

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

Held: September 8, 2025

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on September 8, 2025, at 1518 Mill Rock Way, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

President Steven Ruetters called the meeting to order at 5:04 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.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
JULY 14, 2025; AND SPECIAL)
MEETING OF JULY 30, 2025)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard, and unanimously carried, (a) the minutes of the regular meeting of July 14, 2025, with a minor correction to the date of the regularly scheduled meeting for September be changed from September 9, 2025 to September 8, 2025, and (b) the minutes of the special meeting held July 30, 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

Abstain: None

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. LeBeau reported on the District's authority to issue bonds to fund grade separation projects, and the process to do so generally. Particularly in the northwest corridor where construction of large industrial projects are anticipated within the city limits of Shafter and projected to significantly increase traffic traveling between Bakersfield and those areas, the issuance of bonds paid for by property owners within a community facilities district as a funding source for grade separation projects was a possibility for the Commissioners to consider. Commissioner Hibbard recommended investigating whether land-owners within the area would support such a measure.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:
 - a. Federal State Partnership (FSP) Inter-city Rail Program: No award in 2024 or 2025. 2025 NOFO released \$5 Billion, due January 7, 2025.
 - b. CRISI and RCE NOFOs anticipated later this year.
 - c. Jay Schlosser (KernCOG) in DC lobbying for federal funding
2. High Speed Rail Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:
 - a. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Design is in the 60% phase, revising design due to probable loss of federal funding
3. Renfro-Jenkins/BNSF & Kratzmeyer/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

4. Morning Drive @ UPRR:

- a. County – No change - possible pursuit of federal funding this year

5. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF:

- a. No change

6. Baker Street @ UPRR:

- a. Continued coordination with COB which completed an initial design study of a minimalized vehicular underpass in connection with Sumner Station revitalization

7. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:

- a. Ongoing discussions re Caltrans relinquishment of Rosedale Hwy to local agencies – No grade separation, but possible partial funding from State

8. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles Street/Beech Avenue @ BNSF:

- a. Design concepts being refined for next grant application, nominations and circulation element discussions with Shafter and Bakersfield

9. Nominations – CPUC Order Instituting Investigation (OII) 2026-2027, 2027-2028:

Due at the end of October.

- a. Supplemental Daily Traffic Counts (Authorize up to \$10,000).

Mr. Schuler recommended and requested authorization engage City Counts for additional traffic counts for upcoming PUC Nominations in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, Mr. Schuler's request for authorization to engage additional City Count for the traffic counts at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 was approved on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes:	Steven M. Ruettgers Jeremy Tobias Jeevan Muhar Barry Hibbard
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Noes:	None
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Absent:	Jake Wood
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Abstain:	None
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FINANCIAL REPORT:)
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The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for July 14, 2025, in the form attached as **Exhibit “A”**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed on the following vote of the Commissioners.

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jake Wood

Abstain: None

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:)
_____)

1. SDRMA Board of Directors Election – Authorize Casting of Votes for Nominees by 9/22/25 – Commissioner Ruetters is nominated as a candidate for the SDRMA Board of Directors. Mr. Ruetters is running on behalf of Kern Mosquito District. Commissioner Ruetters recommended that the District vote for himself and the incumbent SDRMA director-nominee. The other Commissioners discussed Mr. Ruetters recommendation and determined that it was advisable to cause the District to vote for Mr. Ruetters but no other nominees. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Hibbard and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved and directed the District to vote to elect Mr. Ruetters for the Board of Directors.

Ayes: Jeremy Tobias
Jeevan Muhar
Barry Hibbard

Noes: None

Absent: Jake Wood

Abstain: Steven M. Ruetters

2. Electronic Record Keeping/Document Back-up & Disposal – Commissioner Ruetters requested that Sheila Plane assess how the District would implement an electronic rather than physical record keeping system.

3. District Mission, Function & Continuity – Commissioner Ruettgers recommended that the District document its processes, important historical data, and plan for providing functional continuity given that persons who have long served on or assisted the District will eventually step away. Commissioner Ruettgers requested that Sheila Plane begin working on such a plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: _____)
_____)

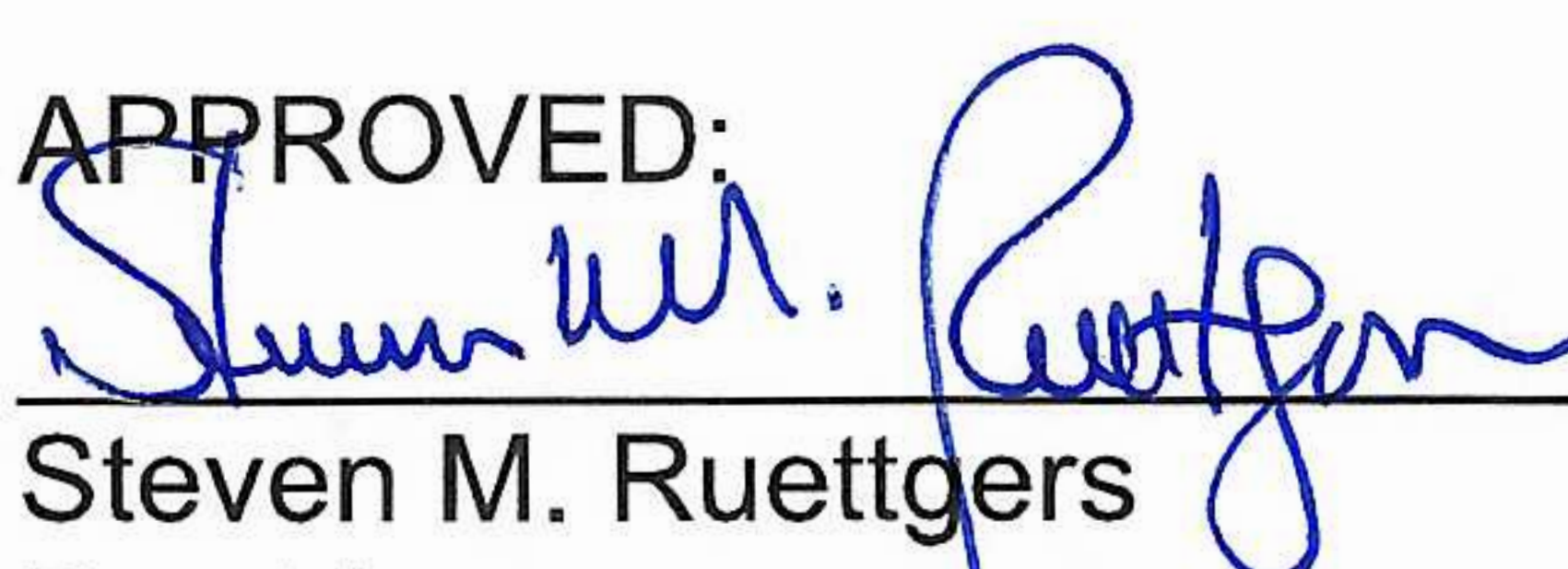
1. Right of Way: (Hibbard/Muhar) None
2. Advance Planning: (Ruettgers/Tobias) None
3. Budget: (Hibbard/Wood) None
4. Regulatory & Audit: (Ruettgers/Muhar) None
5. Government Relations: (Tobias/Wood) None

CORRESPONDENCE: _____)
_____)

None.

NEXT MEETING AND
ADJOURNMENT: _____)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: 

Steven M. Ruettgers
President

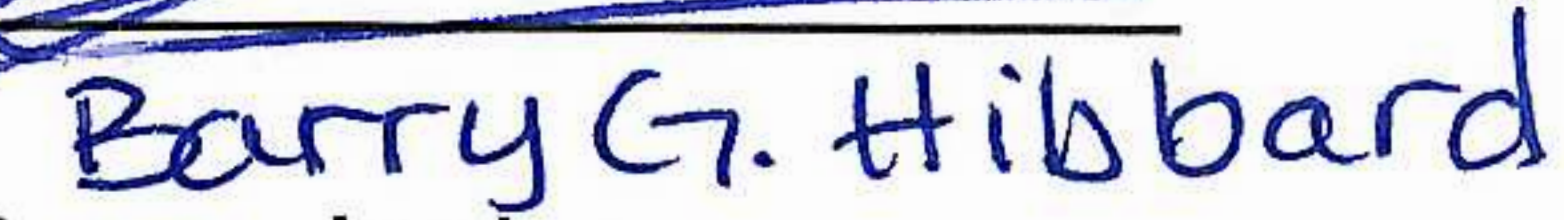

Assistant Secretary of the Commission

Barry G. Hibbard
Secretary of the Commission

Exhibit A

MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 2025

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen, LLP	Legal Services - July 2025	\$ 3,462.50
Provost & Pritchard	Engineering Services - July & August 2025	<u>\$ 25,771.66</u>
		<u>\$ 29,234.16</u>