

# SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

## MINUTES

For the Meeting of June 1, 2007

The regular meeting for June 1, 2007 of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission was held at the San Joaquin Council of Governments, 555 East Weber Ave. Stockton, CA 95202

### ITEM: 4A

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

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Vice-Chair Restuccia led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Ex-Officio Members Present: Ajise, Chesley

#### 2. Public Presentations and Recognitions

Jack Dove, Pleasanton

Addressed the Commission on the need to finalize a permanent ACE station in Pleasanton. He reported on his efforts to date with the City of Pleasanton and Alameda County.

Vaughn Wolffe, Chair, Bay Area Rail Task Force, Sacramento, CA

Urged the Commission to focus their improvement efforts on increasing the speed of the trains as the primary way to attract new ridership. He gave examples of the success in other countries where the train speeds are well above 100MPH.

Chairman Ives noted that in the interest of time for a group wishing to address the Commission about a special train, he was switching Item 6 and Item 7.

#### 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 May 4, 2007	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.	Summary of ACE Website User Activity	INFORMATION

- G. Approve the Sixth Amended and Restated Agreement with Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) ACTION
- H. Agreement with 360 and Beyond Virtual Tours for a Web Based Virtual ACE System for Safety, Security And Communications, Not-To-Exceed \$55,000. INFORMATION

Supervisor Haggerty noted that some past progress had been made with Union Pacific, but that on-time performance had recently dipped. He suggested that serious efforts be renewed with Union Pacific and that perhaps federal legislators should be involved in some of the upcoming discussions to raise the level of importance.

M/S/C (Haggerty/Restuccia) to approve the Consent Calendar. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 6 Harris, Sayles, Blalock, Haggerty, Restuccia, Chairman Ives  
Noes: 0  
Abstain: 0

**4. Approve Amendment to SJRRC/ACE Equipment Maintenance Facility Contract with STV for 30% Engineering Not-To-Exceed \$400,000 and Authorize the Executive Director to Execute All Necessary Documents (Director of Operations, Gregg Baxter)**

Mr. Baxter reported on the process for selecting the site for the equipment maintenance facility. The original site had been withdrawn by Union Pacific after 60% engineering and the Commission had to negotiate for a new site. The new site is in a more operationally favorable location, but the engineering work will have to be initiated again. Fortunately, much of the original building and equipment design can be utilized in this new location and the access to utilities is much simpler.

Commissioner Restuccia asked about the timeline for the project. Mr. Baxter noted that the estimate for the work is approximately six months. Chairman Ives requested assurances that due to the re-use of some of the original engineering work, the new engineering costs would reflect that and be less than a regular PS&E contract.

M/S/C (Sayles/Restuccia) to Approve Amendment to SJRRC/ACE Equipment Maintenance Facility Contract with STV for 30% Engineering Not-To-Exceed \$400,000 and Authorize the Executive Director to Execute All Necessary Documents. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 1st day of June, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 6 Harris, Sayles, Blalock, Haggerty, Restuccia, Chairman Ives  
Noes: 0  
Abstain: 0

**5. Approve Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Authorizing the use of Competitive Negotiation Process to Procure up to Four Passenger Rail Cars with an Option to Purchase up to an Additional Six Passenger Rail Cars (Director of Planning and Programming, Brian Schmidt)**

Mr. Schmidt noted that the Commission has historically used local funding for rail car procurement and has been able to utilize the options of other rail agencies to purchase cars. The Commission now has federal CMAQ funding programmed for rail car procurement and that requires a different Board approval and procurement process. In consultation with Commission Counsel, and through a joint federal procurement with four other rail agencies, the Commission has an opportunity to use the competitive negotiation process to acquire up to six additional rail cars. Authorization for this effort requires a resolution of the Commission, approved by a 2/3 vote.

Commissioner Blalock noted that BART uses the competitive negotiation process frequently and it has limitations on Boardmembers interacting with vendors during this process. He asked that Counsel provide guidance on this issue.

M/S/C (Sayles/Restuccia) to Approve Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Authorizing the use of Competitive Negotiation Process to Procure up to Four Passenger Rail Cars with an Option to Purchase up to an Additional Six Passenger Rail Cars. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 1st day of June, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 6 Harris, Sayles, Blalock, Haggerty, Restuccia, Chairman Ives  
Noes: 0  
Abstain: 0

*(Note Chairman Ives' re-ordering of the Agenda)*

**7. Conceptual Request/Proposal for a Special Train to the Scottish Games World Championship at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.**

Jack Dove complimented Commission staffmember Laura Farley in attracting special groups such as students and seniors on the ACE trains. He described other efforts to attract San Joaquin County seniors to the Alameda County Fair, and suggested that there might be significant interest in a Special Saturday train to the Scottish Games North American Championship at the Alameda County Fairgrounds over the Labor Day weekend. Mr. Dove introduced Alan Purves, the First Chieftain of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco.

Mr. Purves described the history of the Scottish Games and noted that 2007 will be the 142<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of the celebration. Approximately 50,000 spectators attend each year and public transportation is a critical element to manage the traffic and parking issues. Given the large geographic draw of the Games, the ACE train could provide easy access from the Central Valley.

Mr. Dove presented a conceptual ticketing package which provides participants with a small discount on the ACE ticket and entry to the Games. He noted that this first year might not blow the doors off, but has the potential to draw more and more passengers each year.

Commissioner Haggerty commented on how well the Games are managed with an all-volunteer force, and that attendance always meets or exceeds the annual projections. It is one of the premier events at the Fairgrounds that has the ability to attract many people from outside the region. Commissioner Harris noted his support and wanted to ensure that there would be no opposition from Union Pacific. Mr. Baxter explained that the Commission is

allowed 10 special trains each year, and thus far, only four trains were scheduled. Commissioner Sayles expressed her support, but asked that staff bring back information on how the special train would pencil out financially.

M/S/C (Restuccia/Sayles) directing staff to work with Mr. Dove and Mr. Purves to bring back a more refined plan for operating a special train to the Scottish Games. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 1st day of June, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 6 Harris, Sayles, Blalock, Haggerty, Restuccia, Chairman Ives

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

## **6. Draft 2007/2008 SJRRC/ACE Work Program and Budget**

Ms. Mortensen outlined the general approach to the 2007/2008 Work Program and Budget and requested that Commissioners offer feedback or questions on any of the projects and programs contemplated for the upcoming year.

Mr. Baxter and Ms. Mortensen presented the significant issues of the past year in the areas of ACE Service performance, marketing and outreach efforts, the planning studies and the major capital projects.

For the proposed 2007/2008 Work Program and Budget, staff discussed strategies to improve on-time performance, begin the steps to acquire the ACE Corridor and focus the marketing and outreach efforts on the employers along the corridor.

The Draft Capital Budget is estimated at \$29.9 Million, with approximately \$9.5 Million of funds carried over from the current year. The major projects include the multi-year signal program between Stockton and Fremont, four new railcars, the Phase I construction of the Cabral Station Revitalization Project and the Equipment Maintenance Facility.

The Draft Combined Operating Budget for SJRRC and ACE is estimated at \$15.5 Million, which represents a 5% increase over the current year. Nila Cordova, Director of Fiscal Services and Administration outlined Budget line items with any significant changes.

Ms. Mortensen asked the Commission for feedback on the concept of taking some members of the ACEPac to Washington D.C. in an ACE advocacy role. Commissioners expressed their support, with the suggestion that the objectives of the trip and the specific meetings be clearly outlined ahead of time. Vice-Chair Restuccia suggested that the ACEPac also be used for advocacy in Sacramento.

## **8. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Harris commented on a recent meeting between SJCOG and Union Pacific related to the upcoming State Trade Corridor program. He noted that Union Pacific representatives made very favorable comments about working with the Commission staff.

**9. Ex-Officio's Comments**

None.

**10. Executive Director Report**

None.

**11. Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for:

**Friday, June 29, 2007 @ 8:00 A.M.**

Robert J. Cabral Station

949 E. Channel Street

Stockton, CA 95202