

Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
Minutes of Board meeting on April 12, 2023

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

The meeting of the board of directors was called to order by Chair Melissa Hernandez at 2:13 p.m., who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Roll Call of Members**

Members Present in person at 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy

Chair Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin
Vice Chair Dan Wright, City of Stockton
Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House
Director John Marchand, City of Livermore
Director Jose Nuño, City of Manteca
Director Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE

Members Present remotely at 1209 L Street, Sacramento

Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop (*joined during item #5*)
Director Mateo Bedolla, City of Tracy

Members Present remotely at 4501 Pleasanton Drive, Pleasanton

Director David Haubert, Alameda County
Director Karen Stepper, Town of Danville

Members Absent

Director Valerie Arkin, Pleasanton
Director David Hudson, San Ramon
Director Brittini Kiick (Livermore), LAVTA
Director Robert Rickman, San Joaquin County

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 February 8, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
- b. Treasurer's Reports for January and February 2023
- c. Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Budget
- d. Meetings of the Board of Directors

Motion: Marchand/Haubert

Aye: Bedolla, Haubert, Hernandez, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Stepper, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Akinjo, Arkin, Hudson, Kiick, Rickman

Motion Passed

5. **Approve Resolution R05-2023 Authorizing the Adoption of a Locally Preferred Alternative for Evaluation in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Clearance – ACTION**

Staff member Marianne Payne, Director of Planning, introduced this item and gave the floor to consultant Diane Cowin, Senior Vice President with AECOM. Cowin gave an update on the

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environmental process and an in-depth presentation on the adoption of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). She outlined the project timeline and the FTA process as well as the background on the LPA and next steps related to NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Payne noted that letters of support for the LPA for evaluation in the NEPA process were received from the cities of Dublin and Livermore, Mountain House Community Services District (MHCS D) and Zone 7 Water Agency. Chair Hernandez thanked Payne and Cowin and opened the floor to the public for comment and discussion by directors. Cowin responded to questions. Director Bedolla voiced his disappointment that a Tracy station was not included in Phase 1 but also noted that the City of Tracy continues to support the project. Public comments were heard from Roland LeBrun, Karen Moore and Adrian Brandt via teleconference and in-person comment was heard from David James, Community Development Director for the MHCS D.

Motion: Haubert/Wright

Aye: Akinjo, Bedolla, Haubert, Hernandez, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Stepper, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Arkin, Hudson, Kiick, Rickman

Motion Passed

6. Approve Resolution R06-2023 Authorizing Acceptance of a New Procurement Manual and Adoption of Chapter 10 of the Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual – ACTION

Executive Director/CEO Kevin Sheridan introduced this item. He summarized the details of the staff report. There was no director discussion or public comment.

Motion: Zuber/Wright

Aye: Akinjo, Bedolla, Haubert, Hernandez, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Stepper, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Arkin, Hudson, Kiick, Rickman

Motion Passed

7. Approve Resolution R07-2023 Authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to Execute an Employment Agreement for the position of Executive Management Assistant – ACTION

Sheridan summarized the staff report. He reiterated that the role was currently being filled by LAVTA staff through an administrative arrangement and the Authority would be executing the agreement with the assigned staff member.

Motion: Nuño/Wright

Aye: Akinjo, Bedolla, Haubert, Hernandez, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Arkin, Hudson, Kiick, Stepper (*due to technical difficulties*), Rickman

Motion Passed

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8. Executive Director’s Report - INFORMATION

Sheridan addresses speaker concerns regarding the difficulties with audio for the meeting. He updated the board on recent meetings with the Secretary of Transportation in an effort to ensure that the Valley Link project is identified correctly to be in the best position to secure funding. He reiterated that the project still includes a Mountain House to Lathrop alignment in the next phase of activities. Sheridan shared an upcoming event flyer and gave the floor to Chair Hernandez. Hernandez provided the details of the hydrogen-focused event, hosted by Innovation Tri Valley that will take place on May 17, 2023. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

9. Directors’ Discussion

Vice Chair Dan Wright reported on recent lobbying activity in Sacramento arranged by the San Joaquin Regional Policy Council. He announced that the Valley Link project is receiving support from Kern to San Joaquin counties, Wright also noted that lawmakers and staff were very receptive to the idea of getting the project reclassified as a short-term project. Director King-Tingle thanked staff for the thorough report and expressed confidence in the project’s ability to receive continued funding. Director Bedolla expressed concerns about the project implementation, timeline, and phasing. He also reiterated that he and the City of Tracy continue to support the Valley Link project.

10. Upcoming Meeting Details

The next regular meeting of the board will be held on June 14, 2023.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned without objection at 3:40 p.m.