

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

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**8:30 AM**

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Firestone called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

**Members Present:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Chair) Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Bob Orach, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Michael Bennett, Mayor, City of Goleta, Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton

**Staff Present:** Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Terry Contreras, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel, Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative, Pat Mickelson, Caltrans District 5 Representative

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

*Pending Litigation: Santa Barbara County Coalition Against Automobile Subsidies v. SBCAG*

*Pending Litigation: Sustainable Transportation Advocates of Santa Barbara v. SBCAG*

4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Senior Deputy County Counsel Kevin Ready stated the items had been discussed and that no reportable action had been taken.



7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

8. MEASURE A

*Receive a report on Measure A election results.*

Board received report of Measure A election results.

Board instructed staff to complete the following three tasks.

1. Draft a letter to publicize in the local papers thanking the public for their support of Measure A. Within that letter address the public letting them know the approved plan will be adhered to.
2. Write a resolution thanking all citizens involved with the development of the Measure A expenditure plan to be presented at a future SBCAG meeting.
3. Provide a schedule of items to be accomplished and include an outline of the development of the oversight committees to the SBCAG Board early next year.

9. SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HOUSING ELEMENT FOCUSED REZONE PROGRAM, ORCUTT, AMENDED REPORT

*Adopt amended recommended findings of consistency of proposed rezoning with Airport Land Use Plan, subject to conditions.*

Motion to adopt findings subject to conditions of approval

Motion: Gray

Second: Carbajal

Motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Michael Powers reported on the LOSSAN meeting held on November 12, 2008 in Los Angeles. Supervisor Carbajal served as the SBCAG representative. His executive assistant, Jeremy Tittle and Rob Dayton, with the City of Santa Barbara also attended.

Pat Merrill, State Division of Rail spoke on three items at the LOSSAN meeting.

1. The passage of the High Speed Rail Bond. California Transportation Commission (CTC) will prepare guidelines for distributing some of this funding to intercity Rail corridors. Approximately \$200 million will go to intercity rail, \$47.5 million will go to LOSSAN and another \$47.5 million will be split between the 3 major intercity rail

corridors. The LOSSAN board directed staff to monitor and comment on the draft guidelines prepared by the CTC.

2. The state is also preparing a RFP for release of technical data to develop new rail cars.
3. Also provided contact language with Amtrak to purchase rehabilitated railcars to address the overcrowding issues, particularly in the LOSSAN corridor.

The LOSSAN board also approved the transfer of rail funds between projects within San Diego County.

LOSSAN staff directed to monitor economic stimulus projects related to infrastructure for potential rail project submittals.

Metrolink representatives indicated implementation of Positive Train Control, required by Congress, in response to the recent Northridge train accident by 2012.

Orange County Transportation Authority staff also indicated they were increasing Metrolink service frequency, conducting on board surveys of riders and telephone surveys of non-riders, and implementing grade crossing and station improvements. Supervisor Carbajal stressed that these improvements must be seen in the context of the LOSSAN corridor so regionwide rail services are not degraded.

Jim Kemp reported on the VCTC board workshop that took place on November 12, 2008. This workshop was held to inform the commissioners on the VISTA services that operate between Ventura and Santa Barbara County and also the Dial a Ride services that are operated by VCTC in Ventura County. The board agreed that VISTA needs to consolidate the different services and have more oversight by the VCTC commissioners.

SBCAG needs to maintain ongoing communication with VCTC with regards to the Coastal Express. Since SBCAG shares 50% of the cost of operating the Coastal Express with VCTC and decisions made affect our riders. The Coastal Express is the largest ridership among any of the six VISTA systems. Mr. Kemp also stated he urged the VCTC board to move quickly on an approved fare increase.

## 11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kemp announced that Chair Firestone had requested that the December 2008 board meeting be cancelled.

The Unmet Transit Needs hearing will be scheduled for January 15, 2009. That board meeting will be held in Santa Maria.

State legislature is meeting in a special session to deal with some of the budget shortfall issues that have worsened since the budget was passed in September. The gap has grown to almost \$11 billion so the legislature and the governor are dealing with how to close the shortfall in the 2008-09 Fiscal Year. A shortfall of the same magnitude if not larger is also expected in the 2009-10 Fiscal year. The governor has put forward his proposal to close the shortfall which includes a combination of both spending cuts and revenue enhancements. The governor has proposed a temporary three year increase in state sales tax by 1 ½%. He has also proposed that this sales tax be applied to certain services. In terms of spending cuts in the transportation area, one concern for transit operators is to reduce state transit assistance funding by approximately 75%. SBCAG had received an estimate from the state controller's office that transit operators in Santa

Barbara County would be expecting \$2.2 million dollars during the 08-09 FY. With the 75% cut that is reduced to \$600 hundred thousand dollars. It is unclear what the final 2008-09 FY budget will be but there will be some cuts and transportation will have to be included in those cuts.

## 12. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Director, reported that the Board received in their packet a copy of the Caltrans monthly report with information about ongoing and upcoming construction projects.

Mr. Krumholz, addressed a concern brought up by Supervisor Wolf regarding the 101/154 South interchange. He met with Supervisor Wolf and his traffic engineer and as a result Caltrans will remove some vegetation that is blocking the road signs along the right shoulder and refresh some of the pavement markings.

He also expressed disappointment that the ribbon cutting ceremony and opening for the Santa Maria six-lane project has not happened yet. There is still some minor work that remains but he anticipates finishing in mid December with the ribbon cutting ceremony in January.

Construction bids for the Highway 192 Mission Canyon safety project opened up November 14<sup>th</sup>, a low bid has come in at 33% below the engineers estimate. Statewide bids overall seem to be coming in at 21% under the engineers estimate and they have been averaging about 8 bids per contract.

The Cuyama Valley Curve realignment on highway 166 in San Luis Obispo County was completed this past summer. A left turn pocket at Sway Creek was also completed. Both were good safety improvement projects.

With the anticipation of the winter rains Caltrans staff is working to minimize the amount of damage that may be caused on Highway 101 and 192 because of runoff into the Sycamore Creek.

There has been some congestion related to the Milpas project along the old highway; therefore, Caltrans is monitoring and adjusting the traffic controls.

Caltrans is expecting economic stimulation both at the state and federal levels. They have been putting together projects eligible for construction in 2009 in anticipation of receiving these funds. For example, Senator Reed put together a stimulus bill that totals about \$13.6 billion. \$10 billion was for highways but a lot of funding is allocated to transit. The Bill will probably not be acted on until next year.

Supervisor Centeno thanked Caltrans for all the work they have been doing in the North County, particularly Cuyama.

Supervisor Gray addressed the Union Valley Parkway project and the start date of 2011. Asked if there was any possibility that the project could be moved ahead with the possibility of just getting the on and off ramps done.

## 13. COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Carbjal would like to agendaize a discussion item at a future meeting, the addition of a strategic planning role to the SBCAG board.

Jim Kemp reported that since the December 2008 meeting was cancelled and Mayor Alvarez, the Vice Chair would be acting chair at the January 2009 SBCAG board meeting. The election of the Chair and Vice-chair would take place at the January meeting.

Councilmember Skytt complimented the Wine Country Express being run by COLT in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Supervisor Centeno thanked Chair Firestone for serving as the Chair and expressed his appreciation serving with him on the SBCAG board. All members of the Board and staff gave Chair Firestone a hearty round of applause.

Chair Firestone thanked the board for having him serve as the chair for 2008.

14. ADJOURN

The Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2008, was cancelled. The next Board meeting will be held on January 15, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Maria.