

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
Board of Directors**

**Thursday, March 15, 2007**

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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Wallis called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Members Present:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Supervisor, Third District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria; Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton; Jim Richardson, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Jonny Wallis (SBCAG Chair), Councilmember, City of Goleta; Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

**Members Absent:** Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District.

**Staff Present:** Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Gregg Hart, Public Information/Government Affairs Coordinator; Fred Luna, Transportation Engineer; Bill Yim, Transportation Planner, Cathy Muneio, Board Clerk; Kevin Ready, Deputy County Counsel.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Wallis called for the pledge of allegiance.

**3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Approval of minutes from February 15, 2007 Board of Director's meeting.*

Moved to approve: Lavagnino; Second: Blum. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. FY 2006-07 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT**

*Adopt by resolution amendments to the OWP adding funding received from the Federal Transit Administration and Caltrans grants and shifted funding among work elements.*

**B. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT**

*Authorize the Chair to execute a contract with O'Melia Consulting for \$77,860 to prepare the Triennial TDA Performance Audits.*

**C. FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL**

1. *Receive a report on the first year of Freeway Service Patrol operation.*
2. *Authorize Chair to amend the existing contract with Bob Holzer Automotive, Inc. to extend the Freeway Service Patrol services for an additional two-year term for an amount not to exceed \$457,004.*

**D. COLD SPRING ARCH BRIDGE CRISIS HELPLINE CALL BOXES**

1. *Authorize the Executive Director to sign a purchase order for two new call boxes and associated signage on SR 154 at each end of the Cold Spring Arch Bridge.*
2. *Authorize the Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara for the implementation and operation of two crisis helpline call boxes.*

Moved to approve Items 6A-D: Motion: Carbajal; Second: Alvarez. Motion carried unanimously

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

Chair Wallis deferred Item 8 until Mr. Bailon could be present.

**9. ORCUTT AQUACENTER PROJECT**

*Adopt findings that determine the Orcutt Aquacenter Project is inconsistent with the Airport Land Use Plan and propose conditions to mitigate project impacts.*

David Swenk (Urban Planning Concepts), Steve Rodriguez (County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development), Mertie Walker, Tami Rabska (former President of Orcutt Aquacenter), Alice McCurdy (County Planning and Development), Gene Peterson (Orcutt Aquacenter Treasurer) and Laurie Tamura (Aquacenter Board Member) spoke in support of making a finding that the Orcutt Aquacenter Project was consistent with the Airport Land Use Plan.

Aileen Loe, Deputy Caltrans Director District 5 stated that Caltrans supported staff's recommendation.

Motion to adopt findings to determine that the Orcutt Aquacenter Projects' intensive recreation use of the site was consistent with the land use compatibility criteria in the Airport Land Use Plan for Santa Barbara County. Motion: Lavagnino; Second: Alvarez. Motion carried with Mayor Blum and Councilmember Wallis opposed.

**8. FEDERAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

*Receive report from Adolfo Bailon, District Representative for Senator Barbara Boxer on federal budget appropriations and transportation project earmarking process.*

Mr. Bailon indicated that Senator Boxer wants to assist in obtaining federal appropriations for infrastructure needs in Santa Barbara County. Board members discussed funding for widening Hwy 246 in support of the proposed California Space Center Project, the high costs of project development and the transportation appropriation earmark requests that have been approved by the SBCAG board.

Chair Wallis requested a break at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

**10. PROPOSITION 1B CORRIDOR MOBILITY IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS**

*Receive report on CMIA funding approved by the California Transportation Commission for projects nominated by SBCAG.*

Staff reported that the application for Proposition 1B bond funding for the widening of 101 from Mussel Shoals to Carpinteria Creek was approved by the CTC using \$131.5 million in Corridor Mobility Improvement Account funds and \$19.9 million in Caltrans' share of STIP Augmentation funds. The application for \$58 million for the Santa Maria River Bridge project was not approved.

Councilmember Armendariz stated that the approved funding will help move the 101 widening project forward, but expressed concern that an incorrect perception may be created that the widening is now fully funded and that funding from renewal of Measure D is not needed to complete the project. He suggested that a letter be prepared for the chair's signature to clarify the funding situation for the 101 project.

Staff also suggested that a joint letter with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments be sent to the CTC indicating that work on the Santa Maria River Bridge project will continue with other sources, but that the project should be considered a high priority for CMIA funding if any of the approved projects are deleted due to delivery problems.

Greg Grandrud, Fix 101.org, stated his appreciation for obtaining this funding and expressed his support for the Santa Maria River Bridge widening project.

The report was received by the board.

**11. 2006 STIP AUGMENTATION**

*Adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program including projects funded through funds made available through the 2006 STIP Augmentation.*

Staff amended the written report to the Board to include reprogramming construction funds for the Ekwil-Fowler project to FY 09/10 as part of the RTIP adoption.

Motion: Richardson; Second: Carbajal. Motion carried unanimously.

**12. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING WORKSHOP MEETING**

*Provide direction to staff regarding scheduling a special board workshop meeting to discuss and take public input on potential strategy and timeline for placing renewal of Measure D on the November 2008 general election ballot.*

Dennis Story spoke in favor of funding for commuter rail.

Following a board discussion, Chair Wallis stated that the consensus of the board is to hold an afternoon board workshop session after the regular board meeting on April 19. The location of the meeting will be shifted to Santa Maria to facilitate participation by stakeholders in the North County.

**13. OVERALL WORK PROGRAM**

*Review and comment on draft FY 2007-2008 Overall Work Program.*

No action was taken.

**14. BREEZE REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM STATUS**

*Receive presentation from City of Santa Maria staff regarding status of the Breeze intercommunity transit service pilot program.*

Michael Seden-Hansen reported that the Breeze three year pilot program is operating successfully with higher ridership and fare box ratios than projected.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Report by Mayor Alvarez on February 23 Coast Rail Coordinating Council Meeting.*

Mayor Alvarez said that CRCC was advocating Caltrans and Business, Transportation and Housing Agency for a \$20 – 30 million placeholder for new service and that the CTC meeting for April would be held in San Luis Obispo.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kemp reported that staff is attempting to schedule a meeting of an appointed SBCAG subcommittee comprised of members Wallis, Hicks, DeWees and Firestone with the Chumash Tribal Business Committee to conduct federally required consultation. No date has been set.

Mr. Kemp said that staff has been meeting with the staff of the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc as well as the County of Santa Barbara staff to reach agreement on transitioning operation and management of the Clean Air Express from SBCAG to those agencies as directed by the board. The service is very successful but does require ongoing operating subsidies. He noted the biggest challenge identified was how to deal with the capital costs of replacing buses.

## **CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S**

Supervisor Centeno requested that the Highway 166 (East) Cuyama project be placed in the monthly Caltrans District Director's report.

Councilmember Richardson expressed appreciation for Gregg Hart's presentation on SBCAG to the Solvang City Council and suggested that the other city councils request a similar presentation.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.