



MINUTES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Board of Supervisor Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District; Joe Centeno (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Supervisor, Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton; Donna Jordan, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Jonny Wallis, Councilmember, City of Goleta; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees (SBCAG Chair), Mayor, City of Lompoc; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Marty Mariscal, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; Brian Baca, Councilmember, City of Solvang, Dave Murray, Caltrans District 5 Representative, Ex-Officio Member.

Members Absent: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District.

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programming; Kent Epperson, TDM Administrator; Gregg Hart, Public Information/Government Affairs Coordinator; Cathy Muneio, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair DeWees called for the pledge of allegiance.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to closed session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss with legal counsel pending litigation with Pierce, Estrada and Our Children's Earth Foundation and other potential litigation.

4. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

When the Board reconvened in open session at 8:57 a.m., County Counsel, Kevin Ready reported that there was no reportable action taken during closed session.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2005 AND RECEIVE AND FILE BOARD WORKSHOP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2005

Supervisor Centeno moved approval of the minutes for February 17, 2005. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mariscal and carried unanimously.

The Board workshop summary for the meeting held on February 9, 2005 was received by the board but no approval was necessary since no action was taken and there wasn't a quorum of the board.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments made by the public.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Centeno asked to speak to Item 7A and Mayor Blum asked to speak to Item 7B.

A. Clean Air Express Measure D Expenditure Plan Amendment

Supervisor Centeno asked what was included in the internal costs for the Clean Air Express.

Mr. Kemp responded that there were a number of tasks involved in administering the Clean Air Express.

Supervisor Centeno asked if SBCAG hired any new employees when it took over the Clean Air Express.

Mr. Kemp responded that one position was added for the coordination of this service since SBCAG took on a larger role than APCD who had the service prior to SBCAG. Mr. Kemp said the administration costs would need to be paid whether SBCAG or another service contractor performed these duties. Supervisor Centeno expressed concerns about the staffing costs for this program.

B. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment

Mayor Blum stated there were two different dollar amounts stated in the staff report and asked whether the figure should be \$560,000 or \$590,000.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated that \$590,000 was the correct amount.

Mayor Blum made a motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Mayor Alvarez and carried unanimously.

8. FTA SECTION 5310 GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Powers presented the staff report. He explained that SBCAG annually evaluates and scores funding applications that are submitted by local organizations for transit service for the elderly and persons with disabilities. He said that Easy Lift had a high score in the ranking process and staff was requesting that the Board approve the application and that it be forwarded to the state for approval.

Chair DeWees opened the hearing for public comments. There being none he closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Mariscal said that he would have liked a representative from Easy Lift present when they were being recommended to receive \$450,000 in grant funds.

Mr. Kemp said he would let Easy Lift representatives know. He commented that these were dollars that the state awards on a discretionary basis.

Supervisor Rose moved adopt a resolution approving the ranking of applications submitted to SBCAG for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 capital grant program for the fiscal year 2005-2006 funding cycle. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Firestone and carried unanimously.

9. 2005 CMAQ FUNDING CYCLE

Steve VanDenburgh presented the staff report.

Mayor DeWees asked what action was necessary.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that this was a discussion item.

Councilmember Jordan said that this was the second project she had seen that didn't appear to be going through the normal process. She asked how criteria were set for ranking the projects and whether they were discussed by the SBCAG technical advisory committee and analyzed by SBCAG staff prior to recommending these projects.

Mr. VanDenburgh responded that the normal process would include a Call for Projects that would include a scoring process and would be shared with TTAC but since CMAQ funding would no longer be available after FY 2004-05 it was thought that projects that had previously been programmed but not yet delivered should receive the last of the CMAQ funding.

Councilmember Jordan said that she hoped time constraints weren't a problem for the ranking and scoring process.

Mayor Blum asked why the Pershing project wasn't on the list of projects discussed by Mr. VanDenburgh and requested a complete list of projects. Mr. VanDenburgh responded that in April SBCAG staff would return with an FTIP amendment and a complete list of CMAQ projects and their status.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that it was assumed the older projects had programmed their dollars since most of them are ten years and older and have not yet secured funding from federal agencies.

Councilmember Baca asked if the Hwy 246 Bike Lane and Bridge on Alamo Pintado projects were included on the list.

Mr. VanDenburgh responded that they were but that he was not sure whether Solvang city staff had worked out with Caltrans whether those projects were feasible.

10. MEASURE D RENEWAL

Mr. Kemp reported that at the February SBCAG Board meeting the Board approved the hiring of a consultant to begin the Public Information Program for the renewal of Measure D, and at the March 11th Board workshop that was held to discuss the renewal of Measure D the Board approved the sending out an RFP for the hiring of a polling consultant and that he was requesting further direction from the Board to initiate the renewal effort and establish a target election date for the ballot measure.

Mayor DeWees said that staff was asked to prepare an RFP for polling but that he would suggest that staff prepare an RFP for consultant services placing the renewal measure on the ballot. He said that the minimum timeframe needed was 18 months.

Mr. Kemp said that staff was proposing sending out an RFP for a consulting team with expertise in various areas including public opinion polling to assist SBCAG in developing an expenditure plan that has the support of the public. He was requesting that the Board authorize staff to issue an RFP for polling to confirm the support level to see if there is an interest in proceeding with placing the measure on the ballot. He said there would be other consultants lined up to continue the work and that it could be completed by one consulting team.

Supervisor Firestone expressed his concern that there wasn't an overall strategy and said that the measure would have a better chance of success if there was a consultant hired that could develop a plan to pass the measure and then begin to analyze the components. He said that questions need to be answered about whether there would be competing measures on the ballot and what the message is that SBCAG wants to convey. Supervisor Firestone recommended that the Board consider obtaining the service of a campaign strategist to look at the entire field of the campaign and then do the polling to fit the strategy.

Mayor Hicks said he agreed with Supervisor Firestone. He asked if the November 2006 date was reserved would SBCAG be able to change it.

Mr. Kemp said that the deadline for requesting that a ballot measure be on the November 2006 election is July 7, 2006.

Mayor Hicks said that if there were a possible failure that the legislative program should begin 24 months prior to the election. He said the 18 month window for the November 2006 election had already begun.

Councilmember Jordan said she supported the concept but thought that the election date should be separated.

Mr. Kemp said that the primary role of SBCAG is to develop an expenditure plan that would succeed. Supervisor Firestone was discussing political strategies and a campaign that would be needed to pass the measure. He said that once the measure is on the ballot then staff can't advocate for that specific measure although elected officials are free to advocate for the measure. Mr. Kemp said the contract would focus on the expenditure plan.

Supervisor Rose said she agreed with Supervisor Firestone and that her concern was what other measures were going to be placed on the ballot. She said that she was unable to attend the March 11th Board workshop and was curious why Ventura's ballot measure had failed.

Mr. Kemp said that Keith Millhouse, a Board member of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, was a panel member at the March 11th Board workshop and said that there were a number of reasons the measure did not pass. One is that Ventura County is a very conservative area and there were some bumps in the road during the campaign. One of the big issues was a competing sales tax measure that was on the ballot for open space. Mr. Kemp said that when there are competing tax measures on the ballot the public generally is reluctant to pass either measure. Mr. Kemp said another issue was that the Measure B campaign wasn't able to raise enough money.

Supervisor Rose asked if they had done polling in advance.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that the one poll they did was in the low 60 percentile range.

Mayor Alvarez asked how polling was done.

Mr. Kemp said it is done in various ways but typically by phone. He said another way was through focus groups because it sometimes is difficult to get people to answer their phones.

Mr. Ready said that there was a difference between a legislative strategy and political strategy and that Supervisor Firestone was talking about a legislative strategy that feeds into the political strategy. He said the first part of the legislative strategy was to get a poll done in order to get an idea on how to put together the strategy. He suggested that the Board approve Supervisor Firestone's request but said there was a need to differentiate between the legislative strategy and political strategy.

Supervisor Firestone stated that his remarks were being misinterpreted. He said a strategy is needed prior to taking a poll and a more conceptual idea be developed on what information should be asked in the poll. He suggested finding the strategist and then developing the poll from a more conceptual approach.

Councilmember Wallis said she thought hearing the successes and failures of measures at the workshop and knowing the target numbers they needed in advance was helpful. She said starting 18 months prior to election was the bare minimum timeframe and said SBCAG should be very organized for November 2006. Councilmember Wallis said she also agreed with Supervisor Firestone. She said it was SBCAG's job was to develop an expenditure plan that would list all of the major projects. She said that it was critical that each jurisdiction become educated.

Mr. Kemp stated that the Board has already acted on a contract for the Public Information Program. He said that the Board needs to establish a target date of November 2006 and provide direction to staff to proceed with the RFP to establish a strategic consultant for polling. Mr. Kemp said he agreed with Supervisor Firestone. He said that every consulting team that other counties hired helped to design the survey instrument that generated the results that were useful to the success of the measure.

Supervisor Firestone said they have over a year before there is a need to determine the date for the election.

Mr. Kemp stated a target election date needs to be determined a long time prior to July 2006 since the expenditure plan will have to be prepared and approved by SBCAG, all city councils and the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Firestone asked if any contract had been let.

Mr. Kemp responded there wasn't one for the renewal effort but there was a contract for the Public Information Program to inform the public about the existing Measure D program.

Supervisor Firestone said that the strategist will help determine what the election date should be.

Supervisor Firestone made a motion to authorize staff to issue an RFP to obtain consultant services to establish a strategy for a legislative program for renewal of Measure D. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wallis.

Mayor Hicks, Councilman Mariscal, and Mayor DeWees emphasized the need to select a target date. Kevin Ready recommended the addition of a proposed election date of November 2006 to the motion. The amendment was accepted by Supervisor Firestone and Councilman Wallis and the revised motion carried unanimously.

11. FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT

Mr. VanDenburgh presented the staff report. He said that normally this would be a consent agenda item but a change had been made as to the Board's responsibility related to 5307 transit funds. He said that 5307 funds are funds that are used for transit operating assistance in urbanized areas and are based on population and population density. The new Santa Maria urbanized area now includes the area of Nipomo located in San Luis Obispo County.

Councilmember Mariscal said that a series of meetings were held between SBCAG and SLOCOG and Santa Maria staff to discuss additional service between Nipomo and Santa Maria. He said that a request was being made to change the number of round trips daily from Santa Maria to Nipomo from seven to nine and to add four stops in Santa Maria and one in Nipomo. Councilmember Mariscal said that Joe Rye, Transit Manager with the city of Santa Maria, was available to answer any questions.

Councilmember Mariscal moved to adopt a resolution approving an amendment to the 2005 Federal Transportation Improvement Program to program Federal Transit Administration 5307 funds to increase the Route 10 service between Nipomo and Santa Maria operated by the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority. The motion was seconded by Mayor Alvarez and carried unanimously.

12. IMPENDING SERVICE REDUCTIONS BY GREYHOUND

Mr. Powers explained that Greyhound was streamlining its service and would no longer be offering service to Carpinteria, Buellton, Lompoc, Orcutt, and Vandenberg Air Force Base. He said that there were two options he was requesting that the board consider. One was to write a letter to Greyhound expressing concerns about the loss of service and asking for documentation on the basis of their decisions and request a re-evaluation of their decision. He said the second option would be to use this service reduction to re-open the issue of the limitation on the use of existing Amtrak bus-rail service to non-rail passengers.

Councilmember Wallis said she would support writing a letter expressing concern but said she did not feel enough information was available to act any further at this time.

Councilmember Wallis moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Greyhound Chair expressing SBCAG's concerns about the loss of service and asking for documentation on the basis of their decisions and request a re-evaluation of their decision. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Centeno and carried unanimously.

13. FY 2005-06 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

Jim Kemp presented the staff report. Mr. Kemp noted that carrying out the Measure D Public Information Program, the Measure D renewal work, and the 101 In Motion process were the major items of importance in the FY 2005-06 Overall Work Program.

Mayor DeWees stated he was disappointed to not see a Work Element regarding State Route 246/Central Ave extension included in the FY 2005-06 Overall Work Program. He said there needs to be a safe and dependable route to Lompoc. Mayor DeWees stated funding needs to

be identified for the study and SBCAG should be the manager of this study and that the city of Lompoc would provide funding if necessary to get it done.

Mr. Kemp stated that last year's Overall Work Program included the evaluation of Hwy 246 and that this year's program was to complete the travel model and would not include a full corridor study on Hwy 246. Mr. Kemp said he would talk to Lompoc staff and see if something else could be deferred in the Overall Work Program to allow the 246 project development work to continue.

Councilmember Mariscal said he thought that the North County Subregional Planning Committee was adamant about participating in the North County Transit Plan and one of their tasks was to develop a coordinating committee to assist with the preparation.

Mr. Kemp said that they intended to have a technical coordinating committee from the project that would include agency representatives.

Mayor Hicks suggested meeting with Caltrans to see what their plans are in regards to Hwy 246 to make sure there wasn't an overlap of work.

Larry Bean, Public Works Direction with the City of Lompoc, said that Caltrans had completed a PSR for Hwy 246 widening between Buellton and Purisima Road because there was a controversy on how they would be handling the connection to Lompoc, via. Central or SR246. He said the Caltrans work on SR246 would not overlap with this other study.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Powers noted that there was a LOSSAN written report in the board packet.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Kemp asked the Board to reserve the four dates that APCD would not be meeting in the afternoon to hold an all day meeting if necessary. He stated that the hearing room was not available for the afternoon of September 15th and he would look into reserving another room for that date. Supervisor Rose suggested checking on reserving the Planning Commission hearing room and Mayor Blum suggested contacting the city of Santa Barbara to reserve the council chambers.

Mr. Kemp said that the Executive Committee would be meeting on April 8th at 11:00 a.m. in Santa Barbara with four of the five members. He said that at the April 8th meeting they would try to schedule a regular Executive Committee meeting date.

Mr. Kemp reported on the recent action on the reauthorization of TEA 21. He said that congress was trying to pass a new bill and it appeared that some of the issues were converging. Mr. Kemp said the TEA LU bill was passed by the house the previous week on a floor vote of 417-29 that would allow a 42% increase for both highways and transit. He said that there were high priority projects for Santa Barbara County identified in that bill. Mr. Kemp said that this bill was on schedule toward passage within the next couple of months.

Mr. Kemp said that the Intercommunity Transit Service project that would be serving Lompoc, Santa Maria and Vandenberg Air Force Base was expected to begin service on May 2nd.

Councilmember Mariscal said the contract was awarded last Tuesday.

Mr. Ready reminded the board to complete the Form 700 disclosures and to add any business interests or real property within the SBCAG jurisdiction even if the local jurisdiction doesn't require it.

Supervisor Centeno asked how SLO was able to earmark substantial funding for Hwy 46 in SLO. Mr. Kemp responded that earmark funding levels are usually related to a member's ranking. Councilmember Jordan asked Mr. Kemp to identify what projects had been included in the one million dollar earmark for 101. Mr. Kemp said they included funding to implement an early action congestion relief project on the Hwy 101 that included a Freeway Service Patrol element and an Intelligent Transportation System to manage traffic.

CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dave Murray, Branch Chief for Regional Planning presented the District Director's report. He updated the board that the Hwy 1 was now open to one way traffic. He also reported that the Summerland - Evans Avenue to Sheffield Drive was revised to begin in spring 2005.

Supervisor Rose thanked Caltrans for the quick work that was completed on Hwy 154 due to storm damage and the support they gave the County on repairing Old San Marcos Road. She said she understood that Old San Marcos Road would be opened in the next several weeks. She said the timing was incredible and that the community was very satisfied.

Supervisor Centeno expressed concern about needs not being met in New Cuyama. He also said he was worried about the left turn signals being made on Hwy 166 since there is a high school located there. He said he would appreciate anything Caltrans could do.

Councilmember Jordan asked if there was any news on the two bridges on Hwy 150 in Carpinteria. Mr. Murray responded that they had secured the permit necessary and were anticipating advertising for bids this week.

Supervisor Firestone said that Caltrans is considering placing a roundabout on Hwy 154 at Baseline and Edison and that this was an innovative idea.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.