

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

Held: January 13, 2025

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on January 13, 2025, at 1800 30th Street, Suite 260, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

Vice President Steven Ruetters called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Steven M. Ruetters
Jake Wood
Jeevan Muhar
Barry Hibbard

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers, Vivian Bravo; and Ben LeBeau, District Legal Counsel. Commissioner Jeremy Tobias was absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:)
_____)

Due to the resignation of commissioner Mark Smith, the Commission does not have a sitting President. Following discussion, Commissioner Steven Ruetters agreed he would be willing to serve as President and nominated the following commissioners for the offices opposite their names below:

Steven M. Ruetters -	President
Jeremy T. Tobias -	Vice President
Jeevan Muhar -	Secretary

Upon motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard the officers of the Commission as nominated by Commissioner Ruettgers were elected and approved.

Commissioner Ruettgers then nominated the following individuals as Assistant Secretaries of the Commission:

Commissioner Barry G. Hibbard
Commissioner Jake Wood
Robert G. Kuhs (counsel)
Bernard ("Ben") G. LeBeau III (counsel)
Sheila K. Plane
Vivian Bravo

Upon motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood the foregoing individuals were each confirmed as an Assistant Secretary of the Commission.

COMMENDATION OF FORMER)
COMMISSIONER MARK SMITH:)
_____)

The President introduced as Resolution No. 25-1 a resolution (attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"**) recognizing and commending former commissioner and President of the Commission, Mark Smith, for fourteen (14) years of service on the Commission. On motion by Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the resolution commending Mark Smith.

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2024. On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 11, 2024, were approved on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes:

Steven M. Ruettgers
Barry Hibbard
Jeevan Muhar

Noes:

None

Absent:

Jeremy Tobias

Abstain:

Jake Wood

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. LeBeau presented the District with a new Consulting Services Agreement between the District and Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. for the consulting services of the District's engineers. The new Consulting Services Agreement was made necessary due to the acquisition of Ruettggers & Schuler Civil Engineers (the District's prior engineers) by Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group. The new Consulting Services Agreement was negotiated by and recommended by Counsel for the District. On motion by Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the new Consulting Services Agreement with Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. as presented.

Counsel for the District next presented a resolution to be adopted as Resolution 25-2 (attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"**) setting the location and time for subsequent regular meetings for the Commission to be held at 1518 Mill Rock Way, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California at 5:00 pm commencing on Monday, March 10, 2025 and continuing on the second Monday of every second month thereafter. On motion by Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the Resolution to set the new location of regular meetings of the Commission as presented.

Mr. LeBeau next presented Commissioners with a draft letter to the Clerk of the Kern County Board of Supervisors recommending the reappointment of Jake Wood to the District for a four-year term. On motion of Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved and directed the District Counsel to deliver letter to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Ayes:

Steven M. Ruettggers
Barry Hibbard
Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Noes:

None

Absent:

Jeremy Tobias

Abstain:

None

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:
 - a) CRISI: Anticipated submittal to next cycle in Spring 2025
 - b) Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program: Grant request submitted September, 2024 was unsuccessful. Next funding cycle expected Spring 2025.
 - c) Federal State Partnership (FSP) Inter-city Rail Program: Grant submitted in December 2025
2. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination:
 - a. RCE Grant Application Feedback
 - a. Funding request for too high with respect to other competing projects
 - b. Re-grouping with Agencies on strategy, funding amounts and combined project approach
 - c. Anticipate changes in project ranking criteria with new Federal Administration
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. Renfro and Cherry crossing – were bundled for RCE Grant Application
Follow-up actions include:
 - i. Positioning for grant award or future grant cycles
 - ii. Develop Joint Agencies Agreement(s)
 - iii. Preliminary design and environmental exemptions and exclusion
 - b. Kratzmeyer/BNSF –
 - i. No change - Need to develop scope and agreement with agencies re: Specific Plan Line
5. Morning Drive @ UPRR:
 - a. County – No change - possible pursuit of federal funding this year
6. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:
 - a. No change
7. Baker Street @ UPRR:
 - a. COB conducting feasibility study of pedestrian crossing and minimalized vehicular underpass in connection with Sumner Station revitalization

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. Bundled with Renfro crossing in the FSP grant application

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for November 11, 2024, in the form attached as **Exhibit "C"**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

Ayes: Steven M. Ruettgers
Barry Hibbard
Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Noes: None

Absent: Jeremy Tobias

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:)

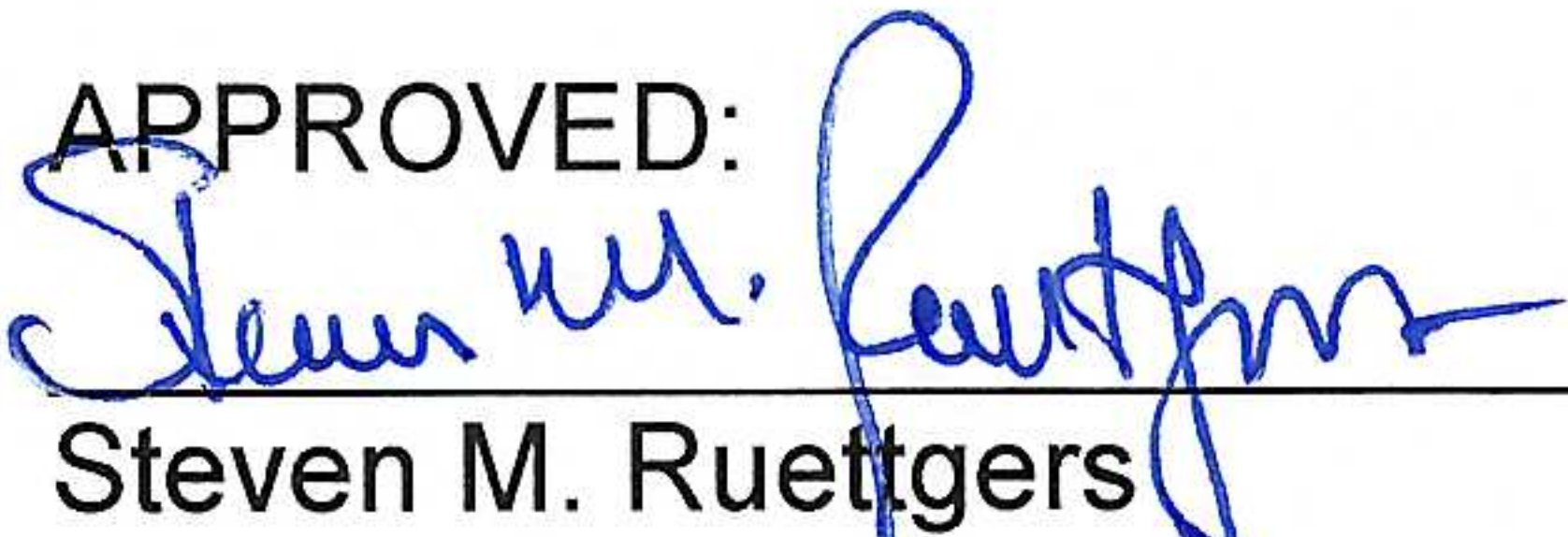
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried the following correspondence was received and filed.

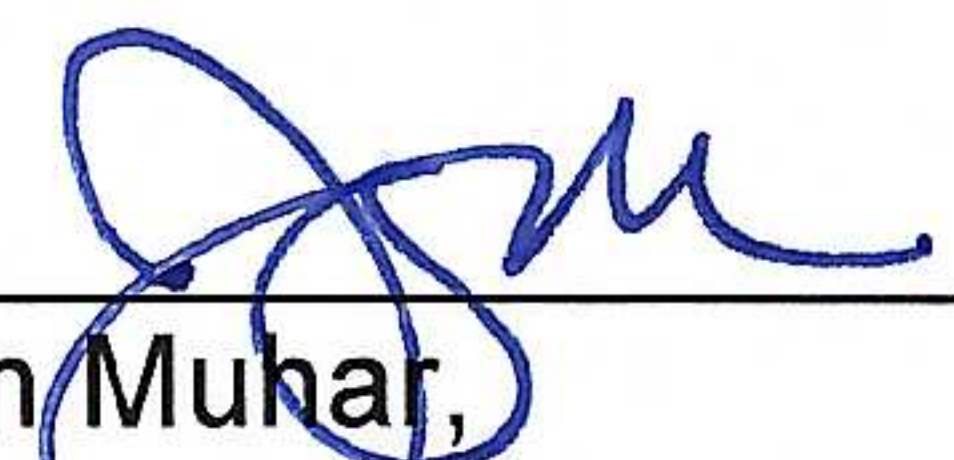
1. Letter of support from Commissioner Steven M. Ruettgeres, for the Kern County Federal State Partnership grant application dated December 16, 2024

NEXT MEETING AND
ADJOURNMENT: _____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:43 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 

Steven M. Ruettgers
President



Jeevan Muhar,
Secretary of the Commission

MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 2025

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - June, Oct., Nov., & Dec 2024	\$	6,013.50
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - 11/1/2024 thru 11/30/2024	\$	6,640.00
Provost & Pritchard	Engineering Services - 12/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024	\$	8,936.50
		\$	<u>21,590.00</u>