

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

Held: **July 10, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on July 10, 2023, at 1800 30th Street, Suite 260, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER: _____)

President Mark J. Smith 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. Ruettgers	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, Armand Ash, Law Clerk.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS _____)
& COMMENTS: _____)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, _____)
REGULAR MEETINGS OF _____)
May 8, 2023 _____)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 8, 2023, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:
 - a) Federal: \$1.6B available annually over next four years; Anticipate Notice of Funding Opportunity in September and October 2023; Funding assistance next four years
 - b) State: No Change.
 - c) Local: Mr. Schuler is still investigating PSR level project initiation through Kern COG.
2. Assist County and City with Federal and State Grant application:
 - a) Agency coordination has been challenging with recent staff changes. Mr. Schuler has not yet talked with Jim Zervis and plans to meet with COB Engineer Paul Archer.
3. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination:
 - a) Mr. Schuler is continuing coordination with TY Lin on project funding costs and strategies for Baker/E. Truxtun BNSF.
4. HSR Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:
 - a) HSR needs 5M cubic yards of dirt for their elevated rail southeast of Shafter.
 - b) Discussed potential for dirt exchange with other projects.
5. Specific Plan Lines:
 - A. Renfro - Jenkins: no change.
 - B. Kratzmeyer – BNSF: Increased importance of NW traffic flow.
 - C. West Beltway – BNSF: There is continued discussion of moving the West Beltway alignment west of Kratzmeyer.
6. Morning Drive @ UPRR:
 - a) Mr. Schuler met with Caltrans and County personnel this morning. They are expecting local and state matching funds of 20%.
 - b) Caltrans has reviewed the design and has no issues.
 - c) Mr. Schuler is putting together an updated cost estimate to further cost share discussions.
 - d) Need to develop local support and matching funding.

7. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR: -
 - a) The City is looking at alternative alignments.
 - b) Working on COB support and extended contract w/Ty Lin for PSR Level documents.
 - c) Preparing for federal funding application.
8. Baker @ UPRR: -
 - a) The City is looking at alternative alignments.
 - b) Mr. Schuler played video taken on May 2, 2023 showing 56 minute train delay, 23 pedestrians crossing over train cars.
 - c) COB requested Kimley-Horn prepare PSR document estimate.
 - d) Preparing for federal funding application.
 - e) Will add to list of PUC nominations.
9. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR: No change.
10. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles St/Beech Ave @ BNSF:
 - a) Mr. Schuler met with HSR regarding a possible dirt swap. A depressed bypass alternative would generate 3.5M cubic yards of dirt.
 - b) Funding being pursued at State and Federal level by Wonderful and City of Shafter.
11. PUC Nominations:
 - a) PUC Order to establish the California Grade Separation Fund Priority List for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 is due Fall 2023.
 - b) Add Baker/UPRR to Nomination list.
 - c) Count Video data: City completed field data counts and is currently reviewing data.

FINANCIAL REPORT: _____)
 _____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for July 10, 2023, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias, 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. Ruettgers
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

1. Right of Way: None
2. Advance Planning: None
3. Budget: Special meeting set for July 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
4. Regulatory & Audit: None
5. Government Relations: None

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

1. Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock Audit Arrangement Letter dated June 5, 2023 for FY 22-23 – Authorize execution and submittal. On motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Ruettgers and, following discussion, the Commission authorized Sheila Plane to execute and submit the Arrangement letter.
2. SDRMA letter dated May 15, 2023 re: Board of Commissions Election – Receive & File. On motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar and, following discussion, the correspondence was received and filed.
3. SDRMA letter dated June 19, 2023 re: 2023-24 Property Liability Program renewal—receive and file. On motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar and, following discussion, the correspondence was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:48 p.m. The Commission will have a Special Meeting on July 31, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeremy Tobias,
Assistant Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith

MONTHLY MEETING JULY 2023

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - April 2023	\$	313.50
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - May 2023	\$	912.00
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services -May 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2023	\$	15,217.50
City Count	Railroad Crossings	\$	7,000.00
Daniells Phillips Vaughn & Bock	Prep year ending June 30 2022	\$	2,875.00
SDRMA	Property Liability Package 2023-24	\$	11,323.39
		\$	<u>37,641.39</u>