

Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRRA)  
Minutes of Special Board meeting on January 12, 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 2:00 p.m. Executive Director Michael Tree lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 (*\*arrived during Item 5*)  
Director Brittini Kiick (Livermore), LAVTA  
Director David Haubert, Alameda County (*\*arrived during Item 6*)  
Director David Hudson, San Ramon  
Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House  
Director John McPartland (District 5), BART  
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 (*\*arrived during Item 5*)  
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 December 22, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. Treasurer's Report for November 2021.
- c. Resolution R01-2022 Declaring that Agency meetings will continue to be held via teleconference

**Motion:** Hudson/Zuber

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

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Cantu, Haubert, Wright

**Motion Passed**

5. **Executive Directors Report – INFORMATION**

Executive Director Michael Tree gave an oral report to the board and highlighted some of the top items being worked on by staff. Staff is following state budget discussions. Tree noted that the anticipated budget surplus means more opportunities for funding for the Valley Link project. Staff is

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currently working on submission of an application for funding through Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program due in March. Additionally, the State is aiming to commit \$6 billion over six years for zero-emission vehicles, an area of focus for Valley Link as the project moves forward. Tree stated the new districts for the California State Senate were set recently, making District 5 Senator Susan Eggman, a very active supporter of the project, the representative for a large section on the project. There have been a number of briefings with key partners, among them Congressman Eric Swalwell; Chair Laura Friedman of the Assembly Transportation Committee and Brian Kelly, CEO of California High-Speed Rail.

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

6. Approve Valley Link 2022 Work Plan – **ACTION**

Maryanne Payne, Manager of Policy, Planning & Environmental, gave a presentation on this item. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion:** King-Tingle/Stepper

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

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** Haubert

**Absent:** None

**Motion Passed**

7. Approve AECOM Contract Agreement Addendum #5 – **ACTION**

Deputy Executive Director, Kevin Sheridan, summarized the details of the staff report and requested that the board approve Resolution R02-2022 authorizing the executive director to negotiate and enter into a contract with AECOM.

Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion:** Cantu/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**

8. Directors' Discussion

Directors discussed upcoming conferences and opportunities for members to participate. There was also discussion on the supplemental EIR processes.

9. **Adjourn to CLOSED SESSION**

10. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b): PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION Title: Executive Director

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11. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b): PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
Title: Executive Director
  
12. **Reconvene to OPEN SESSION**  
Chair Vargas reported out following the closed session. Vargas informed the meeting that the board has accepted the resignation of Executive Director, Michael Tree effective February 28, 2022. Further decision was taken to promote Deputy Director, Kevin Sheridan to the role of Executive Director. Vargas thanked Tree for his contribution to moving the Valley Link project forward. Directors shared the sentiment and congratulated Sheridan on his new role.
  
13. Approve Resolution R03-2022 Authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Employment Agreement with William Ridder as the Authority's Deputy Director/Financial Planning and Programming – **ACTION**  
Tree summarized the candidate search process and details of the employment contract. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.  
  
**Motion:** Zuber/Cantu  
**Aye:** Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber  
**Nay:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** None  
**Motion Passed**
  
14. **Next Meeting**  
February 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. via teleconference
  
15. **Adjourn**  
Meeting adjourned without objection at 3:32 p.m.