

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

Held: March 10, 2025

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on March 10, 2025, at 1518 Mill Rock Way, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

President Steven Ruetters called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Steven M. Ruetters
Jake Wood
Jeevan Muhar
Barry Hibbard

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:)
_____)

The President made assignments of the Commissioners to the following committees:

1. Right of Way: Hibbard/Muhar
2. Advance Planning: Ruetters/Tobias
3. Budget: Hibbard/Wood

4. Regulatory & Audit: Ruettgers/Muhar

5. Government Relations: Tobias/Wood

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
January 13, 2025)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2025, were approved, with corrections, on the following vote of the Commissioners.

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jeremy Tobias

Abstain: None

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. LeBeau had nothing to report.

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 mid-2025.
- c) Federal State Partnership (FSP) Inter-city Rail Program: Grant submitted in December 2024 – Awaiting selection list.

2. Strategy Changes for 2025 Applications:

- 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
 - d. Coordinate with the new Kern COG Director after Ahron Hakimi's retirement.
- 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. Renfro-Jenkins/BNSF:
 - a. 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
- 5. Specific Plan Line:
 - a. Kratzmeyer/BNSF –
 - i. No change - Need to develop scope and agreement with agencies re: Specific Plan Line
- 6. Morning Drive @ UPRR:
 - a. County – No change - possible pursuit of federal funding this year
- 7. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:
 - a. No change
- 8. Baker Street @ UPRR:
 - a. COB conducting feasibility study of pedestrian crossing and minimized vehicular underpass in connection with Sumner Station revitalization.
- 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. Design concept refinement
 - i. Over vs Under and skew angle at BNSF

ii. Santa Fe Way interface

VIDEO COUNTING FOR)
PUC NOMINATIONS)
_____)

Mr. Schuler recommended and requested authorization to engage City Count for video counting of traffic at certain locations for upcoming PUC Nominations in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and authorized the District Engineer to engage City Count for video counting as requested up to an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jeremy T. Tobias

Abstain: None

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for January 13, 2025, in the form attached as **Exhibit "A"**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jeremy T. Tobias

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

6. Right of Way: (Hibbard/Muhar) None

7. Advance Planning: (Ruettgers/Tobias) None
8. Budget: (Hibbard/Wood) None
9. Regulatory & Audit: (Ruettgers/Muhar) None
10. Government Relations: (Tobias/Wood) None

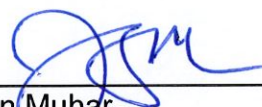
CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

Assistant Secretary Sheila Plane reported that the District had received the following correspondence.

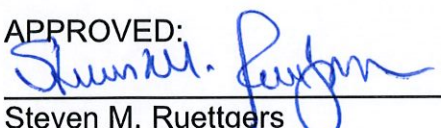
1. Letter from Kathleen Krause dated February 11, 2025, congratulating Jake Wood for another four-year appointment to the GBSOGD.
2. 2024 Government Compensation in California Report dated February 14, 2025, directing staff to respond by April 30, 2025.
3. Registry of Public Agencies (Formerly Statement of Public Fact) letter from Kern County Clerk/Elections, received February 24, 2025, directing staff to respond as necessary.

NEXT MEETING AND)
ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeevan Muhar,
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Steven M. Ruettgers
President

EXHIBIT A

MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 2025

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - January & February 2025	\$ 5,785.00
Provost & Pritchard	Engineering Services - January & February 2025	\$ 14,605.19
Andrea R. Hill, CPA, AAC	Preparation of 2024 1099s	\$ 169.50
Daniells Phillips Vaughn & Bock	2023-2024 Audit & State Controller's Report Preparation	\$ 3,915.00
		<u>\$ 24,474.69</u>