

# Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting

2800 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291

May 11, 2009

## ATTENDANCE LIST

### Committee member attendance list:

City of Dinuba	~absent~
City of Exeter	Sepp Becker
City of Farmersville	~absent~
City of Lindsay	~absent~
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	~absent~
TC Farm Bureau	Tom Barcellos
Home Builders Association of Tulare/King Counties	~absent~
Audit/Finance/Budgeting	Manuel Espinola
Environment	~absent~

**Others present:** Elizabeth Wright, Ramon Lara, Jason Waters, and Ted Smalley (TCAG Staff), Jean Brou, Britt Fussel, and Shirley Wallace (County of Tulare RMA), Leslie Caviglia and Chris Tavarez (City of Visalia), Darrel Pyle (City of Tulare), Raymond Macareno (TKHCC), and Laura Florez and Nancy Lockwood (The Lockwood Agency).

## DRAFT MEETING NOTES

**The Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting began at 12:12 p.m. on May 11, 2009**

- Chair Harrald called the meeting to order, and invited the committee members and members of the public to introduce themselves. Mr. Jaramillo introduced the new director of the Tulare/Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Raymond Macareno. Mr. Harris announced that the City of Porterville has gone out to bid on the Scranton/Indiana project. Construction is expected to start in June.
- There were no public comments.
- Upon a motion by Ms. Stasch and a second by Mr. Jaramillo, the minutes of February 9, 2009 were unanimously approved.
- Mr. Lara presented the agencies' Measure R local program quarterly reports.
- Mr. Lara updated the committee on the status of Measure R revenues. The amount received this year to date is slightly less than planned for in the current Strategic Work Plan (the five-year financial plan for Measure R); however, the total annual amount received remains higher than the revenues projected in the Measure R Expenditure Plan. Staff will continue to monitor revenues and inform the committee if any financial changes need to be made to current projects.

Ms. Wright commented that the state's continuing budget issues could affect some Measure R projects because of the multiple funding sources that are required to complete major regional projects. While Measure R revenues will continue to come in, the suspension of state funds will cause delays to projects such as the widening of Road 80. Mr. Espinola asked if the state (as the collector and administrator) can withhold Measure R monies. Ms. Wright stated that they legally cannot and never have before, and it would take some legal maneuvering to make that happen. It is very unlikely and not politically feasible. Mr. Pyle elaborated on the severity of the state's budget issues and stated that the situation should be monitored very closely because it is hard to say what the state will have to do to solve this budget issue.

- Mr. Smalley discussed the summary of stimulus funding. Tulare County (including the incorporated cities and the County of Tulare), have over \$22.8 million authorized to spend on transportation. This includes approximately \$6.4 million for the Ben Maddox Bridge and \$7.2 million for the widening of Road 108. Ms. Stasch asked if the estimated number of jobs created was known. Mr. Harrald responded that the general rule is that 45 construction jobs are created per \$1 million spent, not including secondary jobs and the economic development that can result from improved transportation infrastructure. Mr. Wells commented on the compressed natural gas purchases as a part of stimulus spending. The gas company is currently petitioning a legal decision that prevents the gas company from owning CNG stations. If they are successful in their suit, CNG infrastructure will become more readily available. Ms. Caviglia discussed the City of Visalia's transit center expansion project. The project will result in nine new bus bays and new bus lanes on the south side of the transit center. Mr. Holscher commented on stimulus funding being used for upgrading Amtrak. The main reason that train speeds are so low is due to the use of outdated electronic signals instead of more complex global positioning systems, not necessarily track weight.
- Mr. Smalley discussed local firm procurement rates on Measure R projects. In total, 52% of Measure R funds are being spent through contracts with qualified local firms. Mr. Pyle added that the city managers feel there is a lot of local participation; when allowable local firms score points for accessibility and familiarity. He also added that there are procurement rules on professional services, so Measure R money is often used for purchasing supplies (thus contributing back to sales tax). Ms. Caviglia added that if one firm was removed from the calculation the work would be very heavily weighted towards local firms. Also, for the Ben Maddox Bridge project, there is no local firm qualified to do bridge work so there will be no choice to select an out-of-county firm. Mr. Jaramillo added that the Small Business Development Center can assist local firms in getting certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise for Caltrans purposes.
- Mr. Smalley discussed the City of Visalia's Maintenance of Effort requirement, stating that the city is fulfilling the requirement as stated in the Measure R Ordinance. The change in the city's development impact fee (DIF) program requires the developer to make the road improvements themselves, rather than pay into a DIF program.
- Ms. Wright notified the committee that reappointments/new appointments for eight of the Oversight Committee positions are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Wright will send out the notices to the appropriate agencies and the applications for the three at-large positions to the committee.
- Under other items, Mr. Barcellos commented that the Farm Bureau has received good feedback to the road survey they have circulated and the bureau continues to forward that feedback to the county. The committee discussed questions that they have been receiving from the public regarding the proposed rail abandonment and would like Supervisor Ishida to be invited to the next meeting. Chair Harrald commented that the state route 198 projects is scheduled to be approved very quickly and go to bid by this fall.
- **The Citizens' Oversight Committee was concluded and adjourned at 1:18 p.m.**