

**FINAL MINUTES**

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

*Members are: Dave Potter. (Chair),  
Frank Sollecito (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), Lou Calcagno (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair),  
John P. Huerta, Jr (Past Chair),  
Simón Salinas (County representative), Steve Villegas (City representative)*

**Thursday, October 1, 2008**

**\*\*\*9:00 a.m.\*\*\***

Transportation Agency Conference Room  
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Potter called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members present: Potter, Calcagno, Huerta, Salinas, Sollecito and Villegas. Staff present: Bachman, Goel, Hale, Rodriguez, Zeller, and Watson. Others present: John Arriaga, JEA & Associates; and Paul Schlesinger, via telephone.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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On a motion by Board member Sollecito and second by Board member Huerta the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the consent items as follows:

3.1 **APPROVED** enclosed minutes from the Special Executive Committee meeting of September 3, 2008.

3.2 **RECEIVED** the call for nominations for the seventh annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

**END OF CONSENT**

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4. **RECEIVED** report on 2008 state legislative activities and **DISCUSSED** issues for the draft 2009 Legislative Program.

John Arriaga, JEA & Associates, gave an update on state legislative activities. He reported that the Governor signed the budget on September 23, 85 days late, noting that this was the longest time to pass a budget in the history of the state, and also noting that the economy is not looking good. The budget includes \$17.3 billion for the state's transportation programs. Included in this funding is \$1.5 billion for the State Transportation Improvement Program. The Proposition 42 transfer is fully funded at \$1.4 billion and \$182.7 million is included to pay outstanding loans from previous years. Mr. Arriaga

reminded the Committee that Proposition 1B authorized \$19.9 billion over the next 9 years to fund existing and new statewide transportation-related infrastructure programs and projects.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, reported that Monterey Salinas Transit took a big hit losing \$2.9 million due to spillover funds being diverted from transit to the general fund.

Mr. Arriaga reported on bills that the Agency was following. The Governor had until midnight on September 30 to sign or veto all bills. While many were vetoed, a few of interest to the agency were chaptered into law, including Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg), a bill that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by curbing sprawl.

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, highlighted the potential draft 2009 state legislative program issues. A draft 2009 program will be on November 2008 agendas for all committees for discussion and will go to the Board in December for final adoption. Committee members encouraged staff to include in the program close monitoring of the new air quality requirements for trucks to assure that they are phased in a manner that is cost effective and economically feasible.

**5. RECEIVED** report on 2008 federal legislative activities, and **DISCUSSED** issues for the draft 2009 Legislative Program

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, highlighted the potential draft 2009 federal legislative program issues. Ms. Watson noted that the US 101- San Juan Road interchange, SR 156 widening and rail projects are included as priority projects for the federal transportation bill reauthorization.

Federal legislative analyst Paul Schlesinger attended the meeting via teleconference. He reported the achievements in 2008 federal transportation legislation. He noted that the federal fiscal year began today with no appropriations bills in effect, but Congress did approve a Continuing Resolution that included no transportation earmark funding. He remarked that the President signed a bill restoring \$8 billion to the Highway Trust Fund, which means that the previous transportation authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, is now fully funded to its expiration on September 30, 2009. He noted that Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is now the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which is responsible for the transportation reauthorization bill. Senator Boxer will be holding a hearing in the San Francisco Bay Area to get input on the bill. Past Chair Huerta indicated his interest in attending the hearing.

6. **RECOMMENDED** that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County **APPOINT** Fernando Armenta and Karen Sharp as the Nominating Committee to meet and return to Board of Directors on December 3, 2008 with recommendations for Board Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, and Executive Committee to serve one-year terms beginning upon their election through the next election of officers at the close of the December 2, 2009 Board meeting.
  
7. **RECEIVED report on the draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of October 22, 2008.**

Executive Director Hale reviewed the draft agenda.

She noted that the key issues on the agenda are the 2008 state and federal legislative activities. Carl Sedoryk, MST General Manager will discuss MST's funding challenges. Ms. Hale also noted that the Board needs to adopt the initial study/mitigated negative declaration and the Carmel Hill and River Bicycle Trail project. Chairman Potter asked staff to emphasize how the project will address wetlands and riparian issues. In conclusion, Ms. Hale reported that staff would be asking the Board to approve the draft Monterey County Regional Taxi Study. The study identifies options for establishing a regional taxi authority to oversee taxi licensing and regulations.

8. **CLOSED SESSION:**  
The Committee postponed the closed session to a future date.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(b), the Executive Committee will confer with legal counsel regarding one item of significant exposure to litigation.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**  
Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant