

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

Held: **March 20, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on March 20, 2023, at 1800 30th Street, Suite 260, Bakersfield, California. This meeting was a continuation from a regular meeting that was scheduled for March 13, 2023, at which no business was conducted.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

Mark Smith, Acting Interim President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Mark J. Smith	Present
Jake Wood	Present
Jeremy Tobias	Present
Jeevan Muhar	Present

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; Robert G. Kuhs, District Legal Counsel.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETINGS OF)
January 16, 2023 and)
March 13, 2023)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2023, and March 13, 2023, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

None.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

1. Project Funding Sources: Mr. Schuler reported no change in the status of federal or state funding. Federal funding is \$1 billion annually, no change with the State.
2. Project Funding Strategies and TY Lin Coordination: Mr. Schuler stated that Sam Lux (County Public Works Director) had quit and been replaced by Josh Champlin, Interim Public Works Director. Mr. Schuler also noted that Caltrans representative Pedro Ramirez has been replaced by Bradan Duran. COB representative Paul Archer was promoted to Engineer IV and will be involved with the Baker/Truxtun-BNSF project.
3. HSR: Design of the Shafter to Bakersfield leg is moving forward. The BNSF track through Shafter is expected to be elevated.
4. Specific Plan Lines:
 - Renfro - Jenkins: no change.
 - Kratzmeyer – BNSF: KARGO study is underway. Mr. Schuler discussed the on-going need for SP line development and adoption by the City.
5. Morning Drive @ UPRR: Caltrans and the County are essentially starting over due to personnel changes. There is a possibility of technical assistance from TY Lin through Kern COG funding. Mr. Schuler is working on setting up a re-start meeting.
6. Baker Street: - Mr. Schuler met with councilman Gonzales on proposed alternatives. Mr. Schuler is working with TY Lin on alternative analysis, including overpass and underpass alternatives. Mr. Schuler is also soliciting input from COB on alternatives and improvements in vicinity of the project.
7. Rosedale Highway/Landco - SJVR: No change.
8. Cherry Avenue: This project continues to be high on the City of Shafter's radar as an element of potential West Bypass SR-99 to I-5.
9. City Count Contract: Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias,

seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved a contract with City Count NTE \$10,000 to obtain train counts for nominations to the CPUC in the fall.

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for January 16, 2023, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

Ayes:	Mark J. Smith Jeremy Tobias Jake Wood Jeevan Muhar
Noes:	None
Absent:	Steven M. Ruettggers
Abstain:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

No action. Deferred until next meeting when the District expects to have a full complement of Commissioners and the President will make new assignments.

CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

Following discussion, the following correspondence was received and filed.

1. Letter from Kathleen Krause, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors re: Mark Smith Reappointment to the Commission
2. Letter to Kathleen Krause, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors re: Resignation of Craig M. Pope and recommended replacement by Jeevan Muhar

OTHER BUSINESS:)
_____)

None.

ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was, on motion of Commissioner Jeevan Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Jeremy Tobias, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:59 p.m. The Commission will next meet on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.



Jeremy Tobias, Acting Interim
Assistant Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED: 

Mark J. Smith
Acting Interim President

MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 2023

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - January 2023	\$	741.00
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - February 2023	\$	285.00
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - 1/1/2023 thru 2/28/2023	\$	10,847.50
Andrea R. Hill, CPA, AAC	Preparation of 2022 1099s	\$	100.00
Daniells Phillips Vaughn & Bock	Audit for year ended June 30, 2022	\$	3,600.00
		\$	15,573.50