

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING**

February 20, 2014, 3:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Gomez, Director Boch, Director De La Cruz, Director Scattini, and Alternate Director Muenzer

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Administrative Services Specialist, Kathy Postigo; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maura Twomey, Heather Adamson, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG); John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Gomez stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated January 20, 2014 through February 19, 2014. The correspondence was entered into the public record

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer provided a handout from the California Alliance for Jobs regarding the Status of Proposed Transportation Repairs Fee Ballot Measure.

Regarding the existing Route Highway 25, Caltrans is in the process of completing curb ramp corrections along San Benito Street needed for the Highway 25 Bypass Route transfer and relinquishment. The recordation of the ownership change should occur soon after.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the Local Transportation Authority began construction of the bus stop shelter improvements. The shelters are located at Central and Graff Roads and on Felice Drive, near the Health Foundation. Staff will be planning a ribbon cutting ceremony in a couple of weeks.

E. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT: Olejnik

John Olejnik reported on the progress of the ADA curb ramp corrections that are being done on the existing Route Highway 25. He also mentioned that once the corrections are complete the recordation should occur soon there after.

Mr. Olejnik mentioned that due to the current drought condition in California, the State has issued directives to Caltrans and all State agencies to immediately implement a significant reduction in water use. Caltrans will be reducing irrigation activities by at least 50 percent, delaying all new landscaping projects, and foregoing washing vehicles except when necessary for safety.

Mr. Olejnik provided an update on the Prunedale Project and San Juan Road Project. He was pleased to announce that both projects may be complete by the summer.

Mr. Olejnik mentioned that with regards to agenda Item 4, it is anticipated that the California Transportation Commission will approve the transfer of the Highway 25 Bypass in March, instead of May.

F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Chair Gomez reported out on the ad-hoc committee meeting regarding the future of the Highway 25 Widening project. Chair Gomez stated that significant progress was made after meeting with Caltrans staff last week in San Luis Obispo and this week with the California Transportation Commission staff to discuss funding options for the project. They will continue to meet and report out as they move forward. Chair Gomez thanked Director De La Cruz and Ms. Rheinheimer for attending these meetings as well.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated January 16, 2014 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** COG Transaction Report (Financial Claims) dated January 2014 (Postigo)
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Route Transfer and Relinquishment – Gilbert
5. **Transfer of Surplus Property to City of Hollister** – Gilbert
 - a) **Adopt** Resolution 14-03 Declaring COG-Owned Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Grant of Such Surplus Property to the City of Hollister (4/5 Vote), and
 - b) **Make Determination** that the Conveyance is Exempt From the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to Section 15312 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations)
6. **RECEIVE** Council of Governments FY 2013/14 Second Quarter Budget Report – Lezama

Director Boch asked to pull Item 5 for clarification.

There was no public comment on the Consent agenda.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1-4 and 6 from the Consent Agenda, with an Abstention from Director Muenzer on Item 1. Vote: 5/0 motion passes

Item 5 a), b)

Transfer of Surplus Property to City of Hollister.

Director Boch inquired if the transfer of surplus property was in regards to the two vanpool vans.

Ms. Gilbert stated that this item is in regards to real estate property that was acquired as part of the right of way for the Bypass.

Director Boch asked staff about the donation of the vanpool van to the Veteran's.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the vanpool item would be on next month's agenda.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Scattini, and seconded by Director Muenzer, the Directors unanimously approved Item 5 a), & b) from the Consent Agenda. Vote: 5/0 motion passes

REGULAR AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

7. Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan – Gilbert

- a) **RECEIVE** and **COMMENT** on the Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan; and
- b) **AUTHORIZE** Release of the Draft Plan for a 45-Day Public Review Period, starting February 21, 2014 and ending April 8, 2014
- c) **SET** Public Hearing Date on the Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Report for March 20, 2014.

Mary Gilbert provided a Power-Point presentation on the Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and introduced Heather Adamson with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, who presented on the Draft 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy, as well as the Environmental Impact Report for both the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and COG's Regional Transportation Plan.

There was concern from some of the Board members about using AMBAG's 2013 Population forecast numbers of 81,000 instead of the projected population estimate numbers from the County's Draft General Plan of 94,731. This was in response to a question by Director De La Cruz as to whether the Regional Transportation Plan should be changed to reflect the assumptions specified by the County Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Rheinheimer mentioned that there was not anything in the Regional Transportation Plan, or the AMBAG Metropolitan Transportation Plan that prohibits a County from implementing the land use policies that it wants to implement.

Director Scattini expressed concerns about the amount of time to review the document and the opportunity for an extension beyond the June adoption date.

Heather Adamson cautioned the Board that AMBAG already was granted an extension of the draft and no further extensions would be granted. She also mentioned that all State and Federal funding would stop if the Plan was not adopted by June 2014.

Director Muenzer stated for the record that the representatives from the Cities and County previously approved the Growth Forecast for planning purposes.

Director Scattini directed Deputy County Counsel Shirley Murphy to look into whether or not the COG Board would be jeopardizing funding by extending the document another 30 days.

Shirley Murphy stated that she would have to refer back to COG and AMBAG staff since they work jointly with the EIR consultant.

Ms. Adamson concluded her presentation. She announced that AMBAG will be holding a Public Workshop and Public Hearing on the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in Hollister at the Community Center on March 11, 2014 from 6p.m. - 8 p.m.

Ms. Gilbert concluded her presentation. Staff asked the COG Board to release the Draft RTP for public comment and set a Public Hearing date of March 20th for the RTP. AMBAG will be hosting the EIR Public Hearing on March 11th.

Ms. Rheinheimer recognized the Boards growth forecast concerns and offered that the Board could address it in the Regional Transportation Plan, by stating that the County is undergoing a General Plan update and they project more growth form San Benito County than is reflected in the Growth Forecast. She also cautioned the Board about jeopardizing State and Federal funding for the Public Works and COG departments.

Director De La Cruz asked if the Highway 25 Project is in the Regional Transportation Plan because it is important to start collecting fees for this Project.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that Highway 25 Projects were captured on page C1 as part of the Traffic Impact Fee Program. The project is identified as part of the unconstrained project list on Page C2 as well as the Highway 25 Widening Project Phase I and II.

There was no public comment on this item.

Director Muenzer moved that the Board Authorize release of the Draft Plan for a 45-day public review period, starting February 21, 2014, and ending April 8, 2014, and set a Public Hearing date on the Draft Plan for March 20, 2014, the motion was seconded by Director Boch. Vote: 2/3 motion fails.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Board directed staff to delay Item 7 and work with Chair Gomez and Director Scattini on this item and bring it back to the Board at the next Board meeting or sooner if possible, with Directors Boch and Muenzer opposed. Vote: 3/2 motion passes.

8. APPROVE Apportionments of \$1,765,860 in Regional Surface Transportation Program Funding for Fiscal Years 2014/15 through 2017/18 – Rheinheimer

Lisa Rheinheimer mentioned that staff provided an updated staff report on Item 8. She provided a review of the changes that were made to the report.

Staff recommended approval of the updated apportionments as outlined below, as well as \$60,000 for Caltrans to complete the environmental document for the Highway 25 Widening Project.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| City of Hollister | \$1,215,396 (60%) |
| City of San Juan Bautista | \$202,566 (10%) |
| County of San Benito | \$607,698 (30%) |

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors unanimously approved Item 8 as noted above. Vote: 5/0 motion passes.

Director Boch excused himself from the remainder of the COG meeting.

9. ADOPT Final Methodology for Distributing the Regional Housing Need Number to the Cities of Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and the County of San Benito – Rheinheimer

Lisa Rheinheimer presented on the final methodology for distributing the Regional Housing Need Number to the Cities of Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and the County of San Benito.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the Technical Advisory Committee along with staff recommended that the COG Board adopt the Regional Housing Need Assessment – Proposed Methodology as outlined on the attachment of the staff report.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Scattini, and seconded by Director Muenzer, the Directors adopted Item 9 as noted above. Vote: 4/0 motion passes.

10. DISCUSS FY 2014/15 Budget Schedule, **SET** Public Hearing for May 15, 2014, and Provide Direction – Postigo

Kathy Postigo presented on the Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget Schedule, and asked to set the Public Hearing for May 15, 2014.

Staff will present the Draft Fiscal Year Budget to the Board in May. The Final Budget will be presented to the Board in June for adoption.

Ms. Rheinheimer noted that this year the Board will hold one public hearing instead of two, due to the history of no attendance from the public in previous years.

The Board inquired if the COG Budget had to be in direct correlation with the County's Budget.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that COG staffs salaries are the only items that correlate with the County Budget.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Muenzer, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors set the FY 2014/15 Budget Public Hearing for May 15, 2014. Vote: 4/0 motion passes.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors unanimously adjourned the COG meeting at 4:33 p.m.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING MARCH 20, 2014.