

Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRA)
Minutes of December 9, 2020 meeting via Zoom Teleconference

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

Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Scott Haggerty at 2:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call of Members**

Members Present

Chair Scott Haggerty, Alameda County

Vice Chair Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy

Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop

Director Benjamin Cantu, City of Manteca (*Joined during agenda Item 5*)

Director Bob Elliott, San Joaquin County (*Joined during agenda Item 6*)

Director Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin

Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House

Director John Marchand, City of Livermore (*Joined during agenda Item 5*)

Director John McPartland (District 5), BART

Director Kathy Narum, City of Pleasanton

Director Philip O'Loane, City of San Ramon

Director Karen Stepper, Town of Danville

Director Bob Woerner (Livermore), LAVTA

Members Absent

Director Sol Jobrack, City of Stockton

Director Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE

3. **Public Comments**

There was no public comment.

4. **Consent Calendar – ACTION**

A motion was made to approve all items on Consent Calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes of November 18, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. Treasurer's Report for October 2020.
- c. Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2021

Motion: Stepper/O'Loane

Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Haggerty, Hernandez, Marchand, McPartland, Narum, O'Loane, Stepper, Tingle, Woerner, Vargas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Elliot, Jobrack, Zuber

Motion Passed

5. **Executive Directors Report – INFORMATION**

- Executive Director began his oral report noting two major items on the agenda; the selection of a presumed operator for Valley Link and the release of the draft EIR. Tree introduced special guests, State Senator Susan Eggman and former Assemblymember Catharine Baker, then turned the floor over to Chair Haggerty who welcomed them both congratulated Eggman on her election to the senate and thanked them both for their continued involvement in the

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Valley Link project. Both guests addressed the board and thanked Haggerty for his service. Haggerty thanked both guests for taking the time from their busy schedules to attend the meeting. He acknowledged that his success is due to having a great team and thanked Marianne Payne, Michael Tree and the board for their hard work on the project.

- Tree updated the board on the following:
 - i. Staff is looking closely at the potential for funding through a stimulus infrastructure package.
 - ii. Program Manager Ric Rattray and his team are preparing for NEPA, which be initiated after the certification and adoption if the EIR, as well as working with Caltrans on the 580 segment of the project and 30% design phase.
 - iii. Veronica Vargas will assume the position of board Chair upon Chair Haggerty leaving office and retiring in early January, and the election of the new vice chair will be held at the next meeting of the board.

There was no public comment.

6. Resolution R09-2020 Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) for Service Planning and Management of Valley Link Operations – ACTION

Tree made a presentation to the board detailing the research that went into determining the best option for an operator partner, the fiscal impact of such a partnership and key points of the MOU. He shared that the members of the Valley Link Executive Committee fully supported the proposal to bring SJRRRC on to the Valley Link Project. The SJRRRC board authorized their executive director to execute the MOU with the Authority.

Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

Motion: Elliot/Marchand

Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Elliot, Haggerty, Hernandez, Marchand, McPartland, Narum, O'Loane, Stepper, Tingle, Woerner, Vargas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack, Zuber

Motion Passed

7. Update on Draft Valley Link Environmental Impact Report – INFORMATION

Chair Haggerty notified the board that the Draft EIR was released on December 2, which began a 50-day public comment period ending January 21, 2021. Haggerty emphasized that public comment received at the Board meeting would not be accepted as public comment related to the EIR comment period. Michael Tree praised Marianne Payne for her tireless efforts in getting the draft EIR ready for public review. Tree introduced Rich Walters of ICF who presented an overview of the EIR.

Clarification was given on the dates on the public hearings: December 12 from 9 to 10:30 am; December 16 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and December 17 from 5 to 6:30 pm.

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The directors discussed this item. Public comment was heard from Vaughn Wollfe.

8. Approving Option Contract Term Sheet to Acquire 200 Acres (APNs 209-230-029 and 209- 230-030) from the City of Tracy for a Potential Future Operations and Maintenance Facility and Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute the Term Sheet– ACTION

Legal counsel Michael Conneran gave a brief overview of the option contract through which Valley Link will be granted an exclusive and irrevocable option to “purchase” the Property as an in-kind contribution from the City towards the Project, subject to certain conditions. He noted that the acquisition of the property will allow the Authority to use the property as collateral for other funding opportunities.

The directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

Motion: Vargas/Cantu

Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Elliot, Haggerty, Hernandez, Marchand, McPartland, Narum, O’Loane, Stepper, Tingle, Woerner, Vargas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack, Zuber

Motion Passed

9. Directors’ Discussion

There was no discussion.

10. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members – INFORMATION

Executive Director Michael Tree named the four outgoing board members; Chair Haggerty, Directors Marchand, O’Loane and Elliot. Prior to the meeting Tree presented each outgoing director with a personalized railroad spike and thanked them, detailing ways each of them had impacted the progress of the Valley Link project. Chair Haggerty was presented with a hat and named an honorary Valley Link conductor. Board members recognized each of the outgoing directors followed by each outgoing member giving their farewell remarks, with thanks to the board, executive director and staff. Director Marchand presented Chair Haggerty with a proclamation from the City of Livermore. There was no public comment.

11. Next Meeting

January 13, 2021 – Via Teleconference

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.