

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council



Minutes of Meeting – August 18, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.** There were 42 people in attendance.
2. **Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll call of the Directors and Attendance:** Directors Brennan Riley, Lisa Checkley, Tim Blakeley, Seaneen McArdle and Dennis Shoffner were in attendance. Director Parkman was absent due to illness and excused. The seventh seat on the Council remains vacant. In the absence of Director Parkman, Director Checkley served as Chair.
4. **Public Comment Period: - No comments.**
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Approve RMAC Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2022.** Minutes were approved after amendment to reflect the absence of Director Riley.
 - b. **Guest Speaker(s):** Acting Chair Lisa Checkley turned the floor over to Jim Zervis, Chief Operating Officer for Kern County to speak on Proposition “K” (Kern County 1% sales tax increase for the unincorporated areas of the county. 350k people of the roughly 1 million Kern residents live in unincorporated areas. Jim noted that Cynthia Zimmer, Kern County District Attorney and Lorelei Oviatt of Kern County Planning (and a resident of Rosamond) were in attendance. He also took note that a representative from Kern County Fire and the Kern County Sheriff’s Office were also in attendance. Jim continued by noting that their purpose at this meeting is not to tell the community how to vote on the proposed sales tax increase but, rather, to inform and educate the residents of the unincorporated areas of the County as well as to answer any questions the community may have on Proposition “K. There are 11 incorporated cities in Kern County and the County total population is about one million people. The unincorporated part of the County population is 305,000. Most of the money for this area comes from property and sales taxes. The County budget is \$3.2 billion of which only 400 million is discretionary funding. The remainder is State and Federal mandated items that fall to the County to fund/perform. Eighty percent of the County budget is funded from oil, gas and agriculture taxes and fees. The State of California has been and will be impacting Kern County’s revenue stream through restrictions placed on those industries and, to date, has reduced Kern’s revenue from those industries by 64 percent. It is their stated goal to allow no further oil and gas production in the State after 2045. Proposition “K” if passed will raise \$54 million dollars for the unincorporated portion of the County which will help offset some of these losses. The solar industry contributed to the County revenues at a much smaller percentage. Kern County has no voice in Sacramento to moderate these changes and it can be seen in our per person rate of funding (\$476.00 down to \$317.00). Kern is in the lower tier of sales tax revenues (7.25 percent) while most of the rest of the state, especially cities, are in the upper 95% level of sales tax rates. To help facilitate the passage of the one percent sales tax increase the County has elected to put this on the ballot as a General Tax measure rather than as a Special Tax measure. This is because a General Tax increase only requires approval of 54 percent of the affected voters while a Special Tax (more restrictive) requires a 2/3rds majority of yes votes. With that, Jim turned the floor over to Lt Lackey (KCSO), District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, a representative from Kern County Fire Department and Lorelei Oviatt (Director of Planning). They each spoke about the impacts being experienced in the unincorporated areas and how the Proposition “K” would help address the critical needs of areas in the County as well as Rosamond. In closing, Jim advised the County that Proposition “K” holds the County responsible for transparency in the handling of the funds related to the unincorporated portion of the County. He opened the floor for questions from the community. Additional or amplifying information can be found in the videos listed below:

[20220818 • RMAC SALES TAX INCREASE IN KERN UNINCORPORATED COUNTY - YouTube](#) (Rosamond News)

[Rosamond, Ca Meeting On Proposed Sales Tax Increase \(kern county\) - YouTube](#) (Sweet Home California)

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council - Minutes for August 18, 2022 Meeting

c. Air Show: Representatives from the Aerospace Valley Air Show and Edwards Air Force Base brief the community on the air show that will be coming up the weekend of October 15 and 16, 2022. The anticipated attendance each day will be limited to about 45,000 to ensure adequate parking, reduced traffic congestion and public safety.

6. Director's Agenda Referrals and Comments: Director Shoffner asked that an effort be made to get a representative from the BNSF railroad at one of our future meetings as a guest speaker to address railway crossings. Director Checkley reminded everyone about the General Election coming up on November 8, 2022 and to vote. Directors McArdle, Riley and Blakeley had no comment.

7. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Director McArdle and seconded by Director Shoffner. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Reminder: The next RMAC meeting will be held on September 15, 2022 at Hummel Hall at 7:00 p.m.

California Government Code, Section 31010: The Board of Supervisors of any county may by resolution establish and provide funds for the operation of a municipal advisory council for any unincorporated area in the county to advise the board on such matters which relate to that area as may be designated by the board concerning services which are or may be provided to the area by the county or other local governmental agencies, including but not limited to advice on matters of public health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning. Unless the board of supervisors specifically provides to the contrary, a municipal advisory council may represent the community to any state, county, city, special district or school district, agency or commission, or any other organization on any matter concerning the community. The board may pay from available funds such actual and necessary expenses of travel, lodging, and meals for the members of the council while on such official business as may be approved by the board.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Government Code Section 54953.2)

The meeting room of the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the RMAC may request assistance at 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Fifth Floor, Bakersfield, California, or by calling 661-868-3153.