



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

c/o Fresno Council of Governments – 2035 Tulare St. #201-Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-233-4148 Ext. 200 Fax: 559-233-9645

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**

Meeting Agenda **Friday, June 24, 2011** **Time: 10:00 a.m.**

Fresno Council of Governments
 Sequoia Room
 2035 Tulare St
 Fresno, California 93721

Toll Free Number: 1-877-455-8688
Participant Code: 278933

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 25, 2011 Policy Council Meeting (*enclosure*)

DISCUSSION ITEM

2. *Discussion with Pete Weber from Friends of
The San Joaquin Valley* T. Boren

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. High Speed Rail J. Abercrombie
4. California Partnership for the SJV (*enclosure*) M. Dozier
5. California Forward
Update on Smart Government Framework CA Forward
6. Short Haul Rail T. Smalley
7. Prop 84 Sustainable Communities Grant
Revised Scope B. Steck
8. SJV Interregional Goods Movement M. Sigala
9. Regional Energy Planning M. Sigala
10. Director's Report T. Boren
11. Fall Policy Conference P. Taylor

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

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| <p>12. Accept SJV Blueprint Guidance Framework (<i>enclosure</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Report • Guidance Framework • Web Based Toolkit • http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=187 <p>13. Accept Priorities for Federal Transportation (<i>enclosure</i>)
Reauthorization Bill</p> <p>14. VLAC (<i>enclosure</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valley Voice D.C. Priorities • State and Federal Bills to Support/Oppose <p>15. Approve FY 2011/12 Valleywide OWP (<i>enclosure</i>)</p> <p>16. High Speed Rail – LAO Report, Kings County Concerns (<i>enclosure</i>)</p> | <p>B. Steck/
Mintier Harnish</p> <p>T. Boren</p> <p>D. Barth</p> <p>T. Boren</p> <p>B. Spriggs</p> |
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OTHER ITEMS

17. Other
18. Public Presentation for Items Not on Agenda. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes. Note: The general public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.

Next Policy Council Meeting: October 13, 2011.

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

c/o Fresno Council of Governments – 2035 Tulare St. Suite 201 Fresno, Ca 93721

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REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

Executive Minutes

Friday, March 25, 2011

10:00 am

Fresno Council of Governments

Sequoia Room

2035 Tulare St. Suite 201

Fresno, California 93721

Toll Free Number: 877-455-8688

Participant Code: 278933

Members Attending:

Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, MCAG
Allen Ishida, Supervisor, County of Tulare, TCAG
Joe Oliveira, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Gustine, MCAG (phone)
Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, MCTC
Judy Case, Supervisor, County of Fresno, Fresno COG
Amarpreet, Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin, Fresno COG
Paul Boyer, Councilmember, City of Farmersville, TCAG
Tony Barba, Supervisor, County of Kings, KCAG
Cheryl Wegman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Wasco, Kern COG
Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director, SJVAPCD

List of Other Attending: Appendix A

1. Approval of Minutes

Bill Spriggs, Chair, opened the meeting – Introductions

Mayor Dhaliwal moved to accept the minutes and Mayor Robert Poythress seconded the motion. December 15, 2010 Policy Council minutes approved by consensus.

At this time Supervisor Judy Case entered and joined the meeting after the minutes were approved.

3. California Partnership – INFORMATION – M. Dozier

Ms Stacie Dabbs updated the Policy Council on the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's latest activities. She informed everyone that they have started their work on the Smart Valley Places grant the organization received and have Bill Fulton as their consultant and that Ms. Barbara Steck is the representative for the Regional Policy Council.

Ms. Steck noted that future applications that are consistent with Smart Valley Places will receive bonus points with their applications. She also highlighted the support letters that were in the agenda packet.

Mr. Ismael Herrera informed the Policy Council that the Rural Development center officially launched on February 25th. They had over 80 representatives from throughout the valley and some of the neighboring foothill communities. He pointed out the executive summary in the agenda packet, the organizational chart and the list of partners. He noted that Mr. Mike Dozier's vision for the Rural Development Center was that it would serve as a one stop shop for rural communities and serve as a support staff center for those places. Mr. Herrera noted that they would like to have each of the COGs represented and will be having an event in May.

RETURNED TO ITEM 2

2. Discussion with Bob Rucker – DISCUSSION – B. Spriggs

Mr. Bob Rucker thanked everyone for allowing him the time to speak to the Policy Council. He informed the group that Congressman Denham would like to speak to the group and receive ideas from them during one of his congressional work weeks in the district. He noted a few dates and Mayor Spriggs gave direction to staff consultant Mr. Michael Sigala to follow up on a time and date with Mr. Rucker after the meeting was over. He noted it would not need to be a meeting in an official capacity.

Mr. Seyed Sadredin joined the meeting at this point.

Supervisor Ishida asked Mr. Rucker if their planned Valley Voice trip to Washington D.C. in September would be too late. Mr. Rucker informed them he would check when he would be going to D.C. the next week and follow up with the group. A quick discussion followed talking about the transportation bill that congress is looking at and the intentions of the Valley Voice trip.

Mr. Tony Boren informed everyone that he had been requested to share some information with the group. There had been effort to create a San Joaquin Valley Caucus, called the Friends of the San Joaquin Valley. A short discussion continued and the directors will explore the issue further.

4. High Speed Rail – INFORMATION – J. Abercrombie

Ms. Bryn Forhan gave the update to the Policy Council in place of Mr. Jeff Abercrombie as he was unable to attend the meeting. She informed the group that the valley engineering is being conducted along with local alignment. She noted that urban design guidelines would be available the next week to review. Environmental is still underway, including the San Jose to Merced section. The Merced to Sacramento section should have an alternative analysis available in late Fall and the Altamont alternative analysis has already been presented to the board.

Councilmember Boyer asked Ms. Forhan what the deadlines were for the ARRA funding. She pointed out that the EIRs need to be completed by the end of the year and that construction must begin by September 2012. Mayor Dhaliwal commented on the political climate in Washington D.C. about the project and asked about the business plan portion of the project. Ms. Forhan informed him that the business plan is available online but it is being reviewed and should be refined by October.

5. Short Haul Rail – INFORMATION – T. Smalley

Mr. Ted Smalley informed everyone on the latest developments for this issue. He reported that they are working on purchasing abandoned right of way and are looking at the existing and potential upgrade of the tracks for the next 20 to 30 years of useful life. The bill establishing a rail authority is being submitted by Senator Rubio for final language shortly. Supervisor Case informed everyone that Fresno COG is supporting the bill. Ms. Dianne Barth told the Policy Council that the bill will be heard April 12th at the senate meeting for Transportation and Housing in Room 4203 at 1:30 pm.

Mr. Sadredin told the Policy Council that the air district will have approximately \$217 million in grant fundings in the next year and in the next month he will be taking a proposal to the board setting aside \$10m to go to government agencies for clean air. They would like to return funds to the public by utilizing municipalities and cities for clean air initiatives in a competitive process. Supervisor Tom Wheeler noted that Madera's Board of Supervisors and MCTC both passed resolutions supporting the bill.

6. State Route 99 Bond Savings Project List – INFORMATION – T. Boren

Mr. Boren informed the Policy Council that the directors are looking to finalize their priority list quickly to get it to the CTC by June and will let them know when they have it resolved in the next two weeks.

7. San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement – INFORMATION – M. Sigala

Mr. Sigala reported that the Interregional Goods Movement study is a valleywide funded activity analyzing all goods movement systems for the valley. They will have consultant interviews Monday and will have a decision shortly after.

8. 2010 California Regional Progress Report – Information – M. Sigala

Mr. Sigala noted that when meeting with Ms. Heather Fargo from the Strategic Growth Council she gave him the document. Councilmember Boyer asked if it would be updated the next year and Mr. Sigala told him that he would get back to him about the question.

Mr. Sadredin wanted to clear up any potential confusion about air quality and asthma. He noted that asthma is not caused by air pollution, only that it can exacerbate the asthma.

9. SJV Blueprint Roadmap – DISCUSSION – B. Steck / Mintier Harnish

Ms. Barbara Steck gave a quick background on the Blueprint process for everyone. Two years prior, the Regional Policy Council had adopted the 12 principles of the blueprint. A year ago, the group had contracted with Mintier Harnish to develop and present the deliverables that were being presented at the meeting, including the planner's toolkit. John Wright, was also available to answer any questions as the head of the planner's workgroup.

Mr. Jim Harnish handed out the blueprint implementation strategy and gave a powerpoint presentation on their methodology and some of their findings. He noted the collaborative efforts between the COGs and the valley planner's workgroup. Mr. Harnish presented an overview of the Blueprint Roadmap, Guidance Framework, and the planner's toolkit. Mr. Harnish and Mr. Ted Holzem then gave their powerpoint presentation and the beta version of the planners toolkit to the Policy Council.

Discussion of the administration aspect of the toolkit came up at the end of their presentation. Mr. Harnish and Mr. Wright acknowledged that a vetting process is essential to the quality of the planner's toolkit. There was consensus among the planner's workgroup that a small group to help determine how to address these issues and the funding aspect. Ms. Steck noted that this product will be coming back to the Policy Council in June, and they were receiving the documents today.

10. Regional Planning Agencies – DISCUSSION – A. Ishida

Supervisor Ishida wanted to bring up this topic as a number of the COGs were going to Washington D.C. and wondered if they could have a discussion about what people were hearing. Supervisor Case noted that earmarks were not going to be happening but departments are still spending money. Supervisor Ishida noted that it could be beneficial to lobby for programs as projects like interregional goods movement and 99 are still very important. The topic of bifurcating congestion and air quality issues came up with the transportation bills. Mr. Sadredin noted that they will be going to Washington D.C. in May and that it is on their agenda. Mayor Robert Poythress noted that in their trip last year they had heard on the last day of meetings with the consultants that there was little to no money in the transportation bill and the group should have been meeting with the departments. Ms. Barth noted that these kinds of comments were taken into consideration and in the fall they will be approaching the trip differently.

11. VLAC – DISCUSSION – D. Barth

Ms. Barth noted that the Valleyvoice trip to Sacramento was felt to be overall a successful trip and they have received good feedback to improve it for the next year. Supporting the California Partnership and participating more with the Strategic Growth Council were some of the follow up items. The next trip on September 14 and 15th in Washington D.C. will be arranged a bit differently. The hotel has been booked and will need to make reservations shortly.

Mr. Sadredin quickly wanted to revisit the earmarks issue. He informed everyone he had met with the head of the EPA and that departments are having their funding cut as well. He noted that to the extent the Policy Council will meet with the departments, they need to be sure to keep their congressional delegation involved in the process to help put the appropriate pressure where necessary especially in such competitive process oriented topics like air quality and transportation.

12. Support for the Central California Railroad Authority – DISCUSSION – R. Phipps

Mr. Smalley noted that Kern COG had put a significant amount of effort into this bill. SB 325 would help establish a central valley rail authority which would also include Merced with the southern counties. The funding of the authority came up in discussion and Supervisor Ishida noted that at this point in time the creation of the authority would not require hard costs. Mr. Robert Ball pointed out that SAFETY-LU had an infrastructure bank component that had a significant portion of money but very little was accessed due to the difficulty in getting it and it could be a potential first test for the group. Mr. Ball also noted that any language changes to the bill were due on March 25th in an email he had received during the meeting.

Councilmember Boyer made a motion to support the bill and Mayor Dhaliwal seconded. The motion passed by consensus.

13. San Joaquin Valley USDA Rural Definition – DISCUSSION – P. Boyer

Councilmember Boyer reported that Congressman Cardoza had submitted the bill in the agenda packet and Congressmen Costa is coauthoring it. It would allow the secretary of agriculture determine if those cities in the valley that historically have been considered eligible for USDA rural funding would still be eligible despite their populations putting them above the thresholds.

Councilmember Boyer moved to support the congressional bill and Supervisor Case seconded. The motion carried. Ms. Patricia Taylor asked that the support letter be circulated.

14. Policy Council Member Comments

Supervisor Ishida noted that during their COG's Washington D.C. trip, they had a good experience sitting down with the President's office.

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

Others Attending:

Bob Rucker, Congressman Denham's Office
Harold Hanson, Councilmember, City of Bakersfield
John Wright, Blueprint Valley Planner's Workgroup
Bryn Forhan, CHSRA
Tom Jordan, SJVAPCD
Christine Cox-Kovacevich, Caltrans
Sharri Bender-Ehlert, Caltrans
Ismael Herrera, California Partnership
Andrew Chesley, SJCOG
Vince Harris, StanCOG
Carlos Yamzon, StanCOG
Rosa De Leon Park, StanCOG
Jesse Brown, MCAG
Patricia Taylor, Madera CTC
Derek Winning, Madera CTC
Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Ted Smalley, TCAG
Terri King, KCAG
Rob Ball, Kern COG
Michael Sigala, SJV Coordinator/Sigala Inc
Nathan Wahl, SJV Coordinator/Sigala Inc
Ken Baxter, Caltrans (phone)
Stacie Dabbs, CA Partnership (phone)
Dianne Barthe, SJCOG (phone)
Tanisha Taylor, SJCOG (phone)
Kim Anderson, SJCOG (phone)