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Fresno, California 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148 • Fax: (559) 233-9645
Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AGENDA

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

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action*
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Fresno COG Sitting as the Measure "C" Fresno County Mayors' Selection Committee

15 Mayors in Fresno County and the Chair of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors

- | | | |
|--|-----|---------|
| I. APPOINTMENT TO MEASURE "C" CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE –
(One new Member to replace Jeffrey Reid, a former member) Representative
from a Community Organization, completing a 2-year term to expire 6/30/09 | Yes | Appoint |
|--|-----|---------|

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. 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.**

- B. Staff Recognition – Retirement -- 31 Years of Service – Dottie Wright, Secretary
- C. Presentation: Joe De Los Santos -- Reappointment to the Fresno Fair Board
- D. Presentation: Leroy H. Brown – Apprentice Program for Skill Trades

III. 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. West Area Transportation Planning Study Contract [TWEBSTER] | No | Approve |
| B. Air Quality and Programming Update [DAWSON, DEVERE-OKI] | No | Information |

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

C. Congestion Management System Update [BITNER]	No	Information
D. Caltrans Planning Grant Awards [DANSBY]	No	Information
E. 2008/09 Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) [BESHEARS]	Yes	Info/Discussion
F. California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF) [BESHEARS]	Yes	Info/Discussion

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, Resolution 2008-45 [STECK]	Yes	Approve
B. Valley-wide Air Quality Planning and Coordination Contract [DAWSON]	No	Approve
C. Measure "C" Extension Update [BOREN]	Yes	Info/Discussion
1. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Update		
D. Caltrans Monthly Report [CALTRANS]	No	Info/Discussion

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board

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

VI. 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 September 18, 2008	Yes	Approve
B. Executive Minutes of October 9, 2008 – Fresno COG & Fresno County Transportation Authority Special Joint Board Meeting	Yes	Approve
C. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update [SOBRADO]	No	Information
D. VRPA Technologies Contract Amendment [BESHEARS]	No	Approve
E. Monthly Legislative Update [DANSBY]	Yes	Information

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities— Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC [DANSBY/SAMUELIAN]	Yes	Information
B. 2009 Washington D.C. "One Voice" Call for Projects [STECK]	Yes	Info/Discussion
C. Local Housing Element Issues [THOMPSON]	No	Info/Discussion
D. FY 2008-09 Overall Work Program Amendment #2 [BESHEARS]	No	Approve
E. Video Conferencing Presentation [TWEBSTER]	No	Info/Discussion

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
- B. Items from Members

*Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas



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COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ANNOTATED AGENDA

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

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Fresno COG Sitting as the Measure "C" Fresno County Mayors' Selection Committee

15 Mayors in Fresno County and the Chair of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors

I. APPOINTMENT TO MEASURE "C" CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE –

Summary: The Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee needs one new member to replace Jeffrey Reid who resigned from his position on the Committee. The appointee must represent a Community Organization, and will be completing a 2-year term to expire 6/30/09. After advertising for the opening during the required 60 day period one application was received. The completed application and letters of recommendation are included in your packet.

Action: Appoint one new Community Organization Representative to the Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

II. PRESENTATIONS

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B. Staff Recognition – Retirement – 31 Years of Service – Dottie Wright, Secretary

C. Presentation: Joe De Los Santos -- Reappointment to the Fresno Fair Board

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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. West Area Transportation Planning Study Contract [TWEBSTER]

Summary: On September 22, 2008, a selection panel, comprised of representatives from the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno and Fresno COG, interviewed two consultants to conduct the *West Area Transportation Circulation and Planning Study*. This five member panel unanimously selected Fehr & Peers to conduct the study.

The Contract names Fehr & Peers to conduct a study of the West Area which will examine 30 critical segments of roadway and 25 key intersections within a period of 42 weeks at a cost of \$98,583. Among other things, Fehr & Peers will examine current needs, mid-range needs (10 years) and long range needs (2025) for the area, then present a full range of priority options to a full committee of stakeholders. In addition, they will identify both traditional, as well as innovative potential funding mechanisms that may be available to finance priority projects.

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of a contract for Fehr & Peers to conduct the *West Area Transportation Circulation and Planning Study*. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Board.

B. Air Quality and Programming Update [DAWSON, DEVERE-OKI]

Summary: On September 24, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency signed the Federal Register notice approving the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's *2007 PM10 Maintenance Plan and Request for Redesignation*. This action made the transportation conformity budgets included in the Plan available for use in transportation conformity determinations. The eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies can now proceed with processing formal amendments to reintroduce regionally significant projects back into their Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (FTIP). Fresno COG had twelve impacted projects which were awaiting this action. Staff will now begin work on the 2009 Conformity Determination and a Formal Amendment to both the FTIP and the Regional Transportation Plan to allow for the inclusion of these projects. Prior to this action Fresno COG had initiated work on Amendment #1 to the FTIP; with new budgets available, Amendment #1 has been formally withdrawn, and all work will be incorporated into a future amendment using the new transportation conformity budgets.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Board.

C. Congestion Management System Update [BITNER]

Summary: Federal transportation legislation (SAFETEA-LU) requires that each metropolitan planning area in the United States have a Congestion Management Process, or CMP. The CMP is a regional program to address and manage congestion within Fresno County in order to facilitate the movement of people and goods.

As part of our efforts to be compliant with the planning requirements in SAFETEA-LU, Fresno COG has committed to review and update our Congestion Management System (CMS). Fresno COG is required to have a plan for developing a Congestion Management Process in place by our next Certification Review in March 2009.

The CMP is a broad, regional level planning tool designed to help manage congestion by identifying congested corridors and recommending multimodal strategies for congestion mitigation. The goal of the CMP is to provide information that helps transportation planners, professionals and others to understand the overall congestion climate in individual corridors and the region. Data on the congestion climate helps Fresno COG, in partnership with other agencies, to formulate congestion management strategies. Data and information from the CMP benefits the transportation planning process by helping the region focus limited federal transportation dollars where they can have the greatest impact.

Staff will be meeting with local agency staff and others in the coming months to develop a plan for our Congestion Management Process.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Caltrans Planning Grant Awards [DANSBY]

Summary: Fresno COG received notice from Caltrans that we received the following two transportation planning grants for FY 2008-09 in partnership with the City of Fresno:

Grant Program: Transit Professional Development

Project Title: Central Valley Transit Professional Development

Amount: \$50,000

Description: The project will consist of three workshops in Fresno presented by worldwide experts in developing Transit Oriented Development. The workshops will provide transit planners and the development industry from the Valley with guideline processes from concept to end. These trainings will develop a comprehensive region-wide approach to facilitate mainstream adoption and provide a model for other regions. Fresno COG, the City of Fresno and other transportation and development agencies will work together to develop and coordinate the training workshops.

Grant Program: Partnership Planning

Project Title: Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings Counties Multi-Modal System Partnership

Amount: \$276,000

Description: The multi-county partnership will develop a consensus base among local entities to build a base of communication about a coordinated regional land use policies framework to implement any proposed high capacity, mass transit-based, multi-modal corridor system adopted in the Fresno Blueprint Process. Work products include:

- (1) Study regional land use policies necessary to protect and preserve corridors and right-of-way alignments representing the multi-modal system; and
- (2) Research and evaluate various types of regional agreements related to adopting alignments, coordinated land use and zoning, shared long-term governance, natural resources management, specific agricultural preservation plans, and funding strategies for all participating jurisdictions.

The City of Fresno will provide the required local cash match for the above projects.

In addition, Kern COG has been awarded an Environmental Justice grant through Caltrans for \$250,000 to work alongside the 8 Valley COGs to develop a Tribal Environmental Justice Transportation Report. The report will address tribal transportation issues and priorities, cultural preservation and heritage, tribal participation in the planning and project delivery process, and tribal environmental justice and long-range planning issues through the SJV Blueprint and Partnership processes. The outreach effort includes engaging approximately 30 California Indian tribes within the SJV.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

E. 2008/09 Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) [BESHEARS]

Summary: The State Controllers Office (SCO) has released estimates for 2008/09 Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) of \$4,629,137. In addition there is \$3,285,674 remaining of the 2007/08 apportionment for a total of \$7,914,811 to be claimed by transit agencies for eligible purposes. The apportionment and carry over balances by Transit Operator are included as an attachment.

SCO calculates and distributes the Section 8879.55(a3) funding based on the Section 99314 revenue formula. The Section 8879.55(a2) funding is distributed by the MPO's per Section 99313 by population. The sections must be itemized when combining funds on the same project.

Eligible Projects are capital projects (or a minimum operable segment of a project) for the purposes of the following.

1. Rehabilitation, safety, or modernization improvements,
2. Capital service enhancement or expansion,
3. New Capital projects,
4. Bus rapid transit improvement, or
5. Rolling stock procurement, rehabilitation or replacement.

Applications may be submitted at any time for either apportionment year, however SCO only makes two payments per year. To receive funds in the mid January allocation, Caltrans must receive applications by November 30, 2008.

The current appropriation may be carried over for two years. There are also two years remaining on the 2007/08 carry over amounts, however there is no guarantee that the Legislature will not revise the guidelines. Transit agencies should immediately begin preparing a list of eligible projects to submit to Caltrans.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Board.

F. California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF) [BESHEARS]

Summary: The Department of Homeland Security has published guidelines for 2008/09 California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF) apportionments of \$821,939. The process is similar to last year's. Transit Operators are encouraged to click on the link for application guidance.

http://www.ohs.ca.gov/grants_mass_transit_2008.html

SCO calculates and distributes the Section 8879.55(a3) funding based on the Section 99314 revenue formula. The Section 8879.55(a2) funding is distributed by the MPO's per Section 99313 by population. The sections must be itemized when combining funds on the same project, however applications for 8879.55(a2) must be submitted through the MPO.

Eligible activities include:

- A) A capital project that provides increased protection against a security or safety threat, including, but not limited to the following:
- Construction or renovation projects that are designed to enhance the security of public transit stations, tunnels, guideways, elevated structures or other transit facilities and equipment,
 - Explosive device mitigation and remediation equipment,
 - Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear explosives search, rescue or response equipment,
 - Interoperable communications equipment,
 - The installation of fencing barriers, gates or related security enhancements that are designed to improve the physical security of transit stations, tunnels, guideways, elevated structures or other transit facilities and equipment, and
 - Other security related projects approved by OHS.
- B) A capital project that increases the capacity of transit operators to prepare for disaster response transportation systems that can move people, goods, emergency personnel and equipment in the aftermath of disaster.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Board.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, Resolution 2008-45 [STECK]

Summary: At this time, the primary focus of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint planning process is the synthesis of the preferred growth concepts from each of the eight COGs in the Valley into a Valleywide alternative scenario for further comparison purposes. Between now and November, U.C.

Davis will be working with the COGs to develop Valleywide growth scenarios to compare with the Valleywide status quo. (This is similar to the process that we completed at the county level in May of this year.) A chart illustrating the Blueprint planning process is included in your agenda package.

In addition, Fresno COG will be taking on the responsibility of lead agency for the eight Valley COGs Blueprint planning activities. As a result, we are in the process of filing a grant application for fourth year funding for the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint. Each of the eight COG partners needs to pass a resolution to include with the application in support of continued participation in the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program.

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of Resolution 2008-45 in support of fourth year participation in the California Regional Blueprint Planning Process.

B. Valley-wide Air Quality Planning and Coordination Contract [DAWSON]

Summary: The Council of Fresno County Governments has historically coordinated air quality issues on behalf of the eight Regional Planning Agencies (RPA) in the San Joaquin Valley. In 2004, Fresno COG entered into two separate contracts to provide technical air quality planning, modeling and policy services to facilitate consistency, compliance, and coordination in Valley-wide regional air quality planning issues. This coordination of effort involves not only the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies, but also includes Caltrans (Headquarters, and Districts 6 and 10) Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, the California Air Resources Board, the Environmental Protection Agency as well as local transportation entities. These existing contracts will expire on December 31, 2008.

On August 28, 2008 a Request for Proposals to provide continuing *Valley-wide Air Quality Planning and Coordination Services* was released. On September 18, 2008 proposals were received from Michael Brandman Associates (\$124,965 per year) and Cari Anderson Consulting (\$ 124,641.80 per year). A proposal selection committee comprised of staff representing Fresno COG, San Joaquin COG, Tulare CAG, and Kern COG was established to evaluate the proposals and to recommend a preferred proposal.

Each member of the proposal evaluation committee independently reviewed and scored the proposals using a proposal evaluation form. The scores were submitted to Fresno COG for averaging, using the "one COG, one vote" rule. The proposal evaluation committee then met on September 29, 2008 to discuss the results and recommended the selection of the consulting team of Cari Anderson Consulting as the preferred proposal. On October 6, 2008 the eight RPA Directors approved the selection of the proposal submitted by Cari Anderson Consulting.

The total amount of \$124,641.80 is therefore budgeted for the first year with Fresno COG's prorated share set at \$29,336 per year.

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Cari Anderson Consulting to provide Valley-wide Air Quality Planning and Coordination Services.

C. Measure "C" Extension Update [BOREN]

1. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Update [BOREN]

Summary: At its August 28, 2008 meeting, the Fresno COG Policy Board voted unanimously to support Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Option 2 (\$1,727 per new single family house) as identified in the PB Americas Inc. Final Report. This recommendation was forwarded to the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Policy Board for consideration at their September 10, 2008 meeting. Due to quorum issues, the FCTA was unable to take action on a preferred option. However direction was given to FCTA and COG staff to work with the Building Industry Association (BIA) to determine if any of their technical issues with the RTMF study could be resolved prior to their next FCTA Policy Board meeting.

A workshop was held with the BIA on September 29, 2008 in an effort to work through some of the technical issues raised by the BIA. While limited progress was made in resolving the issues, the BIA did inform the Steering Committee that they would be holding a membership meeting on October 2, 2008 to determine if there was a willingness to move from their current position of support for Option 5 (\$621 per new single family house), to another option.

On October 2, 2008 BIA President Mike Prandini informed Fresno COG and the Fresno County Transportation Authority that the BIA membership had changed from its original support of Option 5 and are now in support of Option 2 (\$1,727 per new single family house) with a three year "phasing in" of the RTMF fee in the following manner:

- Year 2009--\$1,200
- Year 2010--\$1,450
- Year 2011--\$1,727

It is understood that the pro-rata phasing that applies to residential development will also apply to commercial and industrial development as well.

In addition, the BIA requested that the FCTA direct the RTMF consultant (PB Americas Inc.) to work with the BIA to resolve issues related to assumption and cost differences and that the fee be revisited every two years at the same time the Measure "C" Expenditure Plan is updated.

In addition, Jeff Reid representing the Central California Development Council, a coalition of commercial and industrial developers, has requested that specific language be inserted into the Policy Board resolutions to ensure that RTMF fees on commercial and industrial users be administered on a per square foot basis consistent with Table 27 in the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Final Report.

A conference call with the RTMF Steering Committee was held on October 7, 2008, to discuss the phase-in alternative suggested by the BIA. At the end of the discussion there was unanimous support by the RTMF Steering Committee to support the BIA's proposal.

In order to avoid "*bouncing this issue back and forth*" between the COG and FCTA, Ron Peterson (FCTA Executive Director), Tony Boren (COG Executive Director) and COG legal counsel, Kevin Briggs, felt the prudent approach would be to have a joint meeting between the two Policy boards to resolve the issue.

The joint meeting of the Fresno COG Policy Board and the FCTA Policy Board was held on October 9, 2008. Each of the Boards voted to support Option 2 with the phase-in as recommended by the BIA and RTMF Steering Committee.

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Caltrans Monthly Report [CALTRANS]

Summary: Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities.

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Governments Policy Board

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

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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A. Executive Minutes of September 18, 2008

B. Executive Minutes of October 9, 2008 – Fresno COG & Fresno County Transportation Authority Special Joint Board Meeting

C. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update [SOBRADO]

Summary: The Farmland Conservation Model Program Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 to start the process of finalizing the Farmland Conservation Model Program Report. The advisory committee has met several times over the past couple of months to discuss the material that will be included in the final report currently in development. The Farmland Conservation Model Program will be completed by the end of December as scheduled.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. VRPA Technologies Contract Amendment [BESHEARS]

Summary: We have a contract with VRPA to provide Measure "C" planning and support. VRPA has been intricately involved in the Measure "C" planning process from the beginning, through the subcommittee meetings to place Measure "C" on the ballot, to the development of program implementation handbooks. The remaining task, the development of the Strategic Plan, incorporates the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) into the Strategic Plan for delivering over a billion dollars of Highway Projects. Development of the Strategic Plan was delayed while the RTMF negotiations were underway. This contract amendment provides an additional \$24,502 to complete the Strategic Plan. This brings the total contract to \$122,000.

Action: Staff, TTC, and PAC recommend authorization of VRPA Contract Amendment #3 for \$24,502 for Measure "C" Expenditure Plan.

E. Monthly Legislative Update [DANSBY]

Summary: A report is included in your agenda package that includes current bills in the 2008 legislative session that are relevant to the Fresno COG.

- To locate current and past year **state bill information** go to the Official California Legislative Information webpage at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>
- To locate current and past year **federal bill information** go to THOMAS, The Library of Congress's bill information website (in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson) at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

As this agenda is prepared prior to September 30th, the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills, it does not reflect all of his decisions. An updated report will be provided in November with the results of the legislative session.

In September, the Fresno COG Board voted to remove their opposition to **SB 375** in favor of a neutral position that reflects an understanding of the compromises Senator Steinberg has been willing to accept from the League of Cities, the California Association of Counties and the California Councils of Government as well as numerous environmental and business interest groups. Also, with the understanding that the greenhouse gas emissions targets prepared by the Air Resources Board will be allocated to the MPOs on a region-wide basis, not city specific.

It is still important to note that there will be need for clean up legislation next year to address remaining issues such as expanding CEQA streamlining to include transportation projects, and those developments better suited to rural environments; and ensuring that there is funding to be able to successfully perform the additional tasks required by SB 375. SB 732, also passed by the Legislature at the end of session, does help with some of the funding.

Also, in September, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Policy Board, sent a letter requesting the Governor veto SB 974, which seeks to collect a \$30 fee per TEU on container cargo moving through

the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland to provide funding for projects that mitigate the burden of port-related operations on air quality. SB 974 does not acknowledge the San Joaquin Valley as a stakeholder in statewide goods movement efforts and as a region impacted by port-related air pollution and highway system impacts. SB 974 fails to provide any funding to help mitigate the air quality impacts from goods movement by trucks going to and from the ports through the San Joaquin Valley. The San Joaquin Valley has the worst ozone and particulate air pollution in the nation. The heavy duty diesel trucks on our corridors are a significant contributor to our Valley's air pollution problems and a good majority of those trucks are passing through on their way to other destinations such as the ports of Oakland and Los Angeles. Heavy-duty diesel trucks amount for more than 40 percent of the Valley's total emissions and funding is needed for air pollution mitigation projects such as replacing or retrofitting diesel engines. The position on SB 974 is consistent with our Legislative Platform. It has been our policy that the Director may communicate positions on legislation on behalf of the Board if they are consistent with our adopted Platform.

Please contact staff person, Jennifer Dansby, if you have any questions regarding the listed bills in your agenda packet or if you require a more in-depth analysis of any particular bill.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC [DANSBY/SAMUELIAN]

Summary: Steve Samuelian from California Consulting will provide a verbal report to the Policy Board describing his work activities for the month of October.

Action: Information/discussion item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

B. 2009 Washington D.C. "One Voice" Call for Projects [STECK]

Summary: The 2009 "One Voice" trip will take place February 7-12, 2009. In preparation, we have been in communication with our D.C. lobbyist, Simon & Company, to discuss their recommendations for project selection. As noted in last month's annotated agenda, Simon & Company advised:

"... we would urge you once again to carefully choose projects that are regional in scope, but remain within the \$2 – 3 million request range. We would also urge you to consider only four appropriations projects for the 2009 program, with a special emphasis on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU..."

COG staff will continue to confer with Simon & Company regarding our approach to project selection and reauthorization and keep our member agencies informed. We have also scheduled a "One Voice" committee meeting to discuss how we might approach policy issues and regulatory reform. That meeting will take place on October 29th at 4:00 PM in the COG Sequoia room.

The timeline we are following for the 2009 project selection process is as follows:

- Kick-off Meeting – Thursday, September 11, 2008 @ 1:30 PM at COG
- Mail/Email Call for Projects – Monday, September 22, 2008
- Deadline for project submittal – Friday, October 10, 2008
- Project Selection Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 22, 2008
- Policy/Regulatory Reform discussion – Wednesday, October 29, 2008 @ 4:00 PM
- Reauthorization Discussion – Wednesday, November 5, 2008 @ 10:30 AM (After TTC)
- COG Policy Board Approval of Project List – Thursday, November 20, 2008

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

C. Local Housing Element Issues [THOMPSON]

Summary: The Fresno COG is responsible for preparing the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan for Fresno County. The RHNA Plan allocates Fresno County's total Housing Construction Need to its individual jurisdictions. Jurisdictions must then identify adequate sites in their Housing Elements to accommodate their allocation.

The Fresno COG has recently facilitated several meetings with staff and consultants of local agencies who have prepared, or will soon be preparing, new Housing Elements. The original request to involve the COG came from the City of Clovis. Clovis was struggling to respond to comments from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on its draft Housing Element and wanted to know if other jurisdictions in Fresno County were experiencing similar difficulties. If so, the potential for some form of joint action could be explored.

Particular issues of concern identified by several Fresno County jurisdictions can be grouped together as follows:

- HCD Attitudes and Assumptions
- Zoning and Annexation Challenges
- Special Districts and Interagency Agreements
- Funding
- Conflicting Goals
- Current RHNA Plan Allocations/Preparing for the Next RHNA Plan Cycle

Four meetings have been held to date, including one with Fresno LAFCo staff. That meeting was held to discuss local LAFCo annexation policies and regulations. These policies and regulations are particularly important in Fresno County because many jurisdictions must utilize part or all of the area within their Sphere of Influence to accommodate their allocation. On Thursday, October 30, representatives from HCD will attend a luncheon meeting at Fresno COG beginning at 12:30 to discuss and hopefully move to a resolution of the identified issues. Staff will provide a verbal report on this meeting to your Board.

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. FY 2008-09 Overall Work Program (OWP) Amendment #2 [BESHEARS]

Summary:

Work Element 124 Transit Professional Development

This \$56,500 project will consist of three workshops in Fresno presented by world wide experts, to develop a comprehensive region-wide approach to Transit Oriented Development. The project is funded with a \$50,000 grant from Caltrans and \$6,500 match provided by the City of Fresno.

Action: Staff, TTC, and PAC recommend the approval of the 2008/09 Overall Work Program Amendment #2 increasing the budget \$62,600 for two Caltrans Transportation Grants.

E. Video Conferencing Presentation [TWEBSTER]

Summary: In May 2008, Fresno COG entered into a contract with local telecommunications contractor, Sebastian Communications Inc., (formerly KerTel Communications Inc.) to purchase and install a videoconferencing system. This system is part of a valleywide effort to use technology to save money and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Phase One of the videoconferencing system installation, which includes point-to-point systems in the Ash and Sequoia Rooms has been completed.

Phase Two will include the programming of multipoint unit to connect up to 20 multipoint sessions (end users) at a time, as well as bring operational the remaining Valley COGs. Currently, Fresno COG, San Joaquin COG, and the Merced County Association of Governments have operational systems.

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

B. Items from Members

***Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Board.**

****All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas**



MEASURE C CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SELECTION COMMITTEE

CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE -- APPLICATION FORM

(Please print legibly or type)

Name of Applicant: Thomas J. Lang

Residential Information

Street Address: 5541 Columbia Drive North

Phone: 559-930-3474

City: Fresno

Cell Phone: _____

(Optional)

State/Zip Code: CA 93727

E-mail: tlang@AquariusAquarium.org

Fax: 559-490-3474

Employment Information

Employer: Aquarius Aquarium Institute

Title: Executive Director

Work Address: 5541 Columbia Drive North

Phone: 559-930-3474

City: Fresno

Fax: _____

State/Zip Code: CA 93727

E-mail: tlang@AquariusAquarium.org

Eligibility Requirements

By signing this application form I hereby certify that:

- 1) I am a U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older and reside within Fresno County.
- 2) I am not an elected official at any level of government
- 3) I am not a public employee from Fresno County, nor of any of the incorporated cities in Fresno County, Caltrans, the Fresno County Transportation Authority (Authority), or the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG).
- 4) I have no economic interest in any of the Authority's projects.
- 5) I will submit an annual statement of financial disclosure consistent with Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) rules and regulations to be filed with the Authority.

RECEIVED

OCT 03 2008

BY: _____

Area or Community Represented

I wish to be considered for the following position:

X One (1) of the seven (7) members who represent an interested Community Organization

The name of the community organization that I represent is:

Aquarius Aquarium Institute, a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) Public Benefit Corporation

Additional Information

Please briefly explain why you are interested in serving on the Citizen Oversight Committee.

Having been a business owner in Fresno since 1980, I have observed first-hand the issues pertaining to traffic

that need to be addressed. Rather than push for one project over another, I believe it is important that we develop a

comprehensive circulation plan for our growing population, especially in northwest Fresno at the Herndon/

Highway 99 interchange area where our nonprofit organization is working to build an educational Public

Aquarium facility.

List past/present professional/community affiliations, including any elected positions previously held
(please list dates served):

I previously served for 2 years from 2006 to 2007 on the West Area Citizen's Advisory Committee for the City

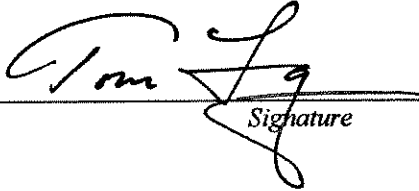
of Fresno and had the opportunity to comment on numerous development proposals, talk with both local and

out-of-town developers and make recommendations to the Fresno Planning Commission for their consideration.

Required Signature

I declare under penalty of perjury the above information is true and correct.

Dated: September 17, 2008

Applicant: 

Signature

Resume or letters of recommendation may be attached.

Letters of Recommendation from: Arnold H. Gazarian, commercial real estate developer - Berberian Properties, LLC
Don Scordino, 2008 President - Fresno Association of Realtors

RETURN COMPLETED, SIGNED APPLICATION TO:

Measure C *Citizen Oversight Committee* Selection Committee
c/o Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148

APPLICATIONS WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR TWO YEARS.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE STAMP OR DATE RECEIVED:

2251 West Thomason Place
Fresno, CA 93711
(559) 439-3886

September 22, 2008

Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee Selection Committee
c/o Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Recommendation of Tom Lang

Gentlepersons:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for Tom Lang to be selected to the ***Fresno County Governments Measure C Citizen Oversight Committee***.

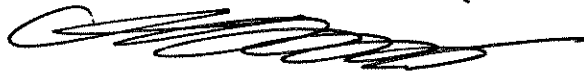
Tom has been a successful business owner in Fresno for the past 28 years. He has also served for two years on the West Area Citizen's Advisory Committee for the City of Fresno. As part of this committee, Tom played an important role in reviewing and analyzing a wide range of development proposals impacting the Fresno community and then making thoughtful recommendations to the Fresno Planning Commission.

Tom would bring practical, real world solutions to our local transportation funding problems. I am confident that he would be an outstanding and effective member of this important committee.

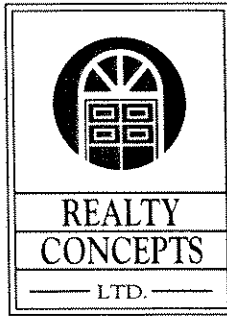
I could not recommend anyone more highly for this position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold H. Gazarian", with a small checkmark above the end of the signature.

Arnold H. Gazarian



740 West Alluvial, Suite 102 • Fresno, CA 93711
559 / 490-1500 • FAX: 559 / 225-3465

October 3, 2008

Measure C *Citizen Oversight Committee* Selection Committee
C/O Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, Ca 93721

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Tom Lang as a member of the Citizen Oversight Committee. I have known Tom for 10 years since the time he and his wife purchased a home through me. I was immediately impressed by their amiable and analytical approach and their thoughtfulness in their decision making process. Since that time, I have been in contact with them on numerous occasions, mainly because of the very impressive Aquarius Aquarium Institute that they have co-founded. I have found Tom to be a man of his word and a very hard-working individual. I believe that he would be a real asset to your organization.

Sincerely,

Don Scordino
2008 President of the Fresno Association of Realtors®

