

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
COUNTY OF CALAVERAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
September 2, 2009**

**Council Members Present:** Merita Callaway – Chair, Jon Ellis – Vice-Chair, Elaine Morris, Craig Turco and Pat Maurer  
**Council Members Absent:** Gregg Baxter, Tom Tryon  
**Alternates Present:** David Wood, Steve Wilensky

**Staff Present:** Tim McSorley – Executive Director  
Tyler Summersett – Transportation Planner  
Melissa Eads – Senior Administrative Analyst

Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Merita Callaway.

- Director McSorley passed out three handouts:
  - Article from the Sacramento Bee, Re: Research and Rehab in Gear for California’s Rough Highways
  - Article from CNN.com, Re: “Green Goo” Biofuel Gets a Boost
  - Document from CTC, Re: Draft 2010 STIP Fund Estimate – County and Interregional Share Estimates

*Copies of handouts are available at the CCOG office.*

**CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Consent Agenda Item No. 2c pulled for discussion by Vice-Chair Ellis.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of July 8, 2009 Regular Meeting – ACTION
2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter & Certificate from CalACT: Recognition for 10 Years of Continuous Membership
- b. Letter from Brian Peters, Alpine County, Re: Public Hearing August 27, 2009 for Bear Valley Village Project
- c. Letter from Caltrans, Re: Project Approval Hearing – Bear Valley Village
  1. NOP DEIR Comment Letter No. 1
  2. NOP DEIR Comment Letter No. 2

*Approval of the Consent Agenda Items Not Including 2c:*

*Moved: Turco                      Second: Wilensky                      Approved: 7-0-0*

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2c DISCUSSION:**

- Vice-Chair Ellis read sections of the August 19, 2009 letter to Brian Peters from Caltrans for the record.
  - From Page 2, second paragraph: “Caltrans regards the proposed mitigation for the proposed project’s significant and unavoidable impacts to the State Highway System to be inadequate.....the project and all foreseeable future projects would cause SR-4 to operate at an unacceptable LOS in 2027.”
  - From Page 4, Item 2: “No other potentially feasible mitigation strategies were under consideration: Although Caltrans does not endorse any specific mitigation for the impact of the proposed project to State Route 4, for purposes of public information, it will champion equally feasible solutions. As the proposed project is touted as a pedestrian village, and along with Caltrans’ espousal of complete streets and context sensitive solutions, it appears consistent with the pedestrian village to consider a transit solution for partial or whole mitigation to the impact this development would have to the State Route 4 corridor between Angels Camp and Bear Valley. That a transit solution was never considered is evident by the response contained in the FEIR to our comments, in which the lead agency was evidently unaware of the multi-modal transit facility project in Calaveras County’s RTP (2007), and could serve as a potential ‘park and ride’ for Bear Valley.

Further, there was a failure to discuss or to assess and evaluate the ability of various proposed traffic calming improvements in the Arnold Rural Livable Community-Based Mobility Plan as potential sources of mitigation, as was a consideration in early discussions of the project between the lead agency, Calaveras County, Calaveras COG, and Caltrans.

- From Page 5, second sentence in the last paragraph: Caltrans strongly endorses further negotiation with all concerned parties regarding mitigation for these traffic impacts prior to project approval.

*Approval of Consent Agenda Item No. 2c:*

*Moved: Ellis*

*Second: Turco*

*Approved: 7-0-0*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Director McSorley introduces Ross Chittenden, the new District 10 Caltrans Director.

### **4. COUNTY REPORT**

- Tom Garcia, Public Works Director, gave the following updates:
  - Transportation Funding & Outreach Project – still moving forward. Will be going out to the public with an information campaign later this year.
  - The SR 12/26 Intersection Project in Valley Springs is moving forward. Dokken Engineering is under contract.
  - The Calaveras County Circulation Element, Phase 2 – working on a circulation model with the traffic consultant for the General Plan Update.

### **5. CALTRANS REPORT**

- Ross Chittenden, District 10 Director, gave some updates:
  - There have been some staff changes at the District 10 office.
  - District 10 Bicycle Guide was recently published – soon to be on the web.
  - Caltrans is on mandatory 3 day/month furlough program. 15% less hours could affect project delivery and maintenance. Will work with partners to prioritize and share resources – the impact is real.
  - Snow Removal Districts are coordinating efforts to share resources.
    - Chair Callaway stated that there is an Ebbetts Pass Agreement with Dina Bortner regarding the Opening of the Pass. If modifications are necessary she would like to know.
    - Director Chittenden explained that Laurie Jergens is acting for Dina at this time. We will be kept informed as things develop.
- Vice-Chair Ellis stated that there is an issue at the intersection of Tom Bell, Big Trees and SR4. The striping is difficult to negotiate. The radius of the center line is larger than the configuration of the road.
  - Council Member Wood agreed that the striping is not suitable and with out-of-town visitors it could cause future problems.
- Council Member Wilensky offered Director Chittenden a tour of upper Hwy 26
- Council Member Turco asked, “Where are we on the ‘shoefly’?”
  - Director Chittenden answered it should be finished by mid-September.
- Council Member Turco stated that the speed at the intersection (north) of 4/49 with a green light is 55 mph. He would like the support of CCOG to reduce the speed.
  - Director Chittenden stated there was a governing law. After the speed survey is conducted, Caltrans will take a look at it.
- Council Member Turco asked that the signage for downtown Angels Camp be made a priority.
  - Director Chittenden stated that Caltrans will meet with the City to review the sign plan – this is perhaps another opportunity for partnering.
- Chair Callaway stated that an MOU is being put together for plow-outs. The County hopes to complete it before the season.
  - Director Chittenden is aware of this MOU and Caltrans is working to identify all of the unique locations.

6. STATE HIGHWAY PROJECTS

- Director McSorley reported:
  - a. *SR-4 Angels Camp Bypass*
    - No further comments.
  - b. *TE Projects*
    - Cost estimates from Carlton Engineering and Sycamore Environmental are being done in much greater detail.
  - c. *Wagon Trail*
    - Right-of-Entry was received from one of the largest property owners. The team was able to conduct field reviews – a huge part of the process. This data will be entered into the corridor development software.
    - STIP funds of \$250,000 may be re-programmed into a later year.
- Vice-Chair Ellis asked how much the SR4 and Country Club project is costing.  
**Action: Director McSorley will follow-up with this information.**

7. ALLOCATION of LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS (LTF) FOR FY 2009-2010 - ACTION

- Director McSorley explained there was a typographical error in the cover memo – FY should be 2009-2010. The resolution is correct.

*Motion to Adopt Resolution FY 10-01:*

*Moved: Ellis*

*Second: Maurer*

*Approved: 7-0-0*

8. STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – “PERMANENT STATUS” - DISCUSSION

- Director McSorley stated that the attachment/government code sections mentioned in Option 2 and Option 3 were omitted but will be available from him after the meeting.
- Public Works Director Garcia was concerned about the permanent status of the CCOG at this time. First, he'd like to see a greater clarification of terms, and the establishment of policies and procedures (Option 1). Once these are in place, and both County and City are satisfied with the role and makeup of CCOG, he would support the establishment of CCOG as a permanent agency.
- Director McSorley agreed that the JPA does need to be redefined and even some parts rewritten. Issues need to be tackled. In working with the Administrative Committee, or TAC or a special committee, it would be at least six months before an outline would be ready to bring back for discussion.
- Council Member Morris agreed CCOG should not seek permanent status at this time, but focus on revising the JPA to address activities the City and County expect the CCOG to address. This revision of the JPA should include safeguards to solve disagreements and should be a collaborative effort between the City, County and CCOG staff.
- Council Member Maurer asked how the Policies and Procedures update was coming along.
  - Melissa Eads, CCOG Sr. Administrative Analyst, stated that we have a draft of the financial procedures, and staff is currently working on the employee handbook. We are in the process of compiling procedures already approved and in six months an outline could be created to address the areas not yet included.
- Chair Callaway stated that there has been no discussion with the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The City and the BOS first need some questions answered about the role of the Council of Governments.

*Motion to Postpone Selection of an Option regarding Permanent Status – Staff to Provide an Outline of Policies and Procedures in Six Months:*

*Moved: Wood*

*Second: Maurer*

*Approved: 7-0-0*

9. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE

- Director McSorley stated AB 32 will be a huge driving force in the RTP update. Along with the fact that an EIR was not done for the last update, we have a number of issues that need to be tackled.
- Council Member Wilensky agreed with McSorley and mentioned that Calaveras Consensus, a group working with the Forest Service, is emphasizing the benefit that the co-gen plant would have on emissions - reduced carbon. Perhaps CCOG could work this into the RTP to get credit for the County.
- Vice-Chair Ellis would like to have both the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and the Arnold Mobility Plan adopted. Council Member Wilensky would like to see West Point's Bicycle Plan implemented also.

- Council Member Wood also suggested we make a case for telecommunications in the RTP to save travel miles and further reduce green house gas emissions.

10. RESOLUTION REGARDING THE BEAR VALLEY VILLAGE EXPANSION - ACTION

- Director McSorley stated that there have been some developments on this issue. The Alpine County Planning Commission has directed its staff and project proponent to meet with Caltrans Staff, County Staff and CCOG to perhaps renegotiate the mitigations and Central Sierra Environmental Resource Council.

*Motion to Continue to Next Month's Meeting:*

*Moved: Maurer*

*Second: Ellis*

*Approved: 7-0-0*

11. STAFF REPORTS

a. McSorley

- Staff will begin advertising for a new public member for the Council.
- At the next TAC meeting we will have a Call For Projects for the 2010-11 OWP.
- Director McSorley stated the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has accepted an invitation to hold a town hall meeting in Calaveras County in the spring or fall. Ironstove Vineyards will be asked to host the event.

b. Summersett

- The Valley Springs Community Plan meeting voted to include Rancho Calaveras in the community boundary and this allows us to go forward with land use and circulation plan. From the initial survey, with Rancho Calaveras being the largest respondent, 82% of them felt like they were part of Valley Springs. It wasn't a surprise that they would want to be included in the planning effort.
- We're coordinating a meeting to understand exactly how the San Andreas Plan is being captured as part of the General Plan.

12. CITY REPORT

- No comments.

13. COUNCIL REPORT

- September 12 - EPNSB Celebration at Hermit Valley. Musical instruments powered by solar energy.
- Arnold Rim Trail (ART) event to be held in Cedar Center, Arnold.

14. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned by Chair Callaway at 7:55 p.m.

---

John Ellis, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elle Runyan, Recording Secretary