

MEETING SUMMARY

NORTH COUNTY SUBREGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Central Coast Water Agency

Buellton, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Victoria Pointer, Mayor, City of Buellton, Chair Mike Siminski, Mayor, City of Lompoc, Vice-Chair; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Larry Newland for Rich Krumholz, Caltrans, District 5 (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria; Doreen Farr, Supervisor Third District

SBCAG Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director; Steve VanDenburgh, Deputy Director; Gregg Hart, Public Information Officer; Scott Spalding, Transportation Planner

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. MEETING SUMMARY

Following a motion by Councilmember Skytt, seconded by Mayor Siminski, the Meeting Summary of September 2 was approved with an abstention by Mayor Pointer.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following a motion by Supervisor Gray, seconded by Supervisor Centeno, Mayor Pointer and Supervisor Gray were unanimously elected Chair and Vice Chair for 2010.

4. 2010 CENSUS

Michael Powers provided a summary of the census staff report.

Mayor Siminski commented that he had heard a number of good reports and ads on the radio about the upcoming Census.

5. INTERREGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE - VALLEY EXPRESS

Jim Kemp introduced the item and Scott Spaulding summarized the staff report. Sherrie Fisher, MTD General Manager spoke about MTD's plans to go to the City of Solvang and Buellton's City Council meetings to seek [non-financial] support for the Valley Express. Mayor Pointer noted the service was very popular in Buellton and inquired of Ms. Fisher if there were plans to expand advertising to increase ridership. Ms. Fisher indicated she would bring MTD's marketing plan for the service to the SBCAG Board. Councilmember Skytt asked if there was any data available that measured the impact of work furloughs and layoffs on ridership. Ms. Fisher stated only anecdotal evidence that the economy and gas prices were both impacting ridership.

Mayor Siminski asked what will happen to the service after these funds are exhausted in July. Ms. Fisher indicated MTD would be asking for Measure A interregional transit service funds to continue the service. Jim Kemp added that SBCAG staff will be looking at a range of options including maintaining the status quo, reducing service or reintegrating the service back into the Clean Air Express. Supervisor Gray expressed concern that ridership was very low—in December averaging 12 riders per trip, and asked how many seats the buses had. Ms. Fisher responded that there are two different bus sizes but that they averaged about 50 seats per bus. Supervisor Farr expressed support for a more aggressive advertising effort.

Supervisor Centeno moved the staff recommendation seconded by Supervisor Farr. The motion passed with Supervisor Gray voting no.

6. INTERREGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE – CLEAN AIR EXPRESS

Jim Kemp introduced the item and Scott Spaulding summarized the staff report. Mr. Kemp added that there are twelve different transit operators in north county and SBCAG's adopted North County Transit Plan recommends consolidating service providers to increase efficiency. Councilmember Skytt asked about the possibility of a new Clean Air Express reverse commute route that could serve riders who want to travel from the south coast north during the day. Mr. Spaulding explained that option was under consideration now that Measure A funds will soon be available.

Supervisor Gray moved the staff recommendation which was seconded by Mayor Pointer and passed unanimously.

7. HIGHWAY 101 WIDENING UPDATE

Using slides Scott Eades, Project Manager, provided an update of the Highway 101 widening. Supervisor Gray asked for a clarification of "HOV." Mr. Eades replied that a High Occupancy Vehicle lane accommodates buses and cars carrying more than two persons in the peak commuter period.

Supervisor Farr asked if the median will provide sufficient room for breakdowns and Mr. Eades replied affirmatively. She also asked if the missing segments of Calle Real will be completed and Steve Vandenberg replied generally not, the one exception in Carpinteria with Via Real extended with the improvements to Linden/Casitas interchange improvement project. Councilman Skytt asked if funding were available now could the project be delivered and Mr. Eades replied no, the project has to finish environmental and be designed.

Supervisor Gray summarized her meeting with Colonel Buck, VAFB. She stated that VAFB will provide a "Mission Impact" assessment on the criticality of Highway 101 to launches, deployments, etc. She encouraged contacts with Congressman Gallegly to obtain similar input from Pt. Magu. Gregg Hart stated that staff would follow up. Mayor Siminski added that VAFB may be home to new missions and additional growth. Committee members expressed thanks to Supervisor Gray for initiating these contracts.

Mayor Pointer thanked Jim Kemp for providing a draft resolution to support Highway 101 widening as the top regional priority. Gregg Hart stated that it was scheduled for consideration by all the city councils and the County Board of Supervisors.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Jim Kemp reported that Caltrans Director identified the Santa Maria River Bridge as the number one candidate project for surplus CMIA funding.

8. ADJOURN

There being no other business, the committee adjourned.