

Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority  
Minutes of Board meeting on October 11, 2023  
251 East Main St., Mountain House, CA

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1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting of the board of directors was called to order by Vice Chair Dan Wright at 2:03 p.m., Director Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Roll Call of Members and Confirmation of Quorum**

**Members Present - In-Person**

Vice Chair Dan Wright, City of Stockton  
Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop (*joined during item #6*)  
Director David Hudson, San Ramon  
Director Bernice King-Tingle, Mountain House  
Director John Marchand, City of Livermore  
Director Jose Nuño, City of Manteca  
Director Robert Rickman, San Joaquin County  
Director Karen Stepper, Town of Danville (*joined during item #4*)  
Director Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE

**Members Present - Remote**

Director Valerie Arkin, City of Pleasanton  
Director Mateo Bedolla, City of Tracy  
Director David Haubert, Alameda County (*left after item #8*)  
Director Julie Testa, LAVTA

**Members Absent**

Chair Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin

3. **Public Comments**

Public comment was heard from: Kelly Abreau, Roland Lebrun and David Sargent.

4. **Consent Calendar – ACTION**

Motion to approve all items on Consent Calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes of June 14, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting
- b. Treasurer's Reports – March to May 2023

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** Marchand/Zuber

**Aye:** Arkin, Bedolla, Haubert, Hudson, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Rickman, Stepper, Testa, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Akinjo, Hernandez

**Motion Passed**

5. **Approve Resolution R10-2023 State Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Funding – ACTION**

Deputy Director, Wil Ridder summarized the staff report and requested that the board approve Resolution R10-2023 authorizing the Executive Director/CEO to execute a Master Agreement and Program Supplements with the California Department of Transportation. This agreement will allow the Authority to seek an allocation of \$25 million in TIRCP funds by the California Transportation

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Commission and subsequently be reimbursed for work incurred by staff or consultants on activities funded by the TIRCP award. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion:** Zuber/Arkin

**Aye:** Arkin, Bedolla, Haubert, Hudson, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Rickman, Stepper, Testa, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Akinjo, Hernandez

**Motion Passed**

**6. State Legislative Update and Approval of Submission of Request for Funding – ACTION**

Ridder and the Authority's State Legislative Consultant, Gus Khouri gave an update on current State Legislature affecting the project and related funding opportunities. Khouri advised the board of recent changes to bills signed by the governor over the weekend. Ridder requested the board authorize the Executive Director/CEO to submit a request for \$35 million in SB 125 transit funding. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

**Motion:** Zuber/Stepper

**Aye:** Akinjo, Arkin, Bedolla, Haubert, Hudson, King-Tingle, Marchand, Nuño, Rickman, Stepper, Testa, Wright, Zuber

**Nay:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Hernandez

**Motion Passed**

**7. Environmental Update – Information**

Marianne Payne, Director of Policy, Planning and Environmental summarized the staff report and gave a presentation on the latest environmental activities. After questions from the directors, Payne further explained the differences between the Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Impact Study. She further detailed plans for outreach and target-area surveys. Public comment was heard from Roland Lebrun.

**8. Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION**

Sheridan shared photos of Chair Melissa Hernandez with the new Stadler FLIRT Hydrogen train, that will be run by San Bernadino County Transit Authority. He updated the board on a recent in-person meeting with Stadler scientists and engineers to discuss hydrogen-powered trains for the Valley Link alignment, noting that the Authority has not yet settled on a power source for the project and recommendations are still being sought from industry experts and will provide the latest updates as they are available. Sheridan advised that ongoing project-update presentations were delivered to various interested parties including: San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), Alameda and San Joaquin County staff, City of Tracy and Mountain House Community Services. Sheridan thanked the Authority's San Joaquin County representatives, Tracy Mayor Nancy Young, Senators Villapudua and Eggman, as well as their staff, for their support at the SJCOG meeting. Finally, Sheridan advised the board that their comments on the recent Code of Conduct agenda item, from the August board

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meeting, have been considered and the item will be brought back to the next board meeting in December. Directors discussed this item and public comment was heard from Kelly Abreau.

**9. Directors' Discussion**

Director Akinjo express his appreciation to Executive Director/CEO Kevin Sheridan and staff for their efforts. Vice Chair Wright commented that he met with San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD), and they presented on upcoming projects, one being a hydrogen bus project. Wright encouraged RTD CEO Alex Clifford to reach out to Sheridan to explore possibilities of working together regarding hydrogen. Sheridan announced that Governor Newsom signed SB 746 which names Valley Link as electrolytic hydrogen producer. This gives the Authority the authorization to enter into agreements to build hydrogen facilities in the state.

**10. Upcoming Meeting Details**

The next regular meeting of the board will be held on December 13, 2023.

**11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned without objection at 2:57 p.m.