

Western Riverside Council of Governments

3.A

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Monday, March 2, 2020

2:00 PM

County Administrative Center

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Wright at 2:01 p.m. on March 2, 2020, at the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside.

Jurisdiction	Attendee Name	Status	Arrived / Departed
City of Banning	Daniela Andrade	Present	1:55 PM
City of Beaumont	Mike Lara	Present	1:55 PM
City of Calimesa	Jeff Cervantez	Present	1:55 PM
City of Canyon Lake	Jordan Ehrenkranz	Present	1:55 PM
City of Corona	Jason Scott	Present	1:55 PM
City of Eastvale	Joseph Tessari	Present	1:55 PM
City of Hemet	Bonnie Wright	Present	1:55 PM
City of Jurupa Valley	Micheal Goodland	Present	1:55 PM
City of Lake Elsinore	Brian Tisdale	Present	1:55 PM
City of Menifee	Matt Liesemeyer	Present	1:55 PM
City of Moreno Valley	Victoria Baca	Present	2:22 PM
City of Murrieta	Kelly Seyarto	Present	1:55 PM
City of Norco	Kevin Bash	Present	1:55 PM
City of Perris	Rita Rogers	Present	1:55 PM
City of Riverside	Rusty Bailey	Present	1:55 PM
City of San Jacinto	Crystal Ruiz	Present	1:55 PM
City of Temecula	Zac Schwank	Present	1:55 PM
City of Wildomar		Absent	
District 1		Absent	
District 2		Absent	
District 3	Chuck Washington	Present	1:55 PM
District 5		Absent	
EMWD	Ronald Sullivan	Present	1:55 PM
WMWD	Brenda Dennstedt	Present	1:55 PM
Morongo Band of Mission Indians		Absent	
Office of Education (ex-officio)		Absent	
TAC Chair	Chris Lopez	Present	1:55 PM
Executive Director	Rick Bishop	Present	1:55 PM

Note: Times above reflect when the member logged in; they may have arrived at the meeting earlier.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee member Rita Rogers led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health, provided a report on COVID-19, sharing local and worldwide statistics. There are currently no known vaccines and, while research is ongoing, earliest estimates for availability is expected to be one-year away at this time; the County remains in containment mode.

4. MINUTES

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	San Jacinto
SECONDER:	Banning
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, District 3, EMWD, WMWD
ABSENT:	Moreno Valley, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 5, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

A. Summary Minutes from the February 3, 2020, Executive Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration

Action: 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the February 3, 2020, Executive Committee meeting.*

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Norco
SECONDER:	San Jacinto
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, District 3, EMWD, WMWD
ABSENT:	Moreno Valley, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 5, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

A. PACE Programs Activities Update: Increased Consumer Protections Resulting from the Renovate America Stipulated Judgement

Actions:

1. *Approved administrative changes to the WRCOG Program Report, CA HERO Program Report, and WRCOG's Consumer Protections Policy.*
2. *Adopted WRCOG Resolution Number 04-20; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments declaring its intention to modify the WRCOG PACE Program Report and the California HERO Program Report to authorize the financing of fire hardening improvements and setting a public hearing thereon.*

B. 2nd Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

- Action:** 1. *Approved the 2nd Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.*

C. TUMF Program Activities Update: TUMF Reimbursement Agreements

- Actions:**
1. *Authorized the Executive Director to execute a TUMF Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Riverside for the Construction Phase of the Iowa Avenue Widening Project from University to Martin Luther King in an amount not to exceed \$2,920,000.*
 2. *Authorized the Executive Director to execute a TUMF Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Menifee for the Construction Phase of the Holland Ave. / I-215 Interchange Project in an amount not to exceed \$6,455,000.*
 3. *Authorized the Executive Director to execute the TUMF Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Menifee for the Engineering and Construction Phases of the Newport Road Widening from Bradley Rd. to Murrieta Rd. Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,987,985.*

D. Finance Department Activities Update

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

E. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

F. Regional Streetlight Program Activities Update

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

G. Environmental Department Programs Activities Update

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

H. Report out of WRCOG Representatives on Various Committees

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

I. Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

J. Regional Energy Network Development Activities Update

- Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*
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6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**A. Report from the League of California Cities**

Erin Sasse, League of California Cities representative, reported that AB 1184 is being reintroduced as a new bill this year, and would require jurisdictions to retain emails for a 2-year period. The Governor vetoed this Bill last year. The League is opposing this Bill and will have sample letters for jurisdictions.

The League is looking for feedback on the implementation of SB 1383 (Organic Waste Diversion Program). The League would like to know how much funding each jurisdiction expects to need in order to implement this Bill.

The Governor attended the League's last Board meeting in which housing and homelessness were items of discussion. The Board adopted policies on housing and is taking a three-pronged approach with both short- and long-term solutions, as well as what is outside of the League's scope.

As part of the Governor's Budget proposal he listed state properties which could be used to house the homeless.

The next Division meeting will be hosted in the City of Indio on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Rick Bishop, WRCOG Executive Director, indicated that with regard to SB 1383, staff can work through WRCOG's Solid Waste Committee to help determine resources jurisdictions may need assistance within order to implement the provisions of that Bill.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. Presentation from the Riverside County Transportation Commission on the Proposed Traffic Relief Plan

Anne Mayer, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) Executive Director, reported that RCTC's Draft Traffic Relief Plan is currently out for review by the public. The County is at a critical point with its increased population and projections for growth and the need for additional housing. Pedestrian and bicycle safety are also a concern with the increased population. Local governance over local priorities with a local funding source is important; 81% of transportation funding comes from a local source.

In 2019, RCTC was required to perform a 10-year assessment of where it stands with projects funded by Measure A. At that time, a delivery plan of projects was also prepared.

The current Plan includes not only improvements along the freeway corridors but improvements also within transit and bicycle / pedestrian facilities, to name a few. Ms. Mayer reviewed the many various funding by investment type.

Comments regarding the lack of reverse commuting services such as trains and/or the number thereof has been something RCTC has heard for years. Businesses would thrive if there were better access for commuters coming from Los Angeles and Orange Counties into Riverside County.

An Economic Impact Study prepared by the University of California, Riverside, found that with a half-cent sales tax measure over a 30-year period would provide approximately \$8.8 billion in

revenues, which would support approximately \$7.69 billion in design, engineering, and construction of projects and programs. This translates to just under 60,000 jobs and generate approximately \$10.95 billion in economic stimulus.

Since the Plan was electronically posted, RCTC has received over 2,500 surveys have been completed, and over 5,000 comments have been received. The commenting period will end on June 10, 2020. RCTC will then determine whether or not a half-cent sales tax will be placed on the November 2020 ballot.

Committee member Kelly Seyarto asked how other counties and regions are faring in funding.

Ms. Mayer responded that from a state and federal perspective, this subregion is getting its fair share from what is available. The problem lies in that there is not enough funding for all the projects. There just is not enough funding available at the state and federal levels.

Committee member Matt Liesemeyer asked why construction costs are increasing so much. Also, is there any prospect of the creation of an Oversight Committee.

Ms. Mayer responded that projects built to a higher standard have higher costs, but long-term maintenance and reconstruction costs are lower. Things now (labor, materials, equipment) in general are more expensive. When projects on roads are completed, it is with minimal to no lane closures. Because the cost of impacts to the community is so high, projects have to be built under live traffic, and that increases costs substantially. As to an Oversight Committee, that is still a conversation taking place with the RCTC Board.

Committee member Mike Lara asked if there is any way to get away from bids being required to include prevailing wages, as that increases a project's costs substantially.

Ms. Mayer responded that prevailing wages are required on any project that has any state or federal nexus.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Presentation from the University of California, Riverside, on the 2020 Census

Karthick Ramakrishnan, University of California, Riverside, Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, reported that results of the 2020 Census will be used to determine, throughout the United States, allocation of public dollars and planning decisions regarding housing, transportation, and more.

The Census Form asks for a great deal of personal information to ensure every person is counted only once, that there are no duplications of reporting. The hard-to-count (HTC) population is very high in this region. Undercounting results in a loss of public dollars to the tune of \$2,000 per year, per person, a loss of political representation, and bad consumer data.

An Inland Empire Complete Count Committee works to share information across sectors, collaborates to avoid duplication, ensures resources are allocated efficiently and equitably, and creates a legacy effect that strengthens the region.

The 2020 Census has been in the planning process for the past year. Count responses begin in March 2020 and run through July 31, 2020.

The County of Riverside is sharing state funding with cities, advertising across many platforms such as billboards and in the newspapers, as well as providing Census inserts in voting materials and utility bills.

Chair Bonnie Wright asked what the time frame is from when the census occurs to when the data is publicly accessible, and what constitutes a HTC area.

Mr. Ramakrishnan responded that the first tranche of data, primarily used for redistricting purposes, will be available approximately one year after the information is collected. HTC populations which tend to be at a higher risk include the young ages, zero to five, the mobile age group who are couch surfing, people with disabilities, and the homeless population. Student populations who reside in a dorm but may be claimed by their parents can be hard to accurately count. Accurate counts of immigrants are difficult due to their fear and skepticism of the federal government.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Public Service Fellows Presentations

Rachel Singer, WRCOG Staff Analyst, introduced two Round IV Fellows, Kristen Saucedo and Esau Casimiro.

Ms. Saucedo reported that she has served as a Fellow with the City of Calimesa, working directly under the Assistant City Manager and City Planner. A project Ms. Saucedo worked on was a Senior Survey on Transportation by age range. Results determined that 90% of the senior citizen population who reside within the City of Calimesa regularly drive their vehicle. While 92.5% have heard of Uber and/or Lyft, 50% of them were unlikely to utilize those services. It was determined that only approximately 42% of those surveyed own a smartphone with applications, which could be a contributing factor to the reason why approximately half would not utilize ride share programs.

Ms. Saucedo will be graduating from the University of Redlands this spring and is seeking full time job opportunities in local government.

Mr. Casimiro reported that he has served his Fellowship with the County of Riverside's Executive Office under the Deputy Executive Director of Homelessness Solutions. During his time with the County, Mr. Casimiro worked on a Homeless Services Survey utilizing ESRI to map locations of services for the homeless. Improving homeless services is important; based upon the 2019 Point in Time Count, there are 2,881 sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals in the County. To date there has been a very low response rate to the survey.

Mr. Casimiro's goal is to complete this project by the time his Fellowship ends. Future goals include applying for additional Fellowships and a PhD Program.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

7. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chris Lopez reported that new City Managers from the Cities of Corona and Jurupa Valley joined the last TAC meeting.

8. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Crystal Ruiz, San Diego Association of Governments' Borders Committee representative, reported that implementation of new border crossing facilities is being discussed.

Micheal Goodland, Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee representative, reported that if any Council of Governments would like to submit any policy issues for consideration by SCAG's General Assembly, requests should be presented in the form of a proposed resolution. SCAG's General Assembly is scheduled for May 7, 2020. The State's Department of Housing and Community Development issued its review finding on SCAG's Draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment Methodology Sixth Cycle; the findings further the five statutory objectives described in State law. Assembly Bill 101 appropriate two new, one-time programs to provide funding for planning activities for jurisdictions to increase housing planning and accelerate housing production up to \$47.5 million.

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rick Bishop introduced WRCOG's new staff member Don Ries who will be working on Western Community Energy. This year's General Assembly speakers are Denis McDonough and Reince Priebus. This year's Leadership Conference is titled, "Region at its TIPing point" and will provide an examination of Talent, Innovation, and Place specifically related to automation within the subregion. There are now more than 30 episodes of WRCOG's COGCAST available for listening on a number of media platforms. Greg Deveraux is the featured speaker at the next Randall Lewis Seminar Series on March 5, 2020, to discuss leadership and the transformation that has occurred in the Inland Empire. The California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG) is the statewide regional COG; there are a number of articles posted on its website (www.calcog.org) regarding matters the various COGs are engaged in.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

11. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, 1st Floor Board Chambers, Riverside.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.
