



Chair
Mayor Bill Spriggs
City of Merced

Vice-Chair
Supervisor Allen
Ishida
Tulare County

Fresno Council of
Governments

Kern Council of
Governments

Kings County
Association of
Governments

Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Stanislaus Council
Of Governments

Tulare County
Association of
Governments

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

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REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

Executive Minutes

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

10:00 am

Merced City Hall
Sam Pipes Room
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, California 95340

*Toll Free Number: 1-800-325-1307
Participant Code: 522436*

Members Attending:

Judy Case, Supervisor, County of Fresno, Fresno COG
Mike Nelson, Supervisor, County of Merced, MCAG
Bill O'Brien, Supervisor, County of Stanislaus, StanCOG
Stephen Debrum, Councilmember, City of Manteca, SJCOG
Joe Oliveira, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Gustine, MCAG
Paul Boyer, Councilmember, City of Farmersville, TCAG
Allen Ishida, Supervisor, County of Tulare, TCAG
Amarpreet, Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin, Fresno COG
Anne Johnston, Mayor, City of Stockton, SJCOG
Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, MCAG
Sayed Sadredin, Executive Director, SJVAPCD

List of Other Attending: Appendix A

1. Approval of Minutes

Bill Spriggs, Chair, opened the meeting – Introductions

October 7, 2010 Policy Council minutes approved by consensus.

2. Discussion with California Air Resources Board Member Ms. Dorene D'Adamo regarding Green House Gas Targets for the San Joaquin Valley – DISCUSSION – B. Spriggs

Ms. D'Adamo introduced herself to the group and proceeded to talk about the California Air Resources Board's decision to adopt the five percent and ten percent GHG targets for the valley. They will revisit the issue in 2012 and hope to come to a fruitful agreement for all parties involved. Mayor Dhaliwal asked how the modeling produced by some of the COGs was received to which Doug Ito, Chief of the Air Quality and Transportation department of CARB, was available for response.

Mr. Ito informed everyone that there weren't necessarily overarching concerns over the modeling, but that the existing modeling did not reflect SB 375 strategies as well as they could. Ms. D'Adamo recognized that there is a significant divergence in GHG target reductions between the valley and its neighbors. Mr. Ito stated that they wish

to be more involved in the technical aspects of looking at the issue at hand.

Mr. Sadredin pointed out that due to the valley's planning cycle, they have started with a much lower GHG footprint, 10-18% better per capita on baseline than the nearby regions. He felt this should be a bigger part of the conversation. He noted that the valley was unable to present a unified recommendation until a very late stage recommendation was given. He stated that it was very important to work more closely together and negotiate with each other more.

Councilman Boyer asked about the modeling for looking at the target numbers in 2012. Mr. Ito responded that the modeling is aimed at looking at how the valley wants to grow and where. The major MPOs had invested a significant effort in their modeling that the valley was not capable in focusing the same type of effort. From a technical standpoint the outcome must be consistent as well as realistic. They need to have clear concise results that should be less focused on the disparity and more on where the valley is going.

Supervisor Case asked how to better engage with CARB and have the region's voice be stronger. Ms. D'Adamo responded that they need to use their representatives as well as herself more. Mr. Spriggs asked if a letter requesting reappointment to the board would be useful to which she responded that it would. Mr. Andrew Chesley pointed out that the valley COGs needs to work hand in hand with the air district. Over the next 18 months and the reassessment, stronger relationships must be cultivated with CARB board members, the directors of the MPOs, and the valley representative. Staff from CARB need to treat the valley the same as the other larger metropolitan areas throughout the state because they did not in previous meetings.

Supervisor Case asked whether or not Policy Council should add the representative from the valley air district. Supervisor Case made a motion to direct the COG directors to come together and have a unified voice and have the CARB representative for the valley be a member of the Regional Policy Council. Mayor Anne Johnston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. SJV Blueprint – INFORMATION – T. Webster

Mr. Tom Webster updated the group on SJV Blueprint progress. The summary document is in draft form and is currently being reviewed. The implementation strategy, which sets the stage for where it goes from the Blueprint's current state, will be in draft form to the directors and internal staff by the end of the week. The tool kit has had some setbacks on the development of the website and is expecting a mid-January version for review

4. Sustainable Communities - Prop. 84 – INFORMATION – T. Webster

Mr. Webster informed everyone that the Prop 84 application the valley put in for was awarded \$1 million of the \$2.5m requested. There was tremendous support for the program and can be competitive in the next two funding cycles. It was suggested at a staff level to pull the program apart, vet it, and phase it with the next two funding cycles. Department of Conservation was impressed that there was interest in a Greenprint. One piece was the Resources for Small Communities and the second piece of that first portion was developing the SCSs. He informed the group that they will continue to work with staff to ensure the reworked deliverables mesh well with the staff.

ITEM 1 WAS REVISITED

Supervisor Case wanted to revisit the minutes from the previous discussion. She noted that the minutes regarding the CARB representation were more directed at individual than process, she requested that they be amended to reflect the process than the individual. Councilmember Debrum made the motion, Supervisor Nelson seconded and it passed unanimously.

5. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley – INFORMATION – M. Dozier / B. Steck

Ms. Stacie Dabbs updated the group on the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. In October they received \$4 million for their Smart Valley Places application, the larger of the two awards in California. The partnership added a job for a project coordinator and is excited to have the Policy Council as a partner on the effort. They voted to expand the partnership to include a member from each of the partners to be on the executive committee. They are looking to launch in January. Ms. Barbara Steck will represent the Policy Council in an intense crash course of the latest smart growth ideas at Harvard University in January.

Ms. Steck informed everyone that Mr. Ted Small and Mr. Barry Hibbard are spearheading the newly combined LUAH and Transportation working groups. A question was raised concerning the new governor and the future of the partnership; Ms. Dabbs responded that there is no concern over the executive order being revoked for the California Partnership.

6. High Speed Rail Update – INFORMATION – C. Bowen

Ms. Carrie Pourvahidi, chief deputy executive director for Administration and Finance, gave the update as Ms. Carrie Bowen is now the District 10 director for Caltrans. She expressed their excitement that the project will be starting in the valley. Staff at the CHSRA are currently putting together a report for their next steps and are looking at extending the alignment south of Bakersfield. Monies are contingent upon the environmental process and it needs to be completed by the fall of 2011, she urged the group's support on this effort.

The Altamont pass preliminary reports should be completed in February and they are revising the schedule for the environmental process accordingly. In regards to the Sacramento to Fresno section, the preliminary alternative analysis should be done sometime in spring. Fresno to Bakersfield and Merced to Fresno are set to circulate environmental documents. Design and mitigation meetings are anticipated for January 2011.

Supervisor Case asked if the rail authority is looking at ways to get it closer to existing facilities. Ms. Pourvahidi responded that it comes down to more of an engineering perspective. It is critical when trying to run 220 mph in the corridors while being conscientious of the impacts and mitigate any negative impacts. Supervisor Allen Ishida asked if they had contacted PG&E in Kern as they are starting a major transmission line project and that it may help to share that part of the right of way. Ms. Pourvahidi said she would take it back to the CHSRA. Mayor Spriggs expressed concerns that residents of the North Valley may be feeling a little left out of the process. Ms. Pourvahidi responded that Merced is part of phase I and as stated in the board meeting that there were some independent utility challenges.

7. Short Haul Rail Update – INFORMATION – T. Smalley

Supervisor Ishida informed everyone that they are continuing to negotiate with Union Pacific for the right of way for the 30 miles of Strathmore to the Kern County line. They were informed that week that Rail America, operator on the line, were considering a \$720 surcharge per car that would like to ship through BNSF. The route to BNSF is the east route that the County is trying to preserve. Some of the users can't afford the surcharge which creates a problem since they don't have the option to use Union Pacific. BNSF is taking rail service over in Bakersfield. The County's main goal is to protect the shippers on the line and promote business. It appears that Rail America is trying to move to be the largest user, which would cut off the line from the center of Tulare to Kern County. Union Pacific came in to negotiate with the customer and it sounds like they're trying to kill the line to make a monopoly in the valley.

Mr. Rob Ball noted that Kern has completed a short haul rail study and are ready to move into the next phase. They have two other studies, one of which is a marketing study that could lead into more local support for a rail association or something in the SJV. Supervisor Ishida stated that they are looking legislatively to form a rail commission through the SJV.

8. State Route 99 Bond Savings Proposal – Information – T. Boren

Mr. Tony Boren updated everyone on the latest for the State Route 99 Bond Savings Proposal. They have four relatively solid projects with a fifth in Kern. The guiding principles for the projects are in the packet and the prioritized part needed more discussion. The directors of the MPOs need to identify a prioritized list for this issue, which has not been conducted yet.

Supervisor Mike Nelson informed everyone that he needed to leave at this point and that he had a pleasure working with the group.

9. Interregional Goods Movement – INFORMATION – T. Boren

Mr. Michael Sigala informed the group that the valleywide application was awarded by Caltrans after their initial application the previous year. The planning process will result in a process to determine the future of goods movement processes in the valley. A team of staff members and Caltrans members has been compiled to help choose the consultant and draft the RFP. It is a \$635,000 project of which half will come from the COGs.

10. Approve 2011 Legislative Platform – DISCUSSION – T. Boren

Ms. Dianne Barth asked for approval of the 2011 legislative platform and noted that there were a few minor changes to it. Mayor Johnston moved to approve the legislative platform. Councilmember Debrum seconded it and it passed unanimously.

11. VLAC – DISCUSSION – D. Barth / C. Lehn

Ms. Barth wanted to note the trips for Sacramento on February 2nd and 3rd. Kern is helping coordinate heavily on the Sacramento trip and meetings are being sought with the Attorney General's office and the Strategic Growth Council with Heather Fargo.

Supervisor Case noted that SJV Air Pollution Control District's board meeting may conflict with the September DC trip.

12. SJV Regional Policy Council Administration – DISCUSSION – M. Sigala

Mr. Sigala pointed out that the website for the Regional Policy Council is up, they have a newsletter, and the packet includes the next calendar year.

13. Other Items

Councilmember Boyer noted that his item regarding USDA rural funding was postponed for the next meeting.

14. Public Comment

No comments by the public.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Boren
Chair, SJV Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

Appendix A

Others Attending:

Dorene D'Adamo, California ARB Board Member
Virginia Madueno, Mayor of Riverbank
Carrie Pourvahidi, CHSRA
Bryn Forhan, CHSRA
Stacie Dabbs, CA Partnership
Tom Jordan, SJVAPCD
Doug Ito, California ARB
Matt Machedo, Stanislaus County
Ken Baxter, Caltrans
Christine Cox-Kovacevich, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Ted Smalley, TCAG
Terri King, KCAG
Jesse Brown, MCAG
Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Patricia Taylor, Madera CTC
Rob Ball, Kern COG
Andrew Chesley, SJCOG
Dianne Barth, SJCOG
Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG
Vince Harris, StanCOG
Carlos Yamzon, StanCOG
Michael Sigala, SJV Coordinator/Sigala Inc
Nathan Wahl, SJV Coordinator/Sigala Inc