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FRESNO COUNTY SB 375 TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday, December 9, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

ATTENDANCE:

Marta Frausto, Caltrans
David Berggren, Caltrans
Mohammad Khorsand, Fresno County
Stacie Dabbs, OCED Fresno State
Greg Martin City of Selma
Al Solis, Sol Development Associates
Luis Patlan, City of Kerman
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association
Chris Acree, Revive the San Joaquin
Sandra Brock, City of Fresno
J. P. Sweeney, CTDC
Ralph Kachadourian, City of Sanger
Keith Bergthold, City of Fresno
Scott Tyler, City of Fresno
Karl Schoettler, City of Firebaugh

Terry Schmal, City of Kingsburg
Dwight Kroll, City of Clovis
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis
David Fey, City of Clovis
Lynn Gorman, County of Fresno
John Wright, Planner
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Mike Bitner, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Lindsey Monge, Fresno COG
Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Stephanie Maxwell, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order by Luis Patlan (Kerman)

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

There were no public presentations.

II. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by John Wright and Seconded by J.P. Sweeney to approve the SB 375 meeting minutes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Modeling 101

Mike Bitner (Fresno COG) covered a PowerPoint presentation on Modeling 101. This PowerPoint presentation is posted on the website @ www.fresnocog.org.

A question was raised about the models adjusted for field data such as traffic counts. Mr. Bitner (Fresno COG) explained that there is a Calibration and Validation process that is done.

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

A question was asked about how the Model plays into 375 and how it is implemented into the County. Mr. Bitner explained that the Land Use changes are fed into to the Model to look at the differences, and the Baseline Modeling that is being worked on will be compared to the Greenhouse Gas admissions from the Alternative Scenarios to also look at the difference.

C. Accounting for the Economic Downturn in the Target-Setting Process

Kathy Chung (Fresno COG) reported that during January's MPO meeting, the Air Resources Board (ARB) stressed that MPOs must take into account the economic turndown in the target-setting process. Ms. Chung explained that the latest State Department of Finance forecast was prepared and released before the recession began so that forecast or anything near to it should not be used. A handout containing six possible projections was explained and reviewed. COG staff recommended projection 6 on the handout.

There was some discussion on how the projection would affect RHNA, CEQA, planning, etc. Dave Fey (Clovis) expressed his concerns on how the projection used for target-setting is different from that used for the Housing Element. He said Clovis has an inordinate burden in planning for the housing allocated by HCD for use in the Housing Element, and that HCD is unsympathetic. Dave further stated his concern about how the ARB, HCD and the DOF are an "alphabet soup" of agencies that do not seem to communicate with one another. Sandy Brock (Fresno) expressed her concerns about using different projections for target-setting and for CEQA. Jamesine Rogers (ARB) who was on the phone said the state agencies have difference responsibilities concerning SB 375 and meet regularly to coordinate their approaches. She said Justin Paddock is the ARB representative in those meetings and she can get a report from him. COG staff stated that the projection was prepared in-house and would be used only for target-setting purposes.

A motion was made by David Berggren (Caltrans) and seconded by John Wright (regional planner) to approve projection 6 for target-setting purposes. A vote was called for and the motion carried with abstentions by Keith Bergthold (Fresno) and Dwight Kroll (Clovis). They felt there needed to be more clarification on this process.

D. Baseline Scenario – Preliminary Modeling Results

Kristine Cai (Fresno COG) briefly explained the Target-Setting process at the state level.

The first alternative scenario that Fresno COG is proposing is the revised general plan scenarios, which are basically the planning activities that have already been adopted since the 2007 RTP.

A question was raised about the TAZ in the newly developing areas that are still large and how will that impact the output. Ms. Cai explained that there are plans to reduce the size of TAZ in the Urban areas, and for now staff is working on the 40 process that will accommodate this issue.

E. Alternative Scenario Development

Kathy Chung explained the 2nd alternative scenario.

Kristine Cai (Fresno COG) reviewed the process and time lines of the scenarios. COG Targets are due March 1, 2010.

The ARB will then consider and make a final recommendation.

F. Other

A. Items from Members

There were no items from Members

B. Items from Staff

There were no items from Staff

G. NEXT MEETING DATE

Kristine Cai (COG) informed the members of a conference call meeting with Fehr & Peers in January.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Boren, Executive Director

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