

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

Held: **September 11, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on September 11, 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	Absent
Jeevan Muhar	Absent

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETINGS OF)
July 10 & 31, 2023)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 10, 2023, and special meeting of July 31, 2023, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a) Mr. Schuler reviewed the Federal, State and Local funding opportunities and provided a summary table of the projects that had been awarded under the Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination Program for 2022.

2. Agency Coordination:

- a) Mr. Schuler reviewed the recent changes in management at the County and City, included the Sal Gomez, the new Assistant Public Works Director at Kern County.

3. High Speed Rail:

- a) The High-Speed Rail Authority is awaiting for news on major federal grants.

4. Specific Plan Lines:

- a) Renfro - Jenkins: Increased importance from NW traffic flow. Josh Champlin (County Public Works Director) is pushing for this project.
- b) Kratzmeyer – BNSF: Increased importance of NW traffic flow.

5. Morning Drive @ UPRR:

- a) Cost estimate now at \$53M.
- b) County Coordination. Mr. Schuler met with Josh Chaplin and Ahron Hakimi. There is strong County support. County or KernCOG will probably take the lead on federal funding application. Considering Joint Agencies Agreement with District.
- c) Caltrans Coordination. Upcoming meeting with County and COG to discuss roles and responsibilities. Matching Funds proposed – 20% Local and State.

6. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:

- a) The City is wrapping up alternative alignment analysis.
- b) Working on COB support and extended contract w/Ty Lin for PSR Level documents.
- c) Preparing for federal funding application.
- d) Consider Joint Agencies Agreement.

7. Baker @ UPRR: -

- a) The City is looking at conceptual alternative alignments.
- b) District is looking to COB for commitment.
- c) Discuss possible PUC Nomination.

8. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR: No change.

9. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles St/Beech Ave @ BNSF:

- a) Funding being pursued at State and Federal level by Wonderful and City of Shafter.

10. PUC Nominations:

- a) Order Instituting Investigation – Nominations due October 2023.
- b) Possibly add Baker/UPRR to Nomination list.
- c) Baker/Truxtun/BNSF Underpass alternative (Option C) used for nomination.
- d) Input from County Fire for Rosedale/Landco and Olive Drive/UPRR
- e) Input from Bakersfield City School District on Sumner/BNSF
- f) Pre-emption data summary discussed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for September 11, 2023, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Ruettgers, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

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

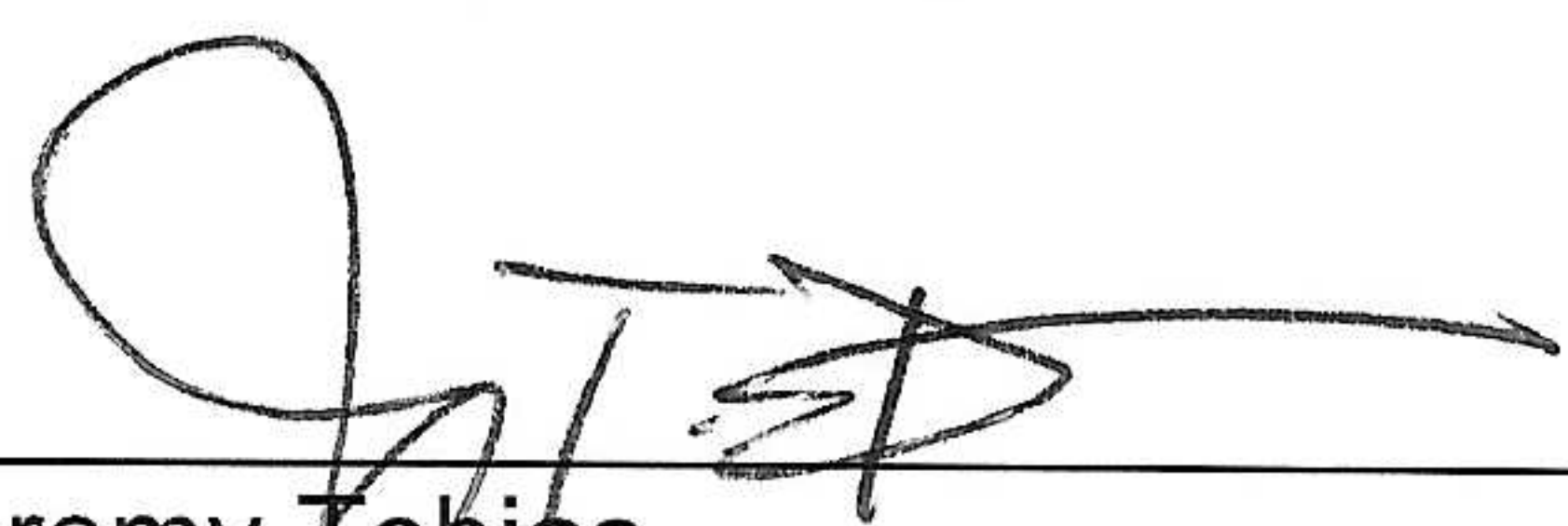
CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

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

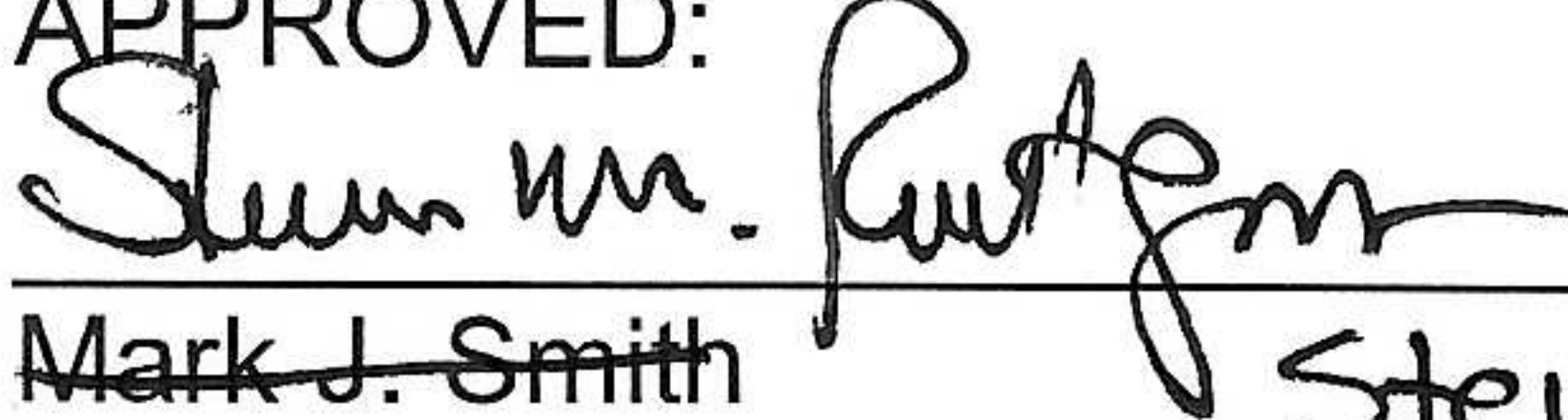
1. FY 2023-2024 Budget Submittal dated July 31, 2023 – Receive and File.
2. Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock letter dated August 2, 2023 re: Audit Scope of Work – Receive and File.
3. CalPERS Annual Information Request dated August 11, 2023. (Ms. Plane to prepare response.)
4. LAFCO Notice of Hearing to reaffirm sphere of influence, hearing date 9/20/23.

ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Jeremy Tobias,
Assistant Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
Vice-President

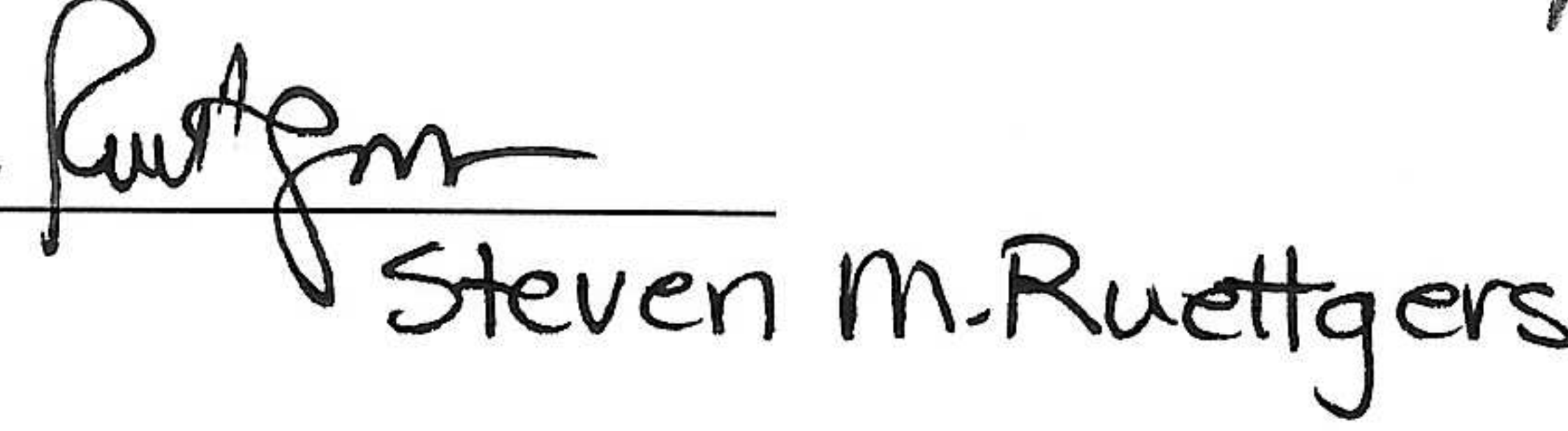

Steven M. Ruettgers

Exhibit A

MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen, LLP	Legal Services - June 2023	\$	399.00
LeBeau Thelen, LLP	Legal Services - July 2023	\$	855.00
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - July & August 2023	\$	<u>41,965.00</u>
		\$	<u>43,219.00</u>