

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SPECIAL MEETING**

March 3, 2011 1:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair De La Cruz, Director Boch, Director Botelho, Vice Chair Emerson, and Alternate Director Valdivia

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

MV Transportation, Tony Mercado

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair De La Cruz called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Director Emerson, and seconded by Director Botelho, the Director's unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

1. Unmet Transit Needs Hearing – Lezama

- a. **RECEIVE** Presentation on Unmet Transit Needs.
- b. **OPEN** Public Hearing.
- c. **CLOSE** Public Hearing.
- d. **DIRECT** Staff to Return to the Council of Governments with Recommendation.

Ms. Lezama provided a presentation on the Unmet Transit Needs.

Chair De La Cruz opened the Public Hearing at 1:09 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Frances Guiza
Hollister, CA**

Ms. Guiza stated that although she uses the bus service infrequently, she wanted to compliment the Dial-A-Ride dispatcher who is always friendly and helpful when she calls, as well as one of the drivers named "Sylvia".

Ms. Guiza stated that she uses the Intercounty service to go to Gilroy on the weekends and recommended

posting the bus schedules at all bus stops because she has noticed that the schedule is not posted at that location making it difficult for riders to plan their route.

Ms. Guiza stated that the Dial-A-Ride requirement of scheduling your ride one day prior to the service date should be eliminated. The reasoning is because there are times when a ride is needed at a moments notice and people are not able to call one day in advance.

Sadie Hernandez
Hollister, CA

Ms. Hernandez spoke on behalf of someone who could not stay for the meeting. She asked if there would be an increase in fares due to the recent increase in gas prices.

Chair De La Cruz called for a 5 minute recess to allow Board members time to speak with members of the public and listen to any concerns they might have about the services.

Director De La Cruz reported that a member of the public expressed concerns with the Dial-A-Ride requirement of scheduling your ride one day prior to the service date.

Director Botelho stated that staff would look into addressing the concerns with the Dial-A-Ride 24-hour advance service reservation policy.

Director Botelho stated that the Board is faced with a challenge due to State Budget cuts which cause implications to the services provided.

Chair De La Cruz reconvened the COG meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Chair De La Cruz closed Public Comment.

Upon a motion made by Director Boch, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's voted to adjourn the COG meeting.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING MARCH 17, 2011.