

**San Benito County
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SPECIAL MEETING**

February 19, 2010 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Gomez, Director De La Cruz, Director Bilich, Director Botelho, and Director Emerson

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Administrative Services Specialist, Kathy Postigo; Transportation Planner, Betty LiOwen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tony Mercado, MV Transportation

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A. ACKNOWLEDGE Certificate of Posting

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

REGULAR AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

- 1. Unmet Transit Needs Hearing – LiOwen**
 - a. **RECEIVE** Report on Unmet Transit Needs Hearing.
 - b. **OPEN** Public Hearing.
 - c. **CLOSE** Public Hearing.
 - d. **DIRECT** Staff to Return to the Council of Governments with Recommendation at the May 20, 2010 Meeting.

Transportation Planner, Betty Li-Owen provided a Power-Point presentation on the Unmet Transit Needs.

Chair Gomez opened the public hearing at 1:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Maria R. Robles
Driver**

Ms. Robles commented on the need for a new vehicle. Ms. Robles stated that the current vehicle she is driving takes 15 minutes to start up and she has to use starter fluid as well. Ms. Robles stated that she has to breathe the bad fumes from the vehicle. She also mentioned that she is developing back pain do to the

seats on the bus, they are not very comfortable for both she, and the passengers due to the fact the vehicle is so old.

Mary Gonzales

Ms. Gonzales inquired if Jovenes de Antaño had a separate contract from County Express.

**Pauline Valdivia, Executive Director
Jovenes de Antaño**

Ms. Valdivia asked the Board to please keep in mind the importance and need for the proper equipment that is required to transport clients. Ms. Valdivia stated that Jovenes de Antaño will have to replace one of its 20 seat buses as soon as possible due to its poor condition. Ms. Valdivia stated that the replacement of this vehicle is very important, as it is used to transport over 50 clients a day. Ms. Valdivia thanked the Board for their continued support.

**Mr. Ruiz
Spanish Speaker (Interpreter translated)**

Mr. Ruiz stated that he hopes the service can be improved not only within the city limits but with surrounding counties such as Monterey and Santa Clara, so that there can be connectivity to the Greyhound and airports. Mr. Ruiz also asked that the Board support other issues surrounding the County such as the lack of jobs which is causing families to abandon their homes.

**Barbara Pate
MSW Social Worker
Hazel Hawkins Hospital/ S.B. Home Health**

Ms. Pate stated that she has been working in the community for over 3 years and she has seen a growth in those few years. Ms. Pate stated that she has seen for herself that the transit services have helped many of her patients. Ms. Pate stated that the transit services are very important especially for the seniors who require medical transportation. Ms. Pate stated that the transit services are very valuable and hopes that the services will continue to serve the community.

Sadie Hernandez

Ms. Hernandez commented on how majorities of the people at the Senior Center, including herself, are in the dark about the transit services. Ms. Hernandez stated that many of the seniors don't understand that the transit services are Countywide. Ms. Hernandez stated that although there are informational flyers about the transit system, people still don't understand the way the program works.

Ms. LiOwen provided an overview of the County Express services to members of the public.

Chair Gomez closed the Public Hearing and informed the public that they could also send in their written comments to the Council of Governments office by February 26, 2010.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's unanimously voted to direct staff to return to the Council of Governments with a recommendation at the May 20, 2010 meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's unanimously voted to adjourn the COG Special meeting.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING MARCH 18, 2010.