

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

Thursday, September 18, 2008

8:30 AM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Firestone called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Chair) Supervisor, Third District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Iya Falcone, Councilmember, 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;

Members Absent: Joni Gray, Fourth District Supervisor and Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton

Staff Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Aubrey Spilde, Transportation Planner, 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

Potential Litigation

SBCAG and others have expressed their concerns and have stated that the corridor wide impacts of these new service options must be examined.

The board also received a report on the overcrowding of existing trains and the efforts by the Division of Rail to rehabilitate older cars to supplement service. The issue of holding up the purchase of 27 new rail cars has been resolved and the Division of Rail is now preparing the final bid documents for release by 2009.

The LOSSAN board considered California Consensus Principles addressing the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and unanimously voted in favor of sending a letter of support to Caltrans indicating that while they like the Principles they do not express the need for rail service improvements in a time of need.

The board encouraged Caltrans to include a LOSSAN project in applying for federal rail capital funds.

LOSSAN unanimously voted to support Prop 1A. (High Speed Rail Bond)

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Kemp, Executive Director, reported that State legislature had passed a State budget with a two thirds vote and it is now on the Governor's desk. The Governor has vowed that he will veto the proposed budget and in turn, the legislature vowed they will vote to override the Governor's veto. Nearly three months into the fiscal year there still is no State budget. The budget did include transportation funding provisions; it reduces to some degree the funding for transit through the public transit account by approximately 200 million dollars. This was done in an attempt to bridge the 15 billion dollar deficit that exists in the 2008-09 fiscal year budget. The proposed budget does not reduce the Prop 42 funding, that money will remain intact as fully funded.

Mr. Kemp reported on progress of the Union Valley Parkway project. This is a two part project, one being the extension of the Union Valley Parkway in Orcutt and the connection of Union Valley Parkway to highway 101 with a new interchange. The interchange project is a Measure A project with 10 million dollars allocated to the project. There was a public meeting on the EIR for the Union Valley Parkway project and the public comment period has closed and the City of Santa Maria expects to certify the EIR in February.

The draft EIR for the Linden/Casitas Pass interchange improvement project in Carpinteria is almost complete. Caltrans expects to release the draft EIR as early as November. There will be a public comment period along with public meetings during the review period.

The 101 High Occupancy Vehicle lane project between Mussel Shoals and Carpinteria Creek had a public workshop on Wednesday, September 10th. It was well attended by residents of the Carpinteria and the La Conchita area. The draft EIR public comment period ends next week and Caltrans will complete the EIR on the project.

Councilmember Falcone reported on behalf of the League of California Cities that the league has been working closely in the State Capital to protect the revenues that come

to local governments. In the currently proposed budget, there was no Prop 1A borrowing, no Prop 42 borrowing and there was an additional allocation of Prop 1B money.

Chair Firestone asked Jim Kemp to outline the format of the October 16, 2008 SBCAG board agenda item on the Cold Springs Bridge project. Mr. Kemp stated that the item will be listed on the agenda as a public hearing. The Chair has indicated, that with the concurrence of the board, the Friends of the Bridge representing project opponents will be granted 10 minutes to make a presentation. An organization representing the proponents will also be granted 10 minutes for a presentation. Sheriff Brown would also like to discuss this item and make a report to the board as well. Other members of the public who wish to comment would receive the standard 3 minutes.

12. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative, 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, stated his main focus on the budget is keeping the projects under construction going. Caltrans will be able to continue to pay the contractors through October.

The changeable message signs at highway 101 and highway 154 north and south are nearing completion.

Median barrier on highway 101 just past Gaviota is nearing completion; the asphalt concrete overlay projects on Hwy 246 and on the 101 near Buellton are nearing completion.

Over the next several months, there will be quite a bit of median barrier construction between Gaviota and Santa Maria. This is a safety program to eliminate the head on accidents.

The Santa Maria six lane paving is almost 90% complete. There is a ribbon cutting event tentatively scheduled for October 28th. Work on the landscaping will continue for 6 months after October.

Milpas to Hot Springs project construction has picked up, there have been retaining walls installed, false work is being done especially in the Sycamore Creek. Caltrans needs to be out of the creek by the end of October. The false work will span the creek bed and Caltrans will be out of the creek bed before the rainy season. The southbound Milpas on ramp will remain open and that will help with local circulation. People are being kept informed on the progress of the project. Two lanes remain open in both directions but it is tight so the public needs to be careful when driving through that area.

Councilmember Falcone asked Caltrans to look into the freeway on ramp at Carrillo. Due to the installation of the concrete barriers, the on ramp is very short.

13. COMMUNICATIONS

14. ADJOURN

Supervisor Carbajal requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Manuel, the brother of Ms Griselda, an employee in the Human Resources department, who lost his life in the Metrolink train accident. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara.