

Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRRA)  
Minutes of Special Board meeting on February 9, 2022 via Zoom Teleconference

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1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting of the board of directors was called to order by Chair Veronica Vargas at 2:01 p.m. Director Dan Wright lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Recognition of outgoing Executive Director – Moved to agenda item #6 without objection.

2. **Roll Call of Members**

**Members Present**

Chair Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy  
Vice Chair Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin  
Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop  
Director Benjamin Cantu, City of Manteca  
Director Brittni Kiick (Livermore), LAVTA (*\*arrived during Item 6*)  
Director David Haubert, Alameda County  
Director David Hudson, San Ramon  
Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House  
Director John McPartland (District 5), BART (*\*arrived during Item 5*)  
Director Kathy Narum, City of Pleasanton  
Director Robert Rickman, San Joaquin County  
Director Karen Stepper, Town of Danville  
Director Bob Woerner, City of Livermore  
Director Dan Wright, City of Stockton  
Director Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE

**Members Absent**

None

3. **Public Comments**

There was no public comment.

4. **Consent Calendar – ACTION**

Motion to approve all items on Consent Calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes of January 12, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. Treasurer's Report for December 2021.
- c. Resolution R04-2022 Declaring that Agency meetings will continue to be held via teleconference

**Motion:** Stepper/Tingle

**Aye:** Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Kiick, McPartland

**Motion Passed**

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**5. Executive Directors Report – INFORMATION**

a. Recognition of outgoing Executive Director

Chair Vargas and other directors expressed their gratitude to Tree for his service and commitment to the Authority and the Valley Link project. Tree was presented with a commemorative token, a set of book ends created from a section of railroad track. Tree stated what a pleasure it has been to work with the Valley Link board, he thanked staff and legal counsel for all their support. Tree expressed his confidence in the executive team who will be taking the reins to keep the project moving forward.

Tree turned the floor over to Deputy Executive Director, Kevin Sheridan, who echoed the sentiment of the board and thanked Tree for his commitment and leadership. Sheridan advised the board that instead of a detailed report under this item, staff decided to include updates on current work in progress as informational updates on the day's agenda.

There was no further discussion from directors on this item. There was no public comment.

**6. Motion to approve Resolution R05-2022 Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute an Employment Agreement with Kevin Sheridan as the Authority's Executive Director/CEO – ACTION**

Attorney, Michael Conneran introduced this item. He summarized the details of the contract and recommended approval of the resolution.

There was no discussion from directors on this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion:** Hudson/Hernandez

**Aye:** Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion Passed**

**7. Update on State Legislative Advocacy – INFORMATION**

Sheridan introduced this item and gave the floor to State Legislative Advocate, Gus Khouri. Khouri gave a summary on the details of Governor Newsom's budget proposal that was released in January and the possible opportunities it provided for the Valley Link project in regards to funding. Khouri also provided the board with an overview of the strategic plan for future advocacy.

Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**8. Strategic Discussion - Sustainability – INFORMATION**

Chair Vargas introduced this item and gave the floor to Director Haubert who updated the board on discussions of the Sustainability Ad Hoc committee on key findings regarding the viability of a hydrogen fuel cell-battery hybrid vehicle for Valley Link. Haubert introduced Stadler staff; Martin Ritter, CEO and Matt Sibul, Head of Sales; who gave a presentation on the possibilities for Valley Link's zero-emission future.

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9. **Motion to approve the submittal of a 2022 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant application as a joint application with Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and County Connection – ACTION**

Sheridan introduced new Deputy Director, Financial Planning and Programming; Wil Ridder. Ridder gave an overview of the details of the grant and its application process. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion:** Hernandez/Wright

**Aye:** Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion Passed**

Agenda item # 11, Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair, was moved to # 10 without objection.

10. **Motion to nominate and elect a Board Chair and Vice Chair for two-year terms, (through December 2023) – ACTION**

Conneran introduced this item. He explained the details of the bylaws as they relate to the election of the Chair and Vice Chair and recommended approval.

Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion modified – Motion to extend the term of our current chair and vice chair for a one-year term (through December 31, 2022):** Hudson/Tingle

**Aye:** Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion Passed**

11. **Motion to approve Resolution R06-2022 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a non-reimbursement cooperative agreement with Caltrans for Project Approval & Environmental Document (PA&ED) – ACTION**

**Motion:** Cantu/Stepper

**Aye:** Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Tingle

**Motion Passed**

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**12. Directors' Discussion**

Director Hudson reiterated the importance of board members attending transit conferences whenever possible. Vice Chair Hernandez gave a summary of a mayors' conference in Washington D.C. where she and other mayors from the Tri-Valley attended and had the opportunity to discuss the Valley Link project.

**13. Next Meeting**

March 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. via teleconference

**14. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned without objection at 3:40 p.m.