

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
Appointments

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Appoint Supervisor Kathy Miller
(to fill last two years of one term) and
Councilmember Jose Nuno (to fill four-year
term) as well as the reappointment of
Councilmember Christina Fugazi

DISCUSSION:

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's Joint Powers Agreement requires the San Joaquin Council of Governments to appoint Rail Commissioners from San Joaquin County. Commissioners can only be locally elected officials presently serving on a city council or the Board of Supervisors. There are no other specifications in the Joint Powers Agreement. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission consists of six members appointed by the San Joaquin Council of Governments and two members appointed from Alameda County.

With Supervisor Elliott termed out on the Board of Supervisors and Councilmember Morehead of Manteca not being re-elected, two vacancies will occur on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission in January unless SJCOG acts in December. Also, Councilmember Fugazi's term of office on the Rail Commission will need to be extended. She presently serves as Chair of the Rail Commission and is interested in continuing on the Commission.

For your information, the six sitting COG Appointees on the Rail Commission are:

Vice Mayor Nancy Young, City of Tracy
Supervisor Bob Elliott, County of San Joaquin
Councilmember Christina Fugazi, City of Stockton (Chair)
Councilmember Debby Moorhead, City of Manteca
Mayor Leo Zuber, City of Ripon (Vice Chair)
Mayor Doug Kuehne, City of Lodi

The SJCOG Board can fill the position with any elected official. The SJCOG Board has no adopted policies to fill the position, but instead, has relied on a series of past practices. The Executive Committee acts to make recommendations to the full Board based on input from

SJCOG staff, the SJCOG Chairman, and at times input from the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission. The SJCOG Board does not ask for formal recommendations from the various city councils and the Board of Supervisors though does not preclude it either.

Some of the past practices:

- The Board has attempted to balance the composition of the Rail Commission so that there is not a majority of COG Board members on the Commission. Presently there are three COG Boardmembers and three non-COG Boardmembers.
- The Board has attempted to have a board member from a community with a station or a proposed station. This has not always been achieved but has been considered desirable.
- The Board has attempted to find people with an interest in transportation issues.
- The Board has shied away from appointing more than one person from a jurisdiction though on rare occasions this has happened.

SJCOG staff recommends that consideration be given to appointing a member from the Board of Supervisors. This has been a past practice. Also, an appointment from the City of Manteca makes sense at the present time considering the changes to the Lathrop-Manteca Station and the development of a stop at the Manteca Transit Center. However, a City of Lathrop appointment could be considered with the planning for a new station stop in Lathrop.

The terms of the Rail Commissioners are four years. The replacement for Supervisor Elliott will fill a new four-year term. The replacement for Councilmember Morehead will be for the remaining two years of her term.

Among the most pressing policy issues (though certainly not the only policy issues) for the Regional Rail Commission are:

- A future change in the governance to accommodate Sacramento and Stanislaus Counties
- Expansion of the system to accommodate the growing ridership
- Expansion of the System to serve Sacramento, Modesto and Merced
- Track extension to the maintenance facility and maximizing its use
- Management of the San Joaquins service from Alameda to Kern.
- Handling the challenges of COVID-19

The Executive Committee unanimously has recommended the appointments of Supervisor Kathy Miller and Manteca Councilmember Jose Nuno. Supervisor Miller has experience on the Commission from her time on the Stockton City Council and served briefly while on the Board of Supervisors. She has two more years left before she is termed out on the Board of Supervisors so staff recommendation is she fill the remainder of Councilmember Morehead's term. Councilmember Nuno is not presently a member of the SJCOG Board (though he is Manteca's alternate) and thus allows us to keep a relative balance between COG and non-COG Boardmembers of the Commission. He is interested in transportation issues, is well positioned to represent the Manteca/Lathrop area and his office is only a few blocks from the Cabral Station where the Commission meets under non-COVID conditions. Staff recommends he fill the four-year term. Also, Stockton Councilmember Fugazi's term is up. Staff recommends her

reappointment as she presently serves as Chair, would like to continue on the Commission, and it is the past practice to reappoint sitting members under those conditions.

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