500 (a 40% increase). Discussion from Mayor Whalen (Clovis) and Councilmember Brockett (Reedley) could not justify that much of a raise. Mayor Lopez amended his motion to \$3,000 (20%) and Mayor Armando Lopez agreed for the second. A vote was called for and the motion passed with two No votes from Clovis and Reedley.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

1. Letter of Support – Invenergy

At last month's Board meeting Carmine Iadarola made a presentation to the Board regarding a Hybrid Energy project presented by Invenergy and the proposed location of the project is north of the City of Firebaugh. The Board agreed to send a letter of support. A copy of that letter was distributed.

2. Resolution of Support -- Daycare

Because of the crisis with passing a State Budget, daycares and daycare workers will be negatively impacted and attention was called to Resolution 2008-38. This resolution is asking for a quick solution to the State Budget delay and its impact on State subsidized childcare centers in Fresno County and further asks for support for centers impacted by the budget delay.

A motion was made by Mayor Silva (Mendota) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to add the item as an urgency item and place it on the agenda. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Montelongo (Sanger) to approve Resolution 2008-38, supporting childcare centers impacted by the State Budget. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Items from Members

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) thanked Mayor Dominguez (Huron), Mayor Lopez (Parlier) and Councilmember Brockett (Reedley) for their support with the water issues and for traveling to Sacramento to see the Governor. Mayor Lopez is also planning to organize a rally in Los Angeles in the future regarding water issues.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments

TB/dw

Attachment A
Observers and Non-Members
COG Board Meeting
July 31, 2008

Lynn Gorman, Fresno County
Steve Samuelian, CA Consulting
Jeffrey Webster, FCRTA
Russ Clemings, Fresno Bee
Bruce Rudd, Fresno
Sam Norman, Rios Company
Homer Lejia, City of Dinuba
Don Hubbard, PB Americas
Darren Henderson, PB Americas

Les Beshears, COG
Barbara Steck, COG
Lauren Dawson, COG
Jennifer Dansby, COG
Melissa Garza, COG
Brenda Lauchner, COG
Laurel Fawcett, COG
Kathy Chung, COG
Renee DeVere-Oki, COG
Jeff Long, COG/FAX
Dottie Wright, COG

