

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Meeting of April 4, 2008

Item: 4.1	Description: Minutes of March 7, 2008
Information	Staff: Ms. Mortensen

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

MINUTES

For the Meeting of March 7, 2008

The regular meeting for March 7, 2008 of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission was held at 8:00 am at the Robert J. Cabral Station, 949 East Channel Street Stockton, CA 95202

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chairman Restuccia called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and Commissioner Sayles led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Bestolarides, Harris, Ives, Sayles, Ruhstaller, Haggerty, Blalock, Chairman Restuccia

Ex-Officio Members Present: Chesley, Dumas

2. Public Comments

None

3. Presentations and Recognitions

Leila Menor, Manager of Fiscal Services, introduced new Fiscal Assistant Alvin Lam.

4. Consent Calendar:

All items listed immediately below will be acted upon under one vote unless specifically requested to be removed from the Consent Calendar by a member of the Commission, a member of staff, or a member of the public.

4.1	Minutes of February 1, 2008	ACTION
4.2	Rail Commission/ACE Monthly Expenditure Report	INFORMATION
4.3	Monthly ACE Fare Revenue	INFORMATION
4.4	ACE Ridership	INFORMATION
4.5	ACE On-Time Performance	INFORMATION
4.6	2008/2009 ACE Baseline Service Plan	INFORMATION

M/S/C (SaylesBlalock) to approve the Consent Calendar. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 7th day of March, 2008 by the following vote to with:

Ayes: 8 Bestolarides, Harris, Ives, Ruhstaller, Sayles, Haggerty, Blalock, Chairman Restuccia

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

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5. Midyear Report (Information)

Thomas Reeves, Strategic Development and Communication Coordinator presented the Midyear Report for the Rail Commission and ACE Service Work Program efforts. Mr. Reeves noted that the report was focused to address passenger feedback that has been received through the recent ACE Passenger Survey, the ACE Passenger Advisor Council and regular email and phone contact with ACE riders. The primary areas included:

- ACE on-time performance and improvement strategies
- Safety and security
- New Technology
- Capital Projects
- Service Expansion/improvement Studies
- Special Trains and Special Group Travel

Gregg Baxter, Director of Operations reported on the agency's O&M financial status through midyear. The combined project management and contracted operating expenses were 8% below the approved Budget and ACE Fare revenues were slightly under projected, but ridership increases over the last several months are estimated to bring end of year revenues up to the projected levels.

Commissioner Blalock inquired about whether cost savings resulted in the establishment of an operating reserve. Staff noted that the budget included a \$100,000 contingency to cover unanticipated costs, but that the agency operated on a reimbursement basis with SJCOG, such that there would not be significant excess revenues at the end of the year. Commissioner Haggerty asked that references to the dangers of driving on the freeways be eliminated from the report, even if they were direct passenger quotes. Many people rely on the highways for their transportation and they shouldn't be highlighted in an overly negative manner.

6. Bombardier Inspection Trip (Information)

Mr. Baxter reported on the progress of the four new railcars under production. The estimated delivery date is a May/June timeframe. Based upon passenger comments about the need for additional onboard storage, the new cars will test out a luggage rack on one side of the upper level. Additionally, the seat cushion material has been changed based upon passenger feedback to a denser conforming foam material and should provide a more comfortable ride for the longer commutes.

7. ACE 10th Anniversary Celebration (Information)

Hubert Hanrahan, Manager of Marketing and Customer Service presented the conceptual overview of the upcoming ACE 10th Anniversary celebrations in October 2008. Included in the commemorative festivities are, a stakeholder dinner, a special anniversary train run on Saturday October 18th (which was previously approved in the Special Trains for 2008), promotional materials including a special 10th year logo, and a specially wrapped locomotive. Mr. Hanrahan also asked the Board for feedback on the idea for giving the passengers a 10% discount on ACE tickets during the Month of October.

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Commissioner Haggerty commented on the logo designs and suggested that in lieu of a 10% discount, that passenger instead be given commemorative apparel such as t-shirts or baseball hats, which would equate to about the same amount. This would provide for additional advertising. Commissioner Ives noted the 10% rebate almost implies that the ACE fares are too high. Chairman Restuccia noted that canvas bags with the 10th-year logo might be a good alternative for those who don't wear hats. Commissioner Haggerty suggested that the Sunol conference center could be utilized for a special stop during the special train run.

8. Summary of SJRRC/ACE Participation in Recent ACE Security Drills (Information)

Steve Walker, Safety and Security Coordinator, reported on the findings and recommendations of a recent safety and security table-top drill conducted as part of the Office of Homeland Security activities. Additionally Mr. Walker summarized a K-9 station search drill conducted at the Cabral Station, utilizing the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. He noted the kinds of issues that the safety drill evaluators were looking for and how recommendations are incorporated into future trainings. Commissioner Ives requested information on how station security is approached, recognizing that those issues may not be best discussed in public.

9. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Sayles asked other Board members about their experiences with Congressional land grants for the railroads, and private property encroachment improvements when these land grants are involved. Commissioner Ives talked about the City of Tracy's experience and how some of those issues have been resolved. He offered that City of Lathrop staff could contact City of Tracy staff to hear how those issues were resolved.

10. Ex-Officio's Comments

Andy Chesley, SJCOG Executive Director reported on a high-speed rail Altamont Pass Task Force that is working on potential language in the proposed high speed rail bond package for funding high-speed train service through the Altamont Corridor. Mr. Chesley also commented on the upcoming One-Voice Legislative trip.

Commissioner Haggerty urged the Boardmembers to stay involved in the High Speed Rail Altamont Pass Working Group to ensure High Speed Rail ran all the way through the Valley and into Livermore. Commissioners discussed the option for placing an item related to the HSR Working group on a future agenda.

11. Executive Director Report

Ms. Mortensen asked Commissioner Blalock to repeat his recommendation from the last Board Meeting for urging Congress to increase the tax benefits available to transit users. Ms. Mortensen reported on the high alert staff is on for evaluating potential financial factors that may affect the upcoming Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget. Ms. Mortensen completed her report with comments that the Corridor Acquisition project in the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund was facing an uphill battle with CTC staff. Efforts are still underway to keep the project alive, but it did not make the initial list of recommended projects by the CTC staff.

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12. Closed Session

Conference with Legal Counsel

Anticipate Litigation

Initiation of Litigation per Government Code 54956.9 (c)

One Potential Case

Mr. Balestracci, Counsel for the Commission, adjourned the meeting into Closed Session at 8:45 am. The Commission returned to open session at 9:45 am and Mr. Balestracci noted that the Board gave staff direction, but there are no reportable actions.

13. Adjournment 9:48 am

The next meeting is scheduled for:

Friday, April 4, 2008 @ 8:00 A.M.

Robert J. Cabral Station

949 E. Channel Street

Stockton, CA 95202