

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION OF THE
GREATER BAKERSFIELD SEPARATION OF GRADE DISTRICT

Held: **May 8, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on May 8, 2023, at 1800 30th Street, Suite 260, Bakersfield, California. This meeting was a continuation from a regular meeting that was scheduled for March 13, 2023, at which no business was conducted.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

Mark Smith, Acting Interim President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Mark J. Smith	Present
Steven M. Ruetters	Present
Jeremy Tobias	Present
Jake Wood	Present
Jeevan Muhar	Present

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; Robert G. Kuhs, District Legal Counsel.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS)
AND COMMITTEE)
ASSIGNMENTS BY)
PRESIDENT:)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and

unanimously carried Commission Mark J. Smith was elected President.

On motion of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried Commission Steven M. Ruetters was elected Vice President.

On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried Commissions Tobias, Wood and Muhar were elected Assistant Secretaries.

Commissioner Smith appointed the following Ad Hoc Committees:

1. Right of Way: Commissioners Wood and Tobias
2. Advance Planning: Commissioners Smith and Muhar
3. Budget: Commissioners Ruetters and Tobias
4. Regulatory & Audit: Commissioners Ruetters and Muhar
5. Government Relations: Commissioners Smith and Wood

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETINGS OF)
March 20, 2023)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Ruetters, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2023, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

1. Project Funding Sources:
 - a) Federal: No change in the status of federal funding.
 - b) State: Mr. Schuler reported speaking to Carlos Ruiz. There is about \$15M to \$20M in available funding for the Section 190 Program.
 - c) Local: Mr. Schuler spoke to Aaron Hakimi with Kern COG regarding possible

State funding for PSRs through Kern COG. The PSR work for Baker Street may be funded with City funds. Mr. Schuler is trying to arrange a meeting with the new County Public Works Director, Josh Champlin. Shafter is interested in pursuing PSR funding for the Cherry Avenue project.

2. Assist County and City with Federal and State Grant application:
3. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination:
4. HSR: Design of the Shafter to Bakersfield leg is moving forward.
5. Specific Plan Lines:
 - Renfro - Jenkins: no change.
 - Kratzmeyer – BNSF: KARGO study is underway.
 - West Beltway – BNSF: There is discussion of moving the West Beltway alignment west of Kratzmeyer.
6. Morning Drive @ UPRR: Mr. Schuler is attempting to restart discussions with new Public Works Director (Josh Champlin) and Caltrans staff.
7. Baker/Truxtun/Beale: - Mr. Schuler has a meeting scheduled with the COB Manager to solicit COB input, discuss alternatives and review preliminary cost estimates. Cost estimates range from \$30M to \$77M. Mr. Schuler is exploring possible PSR funding.
8. Rosedale Highway/Landco - SJVR: No change.
9. Cherry Avenue: There are discussions regarding possible PSR funding from Kern COG. This is the number one project in the KARGO study.
10. 2023 PUC Nominations: Rail crossing data has been collected. Results should be available in the next few weeks. Mr. Schuler anticipates having video count data. Shafter track elevation was not included in this cycle.

FINANCIAL REPORT: _____)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for May 8, 2023, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

Ayes:	Mark J. Smith Jeremy Tobias Jake Wood Jeevan Muhar Steven M. Ruetters
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

1. Right of Way: None
2. Advance Planning: None
3. Budget: None
4. Regulatory & Audit:

A Draft Audit Report and Secondary Letter Report were submitted for review and approval. Sheila Plane spoke with Nancy Belton regarding page 18, corrected. On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the Audit Report and Secondary Letter Report were approved.

5. Government Relations: None

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood and, following discussion, unanimously carried the following correspondence was received and filed.

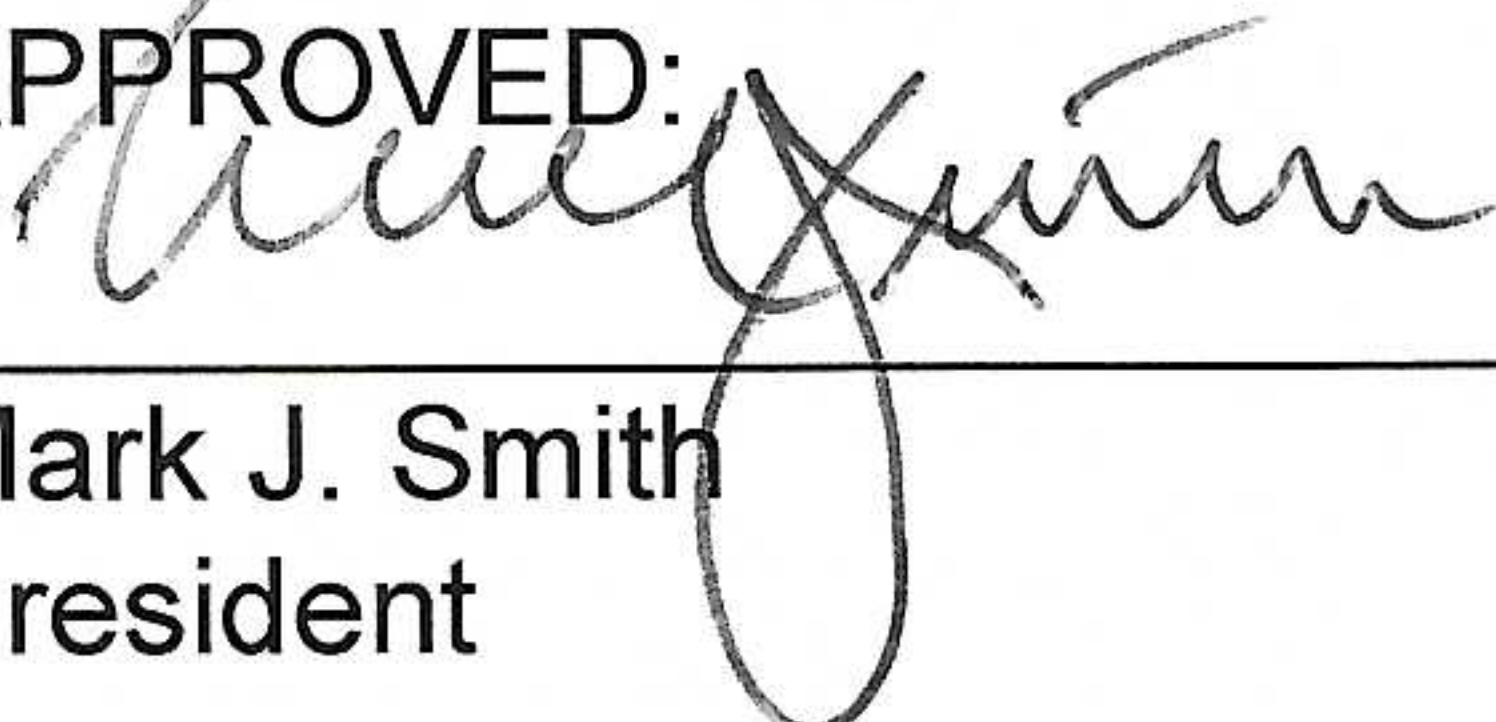
1. SDRMA Letter dated March 27, 2023 re: Property/Liability Renewal Estimate – Receive & File
2. Letter from Aimee X. Espinoza acknowledging receipt of Statement of Fact by Public Agency dated April 3, 2023 – Receive & File
3. Letter from Bernard G. LeBeau, Jr. dated April 13, 2023, to Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock stating no known material pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments exist against the District - Receive & File
4. Letter from Kathleen Krause, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors re: Jeevan Muhar Appointment to the Commission – Receive & File

ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was, on motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The Commission will next meet on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeremy T. Tobias,
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
President

MONTHLY MEETING MAY 2023

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - March 2023	\$ 1,516.50
Kern County Auditor	April Accounts Payable warrants	\$ 73.12
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - March 1, 2023 thru April 30, 2023	<u>\$ 19,610.00</u>
		<u>\$ 21,199.62</u>