

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

Held: July 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on July 14, 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
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. Commissioners Jeevan Muhar and Jake Wood were absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
MAY 12, 2025)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 12, 2025, were approved on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes: Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy Tobias
Barry Hibbard

Noes: None

Absent: Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Abstain: None

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None

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 from 2024, anticipated reissuance of expanded NOFO in 2025

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
- c. New Kern COG Director – Jay Schlosser – assistance with obtaining federal funding

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

- a. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Design is in the 60% phase, including BNSF track elevation through Shafter, some activity paused due to changes in Federal funding

4. Renfro-Jenkins/BNSF:

- a. COB changing Circulation Elements of the General Plan – evaluating Renfro and Kratzmeyer crossings and associated roadway changes in light of adjustments to the West Beltway

5. Specific Plan Line:

Absent: Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Abstain: None

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:)
_____)

1. SDRMA Board of Directors Election – Authorize Casting of Votes for Nominees by 9/22/25. Tabled for next meeting.
2. QuickBooks online version/subscription. The District Engineer has historically used a desktop version of Quickbooks for District accounting matters. The desktop version is no longer supported for upgrades as the service has moved to an online subscription model. The cost to subscribe to Quickbooks online is approximately \$810 per year (\$66.50 per month for three users). Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the Quickbooks online subscription was approved for purchase on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes: Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy Tobias
Barry Hibbard

Noes: None

Absent: Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Abstain: None

3. Electronic Record Keeping/Document Back-up & Disposal – Tabled for future meeting.
4. District Mission, Function & Continuity – Tabled for future meeting.
5. The President introduced as Resolution 25-3, a resolution (attached hereto as **Exhibit B**) Honoring and Commending Sheila K. Plane for Thirty-Eight Years of Dedicated Service Upon Her Retirement, was presented to the Commission. On motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard, and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the resolution commending Sheila K. Plane.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

1. Right of Way: (Hibbard/Muhar) None
2. Advance Planning: (Ruetters/Tobias) None

3. Budget: (Hibbard/Wood) None

4. Regulatory & Audit: (Ruettgers/Muhar)

A, 2023-2024 Audit Report received and filed.

B. 2024-2025 Audit Engagement Letter with Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock for approval and authorize execution. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard, and unanimously carried, the 2024-2025 Audit Engagement Letter was approved and authorized for execution on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes: Steven M. Ruettgers
Jeremy Tobias
Barry Hibbard

Noes: None

Absent: Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Abstain: None

5. Government Relations: (Tobias/Wood) None

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

None.

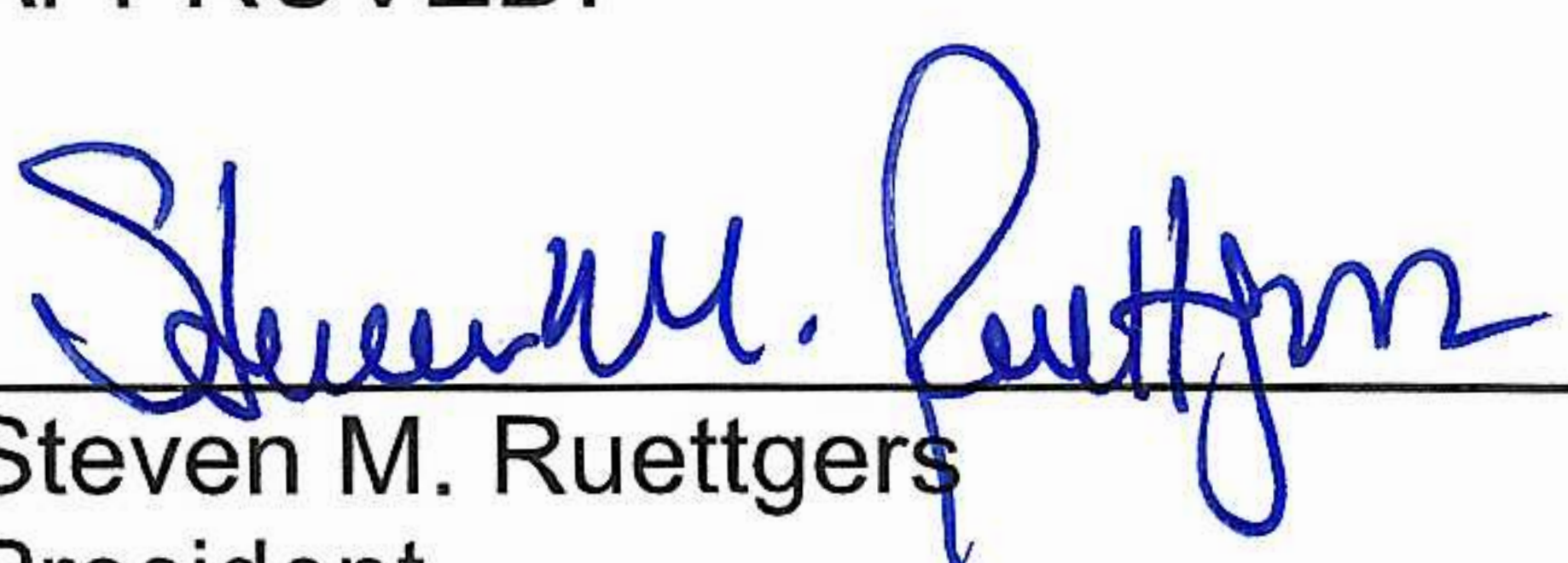
NEXT MEETING AND)
ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeevan Muhar
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED:



Steven M. Ruettgers
President

MONTHLY MEETING JULY 2025

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - May and June 2025	\$ 2,052.50
Provost & Pritchard	Engineering Services - May and June 2025	\$ 23,418.70
SDRMA	Renewal Invoice	<u>\$ 12,162.80</u>
		<u>\$ 37,634.00</u>