

**ITEM 3A.**

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

For the meeting of January 11, 2007

The regular meeting for January 11, 2007 of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission was held at the Robert J. Cabral Station, South Hall Meeting Room, 949 E. Channel St., Stockton, CA. 95202.

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

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and Commissioner Sayles proceeded to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Members Present: Harris, Sayles, Haggerty, Blalock  
Vice-Chair Restuccia, Chairman Ives

Ex-Officio Members Present: Perez for Ajise

**2. Public Presentations and Recognitions**

None

**3. 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.

A.	Minutes of December 15, 2006	ACTION
B.	Rail Commission/ACE Monthly Expenditure Report	INFORMATION
C.	Monthly ACE Fare Revenue	INFORMATION
D.	State and Federal Legislative Updates	INFORMATION
E.	ACE Ridership and On-Time Performance	INFORMATION
F.	ACEPac Minutes of December 9, 2006	INFORMATION
G.	Resolution of the City of Lodi Requesting that SJRRC Consider Commuter Rail Service through Downtown Lodi	INFORMATION

Commissioner Harris noted that related to Item G., he had passed on a request to Ms. Mortensen from the Mayor of Lodi, who wished to be added to the Rail Commission Agenda package mailing list.

M/S/C (Restuccia/Sayles) to approve the Consent Calendar. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 6 Harris, Haggerty, Blalock, Sayles, Vice-Chair Restuccia, Chairman Ives  
Noes: 0

**4. Approve Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute All Caltrans and Amtrak Documents Associated with the 4<sup>th</sup> ACE Train.**

Brian Schmidt, Director of Planning and Programming reported that after a series of agreements between the Rail Commission, Amtrak and Caltrans for the operation of the midday train, Caltrans Headquarters made an additional request for a resolution from the Commission specifically authorizing the Executive Director to execute all necessary agreements.

M/S/C (Restuccia/Haggerty) to approve Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to execute all Caltrans and Amtrak Documents Associated with the 4<sup>th</sup> ACE Train. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 11th day of January, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 6 Harris, Haggerty, Blalock, Sayles, Vice-Chair Restuccia, Chairman Ives  
Noes: 0

**5. ACE Test Drive Assessment Program**

Ex-Officio Perez arrived

Thomas Reeves, Special Projects Coordinator briefed the Commission on the current ACE “Test Drive” program which offers five consecutive free days to encourage potential commuters to try out the ACE service. He noted that Customer Service staff had been maintaining a database of all who signed up for the test drive program and that a company with expertise on user surveys had been retained to measure the success of the program in attracting new riders.

In addition, those who participated in the Test Drive program, but did not become regular riders, would be asked a series of questions about why the service did not fit their needs. This data will give the Commission valuable information about potential changes in the service that could increase ridership. The survey will also determine how people found out about the Test Drive program and that data will allow staff to further measure which venues (website, transit fairs, community festivals, employer, radio ads, etc.) are most effective.

Commissioner Blalock asked Mr. Reeves to ensure that the appropriate security measures are in place to protect survey participants from potential email viruses and that the participants know the security measures are in place. Chairman Ives asked whether the measurement of this program will be expanded to other marketing programs, such as special events and advertising. Mr. Reeves explained how other programs would be evaluated if the staff is satisfied with the usefulness of the survey data and results of this first effort. Ms. Mortensen noted that the survey firm also has access to lists of out-commuters from Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties and that a future phase could also include polling those people about why they don’t ride ACE, or what improvements to the ACE service would compel them to ride.

Commissioner Blalock inquired about people who live in the Bay Area, but come to the Central Valley to visit family over the weekend, and whether there were ways to poll the demand for traveling eastbound on Friday evenings and westbound on Monday mornings.

Commissioner Haggerty expressed concern over offering 5 free days, and asked staff to explore a program that offers fewer free days to avoid abuse of the program.

## 6. Commissioner's Comments

Chairman Ives commented on a recent meeting with Union Pacific Executives and regional staff that was very successful in terms of finding common interests for moving into the future. He noted that there are many more meetings and details that are necessary to work out related to achieving an independent ACE corridor, but that Union Pacific gave the Commission a path on which to move forward.

Commissioner Harris expressed gratitude for the high-level participation by Union Pacific officials, and was impressed with how familiar they were with the ACE service. He also noted that they commented to him about the integrity of the ACE staff in forging an effective working relationship with Union Pacific Managers.

## 7. Ex-Officio's Comments

None

## 8. Executive Director Report

Ms. Mortensen reported that another community meeting related to the Cabral Station area redevelopment was held earlier in the week and that valuable comments were received from property owners and businesses. Mr. Reeves will present the latest architectural concepts for a new main access, parking, and bus circulation at the February Commission meeting.

Staff and the consulting team are working on setting up a Policy Advisory Committee for the Central Valley Rail Expansion Study. Chairman Ives sent a letter inviting elected official participation to each city and county from Merced to Sacramento. About 50% of the agencies have responded. An initial meeting will likely be scheduled in mid February. Commissioner Blalock asked how this study related to the *San Joaquins* Business Plan study.

Ms. Mortensen gave special recognition to Thomas Reeves for his initiative in establishing the Keeping Track newsletter that has been very well received by passengers and stakeholders, and that Mr. Reeves has thoughtfully showcased special events, agencies and staff in each of the counties along the ACE Corridor. The Commissioners expressed their thanks as well.

## 9. Closed Session

Mr. Thomas Shephard, Counsel for the Commission announced a closed session regarding the following:

### Closed Session

Real Property Negotiations – Government Code 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiators: Brian Schmidt, Phil Pennino

Property: Parcel # 15114007 – 911 E. Channel Street, Stockton, CA

Parcel # 15114015 – 920 Miner Avenue, Stockton, CA

Parcel # 15114014 - 930 Miner Avenue, Stockton, CA

Negotiating Parties: San Joaquin Regional Commission,

Mr. Glenn Bockman, Harold Womble, Pete Gretchen – 15114007, 15114015, 15114014

Under Negotiations: Price and Terms of Payment

**10. Closed Session**

Right of Way Negotiations – Government Code 54956.8

Property: Railroad Right of Way

Negotiating Parties: San Joaquin Regional Commission, Union Pacific Railroad

Under Negotiations: Price and Terms of Payment

The Commission adjourned into Closed Session at 3:25 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 3:50 p.m.

Legal Counsel, Mr. Shephard, reported on the Closed Session and noted that direction was given to staff and there was nothing to report in Open Session.

**11. Adjournment**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for:

**February 1, 2007 at 8 a.m.**

Robert J. Cabral Station

949 E. Channel Street

Stockton, CA 95202