

Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting

2800 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291

February 8, 2010

ATTENDANCE LIST

City of Dinuba	Joe Rocha	
City of Exeter	Richard Downs	
City of Farmersville	Leon Sisk	X
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	Raymond Macareno	X
Bicycle/Ped/Transit	Russ Dahler	X

City of Porterville	Ron Irish	
City of Tulare	Ty Holscher	X
City of Visalia	Karen Cooper	X
City of Woodlake	Jack Ritchie	X
TC Farm Bureau	Tom Barcellos	X
Home Builders Association of Tulare/King Counties	Greg Woodard	X
Audit/Finance/Budgeting	Russ Desch	X
Environment	Stephen Tootle	X

Others present: Ramon Lara, Elizabeth Wright, and Ted Smalley (TCAG Staff), Britt Fussel and Johnny Wong (TC RMA), Gary Castro (KRC Safety), Carol Pightling (TC CAO's Office), and Chris Tavarez (City of Visalia).

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

The Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting began at 12:00 p.m. on February 8, 2010

- Chair Woodard called the meeting to order, and invited the committee members and members of the public to introduce themselves.
- Gary Castro of KRC Safety spoke under public comment. He stated that he was a part of the original Measure R campaign committee, and he asks that the rail funding not be spent at this time. Measure R should be used for roads and bridges, such as the Ben Maddox Bridge project. Member Harrald thanked Mr. Castro for his work on the campaign.
- Upon a motion by Member Ritchie and a second by Member Harrald, the minutes of November 9, 2009 unanimously approved.
- Mr. Lara presented the agencies' Measure R local program quarterly reports. Member Woodard asked Mr. Wong about the specific county roads that have been recently done or that are planned to do next. Mr. Barcellos asked to get the short term work plan emailed to the committee so they are able to answer questions when asked by the public. Discussion ensued regarding the relationship with the newspapers. Members stated that the newspapers need to hear about what Measure R is doing. Member Macareno stated that the Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber has a newsletter that Measure R could have space in.
- Mr. Lara discussed the status of Measure R revenues. In fiscal year 07/08 revenues came in at approximately \$26.5 million, in 08/09 they came in at \$23.8 million, which are above Expenditure Plan estimates. This year's estimate is currently just under Expenditure Plan estimates at \$21.7 million vs. \$21.8 million.
- Mr. Lara updated the committee on the status of short term financing. The loan has been approved and will work like a line of credit. Member Holscher asked about the status of Tulare's grade separations, specifically when the state funding will become available. Mr. Smalley replied that state funding

depends upon the ability for the state to bond. In the meantime local agencies should concentrate on getting the projects ready.

- Mr. Smalley gave a rail abandonment update. Regarding the \$3 million amendment for rail, that money cannot be spent until a business plan is prepared. A request for proposals is going out for a business plan. The Chair of the Citizens' Oversight Committee was asked to score the proposals, and he accepted. Once a draft business plan is prepared a presentation will be given to the oversight committee. The business plan will include a mechanism for repayment of Measure R funds. These funds come from the transit/bike/environmental category and are not taken from road projects. Member Woodard added that the business plan has to show that the project is viable and the oversight committee should be involved at the draft plan level.

Member Harrald requested that an action be brought to the next meeting to oppose any additional funds being used for the short haul rail project. He stated that it is a goods movement/economic development project, not something that was contemplated in the original language of Measure R. Member Wells added that we are losing the battle from a public relations perspective. It appears as a breach of trust to the public, and although 30 years is a long time, the distrust from this project will come back when the Measure is up for renewal. More aggressive public relations is needed.

- Mr. Smalley gave an update on the Santa Fe Trail project. He thanked the Farm Bureau for their help on this project. Staff is working to address issues such as fencing and trail closure during pesticide spraying. Member Barcellos stated that he has not been very involved in this specific project, but it seems that the communication has come a long way. Also, farmers are looking at this project as precedent-setting. Member Harrald commented that he is on the Farm Bureau's land use committee, and as a general rule he advises that those types of committees take a position that is general regarding a certain project type, but do not take a position of support or opposition to any specific project.

Member Dahler added that the Santa Fe Trail was supposed to be the crown jewel of bike projects in Measure R. It will be very unfortunate if the trail that exists in Tulare and Visalia continue to go nowhere. Member Desch added that he attended a Santa Fe Trail public meeting and that the landowners were very vocal. Mr. Smalley replied that staff is looking at various routes but there is no easy alternative.

- Member Harrald asked that the local preference issue be included on the next agenda.
- **The Citizens' Oversight Committee was concluded and adjourned at 1:25 p.m.**