

**Fresno COG Policy Board**

**Executive Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014**

**Time: 5:30 PM**

**Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room  
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA**

**Members Attending:**

Mayor Lynne Ashbeck, City of Clovis  
Councilmember Ron Lander, City of Coalinga  
Councilmember Marcia Sablan, City of Firebaugh  
Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler  
Councilmember Clinton Olivier, City of Fresno  
Mayor Sylvia Chavez, City of Huron  
Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman  
Mayor Chet Reilly, City of Kingsburg  
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota  
Mayor Gabriel Jimenez, City of Orange Cove  
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier  
Mayor Robert Beck, City of Reedley  
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin  
Councilmember George Rodriguez City of Selma  
Supervisor Judith Case-McNairy, County of Fresno

Gail Miller, Caltrans  
Arthur Wille, Legal Counsel  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

**Absent:** Mayor Joshua Mitchell, City of Sanger

**QUORUM:** At the start of the meeting there were 15 members present representing 97.40% of the population and there was a quorum to conduct business. (Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fresno, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Selma and Fresno County)

Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin), Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**RECOGNITION:**

**Kenneth Grey, City of Selma**

The Policy Board recognized Mr. Grey and thanked him for his service on the Board. Mr. Grey is now serving as the City Manager for the City of Selma.

**QUORUM:** Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez (Selma) left the meeting at 5:37 PM. There were 14 members present representing 94.02% of the population.

**Brenda Veenendaal, Fresno COG - 20 years of service**

The Policy Board thanked Ms. Veenendaal for her years of service at Fresno COG and presented her with a plaque.

**Jeffrey D. Webster, FCRTA General Manager - retirement**

The Policy Board recognized Mr. Webster for his 35 years of service and presented him with a gift. Everyone wished him well in his retirement. Mr. Webster spoke about the history of FCRTA and accomplishments over the years.

**Fresno COG Sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee**

**I. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

**About Consent Items:**

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- A. FY 2014-15 Transportation Funding Claims [Fawcett] [APPROVE]
- B. TDA Fiscal Year End LTF and STA Surplus and Allocations with Summary Enclosure [Fawcett] [APPROVE]
- C. Golden State Corridor Cooperative Agreement [Beshears] [AUTHORIZE]
- D. Department of Transportation Master Fund Transfer Agreement - Resolution 2014-27 [Beshears] [AUTHORIZE]
- E. Prop 84 Update [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- F. Greenprint Update [Thompson] [INFORMATION]
- G. Senate Bill 1183 – Surcharge for Local Bicycle Infrastructure [Thompson] [INFORMATION]
- H. 2014 San Joaquin Valley Fall Policy Conference and Blueprint Award Presentation – October 2-3 – Visalia [Terry] [INFORMATION]
- I. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant [Garza/Terry] [INFORMATION]
- J. Monthly Grant/Call for Project/Request for Proposals Reminder [Garza] [INFORMATION]

For a complete summary of these items, please see the September 25, 2014 Annotated Agenda.

Supervisor Case McNairy (County) asked that Item C – Golden State Cooperative Agreement, be pulled for discussion.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) and seconded by Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) to approve the remainder of the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Item C – Golden State Cooperative Agreement

Supervisor Case McNairy had questions regarding the trails. Mr. Beshears will provide additional information to her. A motion was made by Supervisor Case McNairy to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lander (Coalinga). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

## **II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Project Recommendations [Chargin/Garza] [APPROVE]**

Melissa Garza (FCOG) presented this item. The Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle I Call for Projects closed on August 27, 2014. A total of 30 projects were submitted to Fresno COG totaling \$15.9 million in requested ATP funds. The Fresno COG region has \$3.9 million available to award. Ten representatives of the Multi-Disciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) Committee met on Monday, September 8, 2014 to score the projects and draft a list of projects to be recommended for funding. The list of project evaluators and the agency(ies) they represent were included in the meeting package.

The project recommendations were approved by the TTC/PAC on September 12, 2014. Following Policy Board action on September 25, 2014 the project list will be submitted to the California Transportation Commission by September 30<sup>th</sup> for adoption at their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Sacramento. Following adoption of the Fresno COG Regional Competitive ATP, projects will be programmed in the 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) by February 2015 so that they can commence immediately.

Ms. Garza noted that if there are any questions to please contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148.

Supervisor Judy Case-McNairy (County) thanked staff for the work involved in the project selection process especially given the short amount of time allowed. Ms. Garza reported to the Policy Board that the law that created the ATP requires that 25% of the apportioned funds benefit disadvantaged communities. In our region, 89.9% of the funds will benefit disadvantaged communities. She also reported that the TTC and other project sponsors have asked about the next call for projects for the State and she stated that it is expected that the next statewide call will be in March of 2015 with a regional call thereafter.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Supervisor Judy Case McNairy (Fresno County) and seconded by Mayor Robert Silva (Mendota) to approve the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Projects as recommended by the Fresno COG Regional Competitive Active Transportation Program (ATP) Multi-Disciplinary Advisory Group (MAG) Scoring Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**B. Yosemite National Park Transit Update - Fresno COG Joint Powers Agreement Amendment/Agreement for Contractor Services [Fawcett/Downs/Beshears]**

**1. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Amendment to Provide Administration and Oversight of Yosemite Area Regional Transit System**

Les Beshears, Finance Director, presented this item explaining that last year Fresno COG hired a planning consultant to conduct a planning feasibility study to explore providing Transit Service to Yosemite National Park. Subsequently the Board awarded \$2.6 million in CMAQ to provide for the first two years of operations. Another \$667,000 in funding commitments were received from the Air District and Yosemite National Park. Fresno COG also was awarded a \$100,000 planning grant from Caltrans to do the initial planning and start up marketing. YARTS has proposed Fresno COG enter into a MOU to provide the startup service. The MOU would provide for two Fresno COG Board members to be Ex Officio (non-voting) members of YARTS, as well as three representatives appointed by the Fresno COG Director to serve on the YARTS Advisory Committee. If the startup service is successful, YARTS will amend their Joint Powers Agreement to allow Fresno COG full voting membership. However, the Fresno COG Joint Powers Agreement presently doesn't allow for implementation activities such as this. County Counsel has recommended Fresno COG request member agencies to amend the Joint Powers Agreement to grant this authority. The proposed amendment to the JPA would allow Fresno COG authority become the lead agency to apply and receive grant funding, enter into agreements to provide funding, and administration and oversight for interregional transportation projects. The authorization is somewhat generic to allow the agency to enter into future similar arrangements without doing piecemeal amendments to the JPA. It is estimated the JPA amendment could take a month or two, however, time is of the essence as YARTS would like to implement the service in spring of 2015 and there are a number of logistics to be taken care of such as planning out the route, arranging bus stop locations, leasing buses, hiring, training and certifying drivers, etc. Mr. Beshears explained that the companion item for this action is to request authorization to proceed with the planning part of the project, which doesn't require a JPA amendment.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Silva (Mendota) and seconded by Mayor Yep (Kerman) to authorize the Executive Director to request Member Agencies to amend to Fresno COG JPA to allow Fresno COG authority to become the lead agency to apply and receive grant funding, enter into agreements to provide funding, administration and oversight for interregional transportation projects. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**2. Agreement for Contractor Services**

Mr. Beshears went on to explain that an Agreement for Contractor Services between Fresno COG and Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) had been prepared to carry out planning activities related to the establishment of transit service in Highway 41 between the City of Fresno and Yosemite National Park.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Yep (Kerman) and seconded by Mayor Beck (Reedley) to approve the Agreement for Contractor Services. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**C. Update on Fresno COG Highway Litter Cleanup [Dawson] [Request for volunteers to staff the KAB Committee]**

Lauren Dawson (FCOG) presented this item noting that following the Fresno County Grand Jury's recommendation, the COG Policy Board instructed Fresno COG by to formulate an approach to control litter along the highways of Fresno County. A summary of work being done to address the problem and to comply with the Grand Jury's recommendations was included in the meeting package and is available as an exhibit to this item on the website agenda.

Two recommendations in the Grand Jury report were:

- 1) Additional emphasis on enforcement of laws regarding illegal dumping, improper load coverage and litter flying or thrown from vehicles is needed, and;
- 2) Fresno COG should align with the National Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization.

Officer Axel Reyes of the Fresno office of the California Highway Patrol made a brief presentation on the CHP's efforts to enforce litter laws on Fresno County Highways. There was a short discussion regarding the problems and possible solutions to the litter problem.

Ms. Dawson presented information on the Grand Jury's recommendation that Fresno COG become an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization.

**Keep America Beautiful Requirements:**

The Fresno County Grand Jury recommended that Fresno COG should become an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization. The application was submitted in December of 2013. The next step is to form the Fresno County KAB Community Team to develop two base-line tools 1) the Community Appearance Index-Litter Index and 2) the Focus Area Survey. The KAB Staff Director of Affiliate Development will conduct a 75-90 minute training webinar for the Fresno County KAB Community Team which will detail the Team's responsibilities. Prior to the webinar the KAB Director will send the materials required including the training manuals, the Community Appearance Index manual and additional resources. Following the preparation of the two surveys, the Fresno County KAB Community Team will then prepare the *First Year Affiliate Goals and Strategies Plan*.

There was a brief discussion. Councilmember Olivier (Fresno) requested information on the highway sign program that directs traffic to local businesses that provide food and fuel etc. Councilmember Olivier was interested to see if this program could be used to generate funding for the litter removal on Fresno County's highways.

Staff will contact the Caltrans District 6 Logo Program coordinator and provide information as to whether this program could be used to generate funding for litter removal. The funds received by Caltrans for the Logo Program are currently used internally to place and maintain the signs.

Mayor Yep (Kerman) suggested a partnership with the trash hauler providers.

A sign up sheet was circulated requesting volunteers to staff the Fresno County Keep America Beautiful Community Team. Staff will keep the Policy Board updated on progress.

**D. Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness [Dawson] [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Dawson went on the present this item. The *San Joaquin Valley Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan*, developed through a grant from the California Energy Commission, the US Department of Energy and coordinated by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, was completed May 2014. This Plan provides tools and resources to assist counties, cities and communities in the region to become PEV (Plug-In Electric Vehicle) ready. Included in this readiness plan and toolkit are templates to:

- Update zoning and parking policies
- Streamline permitting and inspecting processes
- Update building codes for electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE) which are charging stations, and PEV (Plug-in electric vehicle) parking
- Provide outreach and education

Joseph Oldham, Statewide Local Government Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator, (and former Sustainability Manager for the City of Fresno) provided an update on the Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, focusing on how the plan can be used by cities and the county to facilitate their development of plug-in vehicle infrastructure.

Todd DeYoung (Air District) also provided information on their programs and incentives.

For additional information and the link to the *San Joaquin Valley Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan* please visit the San Joaquin Valley Plug-In Electric Vehicle Resources Center at <http://www.valleyair.org/grants/content/pev.html>

Additional information is available through the Center for Sustainable Energy detailing the process and the work completed for the San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council at <http://energycenter.org/programs/pev-planning/san-joaquin>

Funding for infrastructure improvements are listed in recent legislation and a new grant was just released September 9, 2014. [\$3.3 Million for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program through the California Energy Commission, PON-14-603] <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html>

Ms. Dawson will continue to update the committees and Policy Board as more information becomes available. This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

**E. EfficientGov.com Grant Service [Garza/Monge-Chargin] INFORMATION]**

Melissa Garza (FCOG) gave a brief update. GrantFinder is a real-time, comprehensive database of all federal, state, foundation and corporate grants available to municipalities, counties and non-profit partners. The database is updated daily with new grants as well as updates to existing grants within the

system. Additionally, the service provides for unlimited access to EfficientGov news, articles and the GrantIntel newsletter, which focuses specifically on grant funding.

Efficient Gov.com started as a free email newsletter that provided news updates on innovative projects across the nation, funding opportunities, federal, state and local programs that are making a difference in the community, and other newsworthy information. There are about 40,000 municipal officials subscribed to this newsletter.

So, efficient gov launched a low-cost grants database, GrantFinder (<http://efficientgov.com/grantfinder>) to help cities, towns, nonprofits, schools and other organizations easily track and navigate their way through more than 2,400 federal, state, corporate and foundation grants that are available. It is updated daily and allows users to set up email alerts, save grants and save searches. It is very user friendly.

Currently, more than 200 cities, COGs and counties subscribe to GrantFinder (<http://efficientgov.com/grantfinder>).

In CA, the following organizations subscribe:

1. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (18 of the 21 member cities currently using GrantFinder)
2. Corona
3. Jurupa Valley Community Services District
4. Redding

All of our member agencies have registered for this service as well as many of our partnering agencies. We have subscribed to the 50-user license for a trial period of 1 year for \$995.

We are currently working on adding a tutorial but are offering technical assistance to all of our subscribers. This is just another tool that we are offering our member agencies and partners in helping identify and secure grant funds.

Please contact Lindsey Chargin at 559-233-4148 ext. 205 for more information or to sign-up for this service.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

**F. Peer Exchange Event [Veenendaal] [INFORMATION]**

Brenda Veenendaal (FCOG) presented this item explaining that in May 2014, during a discussion regarding the approval of the 2014 RTP/SCS, the Fresno COG Policy Board directed the Policy Advisory Committee's sub-committee to address three proposals brought forward by a coalition of community organizations. The Board further directed staff to address the policies as part of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy implementation efforts, following the June 26, 2014 adoption of the plans. The three community-based proposals are as follows:

(1) Development of a Transportation Needs Assessment to help inform transportation investment decisions.

(2) Development of a Sustainable Planning and Infrastructure Grant Program to help jurisdictions implement the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy goals.

(3) Development of Natural and Working Lands Conservation Policies applicable to transportation projects.

In an effort to build momentum, help frame the discussion, identify best practices, hear about practical lessons learned either good or bad, highlight benefits, identify gaps, and start outlining next steps in the process for addressing the three community-based proposals, Fresno COG hosted a Peer Exchange event. This information-gathering, from peers throughout the state who have implemented programs or policies similar to three proposals, included brainstorming among COG staff, interested Fresno organization staff members and transportation planning peers from around the state.

The event was held in partnership with the Sierra Business Council and the Local Government Commission on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Fresno COG Sequoia Room. Mayor Lynne Ashbeck served as the event facilitator, and speakers and panelists from agencies throughout the State of California graciously donated their time to present a great deal of valuable information to approximately 60 event participants.

The Peer Exchange Program was included in the meeting package, as well as photos from the event. Presentations were given by the following panelists (clickable links provided here). All of the panelist's PowerPoint presentations and audio of the entire event is now available on the Fresno COG website at <http://www.fresnocog.org/rtp-scs-implementation>:

Dr. Ken Bird, MD, MPH, Fresno County Department of Public Health— [Status of Health in Fresno County](#)

Dr. Jared Rutledge, PhD, Fresno County Health Department-- [Building Predictive Epidemiological Models](#)

Alan Thompson, Southern CA Association of Governments-- [SCAG's Active Transportation Needs Assessment](#)

Jonathan London, Center of Regional Change at UC Davis-- [Integrating Social Equity into Regional Planning: Lessons from SB 375](#)

Craig Goldblatt, Metropolitan Transportation Commission-- [One Bay Area Grant Program](#)

Marco Angerson, Southern CA Association of Governments-- [Sustainability Planning Grant Program](#)

Colleen Clementson, San Diego Association of Governments-- [Smart Growth Incentive Program](#)

Loren Clark, Planning Department and Community Development Resource Agency— [Conservation Planning in Placer County](#)



Robert Puro, Seedstock— Analyzing Grow Riverside

Robert Tse, USDA CA Rural Development— Utilizing Technology to Enhance and Preserve our Agricultural Lands and Resources

There was a short discussion about the event. This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

**G. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]**

Gail Miller Caltrans gave a short update at the meeting. A copy of the Caltrans Quarterly Report was included as an exhibit to this item. Ms. Miller handed out the Mile Marker magazine and also a questionnaire asking for feedback that she asked that Board members complete.

Ms. Miller also provided some information regarding Councilmember Olivier's earlier question regarding the litter program.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

**Fresno COG Sitting as the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board**

**III. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Yep (Kerman) and seconded by Mayor Chavez (Huron) to reaffirm all action taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

**About Consent Items:**

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- A. Executive Minutes of July 31, 2014 [APPROVE]
- B. Monthly Legislative Update [Garza] [INFORMATION]
- C. SJV Regional Policy Council Update (June 2014 meeting) [Boren] [INFORMATION]
- D. Regional Clearinghouse [Arnest] [APPROVE]

For a complete summary of these items, please see the September 25, 2014 Annotated Agenda.

Following an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Chavez (Huron) and seconded by Mayor Yep (Kerman) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. 2015 Fresno COG Washington DC One Voice Kick off and 2015 Legislative Platform [Garza/Veenendaal][INFORMATION]**

**1. Fresno COG 2015 Washington DC One Voice**

- April 11<sup>th</sup>-16 (the week after spring break)
- We are starting a bit early, but want to allow enough time for the planning process and the participation opportunities from elected officials, city staff, community partners, businesses and folks from the education arena.
- Held a kick off meeting on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and though it was a small group, it was very productive with an outcome of several tasks and direction.
- Recommendation will be to have Water as the #1 priority again, along with Jobs and Job Training
- Other priorities will include Transportation, given that we will be there right around the time the CR expires for Transportation.
  - Other priorities that will be submitted by member agencies
- Encourage you participation or if not, then we want to encourage the special assignment tactic where you ask another councilmember to participate
- Encourage sponsorship.
- Encourage identifying priorities and work with staff to submit those priorities for consideration
- Also we are in the process of updating the Leg. Platform, please provide comments for the update because the priorities that we take to DC should ultimately align with the legislative platform.
- Lastly, the committee assigned a subcommittee to work on the collection of crucial data that illustrates the severity of the drought. That subcommittee, which includes Brenda Veenendaal, have already gotten commitments from the media on this special project and she can speak in detail about this exciting component to the OV advocacy effort.

The 2015 One Voice trip is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, marking the 13th official planned visit to Washington, D.C. Fresno COG kicked-off the 2015 One Voice planning effort with a Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 3:30 PM in the Sequoia Room. This committee will draft and guide the regional priorities for the 2015 advocacy trip. We will continue to work with the Fresno COG DC lobbyist, Len Simon from Simon and Co. Fresno COG's One Voice effort thrives on collaboration between elected officials, staff, business and other organizations. We have opportunities to speak with representatives from the highest levels of our federal government about our region's needs, often finding solutions to regional problems. Therefore, Fresno COG would like to encourage all policy board members, other elected officials, member agency staff, businesses, education and community groups to participate in the planning process and in the trip itself.

During the kick-off meeting the committee recommended that the One Voice delegation focus trip efforts on Water policy, Jobs and Jobs Training as well as transportation and other priorities submitted for consideration by the member agencies. They will form subcommittees to focus on gathering needed data and information regarding these priorities. During the upcoming months the steering committee will draft specific language to include in the regional priority brochure and will be requesting your assistance in gathering data on the impacts of the drought. This would include your cities' or the county's unemployment data, economical effects, environmental impacts (such as wild fires and air quality), etc, and personal testimonies that highlight the human element of the impacts. The committee

also welcomes your input on any additional regional priority requests that may or may not be directly or indirectly related to Water and Jobs policies.

Ms. Garza noted that Fresno COG is in the process of updating the Legislative Platform, please provide comments for the update because the priorities that we take to DC should ultimately align with the legislative platform.

The committee assigned a subcommittee to work on the collection of crucial data that illustrates the severity of the drought. That subcommittee, which includes Brenda Veenendaal, have already gotten commitments from the media on this special project and she can speak in detail about this exciting component to the OV advocacy effort.

Fresno COG and the “One Voice” delegation are grateful to have received several financial contributions for the 2013/2014 advocacy efforts and look forward to continued commitment and support again in 2015. The sponsorships allow us to continue to improve our efforts in reaching our regional goals. One of our 2014 sponsors has already agreed to sponsor the 2015 trip—The Hospital Council. If you are interested in participating in the planning process, the trip, or you want to learn more on how to become a One Voice Sponsor, please contact Melissa Garza at [mgarza@fresnocog.org](mailto:mgarza@fresnocog.org) or Brenda Veenendaal at [brendav@fresnocog.org](mailto:brendav@fresnocog.org).

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board. Staff will keep the Board updated on progress.

## **2. Fresno COG 2015 Legislative Platform**

Ms. Garza also presented this item. The Legislative Platform is a document that includes the advocacy priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. It represents a unified voice when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal lawmakers as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to the Fresno COG staff and the lobbying partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board. Several additions were incorporated into the FY 2014 Legislative Platform. These included an enhanced Economic Development section that added support for incentives for hard hit areas in place of the former enterprise zone program, replacement legislation for an improved program to take the place of the Redevelopment Authority and continued support for the Enhanced Economic Development Rate before the PUC. The Local and Regional Planning section was also updated to include a discussion in support of the Integration of Land Use and Transportation Planning. Please review the current legislative platform enclosed that reflects the most current priorities for advocacy during the 2013/2014 state and federal legislative sessions which was approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board last fall. Fresno COG staff is preparing to update the legislative platform for the 2015 legislative year and is requesting your input and participation in the process to ensure that the region’s 2014/2015 legislative priorities are captured in the platform. The Policy Board was asked to review the 2014 platform enclosed and provide suggestions and feedback to Melissa Garza at [mgarza@fresnocog.org](mailto:mgarza@fresnocog.org). Staff anticipates recommending approval of the final legislative platform in October.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

**B. Valley Voice Report [Garza/Boren] [INFORMATION]**

Ms. Garza gave a brief update. The final agenda was included as an exhibit to this item and all information regarding the Valley Voice trip is available on the Fresno COG website <http://www.fresnocog.org/current-planning-activities>.

The trip was made on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. 27 participated, 11 of them elected officials from the eight counties. The agenda consisted of meetings the Legislative Directors and the Valley Congressional Leadership. The group met with both Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein regarding the transportation regional priorities; however, the conversations always turned to water policy.

Other highlights included:

- Regarding the Transportation Bill, there was an indication that Chairman Shuster will be pushing for a 5-6 year surface transportation reauthorization bill but no real indication of when we should expect it.
- HTFF: House-little appetite to raise gas tax, but have considered various options like, VMT, Wholesale tax, etc.
- The Delegation demanded, I know that is a strong word, but that's exactly how it was worded, that the members make a decision and compromise on a solution because elected officials at the local level have to respond to their constituents on the impacts of "kicking the can down the road" is doing to their communities.
- Feinstein: Letter to Secretary Jewell of Interior and Secretary Pritzker of Commerce regarding the ongoing drought and what they can do to help the dire situation.
- House T&I: Letter to DOT regarding the goods movement priority projects

Mayor Yep (Kerman) and Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) attended the trip and spoke briefly.

Mayor Dhaliwal asked that we send the letter to the CC's that Senator Feinstein suggested. Tony said we would follow up with Len Simon to ensure that it is sent to those Senators and House Members outside of our SJV Congressional Leadership and California Senators.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

**C. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley - Nominations [Boren] [DIRECTION]**

Tony Boren, Executive Director pointed out that earlier in the year, the Fresno COG Policy Board requested that we inform our member agencies of the following opportunity. The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley has requested that Fresno COG submit nominations for Fresno County's public sector representation on the Partnership Board. As a matter of background, Judy Case McNairy has represented Fresno County on the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) Board of Directors. Supervisor Case McNairy's term on the Fresno Board of Supervisors is expiring at the end of the year. The Fresno Council of Governments is identified as the vetting agency for the nomination of elected official (public sector) to the Partnership Board. The nominations are reviewed by the State and final appointment made by the Governor. The Governor asks that we provide three nominees and that we prioritize them. Supervisor Borgeas, Fresno County submitted his online application to the State in August. There has been no word on appointment.

Supervisor Case McNairy (County) gave a brief explanation of the position and the time commitment for this.

A motion was made by Mayor Yep (Kerman) and seconded by Mayor Chavez (Huron) for Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) and Mayor Cardenas (Fowler) to apply for the positions to represent Fresno COG. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

**D. Water Update [Garza/Santoyo]**

Mario Santoyo gave an update and answered questions regarding the Water Bond and other items. Information was distributed.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Items from Staff**

1. The October Board meeting will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the November meeting schedule.

2. Mr. Boren noted that Barbara Steck will be receiving the Darrel Hildebrand Award at the Fall Policy Conference on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mayor Ashbeck (Clovis) suggested that the Policy Board sign a card for her acknowledging the recognition. Staff will have one available at the October meeting.

**B. Items from Members**

Mayor Silva (Mendota) reported on SB 1139.

Mayor Jimenez (Orange Cove) briefly commented.

Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) asked that the Board receive a copy of the letter to Senator Feinstein.

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Policy Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

There were no public presentations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

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Others Attending:

Ray Soleno, City of Reedley  
Jeffrey D. Webster, FCRTA  
Moses Stites, FCRTA  
Art Penson, City of Fresno

Mario Santoyo, CLWC  
Joseph Oldham, Local Government Commission  
Todd DeYoung, Valley Air District

Fresno COG:

Mike Bitner  
Les Beshears  
Melissa Garza  
Lauren Dawson  
Clark Thompson  
Brenda Veenendaal

Kathy Chung  
Peggy Arnest  
Rob Terry  
Laural Fawcett  
Marla Day