

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

Held: July 8, 2024

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on July 8, 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
Jeevan Muhar

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; Ben LeBeau, District Legal Counsel; and members of the public, Henry Gomez and Jacqueline Martinez. Commissioner Jake Wood was absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
May 13, 2024)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Ruetters, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2024, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. LeBeau reported that the form of the Arrangement Letter for the FY 2023-2024 Audit from Daniel Phillips Vaughan & Bock ("DPVB") as modified by the District's counsel had been approved and accepted by the CPA firm.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a) CRISI: \$2.48 billion NOFO closed May 28, 2024. Two more funding cycles remain. No local submittal this cycle, will prepare for next year.
- b) Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program: \$600 million available annually for the next 4 years. Next NOFO anticipated in July 2024 with applications due September 2024.
- c) BNSF has a grants team that will assist in writing RCE grant for Renfro, Cherry and Kratzmeyer Road
- d) Other matters that may affect funding:
 - i. COB and County staff gaining in support to pursue federal funding
 - ii. State budget deficit

2. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination:

- a. Strategies
 - a. Multi-agency approach – COB, County, Shafter
 - b. BNSF Grants Team
 - c. Housing, jobs and disadvantaged community
 - d. TYLin technical support
 - e. Develop political support

3. High Speed Rail Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:

- a. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Design is moving forward to 60%, including BNSF track elevation through Shafter.

4. Specific Plan Lines:

- a. Increased importance of Renfro, Kratzmeyer and Cherry crossing

5. Morning Drive @ UPRR:

- a. County – possible pursuit of federal funding next year

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

- a. No change

7. Baker Street @ UPRR:
 - a. No change
8. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:
 - a. Ongoing discussions re Caltrans relinquishment of Rosedale Hwy to local agencies
9. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles Street/Beech Avenue @ BNSF:
 - a. Second project in the northwest grade separation story
 - b. High priority for Shafter and Wonderful
 - c. Needs further design concept definition
10. PUC Nominations:
 - a. Updated priority list was finalized and adopted

FINANCIAL REPORT: _____)
 _____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for July 8, 2024, 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
 Jeremy Tobias
 Jeevan Muhar

Noes: None

Absent: Jake Wood

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: _____)
 _____)

1. Right of Way: None
2. Advance Planning: None
3. Budget: None
4. Regulatory & Audit: Mr. LeBeau recommended that the District execute the Audit Arrangement Letter for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as modified by District Counsel and

approved by DPVB. On motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Ruettgers, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners authorized District assistant secretary Sheila Plane to execute the Audit Engagement Letter for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

5. Government Relations: None

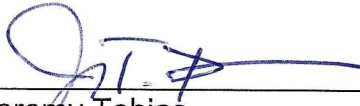
CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

1. The District received the Biennial Review of Conflict of Interest Letter and Notice dated June 6, 2024, from Kathleen Krause, clerk of the County Board of Supervisors. District Counsel Robert Kuhs had previously reviewed the conflict of interest letter and notice, advised that no amendment to the District's conflict of interest policy is required, and recommended that the notice be executed and returned to the clerk of the Board of Supervisors. On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Ruettgers, and unanimously carried, the District authorized and directed that the Notice be duly executed and submitted to the clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

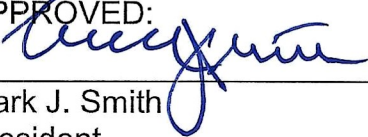
NEXT MEETING AND)
ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

The District Commissioners discussed the scheduling of a special meeting to approve the District's budget by August 1, 2024. The commissioners determined that a special meeting would be held on July 24th at 9:00.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeremy Tobias,
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
President

MONTHLY MEETING JULY 2024

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - May 2024	\$ 2,632.50
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services -May 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2024	\$ 16,375.00
SDRMA	Property Liability Package 2024-25	\$ 10,818.90
		<u>\$ 29,826.40</u>