

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

Held: May 12, 2025

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on May 12, 2025, at 1518 Mill Rock Way, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

President Steven Ruetters called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy Tobias
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 Jake Wood was absent from the meeting; arrived at 5:05 p.m.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
MARCH 10, 2025)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2025, were approved on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes: Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy Tobias
Jeevan Muhar
Barry Hibbard

Noes: None

Absent: Jake Wood (arrived at 5:05 p.m.)

Abstain: None

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. LeBeau reported as follows:

1. The Statement of Fact by Public Agency dated March 27, 2025, was mailed to the Kern County Elections Auditor-Controller County Clerk. Received and filed.
2. The Statement of Fact by Public Agency dated March 27, 2025, was mailed to the California Secretary of State. Received and filed.
3. Presented a representation Letter to Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock, dated April 1, 2025, re: Material Pending or Threatened Litigation, Claims, and Assessments Against the District. Received and filed.
4. Presented LeBeau Thelen, LLP's letter to Steven M. Ruettgers, dated April 1, 2025, re: proposed Hourly Rate Increase.

On motion of Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the proposed hourly rate increase for LeBeau Thelen, LLP was approved on the following vote of the Commissioners.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. Presented LeBeau Thelen, LLP's Memorandum dated April 28, 2025, re: Electronic Records Retention. Received and filed.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a. CRISI: Anticipated another funding opportunity, NOFO, Summer or Fall 2025
 - b. Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program: Next funding cycle expected Fall 2025
 - c. Federal State Partnership (FSP) Inter-city Rail Program: Grant submitted in December 2024 – no awards yet
2. Rail Crossing Elimination Grant Application for Bundled Renfro/BNSF – Cherry/BNSF project:
- a. Getting feedback from FRA
 - b. Reviewing and modifying approach, project configurations and cost sharing and strategy
3. High Speed Rail Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:
- a. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Design continues moving forward to 60%, including BNSF track elevation through Shafter
4. Renfro-Jenkins/BNSF:
- a. Continued work on revising bundled projects 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. City of Bakersfield and Kern COG working on alternatives as part of KARGO study
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. Continued coordination with COB which is conducting feasibility study of pedestrian crossing and minimalized 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 concepts being refined for next grant application and nominations

11. CPUC Nominations 2026-2027 / 2027-2028:

- a. Video and preemption data collected and being reviewed

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for March 10, 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 on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes: Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy T. Tobias
Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood
Barry Hibbard

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

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

2. Advance Planning: (Ruetters/Tobias) None

3. Budget: (Hibbard/Wood) Estimated Budget Report April 2025. Sheila Plane to provide to Commissioners Hibbard and Wood.

4. Regulatory & Audit: (Ruetters/Muhar) Draft Audit Report for FY 23-24.

No action was taken. Sheila was directed to request the Auditor move forward to finalize the report. Contact information for Sheila Plane needs to be updated on page 7 of the report.

5. Government Relations: (Tobias/Wood) None

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

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

1. Letter from SDRMA dated April 24, 20205, re: 2025/26 Budget Estimates Update.

The Special District Risk Management Authority's estimate of the District's 2025/2026 property/liability contribution is \$12,047. A final renewal invoice will be provided in June and payment is due July 1, 2025.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the payment of the SDRMA's anticipated renewal bill for 2025/2026 property/liability in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.00.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

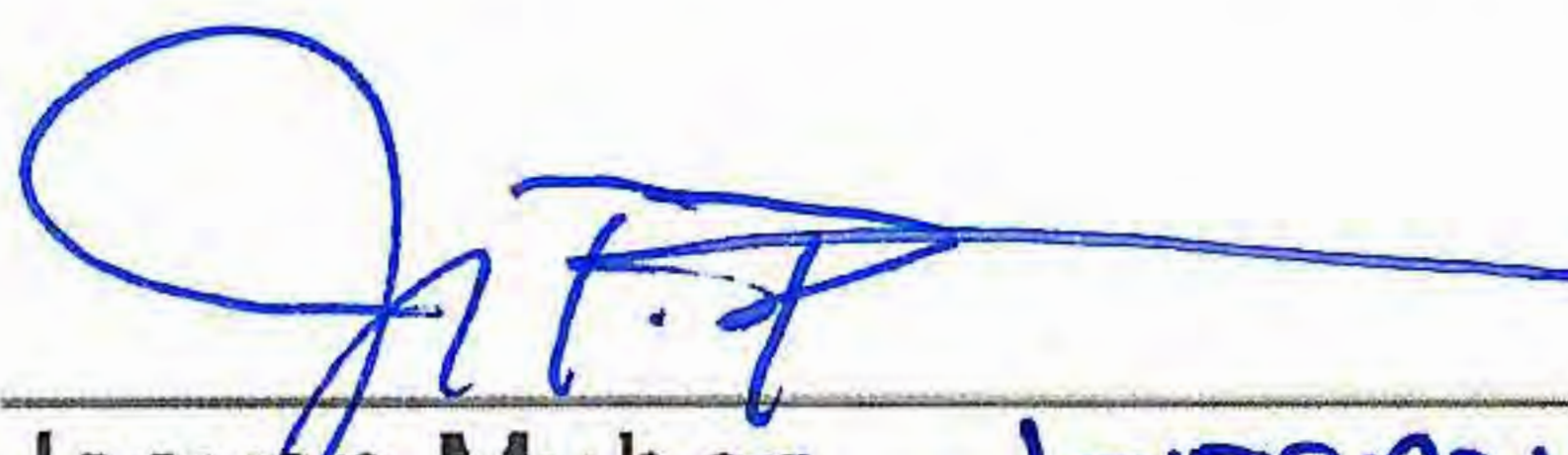
Abstain: None

NEXT MEETING AND
ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED:


Steven M. Ruettgers
President


Jeevan Muhar, Jeremy T. Tobias
Secretary of the Commission
Vice President

MONTHLY MEETING MAY 2025

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - March 2025	\$ 2,291.50
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - April 2025	\$ 554.00
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - March 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025	\$ 20,408.76
City Counts, LLC	Railroad Counts @ 13 crossings	\$ 7,300.00
		<u>\$ 30,554.26</u>