



# Kings County Association of Governments

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Member Agencies: Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, County of Kings  
Chair – Ed Martin ❖ Vice Chair – Joe Neves

## MINUTES

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Ed Martin, Chairperson, at 4:30 p.m., on March 26, 2008 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Barba, Sid Craighead, Ray Lerma, Ed Martin, Joe Neves, Paul Marquez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dan Chin

STAFF PRESENT: Seth Eberhard, Victoria Hall, Terri King

VISITORS PRESENT: Roman Benitez, NAS Lemoore; Vanessa Wiseman, Governor's Office; Jim Christian

### UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

### MINUTES – February 27, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Craighead) to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2008. Motion carried with Commissioner Lerma abstaining.

### KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

#### A. General Transportation Items

##### 1. Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom MOU

Mr. Eberhard stated that SAFETEA-LU created two new programs, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) which provides transportation services to and from training, employment and child care services, and New Freedom which provides for public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Both of these programs require a competitive application process and anyone who wants to apply for these programs must have a project that is consistent with the King County Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan that was approved last September. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to state KCAG's intent to participate in the programs and establish application procedures, similar to the FTA Sec. 5310 program. Funds available for Kings County are included in the agenda. County Counsel has reviewed this MOU and has no concerns.

A motion was made and seconded (Barba / Craighead) to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU with Caltrans regarding the JARC and New Freedom programs. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Trade Corridor Improvement Fund Projects

Mr. Eberhard stated KCAG helped draft the San Joaquin Valley Regional Goods Movement Plan, which was accepted last November. This plan addresses trades and goods movement within the valley and identifies goods movement projects that will compete for part of the \$2 Billion available in Prop 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Funds. KCAG, along with all the other Valley COGs, submitted projects within each county that were collaboratively ranked and submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The CTC released their staff recommendations and six of the projects we submitted for the San Joaquin Valley received funding consideration. The CTC is set to formally adopt this list at their April meeting.

3. 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. King reported KCAG submitted the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) which included funding proposals for our three state highway projects, those being the interchanges on SR 198 at 12th Ave. and 19th Ave., as well as the 198 expressway. The funding request exceeded our funding share, so an advance was requested against our future shares for the 19th Ave. construction, which is the only phase that remains un-programmed.

While in Sacramento for the Valley Voices trip, Lemoore Mayor John Murray, Commissioner Barba and Terri King, Executive Director, attended the CTC Hearings for the STIP Program and provided testimony regarding our request for the advance to fund the 19th Ave. interchange project. The only question that was asked was in regards to the interchange design for the 19th Ave. interchange. As it is the only design which was available due to the distance to the freeway to freeway interchange at SR 41, it is a design exemption. Nothing will be decided by the CTC until early in May.

Commissioner Martin asked in regards to the CTC meeting if we got to meet with staff as well as the Commissioners. Ms. King stated that she, as well as the city's consultant, had spoken with staff prior to the meeting about the projects.

**B. Caltrans Reports**

Mr. Marquez reported the Devil's Den project to widen Route 33 is complete. Sunflower II on SR 41 is about 85% complete. Cycle 7 of the Safe Routes to School program has been posted on the Caltrans web site. District 6 has received 41 applications totaling \$11.2 million of requested funds. Of those applications, 19 projects were awarded in our district totaling \$2.9 million. The City of Hanford received a grant to install solar powered cross walks with locations at Grangeville Blvd., Harris St. and Douty St. The guidelines for the federal Safe Routes to School program, which is focused on the K to 8th Grade school children, are being finalized and the call for projects is scheduled for sometime in April. Agencies will have about 12 weeks to submit applications.

**C. Correspondence**

Ms. King stated she passed out a letter from Sharri Bender requesting possible support for Assembly Bill 2650. This proposed legislation would extend the delegation of NEPA approvals to Caltrans which stream lines the environmental review process for our projects. They are looking for a letter of support that we might possibly bring back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Martin asked what the end result was, does it affect us in a positive way, or will it increase pollution. Ms. King replied that the environmental process for a project can drag out and end up delaying and increasing the cost of the project and that delegating some of the responsibilities to Caltrans would stream line it and make it go a lot faster. Commissioner Martin asked if it eliminated some of the project requirements. Ms. King stated you would still have to do everything that's required for environmental review, it just allows Caltrans to process the project. Mr. Marquez stated that federal agencies have lacked the staffing to conduct the environmental review process, whereas Caltrans does. Caltrans currently has been given NEPA delegation through a pilot program which is about to expire.

**D. Staff Comments**

Ms. King announced that April and May we will be having the unmet transit needs hearings before our Board.

**E. Commissioner Comments**

None

<b>KCAG COMMISSION</b>
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**A. General Commission Items**

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by TPC on March 26, 2008

A motion was made and seconded (Neves / Craighead) to reaffirm all actions taken by the Transportation Policy Committee on March 26, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2008 Valley "One Voice" Trip Report

Commissioner Barba stated he attended the One Voice trip in Sacramento. He thought that it was very interesting and we surprised the legislators that we were as cohesive as a region and thinks that we made an impression on them.

Ms. King stated that it is expected that this trip will provide long-term benefits for the region and that action may not be seen right away. She provided the information packets that were given to each representative we met and summarized the activities that took place. The list of representatives included not only legislators, but department heads of State agencies, or staff of State Agencies that could understand our plight for some of these issues and what our needs are. We picked four issues to discuss, including goods movement, port container fees, Prop. 42 revenues, and Prop. 1B. There was a Valley representative to speak on each issue and each State representative we had scheduled to meet with throughout the day was given the same presentation. We think it went really well for our first effort.

Commissioner Barba added that even though we didn't ask him to come to our meeting, Dean Flores asked to be a speaker. It was a good meeting for the people since they realized we now are a group working together towards the important issues of mutual concern.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A. Correspondence**

None

### **B. Staff Comments**

Ms. King announced that if anybody is interested in attending the CalCOG conference in Monterey that time is running out. Most of the agenda is on Blueprint.

### **C. Commissioner Comments**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



Terri King, Executive Director