

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 3, 2009**

### **MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, held Friday, April 3, 2009 at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chairman Dean Wilson at 8:36 a.m.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dennis Coté, Engineering  
Adam Cox, Student  
Tom Crawley, Finance  
Mary Ford-Azevedo, Small Business  
Tom Grave, Education  
Richard Jantz, Economic Development  
Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Citizen at Large  
John Price, Citizen-at-Large  
Ron Price, Water/Irrigation  
Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo, Agriculture  
Dean Wilson, Citizen-at-Large

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kyle Ford, Citizen-at-Large  
Scott Neal, Good Movement  
Vacant, Construction  
Vacant, Citizen-at-Large

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Hicham Eltal, Modesto Irrigation District (arrive at 9:45)  
Marjie Kirn, MCAG  
Lori Flanders, MCAG  
Candice Steelman, MCAG

#### **1. Introductions**

So noted.

#### **2. Oral Communications**

Candice Steelman requested an addition to item 9 to share a summary of the One Voice trip. Chair Wilson authorized the addition of Item 9f – One Voice – Washington, D.C. Trip Report.

Melissa Kelly-Ortega made the following announcements:

- April 22, 2009 Golden Valley Heath Center will celebrate Earth Day, 11-4pm;
- May 1, 2009 is World Asthma Day, 2-7pm at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and N Streets.

#### **3. Minutes of the March 6, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**

Melissa Kelly-Ortega requested that her concern regarding the distance between the Atwater-Merced Expressway and the school be documented in the minutes. As well as a note regarding the document she passed out to the CAC from the California Air Resources Board.

John Price made a motion to approve the minutes as revised of the March 6, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.

Seconded by Mary Ford-Azevedo.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Formal Amendment No. 8 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program – Adding a Regional Listing of Local ARRA-STIP (RIP), and ARRA-STIP (TE) Projects**

Marjie Kirn commented that the stimulus program requirements are changing daily and staff is doing their best to keep the committee up-to-date. She provided the committee a revised handout of the “ARRA – Local Air Quality Exempt Projects – RSTP/TE” document that was included in their agenda packets. Marjie explained that Merced County’s allocation has been decreased by \$2 million due to a law passed on March 30, 2009 that altered the formula for allocation. She further explained that the state and five larger jurisdictions received an increase in funding based on the revised formula.

Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo inquired to why Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) and Highway 59 were not included to receive ARRA funding. Melissa Kelly-Ortega commented that the City of Merced has plans to apply for grants to improve the area of MLK and Highway 59. Marjie commented that Highway 59 is the responsibility of the state.

John Price commented that there is also a demand for improvements at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 59.

Marjie explained that jurisdictions were required to submit projects that were “shovel ready”. She further explained that the state could have used SHOPP funds for Highway 59, but they chose not to.

Tom Crawley asked whom the CAC could contact regarding the state not using funding for Highway 59. Marjie offered to send the proper contact to the CAC via email.

Chair Wilson asked whom the CAC could contact regarding the sudden change in formula that resulted in a loss for Merced County. Marjie explained that Assembly Member Galgiani would be a sufficient contact.

Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve Formal Amendment No. 8 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program that add a listing of local projects, funded by the following ARRA funding sources:

1. ARRA-STIP \$4,837,754.00; and
2. ARRA-TE \$299,495.

Seconded by Adam Cox.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Draft FY 2009/2010 Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Distribution**

Marjie provided a brief overview of LTF funding. She explained that staff normally divides the transit costs to each jurisdiction by service hours for the rural areas and by population/service hours for the urbanized areas. Using this formula for Fiscal Year 2009/10 apportionment resulted in one jurisdiction not having enough LTF to cover the cost of providing transit service. Marjie further explained that the Transportation Development Act (TDA) states that transit needs must be met prior to distributing the LTF funds to streets and roads. Staff proposes taking all the transit costs off the top and giving each jurisdiction a based amount of \$10,000 and dividing the remaining balance on population.

Mary Ford asked if she could receive ridership statistics for Gustine from staff. Lori will send Mary the information via email.

Dennis Coté commented that he has concerns with the existing transit services when observing each route by persons per load. He would like to see pavement preservation as a top priority.

John Price made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board:

- a. Approve the Draft Local Transportation Fund Apportionment Schedule; and
- b. Authorize staff to forward claim forms to the local jurisdictions.

Seconded by Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo.

Noes: Dennis Coté.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Revised 2008-2009 State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds Apportionment Schedule**

Lori explained that the Governor revised the state budget in February, which has resulted in a loss of \$2,049,506 for transit in STA funding.

The committee discussed the need for more attention for the Central Valley from state/federal government. Chair Wilson asked that the discussion be tabled until Item 11 – CAC Goals.

Dennis Coté made a motion to recommend that the MCAG Governing Board:

- a. Approve the revised State Transit Assistance schedule for Fiscal Year 2008/09; and
- b. Adopt Resolution 2009/04-16-01 approving the revised STA claim from Merced County.

Seconded by John Price.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Authorization of Federal Transit Administration Grant Application for Merced County Transit Rural Operating Expenses 2008/09**

Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo made a motion to recommend the Transit Policy Board adopt Resolution 2009/04-16-02.

Seconded by Mary Ford.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Authorization of Federal Transit Administration Grant Application for Merced County Transit Capital Expenses 2008/09**

John Price made a motion to recommend the Transit Policy Board adopt Resolution 2009/04-16-03.

Seconded by Mary Ford.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. Information/Discussion Only**

- a. CAC Highlights – March 6, 2009
- b. Sign-up sheet for CAC representative to the MCAG Governing Board Meeting 2009

John Price will replace Richard Jantz for the October 15, 2009 meeting.

Adam Cox, alternate for August 20, 2009.

Mary Ford alternate for September 17, 2009.

- c. MCAG Governing Board Minutes March 19, 2009
- d. Agricultural Recycling Resource Directory

Diana expressed her appreciation of staff member Jennifer Halpin for reaching out to the Ag community with this brochure.

- e. Bike Plan/Grant Update
- f. One Voice – Washington, D.C. Trip Report  
Candice Steelman passed out a brief summary of the One Voice Washington D.C trip.  
Highlights included:
  - Delegation consisted of 15 members
  - The group had 22 meetings with legislators, key staff, and state agencies
  - Top five priorities included the Los Banos Bypass, Campus Parkway, Engineering Academy, Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage carve-out, and San Joaquin Valley Water Plan.

Melissa asked if the \$5 million requested for the Los Banos Bypass is to construct the first phase at grade level and Candice responded yes.

So noted.

**10. Oral Report – Air District – CAC Report**

No report was given. Meeting will be held on April 7, 2009.

**11. Oral Report – CAC Goals Report - Water**

Hicham Eltal provided a detailed presentation on water capacity comparing today's activity to past years. He expressed the need for an Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP), which would increase funding opportunities. Hicham explained that the IRWMP could not be jurisdictional based; it would have to be water lined based. He invited the CAC to attend the April 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisor meeting that will include a presentation about water.

Chair Wilson would like to have a presentation from the “west-side” regarding water to offer another perspective. Staff will contact Steve Chedester from the Exchange Contractors.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ADJOURNED BY DEAN WILSON AT 10:50 A.M.**