

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

Held: May 13, 2024

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on May 13, 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
- Jake Wood
- Jeevan Muhar

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; Ben LeBeau, District Legal Counsel; and member of the public, Tally Brandon. Commissioner Jeremy Tobias was absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
March 11, 2024)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2024, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a) \$3 billion in federal funding for California HSR
- b) CRISI: \$2.48 billion NOFO on 3/29/24, applications due May 28, 2024. Three more funding cycles remain.
- c) Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program: \$600 million available annually for next 4 years. Next NOFO is May/June 2024, applications due July/August 2024.
- d) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods: Next NOFO is anticipated July 2024.
- e) Other matters that may affect funding:
 - i. Met with COB Councilman Bob Smith – in strong support of pursuing federal funding for northwest grade separations
 - ii. COB and County staff generally in support to pursue federal funding
 - iii. State budget deficit

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 approach – COB, County, Shafter
 - i. Planning for 20,000 – 25,000 new homes; 50,000 jobs
 - b. teamwork with Stakeholders, Wonderful and RGF Properties to push with

- agencies
 - c. Target RCE Program with the Renfro Road project first, followed by Cherry Avenue/BNSF and Kratzmeyer Road/BNSF projects
 - d. Develop political and railroad (BNSF) support
 - e. Develop plan of action for grant application
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. Jobs and housing – 50,000 jobs; 25,000 homes
 - ii. Potential Trip Generation – 250,000 daily trips
 - iii. Roadway capacity
 - b. Renfro – Jenkins – BNSF:
 - i. Furthest in process with SP Line complete
 - ii. RCE funding pursuit
 - iii. Support from both COB and County
 - c. Kratzmeyer – BNSF:
 - i. Needs more detailed design concept and SP Line
6. Morning Drive @ UPRR:
- a. County – possible pursuit of federal funding next year
7. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:
- a. No change
8. Baker Street @ UPRR:
- a. No change
9. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:
- a. Ongoing discussions re Caltrans relinquishment of Rosedale Hwy to local agencies
10. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles Street/Beech Avenue @ BNSF:
- a. Third project in the northwest grade separation story
 - b. High priority for Shafter and Wonderful
 - c. Needs further design concept definition

11. PUC Nominations:

- a. Evidentiary hearing held virtually on April 2, 2024
- b. Updated priority list was released

TY LIN ASSISTANCE:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler recommended that the District engage the services of TY Lin to assist the District with communications with BNSF with respect to its potential interest in the Renfro-Jenkins project, to assess project feasibility and funding availability, and to assist with application of grants for funding. The fees for such engagement would be an amount not to exceed \$25,000. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the engagement with TY Lin for its assistance with the Renfro-Jenkins project on a not to exceed \$25,000 fee basis was approved.

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

Ayes: Mark J. Smith
Steven M. Ruettgers
Jake Wood
Jeevan Muhar

Noes: None

Absent: Jeremy Tobias

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 was completed. The accounting firm of Daniels Phillips Vaughan & Bock (DPVB) prepared a draft Audit Representation Letter dated January 23, 2024 on behalf of the District. The draft representation letter was reviewed and edited by District Counsel, and approved as to form by DPVB. It was recommended that the District approve the Audit Representation Letter as modified and approved by DPVB. On motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Ruetters, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners authorized District president Mark Smith to execute the Audit Representation Letter for FYE June 30, 2023.

5. Government Relations: None

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

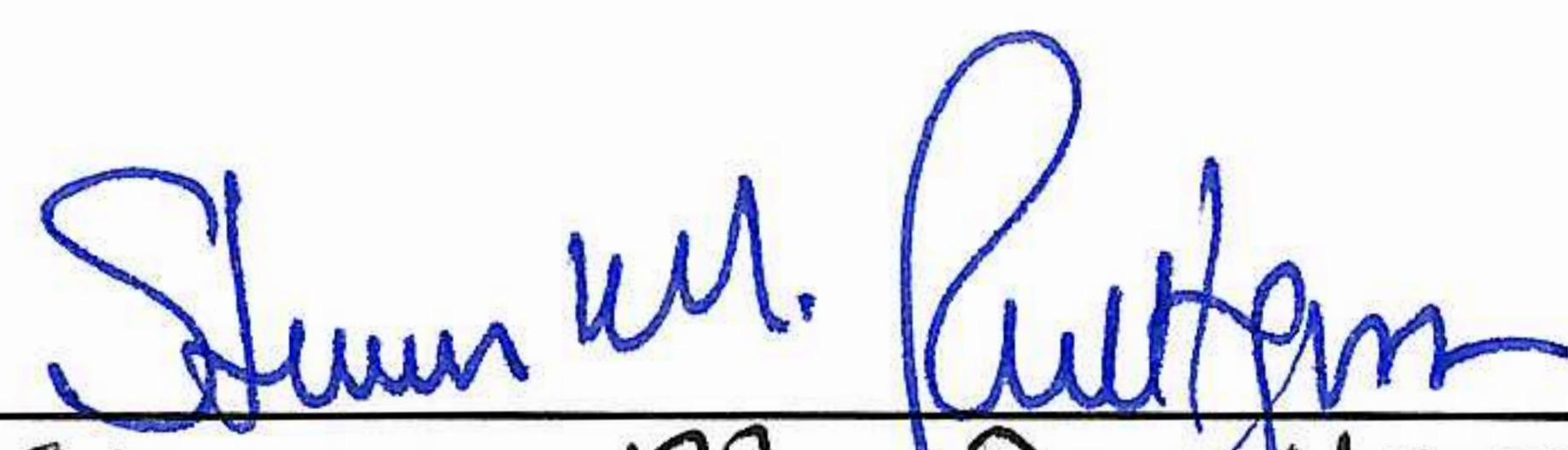
1. Letter dated March 12, 2024 from the Kern County Auditor/Controller re Cities' and Special Districts' Share of Property Tax Administration Cost for 2023-2024 r was received. On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the letter was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT:)
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There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
President



Steven M. Ruetters
Secretary of the Commission
Vice President

Exhibit A

MONTHLY MEETING MAY 2024

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - March 2024	\$ 1,755.00
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - March 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024	<u>\$ 10,606.75</u>
		<u>\$ 12,361.75</u>