

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
Held on Thursday, January 18, 2007  
at the  
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, CA**

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**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth 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:** None.

**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; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner; Cathy Muneio, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Wallis called for the pledge of allegiance.

**2. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

The board recessed to a closed session at 8:35 a.m. to hold a discussion with the SBCAG bargaining representative regarding a confidential personnel matter.

**3. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

Board reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

Counsel Ready reported in closed session that the board approved the claim of Michael Powers for back payment of unpaid COLAs in an approximate amount of \$30,759 plus employer required taxes and benefits with the provisions that amount earned and benefits paid shall be deemed to have been earned and shall be paid for the years the COLAs were approved by the Board. Michael Powers' current salary was confirmed as

Deputy Director Salary Range 675, Step E, and shall be paid as such henceforth, with any future COLAs to apply.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 21, 2006**

Marc Chytilo requested that a change be made to Page 2, where it said "Mr. Ready indicated Mr. Chytilo states that the statute is incorrect and that the state did not define the definition but left it up to the individual jurisdictions since different areas have different needs." should read "Mr. Ready indicated Mr. Chytilo disagrees with the way the statute is being interpreted and that the state did not define the definition but left it up to the individual transportation planning agencies." Mr. Ready concurred with this correction.

Approval of amended minutes: Motion: Firestone, Second: Blum; Motion Approved.  
Abstain: Lavagnino, Gray, Wolf

Supervisor Gray suggested that consideration be given to preparing more abbreviated board meeting minutes in the future.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS EARMARKS FOR FY 2007-08**

Authorize staff to submit FY 07/08 federal appropriations earmark funding requests to the region's congressional delegation for the South Coast ITS improvements project, Highway 101 Santa Maria River Bridge six-lane widening, Highway 101 Carpinteria Creek bridge reconstruction, and Highway 166 (East) safety improvements.

**B. FTA SECTION 5311 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS**

Approve the Program of Projects for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-Urbanized Area Transit funds (Section 5311) in Santa Barbara County for FY 2006-2007.

**C. FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Approve amendment No. 4 to delete the Santa Maria River Bridge \$2.7 million federal earmark for design from the 2007 FTIP for programming into the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' 2007 FTIP (the bridge is located in San Luis Obispo County).

Motion: Carbajal, Second: DeWees; A, B, and C (Resolution Number 07-01) approved unanimously.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Demery, Santa Barbara County Public Works Director, provided input on the status of the farmworker vanpool program and a state grant being pursued by the County and

the City of Santa Maria for farmworker transportation funding with an application deadline of February 1.

Laurie Tamura acknowledged that the Orcutt Aquacenter project would be coming back to the SBCAG board after being presented to the County Planning Commission and expressed concerns about the review process.

Marc Chytilo requested that the application for the farmworker transportation funds be submitted by the February deadline.

Dave Pierce from Lompoc spoke in favor of instituting a farmworker vanpool program quickly.

Board members discussed preparing a study on various funding options available to SBCAG and Mr. Kemp suggested this take place in a board workshop setting.

### **EX AGENDA ITEM**

Following board discussion a motion was made to add an ex-agenda item to the agenda to consider taking action regarding the state farmworker transportation grant program that was necessary prior to the next SBCAG board meeting.

Motion: Carbajal, Second: Blum; Motion unanimously approved.

Mayor DeWees left at 9:45 a.m.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **8. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS**

Mr. Khachek presented the staff report and introduced Mr. Whitt who would be translating for the Spanish speakers.

Jim Talbott, Director of SMOOTH and Chair for SBCTAC summarized a letter from SBCTAC stating support for agencies applying for a farmworker transportation planning grant.

Jesus Estrada expressed concern with lack of action on the farmworker transportation program and requested translation of English to Spanish.

Vibiana Saavedra stated farmworker transportation should be a top priority and a grant to the state for funding should be submitted. She also requested that the interregional services in the North County Transit Plan be continued with the Breeze, the Clean Air Express expanded and weekend services implemented, earlier service implemented on the Guadalupe Flyer in order to make connections with other services, and transit services for smaller communities.

Elia Toledo with Pueblo spoke in support of transportation for farmworkers.

Anna Rizo with PUEBLO spoke in favor of farmworker transportation, requested Breeze service be extended to Buellton and Solvang, and Spanish translation be made available at all meetings.

Natalia Bautista with PUEBLO questioned why implementing a farmworker transportation program was taking so long and requested English/Spanish translation for the entire meeting.

Marc Chytilo acknowledged SBCAG's work to date and requested that the board allow additional time during the hearing for those needing Spanish translation and requested an additional public hearing. He requested that the specific needs listed in the North County Transit Plan be funded out of this TDA cycle.

Jose Castellanos with MAPA requested action be taken on transportation for farmworkers and asked that SBCAG support the families of the troops serving overseas.

Gabriel Valencia with MAPA spoke in favor of transportation for farmworkers, said he was against raising taxes on gasoline and stated that farmworkers should pay their share for transportation.

Barry Stotts, a member of the transit advisory committee, said he supported transportation for farmworkers and requested weekend service from Vandenberg Air Force Base to Santa Maria on the Breeze service and requested bus stops on Blosser Road, Donovan Road, Taylor Road and SR 166.

Deborah Brasket with SBCAN requested action be taken for farmworker transportation, that the Breeze service be extended to Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos, that the Breeze service add weekend service between Santa Maria and Lompoc, expand SMAT service to have more frequent stops, and add crosswalks.

Dave Pierce from Lompoc spoke in support of the North County Transit Plan and expressed urgency for a farmworkers vanpool program.

Alex Pujo, Secretary of COAST, using slides stated that there was growth in transit ridership and said TDA funds should be used for transit in addition to request additional service hours.

Kenneth Wolf, a resident of Orcutt requested that the Breeze service be expanded, that there be more Park and Ride lots, that transit operators have survey cards on buses, and that drivers be interviewed.

Doreen Farr, representing the Santa Ynez Valley requested pursuing funds to implement transit for farmworkers and increased linkages with the rest of the county.

Bernadino Fernandez said she supported statements made by Jesus Estrada.

Mary Jacka spoke in support of farmworker transportation due to the unsafe vehicles they are forced to drive currently. She also said she would like to look at the program that King County is providing to their farmworkers.

The public hearing closed at 11:12 a.m.

Following the public hearing, Supervisor Centeno spoke in support of transit service to the Cuyama and Sisquoc areas.

Supervisor Gray asked if it would be possible to implement evening services on the SMAT and SMOOTH services and asked staff to find out what that cost might be.

Chair Wallis closed the hearing and called for a five minute break.

Mayor Lavagnino left at 11:45 a.m.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **EX-AGENDA**

##### **ITEM 1**

Direct staff to work with the County of Santa Barbara and City of Santa Maria to move forward aggressively to implement a pilot program with the \$150,000 in TDA funding available, to support the City of Santa Maria in obtaining a \$70,000 planning grant, and to insure that funding opportunities for implementation of this program are not lost.

Motion: Carbajal, Second: Alvarez; Motion carried unanimously  
Absent: DeWees, Lavagnino

#### **9. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Appoint Councilmember Hicks as delegate and Councilmember Richardson as alternate to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG).

Motion: Firestone, Second: Wolf; Motion carried unanimously.  
Absent: DeWees, Lavagnino

- B. Appoint Mayor Alvarez as delegate and Supervisor Gray as alternate to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and appoint Supervisor Carbajal as delegate and Mayor Blum as the alternate to the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN).

Motion: Firestone, Second: Wolf; Motion carried unanimously.  
Absent: DeWees, Lavagnino

- C. Appoint Supervisor Carbajal and Supervisor Wolf to serve as SBCAG representatives on the Coastal Express Policy Steering Committee.

Motion: Hicks, Second: Firestone; Motion carried unanimously.  
Absent: DeWees, Lavagnino

- D. Chair Wallis moved to appoint Supervisor Carbajal, Supervisor Gray, Councilmember Hicks and herself to the SBCAG executive committee.

Motion: Firestone, Second: Richardson; Motion carried unanimously.  
Absent: DeWees, Lavagnino

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **10. HIGHWAY 101 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Review funded projects in Santa Barbara County under construction or development to widen or improve Highway 101 and receive a focused update from Caltrans on the STIP-funded Linden Avenue-Casitas Pass Road Interchange Project in Carpinteria.

Mr. Kemp asked that this item be postponed to the February meeting due to lack of time.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Powers reported on the LOSSAN Board Meeting and noted they had discussed the rail capacity modeling results.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (10 minutes)**

Mr. Kemp reported that two applications had been submitted for Proposition 1B funding and reported on the status of the FY 07/08 state budget proposal released by the Governor in early January.

### **CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (10 minutes)**

Aileen Loe stated there was a written report in the packet and noted that four of the six projects identified are nearing completion.

Mayor Alvarez stated the Hwy 166 task force had met and unanimously approved installing daylight headlight zone signs between Santa Maria and Guadalupe.

Supervisor Carbajal urged Caltrans to sit down with the fire and public works department to coordinate road closures during fire and flooding periods. He also asked that Caltrans inform them the status of the CTC funding that was broken into tiers and held up two years ago for the Summerland circulation and parking project. He asked the date of its release to the local jurisdictions. Aileen Loe said she would look into that.

Supervisor Centeno asked if Caltrans had reviewed the Diamond Rock and said his concern was truck traffic on Hwy 166 and Hwy 33.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **ADJOURN**

Chair Wallis adjourned the meeting at 12:33pm.