



MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 3:15 p.m., on March 25, 2026, in the Board Chambers, Administration Building, 1st Floor, 210 E. 7th Street, Hanford California and via Zoom.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brewster, Nancy Howze, Joe Neves, Alvaro Preciado, Doug Verboon (via Zoom)

CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE: Shane Gunn

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jeanette Zamora-Bragg

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Joel Gandarilla, Jennifer Morales, Kayley Clay, Julio Gonzalez, Teresa Nickell

KCAG COUNSEL PRESENT: Kris Pedersen

VISITORS PRESENT: Cynthia Baruch, NAS Lemoore, Alex Henandez, County of Kings, Community Development

A. Remote Participation Due to Emergency Circumstances

Commissioner Doug Verboon requested remote participation. The Commission acknowledged that Commissioner Verboon had “just cause” to request to attend remotely due to his “travel while on official business of the legislative body or other state or local agency” needed to be voted upon by the members present (California Government Code section 54953.8.3(c)(4). Commissioner Verboon participated through both audio and visual technology.

A motion was made and seconded (Preciado / Howze) to approve the request for remote participation by Commissioner Verboon. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brewster, Gunn, Howze, Neves, Preciado
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

B. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

C. Unscheduled Appearances

John Chamberlin, Kings County Fire Chief, stated that the planning of the Naval Air Station Lemoore Air Show brought to light the need for heavy coordination when up to 200,000 people are on a military station that is not designed to handle that number of people. Neither is there the infrastructure to support that number of people on the roads. From a fire safety aspect, there is a need to coordinate large events. The Fire Chief requested help from the elected officials in coordinating large events with a possible shared calendar of events.

Commissioner Neves summarized past events that could have benefited from this type of coordination among first responders and event planners.

Alex Hernandez, County of Kings, Community Development, reported on the progress of the Multi-Jurisdiction Housing Element. Since the hired consultant was not performing, the local jurisdiction chose to complete the work in-house, with the exception of Lemoore. The remaining cities and county have been working diligently with California Department of Housing and Community Development (HDC). The third Housing Element Draft has been released for review and comment. Some jurisdictions may have received notice of violation from the State.

D. Minutes

1. Minutes of February 25, 2026

A motion was made and seconded (Howze / Preciado) to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2026, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Ayes: Brewster, Gunn, Howze, Neves, Preciado
- Abstain: Verboon
- Absent: Zamora-Bragg

II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. General Transportation Items

1. FY 2026-27 Transportation Development Act Fund Estimates

Teresa Nickell stated that the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are composed of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. The estimate for the FY 2026-27 LTF for KCAG member agencies is \$6,400,000. Based on the current State budget, there will be \$1,455,715 in STA funds. The claims and other required documentation from the claimants must be returned to KCAG by April 1st of each year. The City of Corcoran and Kings County Area Public Transit Agency have held their unmet transit needs public hearings. KCAG will hold unmet transit needs in April and May.

2. FY 2025-2026 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 2

Jennifer Morales stated that the FY 2025-2026 Overall Work Program (OWP) for transportation planning includes projects funded with a variety of federal, state, and local funding sources. Amendment No. 2 updates the OWP to reflect the final FY 25-26 apportionment for Federal Planning (PL), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 funds, and SB 1 Formula Grant funds. A total of \$1,068,150 in available federal planning funds apportioned to KCAG and \$289,611 in SB 1

Formula Grant funds was programmed in the FY 2025-26 OWP Amendment No. 1 for various work elements. A summary of the increases and decreases to the affected work elements was provided.

A motion was made and seconded (Brewster / Howze) to approve Amendment No. 2 to the FY 2025-2026 Overall Work Program with the adoption of Resolution No. 26-02. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brewster, Gunn, Howze, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

B. Caltrans Report

Shane Gunn reported on Caltrans personnel changes and stated that this is his last meeting as he is returning to his previous role as Environmental Scientist Branch Chief. Michael Navarro may be attending the Board meetings during the staffing changes. Sustainable Transportation Planning grants are with management for review. The CTC approved the Cycle 8 Active Transportation Program call for projects which included a Kettleman City project. Regarding project updates it was reported that the SR 198 and 9th Ave. interchange project is in the Electronic Project Programming Request (EPPR) phase; the Reef City CAPM project on SR 41 from County line to I-5 separation is under construction; the encroachment permit for the Bush Street roundabout project is still pending; and the Kettleman City roundabout project is anticipated to go into construction in Fall of 2026.

Commissioner Preciado expressed gratitude for the efforts of Shane Gunn as it relates to the City of Avenal.

Commissioner Neves inquired about the Excelsior Expressway construction. The response was the only update is Caltrans anticipating construction for this summer.

Terri King reported that the 9th Ave interchange estimated construction cost is now up to \$144 million. This project may not be attainable if Federal Highway Administration requires the project to be fully funded within a specific time period. There was some discussion regarding the impact of this new funding requirement.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

None.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.

III. KCAG COMMISSION

A. Roll Call

Joel Gandarilla conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

B. General Commissioner Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on March 25, 2026

A motion was made and seconded (Howze / Brewster) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on March 25, 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brewster, Howze, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

2. 2026 Valley Voice Sacramento

Terri King stated that the 2026 Valley Voice Sacramento legislative trip was on Wednesday, March 4th, with a reception for State Legislators on the evening of Tuesday, March 3rd. KCAG Executive Director along with Commissioners Verboon, Matthews and Preciado were in attendance. The agenda packet in the staff report contains the Valley Voice topics of discussion and list of meetings with legislators and other participants.

Commissioner Preciado stated that the meetings were very productive. The Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) program will affect many rural communities that have to travel for services. There was discussion regarding local project funding.

Commissioner Verboon said that much was discussed in a short amount of time, including Amtrak and rail infrastructure funding.

3. KCAG Bylaws Amendment No. 2

Terri King said that the KCAG Bylaws provide for the rules of transaction of business, which included establishing meeting locations. An amendment is needed due to KCAG's new office and Board Room meeting location.

A motion was made and seconded (Brewster / Preciado) to approve Amendment No. 2 to the KCAG Bylaws, Article IV, to change the meeting location of the regularly scheduled KCAG Commission to 210 E. 7th Street, Hanford, California with the adoption of Resolution No. 26-01. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brewster, Howze, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

4. KCAG Executive Director Recruitment Services

Kris Pedersen provided a summary of the Request for Proposal process thus far. During the contract negotiation process it was noted that two tasks of the proposal were overlooked by Bob Murray & Associates, namely the updated job description and salary range survey. During the negotiations, Bob Murray & Associates offered to pull the proposal or agree to an amendment to the proposal for the additional costs of \$4,300. During last month's Commission meeting the Commission agreed to table the matter for the next meeting. Commissioner Preciado requested a recap of the motions during the previous meeting, which was provided by legal counsel. The original proposal was for \$29,500. The additional costs would be an additional \$4,300 for total cost of \$33,800. Commissioner

Howze summarized the positive experience with Bob Murray & Associates for City Manager recruitment.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Howze) to approve the amendment to the original proposal from Bob Murray & Associates for the KCAG Executive Director Recruitment Services to include the additional \$4,300 for total cost of \$33,800. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brewster, Howze, Neves, Preciado, Verboon
Absent: Zamora-Bragg

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Staff Comments

Terri King stated that KCAG received correspondence from Congressman Fong inquiring if any jurisdictions in Kings County submitted a Federal BUILD Grant application, or requests for high priority projects for the Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill. KCAG staff provided Congressman Fong with a list of high priority projects. She noted that some federal grants have a local match funding requirement of 50%, which makes it very difficult for small agencies to provide in order to apply. KCAG is requesting an 80% Federal and 20% non-Federal match, and use of toll credits. She noted that the CalCOG Board Meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2026; the Quarterly STIP Progress Meeting with Caltrans and staff is scheduled for April 22, 2026; the Washington DC Valley Voice Trip is scheduled for September 13-17, 2026; and the Regional Policy Council Member Retreat is scheduled for April 30-May 1 in Merced.

Terri King reported that the final FY 2024-25 TDA audits for County of Kings, Lemoore, Hanford, and KCAPTA, have been received and must be submitted to the State Controller before the March 31, 2026 deadline. She is proposing a special KCAG meeting for Monday, March 30, 2026.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Howze said that the City of Hanford is in the process of purchasing property across the street from the Transit Center for the new Public Safety Administration Building; the community Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 4, 2026; and there will be a Kids Summer Camp next week.

Commissioner Preciado stated that Toll roads were discussed at the CalCOG meeting in Long Beach, and that it was stated that 80% of taxpayers support a gas tax. Terri King stated that Toll Roads are a congestion pricing method that does not work well in rural areas where there is no traffic congestion.

Commissioner Neves reminded the Board that the next Special Meeting will be held on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for April 22, 2026

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Terri King, Executive Director