

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF THE
GREATER BAKERSFIELD SEPARATION OF GRADE DISTRICT

Held: **November 13, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on November 13, 2023, at 1800 30th Street, Suite 260, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

Vice President, Steven M. Ruetters called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and presided thereat.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Steven M. Ruetters	Present
Jeremy Tobias	Present
Jake Wood	Present
Jeevan Muhar	Present

Also present were Sheila K. Plane and John D. Schuler, District Engineers; and Robert G. Kuhs, District Legal Counsel.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETINGS OF)
September 11, 2023)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Jeevan Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Jeremy Tobias, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2023, were approved.

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Jake Wood, seconded by Commissioner Jeremy Tobias, and unanimously carried, the rate increase for Legal Counsel per letter dated November 1, 2023, was approved.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler reported as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a) Shafter Track Elevation @ BNSF is currently in design. \$200 million in federal grant funding is available through HSR activity.
- b) CRISI: \$1 billion annually for next 4 years. Next NOFO is November/December 2023.
- c) Railroad Crossing Elimination Program: \$600 million available annually for next 4 years. Next NOFO is November/December 2023.
- d) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods: Next NOFO is anticipated July 2024.

2. Funding Application Assistance: 5-Year Programs

- a) Caltrans/County: Morning Drive/UPRR – design/construction funding.
- b) Caltrans/County/COB: Rosedale Highway
- c) COB:
 - i. E. Truxtun/BNSF – project development funding
 - ii. Maybe Baker/UPRR
 - iii. Kratzmeyer/BNSF
 - iv. Reina/Renfro/BNSF

3. High Speed Rail:

- a. Shafter to Bakersfield section: Discussions are on-going. Design is moving forward, including BNSF track elevation through shafter. \$200 million awarded for Shafter grade separations. Waiting for news on additional federal grants.

4. Specific Plan Lines:

- a) West Beltway re-alignment is still under discussion between COB and Shafter.
- b) Renfro/BNSF: Increased importance for NW traffic flow.
- c) Kratzmeyer – BNSF: Increased importance for NW traffic flow.

5. Morning Drive @ UPRR:

- a) Cost estimate now at \$53M.
- b) County Coordination. Waiting for NOFO.
- c) Caltrans Coordination. Received feedback on cost estimate. The current issue under discussion is 20% matching funds proposed for state and local.

6. Baker/Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF & UPRR:

- a) Working on COB support and extended contract w/Ty Lin for PSR Level documents.
- b) Preparing for federal funding application.
- c) Consider Joint Agencies Agreement COB/District. COB will do preliminary design study, District would perform traffic study in support of preliminary design.

7. Baker @ UPRR:

- a) Strongly linked to the Sumner Station redevelopment.
- b) City is hoping to develop an acceptable design alternative.
- c) Did not submit a Nomination to the CPUC.

8. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:

- a) Discussed County and COB coordination with Josh Champlin.
- b) Trip Program Documents – Widening. No change.
- c) PSR/PR funding updates. No change.
- d) Very limited train activity lately.

9. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles St/Beech Ave @ BNSF:

- a) Element of potential West Bypass – SR 99 to I-5 in active development between Shafter and Wonderful.
- b) Shafter and Wonderful are pursuing State and Federal funding.
- c) Kern COG adding the project to the Regional Transport Plan (RTP)
- d) Funding being pursued at State and Federal level by Wonderful and City of Shafter.

10. CPUC Nominations:

- a) Nominations for all crossings were submitted to the CPUC in October.

FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for November 13, 2023, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed.

Ayes:	Steven M. Ruetters Jeremy Tobias Jake Wood Jeevan Muhar
Noes:	None
Absent:	Mark J. Smith
Abstain:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:)
_____)

1. Right of Way: None
2. Advance Planning: None
3. Budget: None
4. Regulatory & Audit: None
5. Government Relations: None

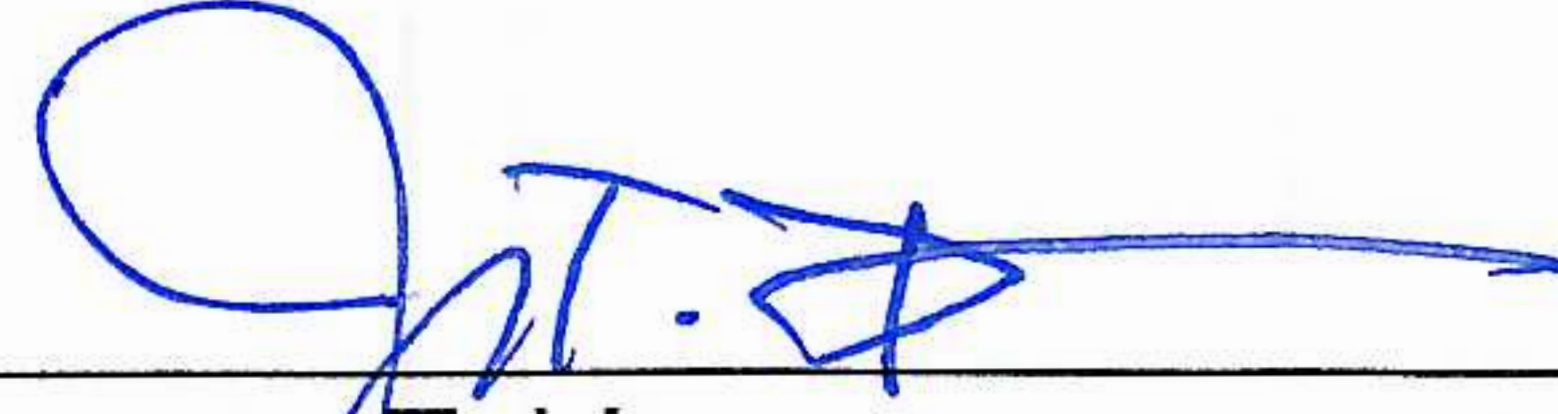
CORRESPONDENCE:)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and, following discussion, unanimously carried the following correspondence was received and filed.

1. Letter from County Counsel dated November 2, 2023 re: Ethics training – Receive and file.
2. CalPERS Annual Information Request submittal dated September 12, 2023 – Receive and file.

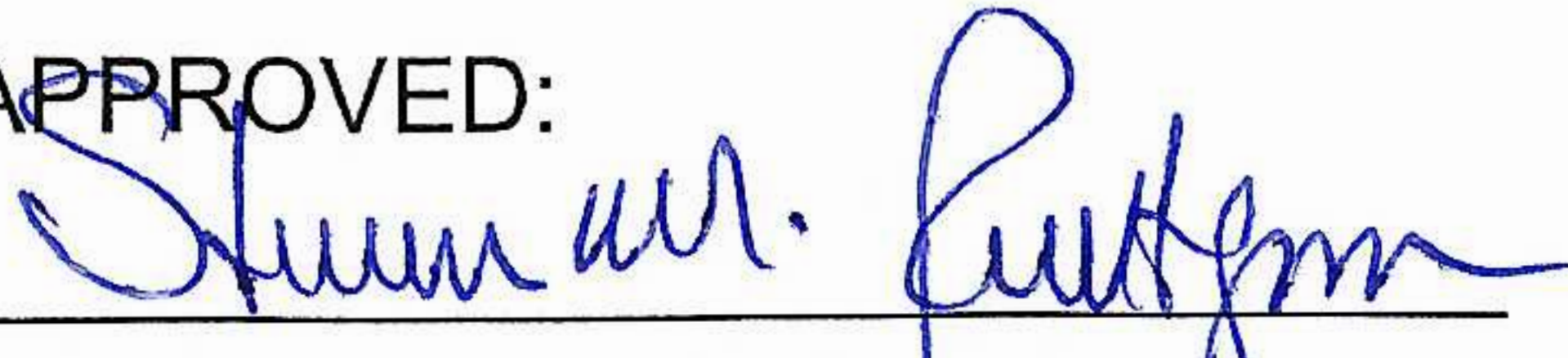
ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was, on motion of Commissioner Ruettgers, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, adjourned at 5:35 p.m.



Jeremy Tobias,
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED:



Steven M. Ruettgers, Vice President

EXHIBIT A
MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

California Special District	RMS -Regular Member - 2024 CSDA Renewal	\$	1,244.00
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services - August & September 2023	\$	826.50
Ruettgers & Schuler	Engineering Services - September & October 2023	\$	26,648.57
Daniells Phillips Vaughn & Bock	Accounting & Auditing Services thru June 30, 2023	\$	<u>3,200.00</u>
		\$	<u>31,919.07</u>