

# **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**December 4, 2008**

## **MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** held Thursday, December 4, 2008, at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room located at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chairman Richard Schwarz at 10:00 A.M.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Hamilton, City of Merced  
Mark Fachin, City of Los Banos  
John Gedney, Caltrans District 10  
Michael Rhodes, Merced County  
Richard Schwarz, Merced County Public Works  
Larry Shankland, Merced County Transit

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Paul Creighton, City of Livingston  
Justin Hendrix, City of Atwater  
Jake Raper, City of Gustine  
City of Dos Palos  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Jesse Brown, MCAG  
Matt Fell, MCAG  
Rich Green, MCAG  
Marjie Kirn, MCAG  
Terri Lewis, MCAG  
Ty Phimmasone, MCAG

#### **1. Introductions**

So noted.

#### **2. Oral Communication**

Ty Phimmasone discussed the Proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package and the project survey information requested by Nancy Enfonte with a deadline of tomorrow, December 5, 2008. It is very important that local agencies provide information on prospective projects as long as they can be delivered within the required timeframes. Local agencies can submit project information direct to Nancy (with a cc to MCAG) or they can submit information to Ty directly for compilation and forwarding to Nancy.

Marjie Kirn cautioned Ty to make sure he follows up with the City of Dos Palos staff, as there is only one contact name included on the list.

John Gedney stated that Caltrans released to all local agencies the FY 2009 State Planning and Research Grant Application notification on December 3, 2008. The SP&R grant deadline is April 1, 2009.

Marjie Kirn stated that there are four SP&R grant categories and MCAG intends to submit at least two applications for: 1) aerial photography; 2) short range transit plan.

Richard Schwarz added that the US Army Corp of Engineers (Corp) issued a notification on which US water bodies are within their jurisdiction and also clarification on roadside ditches and potential pooling of water not requiring environmental studies (the result of the Rapones court decision).

### **3. Minutes of the October 2, 2008 Technical Planning Committee Meeting**

Larry Shankland made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2008 Technical Planning Committee meeting.

Seconded by John Gedney.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. Information / Discussion Only**

#### **a. TPC meeting schedule for 2009**

Mark Hamilton inquired if MCAG would like to cancel the July 2, 2009 meeting with it so close to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Marjie Kirn responded that the July meetings are frequently cancelled; yet we can move the TPC to the next week, July 9, 2009. Marjie will follow up on the potential change.

#### **b. Status of Regional Road Projects for Merced County**

Ty Phimmasone stated that the MCAG status of Regional Road Projects is updated quarterly, based on Project Development Team (PDT) meetings that occur and information from the Caltrans District 10 quarterly project status report.

#### **c. Neighborhood Stabilization Program Assistance**

Marjie Kirn stated that Merced County was left off the Federal Stabilization Allocation Plan altogether. The State of California has included Merced County, yet the amount of funding available to each jurisdiction is not much money. The funds for this program are to be used by local agencies to purchase foreclosed housing for rehabilitation and resale to help blighted communities inundated by vacant houses.

This program does not provide any funding to help homeowners in the process of foreclosure.

d. **Public Notice – Atwater-Merced Expressway Flyer**

Marjie Kirn stated that the notice is for the Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) due to the project design modification that resulted because of the new Atwater school site location.

e. **Save the Date: San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Summit – January 26, 2009**

Marjie Kirn stated that MCAG is offering to pay the registration fee for TPC members and elected officials to attend the San Joaquin Valley Final Blueprint Summit on January 26, 2009 at the Fresno Convention Center. If anyone is interested, notify Marjie Kirn of your interest in attending. MCAG will process the registration for anyone interested in attending.

**5. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Valleywide Scenario Recommendation (BRAC)**

Rich Green reviewed the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Scenario Presentation given to the BRAC on November 7, 2008. The BRAC recommended the adoption of the San Joaquin Valleywide Scenario C with two dissenting votes. COG Directors will be looking for direction from the Planning Committee members during a meeting tomorrow, December 5, 2008.

**6. Regional Transportation Plan Amendment**

Matt Fell discussed the need to process an RTP amendment to comply with SAFETEA-LU requirements (i.e. Year of Expenditure dollars). This amendment includes the segmenting change to the Los Banos Bypass project. A 30-day public review period started on November 26, 2008 and ends on December 26, 2008. Submit any comments to Matt Fell.

**7. Draft Amendment No. 3 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program**

Terri Lewis highlighted the need to process Major Amendment No. 3 to the 2009 Interim FTIP in an effort to make the FTIP as whole as possible now that a new Air Quality Conformity Analysis is available with approval of the PM-10 Maintenance Plan by the Environmental Protection Agency. The list of changes to the FTIP included in Amendment No. 3 include exempt projects as well as non-exempt (capacity increasing) projects that could not be included in the original 2009 Interim FTIP because we couldn't process a new air quality conformity analysis at the time of the 2009 Interim FTIP adoption.

**8. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program**

Ty Phimmason highlighted the proposed AVA program with MCAG chosen for designations as the service authority. The funding for this program is generated for an additional \$1 dollar added to the vehicle fee that is collected by the state and then distributed quarterly by the state controllers office.

Larry Shankland made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the Final Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Plan and instruct staff to submit the Plan to the State Controller's Office.

Seconded by Mark Hamilton.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. Oral Report – San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study**

Jesse Brown provided a status on the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Express Transit Study that was contracted out to Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates. The current SJV Express Transit Study – Travel Demand Analysis draft document, had identified potential transit express demand in three corridors:

- Three Northern SJV Counties;
- Tulare and Kern Counties; and
- Los Banos and the Bay Area.

The draft is available for review and comment for the next 30 days. Submit any comments to MCAG.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CHAIRMAN RICHARD SCHWARZ AT 11:00 A.M.**