

JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS AND SJCOG, INC.  
SJCOG Conference Room  
555 E. Weber Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95202

August 22, 2019

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 4:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

1. The Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Kuehne.

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present:**

Councilmember Andrade, Stockton; Mayor Dhaliwal, Lathrop; Supervisor Elliott, SJC;  
Councilmember Jobrack, Stockton; Mayor Pro Tem Kuehne, Lodi; Mayor Rickman, Tracy;  
Councilmember Singh, Manteca; Vice Mayor Wright, Stockton; Mayor Zuber, Ripon.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Anthony Barkett, Port of Stockton; Les Fong, SJRTD; Dan McElhinney, Caltrans.

**Board Members Absent:**

Supervisor Miller, SJC; Councilmember Murken, Escalon; Supervisor Winn, SJC.

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

None.

**Staff Members Present:**

Andrew Chesley, Executive Director; Steve Dial, Deputy Executive Director; Diane Nguyen, Deputy Director; Vikram Sharma, Information Services Manager; Steve Mayo, Project Manager; Ryan Niblock, Senior Regional Planner; Kim Anderson, Senior Regional Planner; Rob Cunningham, Senior Regional Planner; David Ripperda, Associate Regional Planner; Yvette Davis, Senior Program Specialist; Michelle Prince, Assistant Regional Planner; Travis Yokoyama, Associate Regional Planner; Joel Campos, Assistant Regional Planner; Christine Corrales, Associate Regional Planner; Teresa Garcia, Administrative Technician; Stephanie Maynard, Administrative Analyst; Katy Castro, Administrative Clerk II; Melissa Ablang, Administrative Clerk II; Rosie Gutierrez, Office Administrator; Shyla Soliz, Intern; Rod Attebery, Counsel.

2. **Recognitions/Presentations:**

A. **Recognize Past Chair Mayor Robert Rickman**

Chair Kuehne presented Robert Rickman with a plaque in appreciation for his dedicated service to the San Joaquin Council of Governments as Chair of the Board for FY 2018-2019. Robert Rickman said it has been a pleasure serving as chair and thanked everyone for the recognition.

\*\*Supervisor Elliott joined the meeting

B. **Valley EV Aviation – Ground Innovations Coalition**

Andrew Chesley informed the Board Keith Bergthold and Joseph Oldham has a

presentation on Valley EV Aviation. They are making presentations to all COGs in the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Chesley turned the floor over to Joseph Oldham.

Mr. Oldham thanked the Board for the opportunity to present today. He said they will be talking about the third revolution in aviation. Mr. Oldham shared a video from representatives from Boeing to help explain their vision on how transportation is going to change. Mr. Oldham presented a Power Point on how the evaluation of this technology is going to progress. He stated the goal is to form a coalition starting with the SJCOG and the associations of government in San Joaquin Valley, to work towards getting California to acknowledge that zero emission aviation should be a part of the state's portfolio for reducing emission and move forward with advanced transportation technology. Mr. Oldham turned the floor over to Keith Berghold.

Mr. Berghold gave an overview on the Regional Organizing Framework and emphasized this is an emerging industry for the planet and we need a working group that can translate a lot of innovation to economic development opportunity for us.

Chair Kuehne thanked Mr. Oldham and Mr. Berghold for their presentation.

Steve Dial informed the Board the monitors on the left side of the dais are not working and staff hopes to have fixed.

3. **Public Comments:**

Dr. Armando Valerio spoke on behalf of San Joaquin 5Cs and thanked the SJCOG Board for implementing the NEMT pilot project for one year. He thanked Andrew Chesley and staff for their hard work and support. He thanked RTD General Manager Donna DeMartino and her staff for their implementation and planning, and SJCOG Chair Kuehne who was the pivotal person in bringing this forward. Dr. Valerio commented on the NEMT and stated it was a great idea, however the timing was challenging and he appreciates everybody's efforts.

4. **Consent Calendar Items:**

- A. Minutes: Joint meeting of the Board of Directors for SJCOG & SJCOG, Inc., June 27, 2019
- B. *SJCOG* - Monthly Financial Report & Transportation Authority Monthly Investment Report
- C. *SJCOG* - FY 2018-19 Annual Financial Plan Amendment #3 and Overall Work Program Amendment #3
- D. *SJCOG* – Fiscal Year 2018-19 Transportation Development Act Claim from the City of Lodi
- E. *SJCOG* – Fiscal Year 2018-19 REVISED State Transit Assistance Claim for the San Joaquin Regional Transit District
- F. *SJCOG* –Federal Transit Urbanized Area Programming for Manteca and Tracy
- G. *SJCOG* – 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (Type 3) Amendment #11
- H. *SJCOG* – Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) 2019-20 Budget and Fund Transfer Agreement
- I. *SJCOG* – *dibs* Vanpool Project Contract with Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)
- J. *SJCOG* - 2019 MAP-21 Performance Report
- K. *SJCOG* – State Route 99/120 Connector Project Consultant Contract Amendments

- L. *SJCOG, Inc.* – Kennedy Jaques Wing Levee Road Preserve Purchase and Preserve Management Plan
- M. *SJCOG, Inc.* – Zinc House Winery Project, Plan Participation and Habitat Classification Change
- N. *SJCOG, Inc.* – FC Tracy Holdings Project, Plan Participation
- O. *SJCOG, Inc.* – Willow Glenn Agricultural Excavation Project, Plan Participation
- P. *SJCOG, Inc.* – Foothill Landfill Solar Farm Project, Plan Participation and Habitat Classification Change
- Q. *SJCOG, Inc.* – American River / California Department of Fish and Wildlife Easement Holding Request
- R. *SJCOG, Inc.* – Victoria Island Distillery Project, Plan Participation and Habitat Classification Change
- S. *SJCOG, Inc.* – Penny Newman Wharf Repair and Reconstruction Project, Plan Participation and Buffer Reduction

It was moved/seconded (Zuber/Wright) to approve consent calendar. Motion passed unanimously (9/0).

5. **Action Items:**

A. *SJCOG* – Local Transportation Fund Policy Change Proposal

Andrew Chesley presented this report and informed the Board it is for discussion and staff is not recommending to take action. Staff will present this item in September for a final action. Mr. Chesley stated this item has gone through the standing committee process and each of the committees had no specific action. Mr. Chesley briefly discussed the background on this item and the challenging effort in 2016 apportionments for both SJRRC and SJRTD. Mr. Chesley said the direction from the Board was to bring forward a set of recommendations and policies to eliminate the experience in 2016. Mr. Chesley reviewed staff's recommendation to the Board and steps taken that have assisted transit programs like SJRTD's and SJRRC. Mr. Chesley reviewed the value in making these changes, comments received on changing the policy, and alternatives to this policy change.

Mr. Chesley informed the Board in their blue folder there is a letter from the City of Escalon with their recommendation.

Mr. Chesley informed the Board staff's recommendation is outlined in the staff report and then he reviewed the committees' comments.

Board member Zuber expressed his concerns regarding SJRRC and RTD requests for additional funding and requiring more information on the reasoning for additional funds.

Board member Jobrack expressed interest in seeing ridership reports within the communities.

Board member Elliott asked for clarification on the shortfall. Mr. Chesley explained RTD has indicated they are operating with a structural deficit and the Rail Commission existing funding sources are not going to be enough for their future expansion of services.

Board member Elliott asked if these recommendations will meet the needs of SJRRC and RTD. Mr. Chesley said yes, \$5 million will be enough to meet those needs and be available for SJRRC, RTD and for the smaller transit properties.

Board member Elliott commented on the letter from City of Escalon and their proposal. Mr. Chesley said that would not change any existing policy, that language is the same for every jurisdiction.

Board member Zuber commented on the LTF and said this is a temporary solution eventually there will be no more LTF.

Les Fong responded to Board member Zuber's comment and understands the concerns. He said RTD is very prudent with their money and all the money goes for operations. For years RTD has been doing more with less money.

Board member Singh said the bigger issue for Manteca is the timeline and suggested having no jurisdiction fall below 25% to be eligible for road and street claims.

Board member Dhaliwal asked about money that RTD has not been spent yet. Donna DeMartino explained that it is not LTF it is State Transit Assistance (STA) funds and RTD does not have unexpended carry over for LTF. Board member Dhaliwal asked if RTD is planning on additional routes if this item is approved. Ms. DeMartino answered yes.

Ms. DeMartino responded to Board member Zuber's comment and informed him she did a budget presentation for the COG Board a month or two ago. She also stated, for the last ten years RTD's budget has been less than flat line, and after ten years they are just getting back where they were ten years ago.

Ms. DeMartino commented on the LTF and said the Transportation Development Act states it is for public transit only and is only available to use for streets and roads if there are no unmet transit needs.

This item was for discussion only.

**B. SJCOG – Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Annual Review**

Rob Cunningham spoke briefly on the background of this item. Based on the ridership and cost figures as reported by RTD, staff recommends to discontinue funding of the current NEMT service. Mr. Cunningham presented a Power Point and explained in more detail.

Mr. Cunningham thanked Dr. Valerio and Ms. Mraz of San Joaquin County as well as RTD staff for their efforts on the NEMT.

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the Committee actions.

Board member Elliott asked about the potential options for NEMT passengers to still use the StaRT service out of Modesto after the NEMT program is canceled.

Some board members expressed concerns regarding meeting the needs of the small population that used the service and benefited from this NEMT.

Dr. Valerio commented on the discussions and alternatives he had prior to coming to SJCOG. Dr. Valerio said in regards to service out of Modesto he believes there are alternatives and feels it can be done economically and in a feasible manner.

Board member Jobrack said in regards to the Modesto service, could this be done with a VanGo program. George Lorente from RTD answered and said one of the issues is the operating hours with the current VanGo service. He said that the requests for NEMT may occur during very early morning hours when VanGo does not operate. There might be an opportunity for modification if there is funding.

It was moved/seconded (Wright/Jobrack) to discontinue funding to NEMT and hold STA funds in reserve for Mountain House bus transit service and weekend bus transit service to BART. Motion passed unanimously (9/0).

6. **Discussion Items:**

A. **SJCOG - Valley Link Project Feasibility Report**

Joel Campos presented this report and spoke briefly on the background. He stated the full report is available at the link provided in the staff report and a copy of staff's comment letter is attached. The comment letter expresses SJCOG's support of the Authority's efforts addressing the congestion on I-580 within the Altamont Pass Corridor. SJCOG recommended having an ongoing discussion to ensure successful implementation and offered comments on various topics. Mr. Campos reviewed staff's comments on the five main topics. Staff believes that the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission will be best to operate this Valley Link project moving forward.

Board member Rickman asked about the funds on the Alameda side to push toward this project. Andrew Chesley said in terms of High Speed Rail, he has not heard of any funding for High Speed Rail. Mr. Chesley said if Fast Bay Area passes it would put a tremendous amount of pressure for us in San Joaquin County.

This item was for discussion only.

B. **SJCOG - Valley Voice/San Joaquin One Voice®**

Andrew Chesley announced September 11-12, 2019 he will be attending with Supervisor Winn and Vice Mayor Wright the Valley Voice trip to Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Chesley reviewed some of the subject matters that will be advocated in DC. During the course of the two days, they are expected to meet with Minority Leader McCarthy, Congressman Nunez, Congressman Cox, Congressman McNerney, Congressman Harder and Congressman Costa from the San Joaquin Valley and also anticipating to meet with Senator Feinstein. There are meetings scheduled to meet with Department of Transportation and several staff members from committees in Washington, DC.

This was for discussion only.

7. **Information Items:**

A. SJCOG - 2019 Bike Month Results

This item was for information only.

8. **Chair's Report:**

None.

9. **Council Members' Report:**

Supervisor Elliott presented SJCOG with a certificate from the Manteca Chambers of Commerce congratulating SJCOG for becoming a member of the Chambers of Commerce.

Mayor Rickman thanked Dan McElhinney from Caltrans for assisting with the homeless issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Kuehne reported on City of Lodi's Town Hall meeting on homeless, and said on behalf of some of the citizens thanked Dan McElhinney and Caltrans staff for their work.

10. **Ex-Officio Council Members' Report:**

A. San Joaquin Regional Transit District

Les Fong announced RTD received a 2019 Environmental Excellence award from the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Fong reported on the partnership with Stockton Unified School District and providing free transportation for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. RTD hopes to expand the program to other school districts.

B. Caltrans District 10

Dan McElhinney distributed a handout on the press release about State Route 120 upgrade striping and signage. Mr. McElhinney thanked City of Stockton for working with Caltrans Homeless Employment Litter Program. Mr. McElhinney reported last year Caltrans was able to provide \$121,000 with the City of Stockton non-profit service provider in order to have the program launched in our area. This year we are going to invest up \$175,000 with the City of Stockton to delegate a maintenance agreement update.

Mr. McElhinney thanked Andy Chesley and his staff for organizing a meeting recently, and thanked Mayor Cantu, CHP Lt. Moser, and partners to review safety solutions.

Mr. McElhinney presented a Power Point on State Route 120 Safety Assessment Team-Caltrans/SJCOG/Manteca/CHP update and Lodi Encampment Solutions Task Force update.

Mr. McElhinney announced the 580 Corridor Summit Workshop is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Livermore Airport.

C. Port of Stockton

Anthony Barkett announced this is his first time attending the SJCOG meeting. Mr. Barkett said he does not have any major announcements; however, the Port is in good shape. Mr. Barkett said the trade war is having a little impact on the Port.

11. **Executive Director's Report:**

Mr. Chesley welcomed Mr. Barkett and thanked him for attending the COG Board meeting.

Mr. Chesley announced Kim Anderson and Kelly Bagley will be leaving the agency for a variety of reasons and it will be a loss to the agency.

Mr. Chesley informed the Board Lynn Jacquez', from CJ Lake, husband suddenly passed away, and we sent our condolences on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Chesley said regarding the Corridor Summit, staff is currently working on a congested corridor plan. It is a requirement of SB 1 for future funding. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued in a couple of months for the environmental and design work on the widening of I-205.

Mr. Chesley reported on the meeting with Alameda Transportation Commission held in Tracy and said it was a good meeting about partnering with the Altamont Pass.

Mr. Chesley thanked the Board for their attendance and input.

Mayor Rickman asked regarding the homeless issue, are there funds that can be used for rodiron fences. Andrew Chesley said presently, no it is not targeted for those kinds of efforts. Mr. Chesley mentioned the meeting with Adam Cheshire the homeless coordinator and spoke about our resources to help with this issue.

Chair Kuehne addressed Kim Anderson and said on behalf of the Board you will be missed. I appreciate your efforts, you done a great job, enjoy your move.

**12. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the SJCOG Conference Room.