

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
COUNTY OF CALAVERAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HELD ON MARCH 8, 2006**

Council Members present: Merita Callaway – *Chair*, Curly Middleton – *Vice Chair*, Victoria Erickson, Lee Seaton, Michelle Plotnik, Bob Leitzell and Trudy Lackey

Staff: George Dondero - Executive Director; Brittany Odermann – Transportation Planner; Mary Kelly Administrative Assistant

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #4a was pulled by Chair Callaway. Motion was then made approving the remainder of the Consent Agenda Items as submitted:

Moved: Plotnik Second: Middleton Approved: 7-0

1. Minutes of February 8, 2006 Regular Meeting - **Action** Approved 6-1 Abstain: Faught
2. SSTAC - Update
3. Oak Management Plan - Update
4. Correspondence
 - b. Dan Walters – Highway program moves ever closer to pork barrel politics
 - c. Clea Benson – Deadline looms for bond measure

NOTE: Council Member Leitzell arrived during discussion of Item 4a. Dorian Faught, alternate to the Board stepped down.

4a. Semi-Annual Transit Report: Chair Callaway asked what future plans there were for increasing farebox to meet TDA requirements of 10%. Nathan Atherstone, Transit Manager explained that there were changes in routes and ridership not included in the semi-annual report and these changes will be shown on the next semi-annual report due at the end of the fiscal year. He believes the changes will make a significant impact to the farebox.

Moved: Plotnik Second: Middleton Approved: 7-0

REGULAR AGENDA

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Gabe Karam, ex-Council Member expressed his thanks to George Dondero for his leadership as Executive Director.
- Gary Caldwell, Valley Springs stated that Dondero has provided excellent services to the CCOG. He also felt it was unfortunate that the idea of dissolving the CCOG has surfaced again. The CCOG provides a unique service and to suggest that the CCOG should be transferred to Public Works is impractical and unrealistic.
- Steve Wilensky, County Board Supervisor, District 2, thanked George for the level of dedication, integrity and skill he provided to Calaveras County.
- Several business owners from Angels Camp spoke regarding the demolition of the buildings they lease from Caltrans. Some owners have spent thousands of dollars on their businesses having been told by Caltrans that construction will not begin for 3 years. They have now been informed that the buildings will be demolished. Michael Rodrigues, Caltrans Assistant Regional Chief of Right-of-Way explained that there are cancellation clauses for both parties in their standard lease agreements. The utility relocation is scheduled for September '06. Rodrigues explained that Caltrans will work with the businesses as long as possible, but they will need to vacate prior to utility relocation. A notice to relocate showing a start date and a finish date will be given to the businesses. They must be out before the end date of the notice. The relocation notices have not gone to the businesses because the start and finish dates haven't been decided yet. The notices probably won't go out until late April. Caltrans plans to let

the businesses remain open as long as possible, but there is a timeframe when certain processes need to happen.

- Chair Callaway explained that an item needs to be placed on the April Agenda on whether the CCOG will recruit for a new Executive Director or if the County should take over as the transportation planning agency.

➤ **Action Item: Mary to send a copy of the Executive Director's job description to members of the Council before the April 12th meeting.**

- A training session will be held at the CCOG on March 14th @ 3:30pm on transportation funding, acronyms and general transportation information.

➤ **Action Item: Mary to email Council Members the meeting time and date.**

6. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

7. PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING – Proposed Angels Camp Bypass Air Conformity Determination

Item 9d was combined with this item.

Michael Brady, Air Quality Conformity Coordinator explained that beginning March 9, there will be a public review and comment period for the Regional Conformity Analysis related to the Angels Camp Bypass. With a Powerpoint presentation, he explained the conformity process. The Conformity Analysis document will be available for review in several areas in the County, including the Calaveras COG

8. CALTRANS REPORT

Jane Perez, Chief – Caltrans office of Regional Planning and Administration presented the Executive Director with a plaque recognizing his contributions to the CCOG and Caltrans, and thanking him for his dedication and service. She then reported on the following action items from the February meeting:

- The Caltrans Traffic Safety Branch is still working on the traffic light at Avery/Sheep Ranch Road.
- The mudslide on SR49 in Angels Camp is not within Caltrans' right-of-way, nor their responsibility.
- Traffic Safety Maintenance personnel are checking the Angels Oaks intersection to see if reflectors are needed.
- Design is in progress at Utica Grade to fill in the missing portion of turnout. There are some environmental issues that need to be taken care of. The Ready to List date is September '08.

Curly Middleton reported that because there isn't a speed sign on Highway 4, eastbound cars coming from Stockton at high rates of speed are creating safety problems.

➤ **Action Item: Jane will check on this and report back to the CCOG.**

9. STATE HIGHWAY PROJECT REPORTS

- a. SR4 Angels Camp Bypass – Scott Maas, Project Manager summarized the report provided in the packet.
- b. SR4 Wagon Trail Project – Maas summarized the report provided in the packet.
- c. SHOPP Projects – Maas summarized the project report provided in the packet.
- d. Air Quality Conformity – Discussed under Agenda Item 7.

10. DRAFT OPERATING BUDGET – Action

Motion was made approving the draft administrative budget for FY 2006-07.

Moved: Middleton

Second: Plotnik

Approved: 7-0

11. MOU BETWEEN CCOG & TRI-COUNTIES RE: PARTNERSHIP IN INTEGRATED PLANNING - Action
The Council approved entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Alpine County and Amador County Transportation Commission to participate in the Tri-County Partnership in Integrated Planning.

Moved: Middleton Second: Plotnik Approved: 7-0

12. MOU BETWEEN CCOG, AMADOR AND TUOLUMNE RE: FOOTHILL COMMUTER SERVICES PROJECT – Action
The Council approved entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Tuolumne County Transportation Commission and Amador County Transportation Commission to participate in the Foothill Commuter Services Project.

Motion: Seaton Second: Plotnik Approved: 7-0

13. AMENDMENT #3 TO THE OVERALL WORK PROGRAM 2005-06 - Action
The Council approved a resolution adopting a third amendment to the Overall Work Program for FY 2005-06 as presented.

Motion: Seaton Second: Plotnik Approved: 7-0

14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Mr. Dondero reviewed his report supplied in the packet. He also attended a presentation on Caltrans’ North Region GIS tool that was conducted by Caltrans District 3 that afternoon.

The compensation survey requested from the Council in February has not been completed, but a handout was given to the Council showing a summary of the salary figures supplied by the surveyed counties. Dondero will provide a write-up to go with the summary before he leaves.

15. COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES
There were no issues from the County.

16. CITY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES
There were no issues from the City.

17. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Merita Callaway, Chair
Calaveras Council of Governments

ATTEST: _____
Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary
Calaveras Council of Governments