



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

DATE: Thursday, March 16, 2023
4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: County Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
(The meeting is open to the public)

DIRECTORS: Bea Gonzales, Chair (County of San Benito)
Scott Freels, Vice-Chair (City of San Juan Bautista)
Mia Casey (City of Hollister)
Dolores Morales (City of Hollister)
Mindy Sotelo (County of San Benito)
Ex Officio: Caltrans District 5

ALTERNATES: San Benito County: Kollin Kosmicki
City of San Juan Bautista: Jackie Morris-Lopez
City of Hollister: Rick Perez

NOTICE OF PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD MEETINGS

The meeting will be available through Zoom, for those who wish to join or require accommodations.

Members of the public may participate remotely via Zoom at the following link:
<https://zoom.us/join> with the following Webinar ID: **857-2650-1112**

*Those participating by phone who would like to make a comment can use the “raise hand” feature by dialing “*9” (star-nine) . In order to receive full Zoom experience, please make sure your application is up to date.*

Remote Zoom participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the COG Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

*Persons who wish to address the Board of Directors must complete a Speaker Card and give it to the Clerk prior to addressing the Board. Those who wish to address the Board on an agenda item will be heard when the Chairperson calls for comments from the audience. Following recognition, persons desiring to speak are requested to advance to the podium and state their name and address. After hearing audience comments, the Public Comment portion of the agenda item will be closed. **The Opportunity to address the Board of Directors on items of interest not appearing on the agenda will be provided during Section 6. Public Comment.***

1. CALL TO ORDER 4:00 P.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Verification of Certificate of Posting
5. **Public Comment:** *(Opportunity to address the Board on items of interest on a subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Council of Governments and not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Sec. 54954.2 Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.)*

CONSENT AGENDA:

(These matters shall be considered as a whole and without discussion unless a particular item is removed from the Consent Agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak on a Consent Agenda item must submit a Speaker Card to the Clerk and wait for recognition from the Chairperson. Approval of a consent item means approval as recommended on the Staff Report.)

6. APPROVE Council of Governments Draft Action Regular Meeting Minutes Dated January 19, 2023 – Gomez
7. APPROVE Council of Governments Draft Action Regular Meeting Minutes Dated February 16, 2023
8. AUTHORIZE COG Executive Director to Sign Letters of Support on behalf of the Council of San Benito County Governments (COG) – Lezama
9. RECEIVE Report Regarding Upcoming Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Single Audit – Rivera

INFORMATION ITEMS:

10. RECEIVE Presentation from Caltrans on the Clean California Projects Awarded in San Benito County – Lezama/Caltrans staff
11. RECEIVE Monthly Caltrans District 5 Construction Projects Report – Caltrans Ex-Officio
12. Caltrans Report/Correspondence (Verbal Report) – Caltrans Ex-Officio
13. Executive Director’s Report (Verbal Report) – Abraham
14. Board of Directors’ Reports (Verbal Report)

Adjourn to COG Meeting on April 20, 2023. Agenda Deadline is Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if requested, the Agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. If an individual wishes to request an alternative agenda format, please contact the Clerk of the Council four (4) days prior to the meeting at (831) 637-7665. The Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Council’s office at (831) 637-7665 at least 48 hours before the meeting to enable the Council of Governments to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

Written Comments & Email Public Comment

Members of the public may submit comments via email by 5:00 PM. on the Wednesday prior to the Board meeting to the Secretary at monica@sanbenitocog.org, regardless of whether the matter is on the agenda. Every effort will be made to provide Board Members with your comments before the agenda item is heard.

Public Comment Guidelines

1. If participating on Zoom: once you are selected, you will hear that you have been unmuted. At this time, state your first name, last name, and county you reside in for the record.
2. The Council of Governments Board welcomes your comments.
3. Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes.
4. Please keep your comments brief, to the point, and do not repeat prior testimony, so that as many people as possible can be heard. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you have questions, contact the Council of Governments, and leave a message at (831) 637-7665 x. 201, or email monica@sanbenitocog.org.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

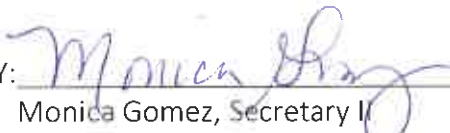
Pursuant to Government Code Section #54954.2(a) the Meeting Agenda for the Council of San Benito County Governments on **March 16, 2023**, at **4:00 P.M.** was posted at the following locations freely accessible to the public:

The front entrance of the Old San Benito County Courthouse, Monterey Street, Hollister, CA 95023, and the Council of Governments Office, 330 Tres Pinos Rd., Ste. C7, Hollister, CA 95023 at the following date and time:

On the 10th day of March 2023, on or before 5:00 P.M.

The meeting agenda was also posted on the Council of San Benito County Governments website, www.sanbenitocog.org, under Meetings, COG Board, Meeting Schedule

I, Monica Gomez, swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

BY: 

Monica Gomez, Secretary II
Council of San Benito County Governments

SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023 & Zoom Platform
January 19, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Pro Tempore Mindy Sotelo, Director Bea Gonzales, Director Dolores Morales, and Ex Officio, Richard Rosales, Caltrans District 5.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Director Mia Casey and Director Scott Freels.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director; Binu Abraham, Administrative Services Specialist, Norma Rivera; Transportation Planning Manager, Veronica Lezama; Transportation Planner, Regina Valentine; Office Assistant; Griselda Arevalo, Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Terry Thompson; Caltrans District 5, Jill Leal; Caltrans District 5, Madilyn Jacobsen; Caltrans District 5, Matt Welker; Caltrans District 5.

CALL TO ORDER:

Executive Director Binu Abraham called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

- A. CONTINUE** COG Chair and Vice Chairperson Appointments to the February 16, 2023, Board Meeting and **ELECT** Chair Pro Tempore to Conduct the January 19, 2023, meeting.

Motion made to continue COG Chair and Vice Chairperson appointments to the February 16, 2023, meeting and Elect Director Sotelo as Chair Pro Tempore to conduct the January 19, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Director Bea Gonzales Second: Director Dolores Morales

Motion carried: 3/0

Yes: Sotelo, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Casey, Freels

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Gonzales led the pledge of allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Administrative Services Specialist Norma Rivera called the roll call and confirmed a quorum of Directors were present.

D. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Motion made to acknowledge Certificate of Posting:

Motion: Director Bea Gonzales Second: Director Dolores Morales

Motion carried: 3/0

Yes: Sotelo, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Casey, Freels

E. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD MEETINGS

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, members of the COG Board can attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

Chair Pro Tempore Sotelo reminded members of the public that an overview of temporary procedures (Zoom etiquette) for COG meetings was attached to the agenda.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

COG staff stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson’s public comment correspondence. The correspondence was entered into public record.

G. Executive Director’s Report – Binu Abraham, Executive Director

Binu Abraham introduced herself as COG’s new Executive Director. She welcomed the newly appointed COG Board members to the meeting. Ms. Abraham noted that staff is planning a COG Board retreat/orientation to go over the COG’s roles and responsibilities. Ms. Abraham stated that staff will also be coming back to the Board with a thorough presentation of all COG projects.

H. Caltrans Report/ Correspondence – Richard Rosales, Acting District 5 Director

Acting District 5 Director Richard Rosales announced that Caltrans District 5 is actively seeking the next appointment of Caltrans District 5 Director, which is expected to be filled by the next COG meeting.

Mr. Rosales announced that a call for Caltrans Sustainable Transportation grants applications was posted on January 12, 2023.

Mr. Rosales reported that due to the recent storms that have hit the Central Coast, Caltrans staff have been working diligently to keep the highways open and safe and appreciate the understanding with some road closures.

I. Board of Directors' Reports:

The COG Board of Directors welcomed Executive Director Binu Abraham and staff and added that they look forward to working together this year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **ADOPT** Resolution 23-01 Authorizing Teleconferencing Options for Council of Governments Meetings for the Period of January 20, 2023, through February 19, 2023 – Rivera
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Special Meeting Minutes Dated December 12, 2022 – Gomez
3. **AUTHORIZE** Application to the Caltrans Clean California Local Grant Program Cycle 2 for a Gateway Monument at the SR 156 and Bixby Road Roundabout – Lezama

Director Gonzales pulled Item 3 from Consent to receive a brief overview.

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda.

Motion made to approve Consent Agenda Items 1, 2:

Motion: Director Bea Gonzales Second: Director Dolores Morales

Motion carried: 3/0

Yes: Sotelo, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Casey, Freels

Item 3 pulled for discussion.

Transportation Planning Manager Veronica Lezama provided a brief overview of Item 3 and answered questions from the Board.

Motion made to approve Consent Agenda Item 3:

Motion: Director Bea Gonzales Second: Director Dolores Morales

Motion carried: 3/0

Yes: Sotelo, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Casey, Freels

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. RECEIVE Monthly Construction Projects Report form Caltrans District 5 – Richard Rosales

Caltrans Acting District 5 Director Richard Rosales provided an update on major construction projects in San Benito County and answered questions from the COG Board.

COG Board members asked for clarification on the Hollister Clean CA and Rocks Road US 101 Wildlife Connectivity Projects. Ms. Lezama provided a brief overview of the projects and stated that if the Board was interested COG staff would coordinate with Caltrans staff to provide a thorough presentation of the two projects.

Public Comment:

Hannah Cohn (via-zoom)
Stacie McGrady
Stephen Rosati

Director Gonzalez expressed comments on the SR 156/SR 25 Turbo Roundabout Project regarding its construction not interfering with the future construction of the overpass or intersection that will be constructed.

This item was a verbal update, no action was taken.

5. RECEIVE Monthly Update on the State Route 25 Expressway Conversion Project (Highway 25) – Lezama

Transportation Planning Manager, Veronica Lezama introduced Caltrans Project Manager Terry Thompson, who provided an update on the State Route 25 Expressway Conversion Project and schedule.

COG Board members inquired about the project timeline, project route/lines, how many acres of productive ag land will be taken out. They also asked staff to provide a visual handout of the draft route adoption to be able to share with the public.

Ms. Thompson stated that the decisions about ag land have not been determined at this time and will be made later.

Executive Director Abraham stated that the Highway 25 project is one of the biggest priorities of the region, as such it will be the number one project to bring back to the Board. Staff will work on a holistic view of the project from start to finish, extent of years, funding sources, and report back to the Board.

Public Comment:

Stephen Rosati

This item was a verbal update, no action was taken.

6. RECEIVE Presentation from Caltrans on the Caltrans US 101 Business Plan – Lezama/Caltrans

Transportation Planning Manager, Veronica Lezama introduced Matt Welker and Madilyn Jacobsen with Caltrans, who provided a presentation on the Draft US 101 Business Plan. Mr. Welker asked that final comments of the Draft US 101 Business Plan be submitted by February 20, 2023.

There was brief discussion about the transportation corridor District 4 and District 5 boundaries.

There was no public comment.

This item was a verbal update, no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Director Gonzales motioned to adjourn at 5:14 p.m.

Motion seconded by Director Morales.

Motion carried: 3/0

Yes: Sotelo, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Casey, Freels

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M.

SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023 & Zoom Platform
February 16, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Bea Gonzales, Vice-Chair Scott Freels, Director Mia Casey, Director Mindy Sotelo, Director Dolores Morales(via-Zoom), and Ex Officio, Scott Eades, Caltrans District 5

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director; Binu Abraham, Administrative Services Specialist; Norma Rivera, Transportation Planning Manager; Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planner; Regina Valentine, Office Assistant; Griselda Arevalo, Secretary II; Monica Gomez, Deputy County Counsel; Shirley Murphy.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Terry Thompson; Caltrans District 5, Jill Leal; Caltrans District 5, Morgan Robertson; Caltrans District 5, Heather Adamson; Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Pro Tempore Sotelo called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Gonzales led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Secretary Gomez called the roll call and confirmed a quorum of Directors were present.

4. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Motion made to acknowledge Certificate of Posting:

Motion: Director Bea Gonzales Second: Director Mia Casey

Motion carried: 4/0

Yes: Sotelo, Gonzales, Casey, Freels

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Morales

5. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD MEETINGS

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, members of the COG Board can attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

Chair Pro Tempore Sotelo reminded members of the public that an overview of temporary procedures (Zoom etiquette) for COG meetings was attached to the agenda.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Pro Tempore stated for the record that COG received Mr. Joe Thompson’s public comment correspondence. The correspondence was entered into public record.

There was discussion regarding how to view or obtain copies of Mr. Thompson’s public comment correspondence. Any member of the public who would like to view his written comments may reach out to COG staff.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4:00 P.M. Public Hearing (Or As Soon Thereafter As The Matter May Be Heard)

ACTION ITEMS:

7. COG Board Chair and Vice Chairperson Election and Committee Appointments – Sotelo

A. HOLD Nomination and Election of COG Chair and Vice Chairperson for the 2023 Meeting Calendar.

Motion made to Elect Bea Gonzales as COG Chairperson for 2023:

Motion: Director Mindy Sotelo Second: Director Mia Casey

Motion carried: 4/0

Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Morales

Motion made to Elect Scott Freels as COG Vice Chairperson for 2023:

Motion: Chair Bea Gonzales Second: Director Mindy Sotelo

Motion carried: 4/0

Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Morales

Director Morales joined the COG meeting at 4:14 p.m. via-Zoom.

B. APPROVE Appointment of Delegate and Alternate to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG).

Motion made to Appoint Chair Gonzales as Delegate and Director Morales as Alternate for CALCOG:

Motion: Director Mindy Sotelo Second: Director Mia Casey
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

C. APPROVE Appointment of Two Representatives to the San Benito/Santa Clara Mobility Partnership (One City of Hollister Representative and One Other Representative).

Motion made to Appoint Director Morales and Director Sotelo as Reps. to the San Benito/Santa Clara Mobility Partnership:

Motion: Chair Bea Gonzales Second: Director Mindy Sotelo
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

D. APPROVE Appointment of Representative to Speak on Behalf of COG at California Transportation Commission and Central Coast Coalition Meetings.

Motion made to Appoint Director Casey as Representative and Director Morales as Alternate to the CTC and CCC meetings:

Motion: Director Mindy Sotelo Second: Director Mia Casey
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

There was no public comment on item 7A-D.

8. 2023/2024 Unmet Transit Needs – Lezama

- A. RECEIVE Report on the Unmet Transit Needs Process.
- B. HOLD Public Hearing on the Unmet Transit Needs of the Community.
- C. RETURN with Draft Unmet Transit Needs Report for Board Input.

Transportation Planning Manager, Veronica Lezama provided a report on the Unmet Transit Needs Process and answered questions from the Board.

Chair Gonzales opened the public hearing at 4:23 p.m.

There was no public comment.

Chair Gonzales closed the public hearing at 4:23 p.m.

Ms. Lezama noted that staff will be soliciting comments through February 20, 2023. Staff will evaluate all the comments received and will bring a draft report to the Board in both April and May.

9. Draft FY 2023/2024 Overall Work Program – Lezama

- A. RECEIVE draft fiscal year 2023/2024 overall work program, which includes planning activities to be performed by the council of governments; and
- B. AUTHORIZE Submittal of Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Draft Overall Work Program to Caltrans for Comment.

Transportation Planning Manager, Veronica Lezama provided a report on the Draft FY 2023/2024 Overall Work Program and answered questions from the Board.

Director Sotelo inquired if part of this process included evaluating public transit because she had questions about the County Express transit services.

Ms. Lezama stated that the process would be outside of the Overall Work Program. The Short-Range Transit Plan is the document that identifies the recommendations for improving public transit.

There was consensus from the Board to receive more information on the Short-Range Transit Plan.

Executive Director Abraham added that the Short-Range Transit Plan will be presented to the Board on a future agenda.

There was no public comment.

Motion made to Authorize submittal of Fiscal year 2023/2024 Draft Overall Work Program to Caltrans for Comment:

Motion: Director Mindy Sotelo Second: Director Mia Casey

Motion carried: 5/0

Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

10. APPROVE Letter of Support for the Valley Transportation Authority’s Application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program Funds for the State Route 152 Trade Corridor Project – Lezama

Transportation Planning Manager Veronica Lezama presented the letter of support for the Valley Transportation Authority’s (VTA) Application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program funds for the State Route 152 Trade Corridor Project. She mentioned that Chris Metzger with VTA was available to answer any questions from the Board.

Director Sotelo stated that there are some real concerns from people that may be affected in that area and wanted clarification that what the Board was authorizing with the letter of support is just to study the area.

Executive Director Abraham reaffirmed that this would be part of the EIR to look at all potential routes and see what impacts they might have and to identify what would be a good route for SR 152. There will then be public hearings and opportunities for the public to provide input.

Motion made to Approve Item 10:

Motion: Director Mindy Sotelo Second: Director Dolores Morales
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

11. APPROVE Strategy Proposal for the SR 25 Expressway Conversion Project – Abraham

Executive Director Binu Abraham presented the strategy proposal for the SR 25 Expressway Conversion Project, which includes a six-month period analysis. During the strategic development process, Caltrans will continue the project environmental development process.

Executive Director Abraham and Caltrans Ex-officio Scott Eades answered questions from the Board.

Public Comment:
Jim Parker

Motion made to Approve Item 11:

Motion: Vice Chair Scott Freels Second: Director Mindy Sotelo
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None

Abstention: None
Absent: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

(These matters shall be considered as a whole and without discussion unless a particular item is removed from the Consent Agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak on a Consent Agenda item must submit a Speaker Card to the Clerk and wait for recognition from the Chairperson. Approval of a consent item means approval as recommended on the Staff Report.)

- 12. ADOPT Resolution 23-02 Authorizing Teleconferencing Options for Council of Governments Meetings for the Period of February 16, 2023, through February 28, 2023 – Rivera
- 13. APPROVE Council of Governments Draft Action Regular Meeting Minutes Dated December 15, 2022 – Gomez
- 14. RECEIVE the 2023 Council of Governments Board of Directors Meeting Calendar – Rivera
- 15. REAPPOINT Clay Kempf and Connie Padron to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council – Valentine

Executive Director Abraham asked to pull Item 12 for discussion.

There was no public comment on Consent.

Motion made to Approve Items 13,14, 15:

Motion: Director Mia Casey Second: Vice Chair Scott Freels
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

Item 12 pulled for discussion:

Deputy County Counsel Shirley Murphy provided an overview of changes under Government Code Section 54953, after February 28, 2023, Board meetings will be conducted in person at the San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

There was no public comment.

Motion made to Approve Item 12:

Motion: Director Mindy Sotelo Second: Director Dolores Morales
Motion carried: 5/0
Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales
No: None
Recused: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

16. RECEIVE Monthly Construction Projects Report from Caltrans District 5 – Eades, Caltrans

District 5 Deputy Director for Transportation Planning Scott Eades provided an update on major construction projects in San Benito County and answered questions from the COG Board.

Mr. Eades mentioned that Caltrans is more than pleased to come back and provide presentations on individual projects.

There was no public comment.

17. RECEIVE Presentation from Caltrans on the San Benito 101 Wildlife Connectivity Project – Lezama/Caltrans

Transportation Planning Manager, Veronica Lezama introduced Caltrans Project Manager, Morgan Robertson who provided a presentation on the San Benito 101 Wildlife Connectivity Project.

There was no public comment.

18. Executive Director's Report (Verbal Report) – Abraham

Executive Director Abraham reported that staff had finalized the date for the COG Board Retreat/Orientation which will take place on March 10, 2023. Ms. Abraham also mentioned that she is in the process of meeting with individuals and local community groups to learn about the culture of the region.

Director Sotelo thanked Executive Director Abraham for taking the time to reach out to COG Board members and members of the public that had questions about transportation related items.

There was no public comment.

19. Board of Directors' Reports (Verbal Report)

Director Casey reported that she had received a lot of comments from constituents regarding the recent railroad crossing work on Highway 25 in Santa Clara County. There are unsafe pavement conditions when people are driving across the railroad crossing.

Transportation Planning Manager Veronica Lezama stated that staff were aware of the issue and had reached out to UPRR and Caltrans to address the issue.

Vice Chair Freels mentioned that closing Highway 25 on a Friday night was not wise. The Waze application was sending everybody into downtown San Juan Bautista which caused a mess.

Ms. Lezama stated that the UPRR was responsible for the closure of Highway 25. Staff reached out to the UPRR and let them know that this was our major commuter route and how it impacted our community.

Scott Eades mentioned that this was an emergency project for the UPRR and Caltrans permitting staff are aware of the situation and are coordinating with District 4's permitting staff to get the situation addressed.

There was no public comment.

20. Caltrans Report/Correspondence (Verbal Report) – Scott Eades

Mr. Eades followed up on questions that were asked from members of the public at the January meeting and also provided the following announcements:

Mr. Eades announced that there is a call for projects for Clean CA Local Grant Cycle2. Workshop dates will be announced in the coming weeks. Applications are due April 28, 2023, by 5p.m.

Lastly, Mr. Eades announced that there is approximately \$85 million available statewide in three different grant categories for Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants. Applications are due March 9, 2023, by 5p.m.

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Director Sotelo motioned to adjourn at 5:46 p.m.

Motion seconded by Director Casey.

Motion carried: 5/0

Yes: Sotelo, Casey, Freels, Gonzales, Morales

No: None

Recused: None

Abstention: None

Absent: None

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING MARCH 19, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M.



STAFF REPORT

Consent

Prepared By: Veronica Lezama,
Transportation Planning Manager

Subject: Letter of Support Policy

Agenda Item No. 8

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive Director

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Recommendation:

AUTHORIZE COG Executive Director to sign Letters of Support on behalf of the Council of San Benito County Governments (COG).

Summary:

COG receives requests local and regional agencies for letters of support to accompany funding applications. The purpose of this policy is to apply a consistent approach for requests for letters of support from local, regional, and state agencies who are applying for funding.

Background/ Discussion:

The COG is solicited for letters of support from time to time, typically in the context of competitive grant applications or transportation planning and project delivery. In order to ensure a transparent process for providing letters of support, staff is recommending that the COG Board of Directors provide the following direction.

1. A letter of support may be provided only to projects, programs or other activities that are clearly consistent with the goals and priorities of the COG.
2. The COG can decline to consider a request if there is insufficient time for review.
3. Letters will be signed by the COG Executive Director.
4. The COG Executive Director may elect to forego a letter of support at its discretion.

COG is committed to assisting its members to attract funding for projects that align with COG's priorities. It should be noted that the provision of a letter of support does not automatically result in COG playing a role in the project.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial impact.



STAFF REPORT

Consent

Prepared By: Norma Rivera, Administrative Services Specialist

Subject: Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Single Audit Report

Agenda Item No. 9

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive Director

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Recommendation:

Receive report regarding upcoming fiscal year 2021-2022 Single Audit.

Summary:

This report contains information regarding the 2021-2022 Single Audit Report which will be submitted to the State Controller on March 31, 2023.

Background/ Discussion:

The Council of San Benito County Governments Single Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2021-22 will be performed by the independent accounting firm JJA, CPA INC. Federal law requires non-Federal entities that expend \$750,000 or more in Federal awards in a fiscal year to have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that fiscal year. This year, the audit covered expenditures of approximately \$945,663.

The Report will audit the COG's compliance over major federal award programs and identify if there are areas with internal control weaknesses. In accordance with the requirements of Government Auditing Standards, the auditors will also issue a written report describing the scope of the testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing.

To comply with federal reporting requirements, staff will submit this Report to the State Controller and federal clearinghouse agency on March 31, 2023. It is subject to further review and follow-up action by the State Controller and/or federal agencies that provided the funding to the COG. The audit is currently underway and if there are any reportable findings, COG will provide an update at the April 2023 Board meeting.

Financial Impact:

The report is being prepared by JJA, CPA INC., an independent accounting firm at the cost of \$11,000.



STAFF REPORT

Informational

Prepared By: Veronica Lezama,
Transportation Planning Manager

Subject: Letter of Support Policy

Agenda Item No. 10

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive Director

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Recommendation:

RECEIVE Presentation from Caltrans on the Clean California Projects Awarded in San Benito County.

Summary:

The State Clean California Program provides funding for investments in litter collection, community engagement, and education to ultimately transform unsightly roadsides into spaces of pride for Californians. Specifically, the program provides funds to clean and beautify public spaces in underserved communities.

Background/ Discussion:

In September 2021, COG staff nominated to Caltrans the Highway 25 Bypass for funding consideration of the Clean California grant program. In February 2022, COG was notified that the following projects in San Benito County were awarded.

1. **Hollister Pinnacles National Park Highway Beautification Project** - The area consists of Highway 25 between Santa Ana and Tres Pinos roads. Plant shade trees and dense, colorful landscaping along pedestrian sidewalks and soundwalls, add street furniture, enhance sidewalk paving, add artistic bas relief elements on soundwalls highlighting neighborhood cross streets.
2. **San Juan Bautista Washington Street Bridge Structure** - Clean/paint structure, add mural on bridge walls, add decorative slope paving to fix erosion, replace worn out RW fencing, add shade trees, suppress weeds with rock blanket or inert materials or mulch.

Corby Kilmer, District 5 Senior Landscape Architect, will be providing the COG Board of Directors with a presentation on the abovementioned projects. Ms. Kilmer has been directly coordinating the project details with the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial impact.

Attachments: Clean California Projects Slide Deck



State Highway Beautification

Update March 16, 2023

DISTRICT 5

California Department of Transportation





“Implement sustainable beautification projects that improve safety and transform dividing highways into spaces that unify communities.”



CLEAN CALIFORNIA

A transformative initiative to remove litter,
create jobs and beautify California

State Highway Beautification
**Hollister State Route 25
Pinnacles National Highway Project**

DISTRICT 5

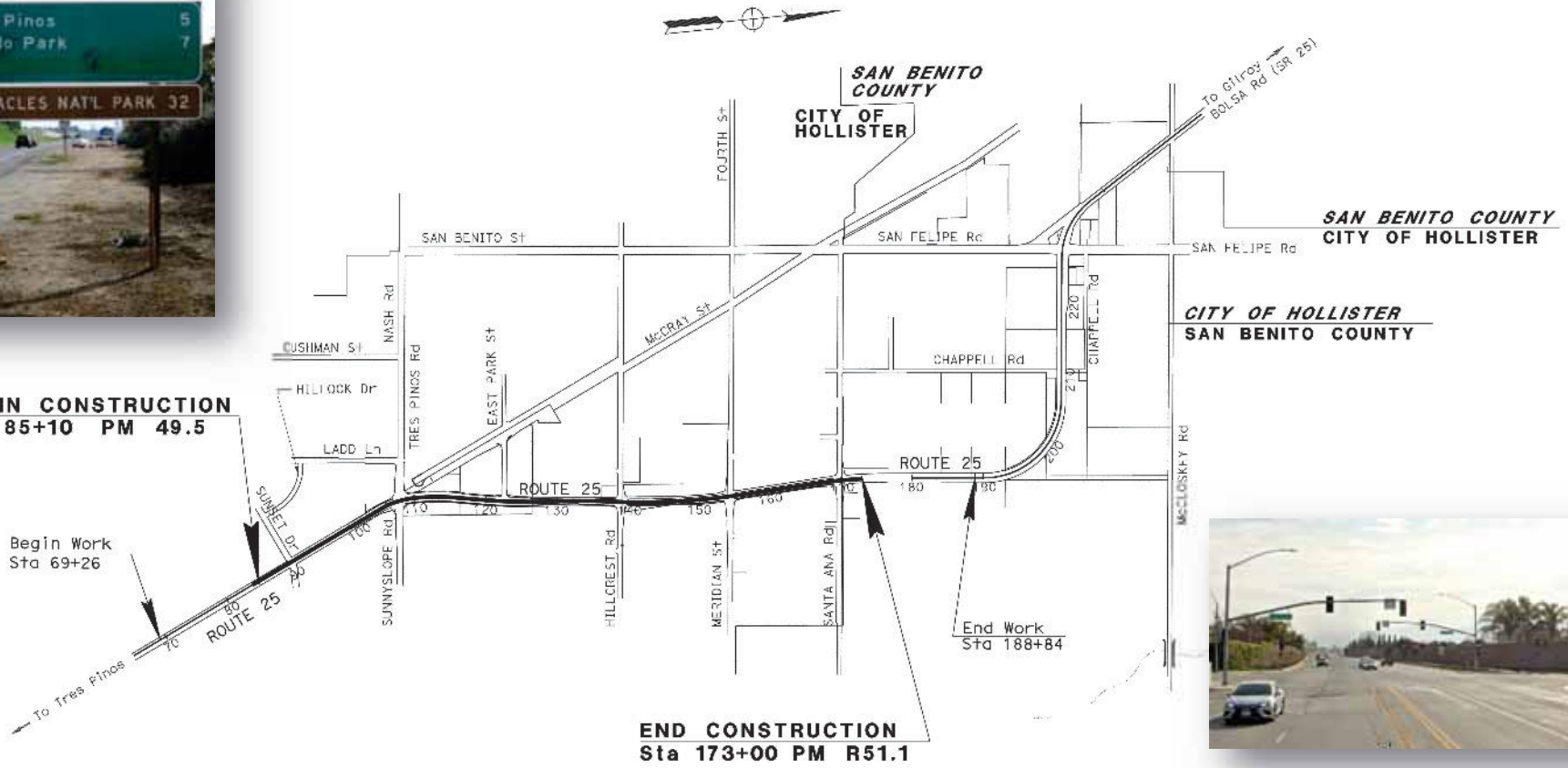
California Department of Transportation





BEGIN CONSTRUCTION
Sta 85+10 PM 49.5

Begin Work
Sta 69+26



END CONSTRUCTION
Sta 173+00 PM R51.1

Begins Construction Spring 2023

Rt.25
Hollister
Pinnacles National Park
Highway
Beautification

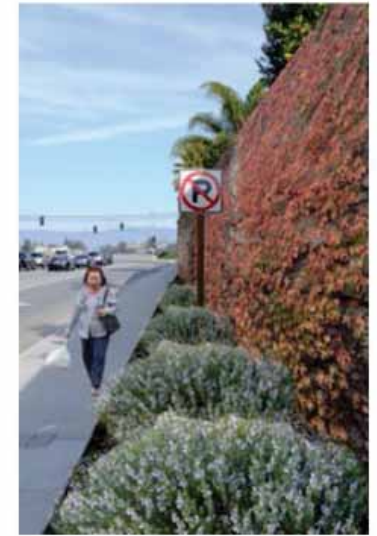
- ❖ Drought tolerant landscaping along pedestrian walks and soundwalls including shade trees and colorful seasonal flowers and foliage
- ❖ Major sculpture inspired by history of Hollister agricultural harvest baskets
- ❖ Public Art Utility Box Murals focused on Pinnacles National Park themes



Typical Existing Rt. 25 roadside and soundwall



Simulation of planting along pedestrian walk and soundwalls



Simulation of soundwall planting



"Woven" Sculpture (day and night)
Artist: James Peterson



'Pinnacles Ride'
Artist: Joshua Liem



Drought Tolerant LANDSCAPING



Sculpture and Utility Box Murals



ABOUT THE ARTIST

James Peterson is an artist and sculptor based in Los Angeles. A self-proclaimed materials and processes geek influenced by nature, geometry and the development of organic matter, James merges art and technology with sustainable resources and practices whenever possible.

To see more of James' work, please visit artcontraptions.com

ABOUT ARTIST GALLERY CONTACT SURVEY  





<https://www.artcontraptions.com/woven>



CLEAN CALIFORNIA

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State Highway Beautification SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Washington Street Undercrossing Project

DISTRICT 5

California Department of Transportation



Begin
Construction
Spring 2023



Rt.156
**San Juan
Bautista**

Washington Street UC
Pedestrian Enhancements

- ❖ Slope paving for erosion control
- ❖ Colorful public art mural with sculptural elements focused on local history and people
- ❖ Drought tolerant landscaping with shade trees and seasonal color
- ❖ Decorative Fencing



Design includes:

drought tolerant planting
vines, colorful shrubs,
shady trees

water conserving
irrigation system

solar-powered
irrigation controllers

mud for weed
suppression

colorful public art



LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS



Artists: Ryan 'Yanoe' Sarfati and Eric 'Zoueh' Skotnes



"The Fabric of Life"





Clean California

SAN BENITO COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
& CALTRANS presents

ART SHOW

Opening Party | 6-7:30 pm, Sat.
April 1st
Art Depot
35 5th Street, Downtown Hollister

ART • DJ MADMARTIGAN • ALL WELCOME
Food by El Guapo Kitchen • Wonder Cotton Candy

Featuring artworks by CleanCA project artists:
Ryan Sarfatl & Eric Skotnes of Yanoe x Zoueh
James Peterson of Art + Contraptions
Josh Liem • Enrique Luna • Makayla Magdelano
Clay Peer • Venecia Prudencio

Open Gallery Hours | 12-4 pm, Saturdays, Mar. 18- Apr. 15

www.sanbenitoarts.org | @sanbenitoarts



HOLLISTER



For more info
info@sanbenitoarts.org
www.sanbenitoarts.org





CLEAN CALIFORNIA

A transformative initiative to remove litter,
create jobs and beautify California

QUESTIONS?

D5 Clean CA Beautification Program Contact: Corby Kilmer

corby.kilmer@dot.ca.gov

805-721-2805





STAFF REPORT

Informational

Prepared By: Veronica Lezama,
Transportation Planning Manager
Subject: Monthly Caltrans District 5
Construction Projects Report

Agenda Item No. 11

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive Director

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Recommendation:

RECEIVE Monthly Caltrans District 5 Construction Projects Report.

Summary:

The Council of San Benito County Governments (COG) Board of Directors will receive the monthly report from Caltrans District 5 on active highway projects in San Benito County.

Background/ Discussion:

As an ex officio member, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) provides the COG Board of Director's a summary report of all active highway and other state oversight projects in San Benito County. The enclosed Caltrans Update of Projects identifies the following projects in San Benito County.

1. Highway 25/156 Roundabout
2. Highway 25 Curve Alignment Restoration
3. Highway 25 Expressway Conversion - San Felipe, Segment 1
4. Highway 156 Improvement Project
5. U.S 101 Southbound Connector Extension
6. SR 156/Alameda EB Right-Turn Channelization
7. Hollister Clean CA
8. Rocks Road US 101 Wildlife Connectivity Project

Alternatives:

There are no alternatives to discuss as this is an informational report.

Financial Impact:

Please see attached project updates report.

Attachment:

1. Caltrans District 5 Construction Projects Report and Map



CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Project	Location/Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Contractor	Comments
1. Highway 25/156 Roundabout (1J480_)	Intersection of SR 25/156, north of Hollister (PM 54.048)	Construct Roundabout	June 2022 - Fall 2023	\$10.7 million	SHOPP	Terry Thompson (Acting PM)	Graniterock Construction	Work has begun for stage 1. Adjustments to the signal have been made to try and help with the traffic queue.
2. Highway 156 Improvement Project (34490)	In and near San Juan Bautista, from The Alameda to slightly east of Fourth Street (PM 3.0/R8.2)	Construct four-lane expressway	August 2022 - Spring/Summer 2025	\$75.9 million	STIP/Local	Terry Thompson	Teichert Construction	Continued construction activities

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Project	Location/Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Phase	Comments
3. Highway 25 Curve Alignment Restoration (1H810)	Near Hollister, just north of San Benito Lateral (PM 18.8/19.1)	Curve restoration	Winter 2023	\$4.3 million	SHOPP	Terry Thompson	PS&E/RW	Project Awarded to Teichert Construction on 1/6/23
4. Highway 25 Expressway Conversion - San Felipe, Segment 1 (48541)	San Felipe Road to 0.3 miles north of Hudner Lane (0.8 mi west of SR 25 to 0.5 miles east of SR 25)	Conversion of 2-lane conventional highway to a 4-lane expressway	N/A	N/A	Local	Terry Thompson	PA&ED	Continuing environmental studies.



PROJECT UPDATE – SAN BENITO COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 16, 2023, COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS MEETING

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Project	Location/Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Phase	Comments
5. U.S 101 Southbound Connector Extension (1N910)	In San Benito County 3.0 miles West of San Juan Bautista at SR-156 and U.S. Route 101	Extend westbound connector an additional 1800 feet and construct a ramp meter	TBD	TBD	Minor A	Terry Thompson	PA&ED	No updates at this time.
6. SR 156/Alameda EB Right-Turn Channelization (1P300)	In San Juan Bautista at the intersection of SR 156 and The Alameda (PM 2.9/3.1)	Installation of eastbound right-turn channelization from SR 156 onto the Alameda	Spring 2024	TBD	Oversight/Local	Paul Valadao	PA&ED	The City approved change in ownership of the developer. Caltrans held a project kick-start meeting on Nov. 1 with the City's team to discuss the Right of Way challenges and how it may affect project delivery. Caltrans anticipates a subsequent submittal of the design package in the near future.
7. Hollister Clean CA (1P531)	On Route 25 in San Benito County from Sunset Dr. to Santa Ana Rd. (PM 49.9/51.2)	Install beautification, transportation art, and safety measure enhancement project in Caltrans R/W.	Winter 2023	\$1.2 million	Clean CA	Terry Thompson	PS&E	Awarded to Bortolussi & Watkin, Inc. on 3/2/23



PROJECT UPDATE – SAN BENITO COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 16, 2023, COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS MEETING

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT (*CONTINUED*)

Project	Location/Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Phase	Comments
8. Rocks Road US 101 Wildlife Connectivity Project (1Q260)	In San Benito County in the Aromas Hills (PM 0.0/2.8)	Identify wildlife crossing opportunities to connect important habitat on both sides of US 101 and improve safety for drivers and wildlife	TBD	TBD	State Funded	Terry Thompson (Acting PM)	PID	PID phase is in process.

Project numbers correspond to Attachment A: San Benito County Caltrans Project Location Map

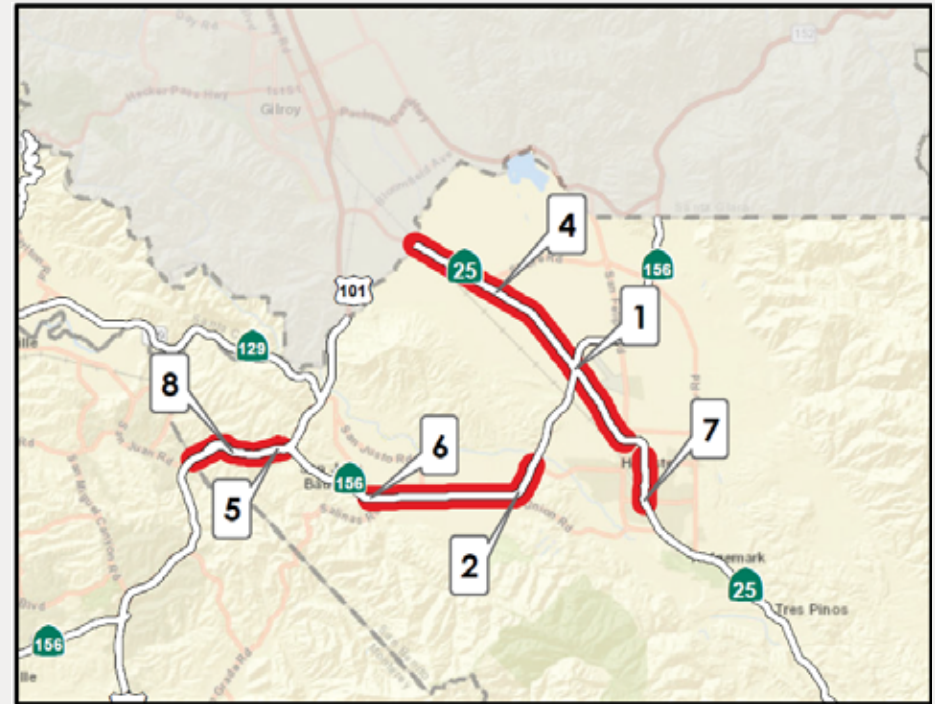
ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation Air Quality
CMIA	Corridor Mobility Improvement Account
CTC	California Transportation Commission
ED	Environmental Document
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
PA&ED	Project Approval and Environmental Document
PM	Post Mile
PS&E	Plans, Specifications, and Estimates
RTL	Ready to List
RW	Right of Way
SB1	Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017
SCL	Santa Clara County Line

SHOPP	State Highway Operation and Protection Program
SR	State Route
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
TBD	To Be Determined
TMS	Traffic Management System

CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS REPORT

1. SR 156 / SR 25 Turbo Roundabout Project
2. Highway 156 Improvement Project
3. Highway 25 Curve Alignment Restoration
4. Highway 25 Expressway Conversion
5. U.S 101 Southbound Connector Extension
6. SR 156/Alameda EB Right-Turn Channelization
7. Hollister Clean CA
8. Rocks Road US 101 Wildlife Connectivity Project



Zoomed in