

# **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**May 1, 2009**

## **MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, held Friday, May 1, 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 8:30 a.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Adam Cox, Student  
Tom Crawley, Finance  
Kyle Ford, Citizen-at-Large  
Mary Ford-Azevedo, Small Business  
Tom Grave, Education  
Dan Hultgren, Real Estate  
Richard Jantz, Economic Development  
Dean Wilson, Citizen-at-Large

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dennis Coté, Engineering  
Hicham Eltal, Merced Irrigation District  
Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Citizen at Large  
Scott Neal, Good Movement  
John Price, Citizen-at-Large  
Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo, Agriculture  
Vacant, Construction  
Vacant, Citizen-at-Large

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Matt Fell, MCAG  
Lori Flanders, MCAG  
Rich Green, MCAG  
Candice Steelman, MCAG

#### **1. Introductions**

So noted.

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

None.

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

Hicham Eltal was incorrectly listed as representing the Modesto Irrigation District when he represents the Merced Irrigation District. Dan Hultgren was missing from the members absent section.

Adam Cox made a motion to approve the minutes as revised of the April 3, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.

Seconded by Mary Ford-Azevedo.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **4. CAC Photo Op – Interview for Newsletter**

Candice Steelman interviewed and photographed the CAC as a group for an upcoming article in the MCAG Newsletter.

#### **5. Transit Joint Powers Agreement Review**

Matt Fell explained that the Transit Joint Powers Agreement has not been updated since January 1995. Many of the components that guided the Transit Joint Powers Agreement have since changed. He explained that the Transit Service Subcommittee of the Transit Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) discussed the current institutional arrangements, including the administrative responsibilities performed by the Merced County Public Works Department, which resulted in a recommendation that the TJPA evaluate the transit service operations and administrative responsibilities currently assigned to the Public Works Department.

Dan Hultgren inquired as to why an evaluation needs to occur.

Adam Cox also inquired as to why staff time would need to be wasted on such an evaluation.

Richard Jantz commented that more information would come from the draft agreement and that there have been significant changes since the agreements inception in 1995.

Tom Grave made a motion to recommend the Transit Joint Powers Authority direct staff to prepare a draft update of the Transit Joint Powers Agreement and return for review in 90 days.

Seconded by Richard Jantz.

AYES: Tom Grave, Richard Jantz, Mary Ford-Azevedo, Dean Wilson

NOES: Dan Hultgren, Tom Crawley, Kyle Ford, Adam Cox

**MOTION FAILED.**

Dan Hultgren made a motion to recommend staff provide the CAC more detailed information regarding the reasoning for the re-evaluation of the Transit Joint Powers Agreement prior to a recommendation being made to the Transit Joint Powers Authority.

Seconded by Adam Cox.

AYES: Dan Hultgren, Tom Crawley, Mary Ford-Azevedo, Kyle Ford, Adam Cox

NOES: Tom Grave, Richard Jantz, Dean Wilson

**MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **6. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Next Steps**

Rich Green explained that the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council adopted Scenario B+ and the Smart Growth Principles included in the CAC's agenda packet. Rich commented that the difference between the original Scenario B and B+ is the inclusion of the High Speed Rail and other minor transportation enhancements.

Dan Hultgren stated that he has concerns with the Average Dwelling Units per Acre being increased from 4.8 to 8.6 for Merced County. He would like to see the market dictate the need for the region, not the government.

Richard Jantz recommended the committee keep focus on the first principle listed “Create a range of housing opportunities and choices”. He further commented that currently the valley does not offer a variety of choices, and that there is plenty of room for all types of housing. Richard would like to see the government play a role by offering incentives to developers that follow the Smart Growth Principles.

Tom Crawley commented that most lenders are hesitant to loan developers money for apartments, condos, and senior housing due to the lack of demand. He also commented that cities are currently managing their housing supply wisely and that it’s the county that may need to adjust by limiting 1-acre lots.

Tom Grave made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the Smart Growth Principles and Scenario B+ adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Board.

Seconded by Richard Jantz.

AYES: Tom Grave, Richard Jantz, Dean Wilson, Mary Ford-Azevedo, Kyle Ford

NOES: Dan Hultgren, Tom Crawley, Adam Cox

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **7. 2008/2009 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Funds**

Chair Wilson commented that he had concerns that Dos Palos is not receiving their equitable share. He would like to see a formula used that is based on need, not just population.

Mary Ford-Azevedo commented that Gustine is in the same boat as Dos Palos.

Richard Jantz made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board:

- a. Direct staff to enter into an agreement with Caltrans regarding the exchange of Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds;
- b. Approve the Draft Regional Surface Transportation Program Apportionment Schedule for Fiscal Year 2008/2009;
- c. Authorize staff to forward claim forms to the jurisdictions; and
- d. Adopt Resolution 2009/05-21-01 authorizing disbursement of FY 08/09 RSTP Funds upon receipt of claim forms from jurisdictions.

Seconded by Adam Cox.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7A. Interstate Designation for SR 99**

Matt Fell explained that there would be extensive costs in designating SR 99 to interstate status. He commented that Caltrans completed a rather vague cost analysis that shows Merced County would not benefit nor would there be additional funding available. He further explained that Caltrans would be releasing an economic study within the next few weeks.

Richard Jantz inquired as to why a recommendation was being requested prior to the release of the study.

Kyle Ford commented that Merced County would have the largest burden with the least to gain.

Richard Jantz made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board postpone reaffirming their opposition to designating Highway 99 as a federal Interstate Highway until the Economic Study is released.

Seconded by Tom Crawley.

Tom Grave abstained.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. Information/Discussion Only**

- a. CAC Highlights – April 3, 2009
- b. Sign-up sheet for CAC representative to the MCAG Governing Board Meeting 2009
- c. MCAG Governing Board Minutes April 16, 2009
- d. New Federal Transportation Act Request for High Priority Project Proposals
- e. Bike Grant Funding and History
- f. San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study
- g. Proposition 42 Funding History

So noted.

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

So noted.

**10. Oral Report – CAC Goals Report**

Chair Wilson explained that Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo has made a recommendation that the CAC goals for agriculture run parallel with the Blueprint Principles. She was unable to attend this months meeting, therefore the item has been tabled for either the June or July CAC meeting. Chair Wilson also commented that he would like to schedule a presentation from a west-side water provider to speak in June or July.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ADJOURNED BY DEAN WILSON AT 10:13 A.M.**