

Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting

411 E. Kern Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274

August 10, 2009

ATTENDANCE LIST

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

City of Porterville	Wayne Harris	
City of Tulare	Ty Holscher	X
City of Visalia	Karen Cooper	
City of Woodlake	Jack Ritchie	
TC Farm Bureau	Tom Barcellos	X
Home Builders Association of Tulare/King Counties	Greg Woodard	X
Audit/Finance/Budgeting	Manuel Espinola	X
Environment	Brian Kempf	

Others present: Elizabeth Wright, Christine Chavez and Ted Smalley (TCAG Staff), Johnny Wong, Britt Fussel, and Shirley Wallace (County of Tulare RMA), Leslie Caviglia (City of Visalia), Louise Rambo and Dan Martinez (Pixley Town Council).

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

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

- Chair Harrald called the meeting to order, and invited the committee members and members of the public to introduce themselves.
- Public comments were received from Louise Rambo and Dan Martinez of the Pixley Town Council. Ms. Rambo stated that she spoke on behalf of the unincorporated areas of the county, which are neglected. She asked if there is an amount of Measure R money that the community of Pixley is entitled to. Mr. Wong from Tulare County RMA stated that he has met with the Pixley Town Council. He stated that there is a finite amount of funding and over 30 communities countywide. He said that road work was done based on community size and specific requests regarding farm to market roads. Mr. Martinez and Ms. Rambo discussed the heavy amount of truck traffic that travels down Pixley's main road off of SR-99. Ms. Rambo stated that the main street was worked on in 1999, and was then one of the first roads repaired after the passage of Measure R, but the road is already deteriorating. Chair Harrald and Mr. Wong stated that they will get together with the Pixley Town Council after September to go view the road conditions and put together a list of requests for Tulare County RMA. Ms. Wallace provided two websites where members of the public can look at current county roadwork:
www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/rma/trans/road_work.asp and
www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/rma/trans/transdollars.asp.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Barcellos and a second by Mr. Espinola, the minutes of May 11, 2009 were unanimously approved, with the correction of marking Mr. LoBue present for that meeting.
- Ms. Wright presented the agencies' Measure R local program quarterly reports.
- Ms. Wright discussed the status of various regional projects. Construction is underway on the Santa Fe overcrossing, and the Ben Maddox widening will be out to bid soon. The traffic signal at Avenue 416

and Road 56 is complete, and the first phase of Road 80 widening is finishing up. Also of note, the bids for the SR-198 widening project, which extends west from SR-99 to SR-43 in Kings County, has received bids \$20 million below estimates.

- Ms. Wright updated the committee on the status of Measure R revenues for fiscal year 08/09. The amount received for the year was less than estimated in the current Strategic Work Plan (the five-year financial plan for Measure R); however, the total annual amount received was 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 or short-term projects.
- Ms. Wright presented the Fiscal Year 2007/08 Measure R Audit to the committee. The committee did not have specific questions or comments relating to the audit, but did comment that they expect the audits to be completed in a more timely manner in the future.
- Ms. Wright discussed the locations of various compressed natural gas (CNG) facilities in Tulare County (both built and funded for construction). Ms. Caviglia from the City of Visalia stated that the city's CNG station is open to the public 24 hours a day. Visalia Unified's station is open during the day. Ms. Caviglia suggested that perhaps public access should be considered when using public funding sources for CNG station construction. Mr. Wells mentioned that the gas company is looking into in-home CNG fueling capabilities. It would likely be set up that users gas rates would be reduced if they used natural gas to fill a CNG vehicle from their home location.
- Ms. Chavez presented the status of the Santa Fe Trail Connection bicycle project. She pointed out issues that have arisen due to the earlier abandonment of a portion of the rail line and the difficulty in establishing the trail in those areas. The public meeting that was scheduled for August 13th has been postponed.
- Mr. Smalley made a presentation on the Tulare County Rail Abandonment issue. A copy of the powerpoint will be sent out to committee members.
- The committee reviewed applications from members of the public for the three "at-large" positions on the Citizens' Oversight Committee. Upon a motion by Mr. LoBue and a second by Mr. Wells, Stephen Tootle was approved as the representative for the environment. The committee approved Bill Carr as the representative for the bicycle/pedestrian/transit position upon a motion and second by Mr. Woodard and Mr. Barcellos, respectively. Lastly, Russ Desch was approved upon a motion by Mr. Barcellos and a second by Mr. Holscher as the representative for the finance/audit/budget position. In the case that either Bill Carr or Russ Desch are unable to serve, the committee selected Russ Dahler and Gerry Beckers as alternates.
- Mr. Woodard was unanimously approved as committee chair upon a motion by Mr. Barcellos and a second by Mr. Espinola. Mr. Barcellos was unanimously approved as Vice Chair as well, upon motions by Mr. Woodard and Mr. Wells, respectively.
- Under other items, Mr. Smalley discussed local preference options. For construction, giving local preference is not an option as those jobs go to the lowest responsible bidder. Right of way is somewhat "self-policing" because the nature of the work necessitates a local firm. For smaller design and environmental projects, TCAG may put together a list of qualified firms for use on small projects with a quick turnaround, such as intersection signalization design. The proposal will be put together and is predicted to be presented to the committee for review in November.
- **The Citizens' Oversight Committee was concluded and adjourned at 1:38 p.m.**