

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

Held: March 11, 2024

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on March 11, 2024, 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
Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy Tobias
Jake Wood
Jeevan Muhar

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; and Ben LeBeau, District Legal Counsel.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
JANUARY 8, 2024)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2024, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

Ben LeBeau reported that the accounting firm Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock accepted District counsel's requested modifications to the audit engagement letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a) \$3 billion in federal funding for California HSR
- b) CRISI: \$1 billion annually for next 4 years. The NOFO that was anticipated January/February 2024 was not published. Next NOFO is anticipated March/April 2024.
- c) Railroad Crossing Elimination Program: \$600 million available annually for next 4 years. Next NOFO is anticipated March/April 2024.
- d) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods: Next NOFO is anticipated July 2024.
- e) Other matters that may affect funding:
 - i. State budget deficit – affect unknown
 - ii. County CAO James Zervis leaving his role with County

2. Assist County and City with Federal and State Grant Applications:

- a. Caltrans/County: Morning Drive/UPRR – design/construction funding.
- b. Caltrans/County/COB: Rosedale Highway
- c. COB:
 - i. E. Truxtun/BNSF
 - ii. Maybe Baker/UPRR
 - iii. Kratzmeyer/BNSF
 - iv. Reina/Renfro/BNSF
- d. RTIF: County - \$20 million / COB - \$50 million

3. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination:

- a. Strategies
 - a. Multi-agency meeting approach
 - b. Memorandum re Construction and Funding Opportunity was delivered to City and County officials and stakeholders; Seeking comments from same

- c. teamwork with Stakeholders, Wonderful and RGF Properties to push with agencies
 - d. Detailed project plan of action for Joint Agencies Agreement(s)
- 4. High Speed Rail Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:
 - a. HSR awarded \$3 billion in federal funding
 - b. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Design is moving forward, including BNSF track elevation through shafter.
- 5. Specific Plan Lines:
 - a. Large warehousing and residential project in northwest Bakersfield/Shafter will drive needs and opportunities
 - i. See LA Times article on warehousing expansion in Kern County
 - b. Renfro – Jenkins – BNSF: increased importance for northwest traffic flow
 - c. Kratzmeyer – BNSF: increased importance for northwest traffic flow
 - d. West Beltway – BNSF: re-alignment is still under discussion between COB and Shafter
- 6. Morning Drive @ UPRR:
 - a. Discussed in funding and construction opportunity memorandum
 - b. Met with County officials re priority and potential for moving forward
 - c. Unknown when this HSR section would be built
- 7. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:
 - a. Working on COB support and extended contract w/Ty Lin for PSR Level documents (no change).
 - b. Consider Joint Agencies Agreement COB/District. COB will do preliminary design study, District would perform traffic study in support of preliminary design (no change)
- 8. Baker Street @ UPRR:
 - a. City is coordinating with UPRR re crossing status in relationship to Sumner Depot redevelopment (ongoing).
 - b. Potential link to Morning Drive/UPRR explored with COB Public Works (ongoing).
- 9. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:
 - a. Addressed in construction and funding opportunity memorandum
 - b. County priority
 - c. Caltrans relinquishment of Rosedale Hwy to local agencies
 - d. Limited train activity recently.

10. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles Street/Beech Avenue @ BNSF:

- a. Element of potential West Bypass – SR 99 to I-5 in active development between Shafter and Wonderful.
- b. High priority for Shafter and Wonderful
- c. Discussed in construction and funding opportunity memorandum

11. PUC Nominations:

- a. CPUC Priority List for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
- b. Evidentiary hearings scheduled for April 3 2024 - virtual.

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

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

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

1. Right of Way: None

2. Advance Planning: None

3. Budget: None

4. Regulatory & Audit: The audit for FYE June 30, 2023 is under way. A special meeting to approve the audit may be needed depending on the timing of its completion.

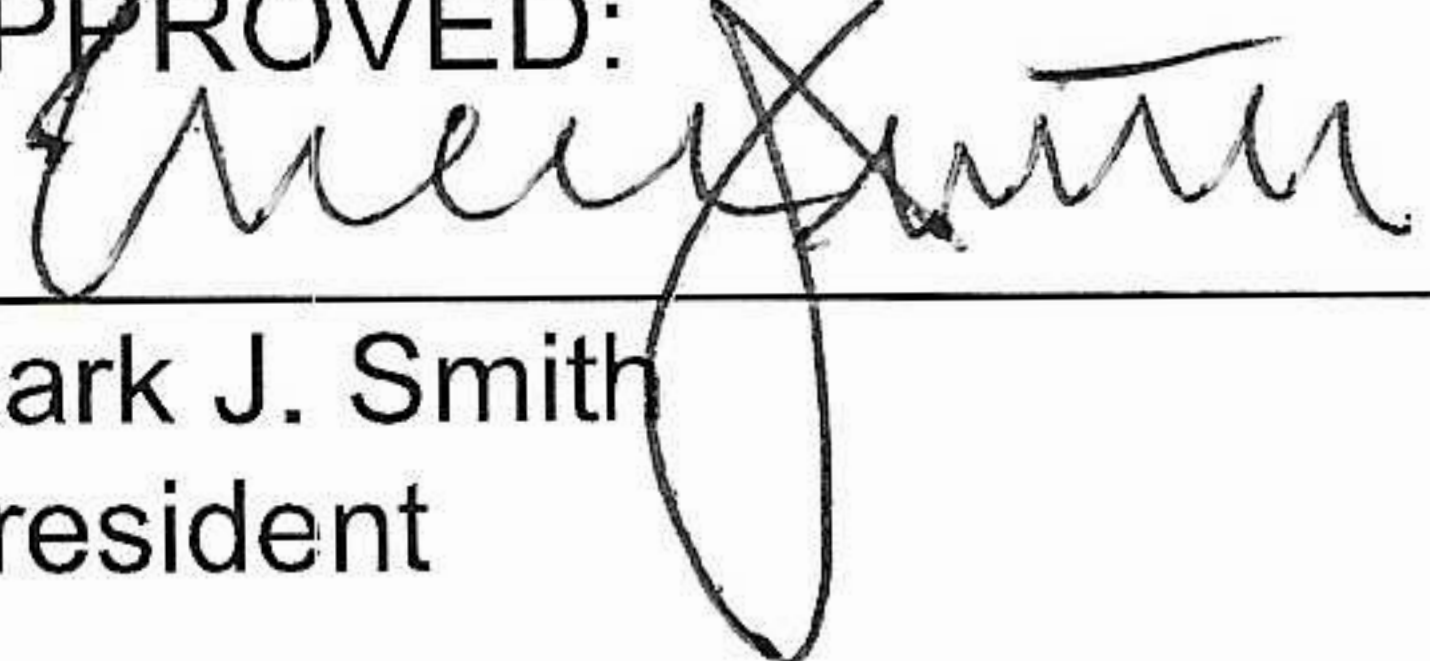
5. Government Relations: None

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

1. Letter dated February 5, 2024 re: CSDA Establishment of 2024 Board Elections Timeline/Review and Approval of Election Materials and Board of Directors Call for Nominations, Seat A was received. On motion of Commissioner Ruettggers, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, letter was received and filed.
2. Letter dated February 6, 2024 from Kathleen Krause, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, re: Jeevan Muhar reappointment to the GBSOGD. On motion of Commissioner Ruettggers, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, letter was received and filed.
3. Letter dated February 23, 2024 from the California State Controller re 2023 Government Compensation in California Report was received. On motion of Commissioner Ruettggers, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, letter was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Ruettggers, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
President

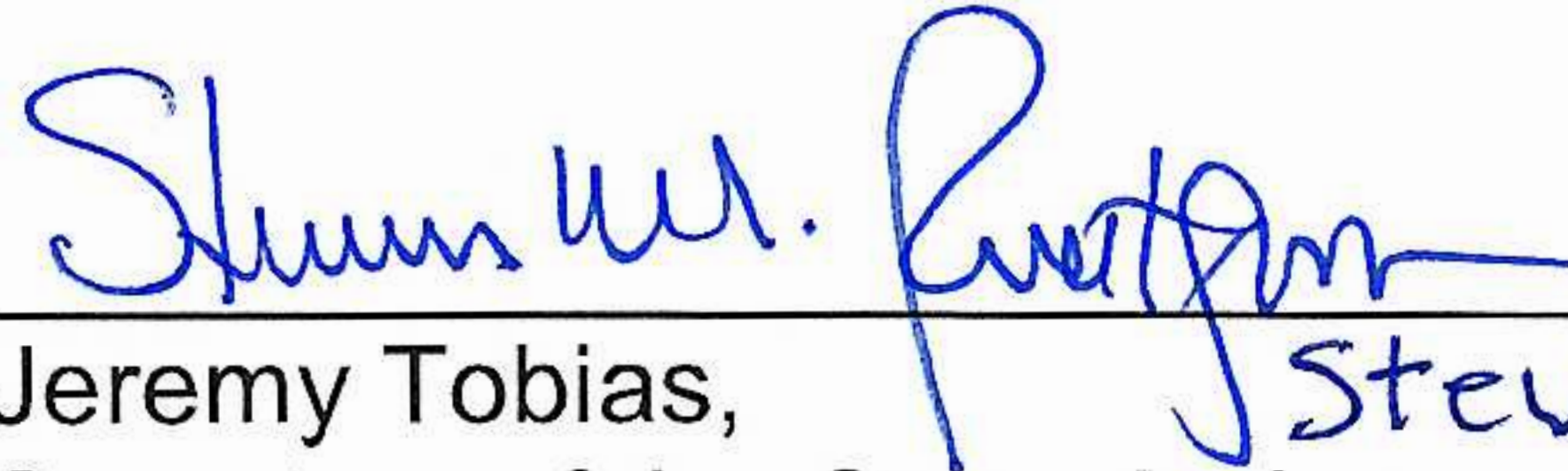
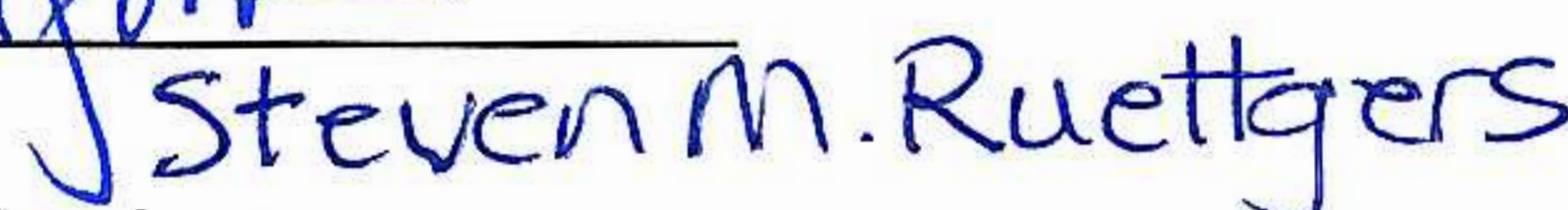

Jeremy Tobias,
Secretary of the Commission

Vice President

EXHIBIT A

MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 2024

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - December 2023	\$	313.50
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - January 2024	\$	487.50
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - February 2024	\$	552.50
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - 1/1/2024 thru 2/29/2024	\$	20,920.00
Andrea R. Hill, CPA, AAC	Preparation of 2023 1099s	\$	120.00
Daniells Phillips Vaughn & Bock	Preparation of State Controller's Report year end 6/30/2023	\$	3,400.00
		\$	<u>25,793.50</u>