

Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting

5961 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277

February 9, 2009

ATTENDANCE LIST

Committee member attendance list:

City of Dinuba	Joe Rocha
City of Exeter	~absent~
City of Farmersville	~absent~
City of Lindsay	Philip LoBue
County of Tulare	David Harrald
Tulare County Econ. Development Corp.	Colby Wells
Tulare/Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Gil Jaramillo
Bicycle/Ped/Transit	Vicki Stasch

City of Porterville	Wayne Harris
City of Tulare	Ty Holscher
City of Visalia	Karen Cooper
City of Woodlake	(pending appointment)
TC Farm Bureau	Tom Barcellos
Home Builders Association of Tulare/King Counties	Greg Woodard
Audit/Finance/Budgeting	~absent~
Environment	~absent~

Others present: Elizabeth Wright, Ramon Lara, and Eddie Wendt (TCAG Staff), Johnny Wong, Britt Fussel, Henry Hash, and Jean Brou (County of Tulare RMA), Leslie Caviglia (City of Visalia), and Laura Florez (The Lockwood Agency).

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

The Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting began at 12:10 p.m. on February 9, 2009

- Chair Harrald called the meeting to order, and invited the committee members and members of the public to introduce themselves. Chair Harrald also reported on the new representative that will be on the Citizens' Oversight Committee after the Tulare County Transportation Authority approves the City of Woodlake's nomination on February 23rd. Jack Ritchie will be the new Woodlake member if confirmed.
- There were no public comments.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Barcellos and a second by Ms. Stasch, the minutes of November 10, 2008 were unanimously approved.
- Mr. Lara presented the agencies' Measure R local program quarterly reports. Mr. Barcellos commented that the County's quarterly report lists "various roads" and he would like to see specific roads listed.
- Mr. Lara updated the committee on the status of Measure R revenues. The revenues are stable and Mr. Wells asked why we are seeing stability in the current economy. Mr. Lara replied that while some city's sale tax dollars are down, some Tulare County cities are seeing sales tax amounts go up. Countywide revenues are slightly up. Committee members commented that Tulare County does not always "boom" and "bust" to as great of a degree as some larger metropolitan areas. While we did see a large increase in housing in the past and a failing of that market, Tulare County is still very agriculture dependent.
- Mr. Lara discussed Measure R Regional Projects Funding Strategies. The Transportation Authority is looking at short term loans from the County Treasurer and Citizens Business Bank.
- Mr. Wendt discussed the status of the federal stimulus package and its potential impacts on Measure R. Tulare County is estimated to receive about \$8 million for transportation projects and approximately \$3 million for transit. Because of federal law and air quality requirements, all transportation projects and their source of funding must be included in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). TCAG staff has been working to get projects and potential stimulus funds into the FTIP ahead of time, so that when money begins to be allocated we are authorized to spend it. A typical FTIP amendment

takes three months for approval. Agencies are submitting rehabilitation projects to TCAG for inclusion in the FTIP. Federal funds can only be spent on projects that are air quality exempt or have federal environmental approval. The Ben Maddox bridge project is eligible for stimulus funds, and the Road 108 widening may be as well. For most of the agencies, stimulus funding will need to be used for rehabilitation projects.

Ms. Caviglia commented on a statistic that said that approximately 45 jobs are created for every \$1 million spent. Mr. Wells commented that measure R is a bright spot in a time of state budget uncertainty and nationwide economic troubles.

- Ms. Wright gave an update on the status of the proposed rail abandonment. The rail advisory committee will be meeting later this month to discuss next steps. An appeal to the decision to abandon the line is being considered. Also, with the cost of steel dropping, the incentive for Rail America to sell may have decreased.
- Mr. Wong was unable to meet with the farm bureau districts as recommended by the committee. Mr. Barcellos presented a survey that the Farm Bureau is putting out on road concerns, along with some sample responses. Mr. Barcellos will forward survey results to the county for their use. Mr. Hash commented that that will be very useful to the county as a source of community input.
- Ms. Wright reminded the committee that Form 700s are due to TCAG by April 1st, 2009.
- Chair Harrald asked TCAG staff to follow up with the City of Visalia on the Measure R maintenance of effort requirements, and to report back to the committee at their next meeting. He also requested a meeting with Ted Smalley and the City Managers to discuss the white paper provided by Mike Lane at the last committee meeting. Chair Harrald will follow up with Mr. Smalley on that issue.
- **The Citizens' Oversight Committee was concluded and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.**