

Agenda Item: 3.1

FINAL MINUTES

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Members are: Lou Calcagno. (Chair),
Steve Villegas (1st Vice Chair), Simón Salinas (2nd Vice Chair),
Frank Sollecito (Past Chair), Jane Parker (County representative),
Maria Orozco (City representative)*

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

*****9:02 a.m.*****

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Calcagno called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members present: Calcagno, Parker, Salinas, Sollecito and Villegas. Staff present: Bachman, Delfino, Goel, Hale, Rodriguez, Watson and Agency Counsel Blankenship. Others present: John Arriaga, JEA & Associates.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Board member Parker and second by Board member Salinas the committee voted 5 – 0 to approve consent item 3.1 – 3.3 as follows:

- 3.1 **APPROVED** enclosed minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of February 3, 2010. – Montiel
Board member Sollecito abstained from approval of the minutes.
- 3.2 **RECEIVED** draft 2009 Annual Report.
- 3.3 **RECEIVED** an update on federal legislative activities.

Executive Director Hale reported that the current extension of the surface transportation program expired on February 28, leading to a shutdown in reimbursements to states for highway projects and transit programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. As a result of Congress' inability to extend the current program, Caltrans will be unable to obligate funding for any new Highway Trust Fund projects. Agency staff will continue to monitor the situation closely.

END OF CONSENT

4. On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board member Sollecito, the Committee voted 5 – 0 as follows:

RECEIVED an update on state legislative and budgetary situation and **RECOMMENDED** the Board approve positions on state legislation.

John Arriaga, JEA & Associates, gave an update on the state budget and bills of interest and recommended Agency positions. He reported that things in Sacramento are at a stand still. There is a \$20 billion deficit, and there are going to be severe cuts across the board to all programs. Under the Governor's proposed budget, transportation is on the table for cuts, despite repeated support at the ballot box for guaranteeing transportation funds. One of the Governor's proposals involves eliminating the sales tax on gasoline (which increases with the price of gasoline) to replace it with a lower excise tax on a gallon of gas (which does not increase with the price of gas). An alternative plan by the legislature preserves funding for transportation and transit to a higher degree than the Governor's proposal, and recommends a "support" position on that legislation. Mr. Arriaga highlighted the state legislative bill list. One of the bills discussed was SB 1445, which would add \$1 to vehicle registration fees for planning efforts to implement the sustainable communities legislation (SB 375). The Committee took a "support in concept" stance on SB 1445. Executive Director Hale reported that AMBAG is in support of this bill to implement their blueprint planning.

5. On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board member Parker, the committee voted 5 – 0 as follows:

RECEIVED a report on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 45 required valuation of the Agency's other post-employment benefits, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Board approve:

1. The use of the "pay-as-you-go" basis for retirees and
2. Designate \$85,219 of the Agency's fund balance, to partially reserve for the Agency's present unfunded actuarial accrued liability of its Other Post-Employment Benefits.

Dave Delfino, Financial Officer/Analyst, reported the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No.45 requires the valuation of Other Post-Employment Benefits liabilities for all U.S. public employers. He noted that the Agency provides its retirees with the minimum medical benefit required by the CalPERS medical plan.

Rita Goel, Director of Finance and Administration, reported that on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, the Agency would pay the yearly CalPERS required Minimum Employer Contribution amount as it becomes due for retirees. The unfunded accrued actuarial liability of the Agency on a “pay-as you-go” is \$120,494 and the annual required contribution is \$18,224.

Ms. Goel noted the Agency is proposing designating \$85,219 of the Agency’s fund balance, to keep the funds internally to partially reserve for the Agency’s present unfunded actuarial accrued liability of its Other Post-Employment Benefits, earned by employees for service rendered to date.

Board Chairman Calcagno noted that it is required for the Agency to account for its other post employment benefits.

6. **CLOSED SESSION: REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS.** Pursuant to Government Code section §54956.8, confer concerning the acquisition of one property for the Salinas train station. The Executive Committee entered into closed session on the following matter:

Property: 20 New Street
Agency negotiator: Christina Watson
Negotiating parties: Paul Powers, III
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

The Committee reconvened in open session:

Agency Board Counsel Blankenship reported that the Executive Committee met in closed session pursuant to Government Code section §54956.8, received a report from the Transportation Agency’s negotiator concerning the acquisition of one property for the Salinas intermodal station, and provided direction on how to proceed.

7. **RECEIVED** report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of March 24, 2010.

Executive Director Hale reviewed the draft agenda. Ms. Hale reported that the Board would be holding a public hearing on the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan. She also noted there would be a closed session regarding the real estate negotiations concerning the acquisition of one property for the Salinas train station. The Board would be asked to approve the extensions on the Transportation for Livable Communities Transit-Oriented Development incentive grants for the City of Salinas Gateway Apartments and the County of Monterey Cynara Court project. Also on the agenda for Board approval are the commuter rail extension to Monterey County project contract amendment #9 and the Proposition 116 Rail Bond fund application. Ms. Hale noted that the Board would receive the revised layouts for the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center and layover facility, the Castroville Station at Del Monte Avenue and Blackie Road, the Pajaro/ Watsonville Station and the Gilroy yard.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Calcagno adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant