



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

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Friday, May 4, 2007

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kern Community College District Office  
Bakersfield

### Meeting Minutes

#### In Attendance

Board Members:

Frank Bigelow, Secretary Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary Mike Chrisman, Chair Connie Conway, Kathleen Crookham, Undersecretary George Gomes, Coke Hollowell, Barry Hibbard, Farrell Jackson, Kirk Lindsey, Sunne McPeak, Luisa Medina, Michael Navarro, Pete Parra, Gary Podesto, Fred Ruiz, Lorraine Salazar, Stanley Simpson, Deputy Secretary Cindy Tuck, Gene Voiland, Ray Watson, Pete Weber

Legislative Officials: Senator Dean Florez, Assemblyman Juan Arambula

Staff: Ashley Swearengin

#### Call to Order

Chair Conway and Deputy Chair Chrisman called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) to order at 9:15 am.

#### Introductory Remarks

Board members introduced themselves followed by the introduction of the members of the public. Kern Community College District Vice Chancellor Greg Chamberlain welcomed the Partnership and members of the public.

Chair Conway recognized the liaisons officially designated by the Governor as board members to the Partnership. The new members are Pete Parra representing the California Workforce Investment Board, Kirk Lindsey representing the California Transportation Commission, Pete Weber representing the Federal Interagency Task Force for the San Joaquin Valley, Barry Hibbard representing the California Economic Strategy Panel and DeeDee D'Adamo representing the California Air Resources Board. Ms. D'Adamo was unable to attend.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Parra moved to approve the February 2, 2007, and the March 29, 2007, minutes. Mr. Podesto asked to have the minutes of March 29, 2007, include his attendance by teleconference (completed). Ms. Crookham seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Partnership Priorities**

Mr. Weber provided the background for the discussion on identifying top priorities for the Partnership board. Mr. Weber commented that the Partnership was charged by Governor Schwarzenegger with developing and implementing a comprehensive strategic action plan and appointed its board of directors to oversee that broad charge. As the Partnership advances, we will measure our progress by improvements in the indicators identified in the plan. However, Mr. Weber acknowledged that the Partnership's effectiveness also will be measured by the high-level priorities that are accomplished through our efforts.

Mr. Weber referred to the handout in the board packet that outlined the Partnership goals and objectives categorized according to region, state, and/or federal priorities.

Mr. Weber suggested that key priorities should engage all board members. The rest of the action items in the plan can be championed by the board conveners and the work groups with priorities being brought to the attention of the board by the conveners. Mr. Weber further suggested that the following criteria be applied to determine board priorities:

- Projects with high impact for the region;
- Projects that need support at the state or federal level;
- Projects that would be assisted by affiliation with the Partnership;
- Projects with committed board members who are willing to drive the effort and act as champions.

Mr. Weber's preliminary recommendations for priorities at the federal level are Air Quality, Transportation, and Water Supply/Quality/Reliability. At the state level, he suggested that these priorities also would apply.

Mr. Simpson suggested that the Partnership make methamphetamine recovery one of the top three priorities, given the impact it has on our economy and quality of life. Ms. Medina commented that the board should strongly support the establishment of robust, medical allied health programs in the Valley but questioned whether efforts are already under way for the medical school. Ms. McPeak indicated that the \$5 million grant supported by the Partnership last year made a big difference in UC Merced's efforts. Mr. Ruiz commented that he sits on the UC committee that is helping select future medical schools in the UC system and confirmed the Partnership is playing a vital role for the UC Merced effort. The Regents identified two areas in great need (San Joaquin Valley and Riverside). UC Riverside was granted permission to move forward because they were ahead of the Valley with financial support.

Secretary Bradshaw suggested that the Health and Human Services goal related to health care worker shortages should be moved to Higher Education and Workforce Development since it is a workforce challenge. She commented that she would like to see the big ticket priorities for infrastructure and long range issues. She encouraged the Partnership to organize now or it will be too late to address issues.

Mr. Lindsey commented that he would like to see a fourth column inserted into the priorities handout to show private sector priorities, stating that without private dollars these goals will not be achieved. Mr. Weber agreed that the Partnership needs to involve

the private sector. He suggested requiring a three-fold match: federal, state, and local funds.

Mr. Parra stated that the continuation of the executive order also should be considered a priority.

Mr. Voiland commented that the board should focus on its specific priorities at each meeting. The board should focus on what is most important, what should be monitored, and the one critical thing that the board can help make happen. Mr. Weber corroborated the need to narrow down the field of priorities and commented that the specific components of the air quality plan are known but that more detail is needed for water and transportation.

Mr. Watson commented that there needs to be a strategic debate over these major issues – air quality, water and transportation. The board needs to be involved in the debate and bring political resources to bear on the strategic issues. He indicated that there are some things missing from the water work plan. Namely, the San Joaquin Valley is isolated from the rest of the state. While approximately 60% of the water resources we need are available in the Valley, we have to convince others in the state to invest the additional resources.

Mr. Weber recommended that the board develop an initial list of high-level priorities and ask conveners to help develop specifics for the next board meeting.

Ms. McPeak acknowledged the work Mr. Weber did to identify the priorities. She encouraged the debate around forming an authority for Highway 99 to accelerate the implementation of the improvements. Ms. McPeak suggested additional priorities need to be added at the state level.

Ms. Medina suggested a process of listing priorities on a time line of when these things happen or are projected to happen.

Mr. Lindsey noted that the education goals should include technical/vocational education. He also recommended listing all transportation projects as both state and federal priorities.

Mr. Weber agreed that everything needs to be addressed, and even though there are identified priorities, they are not written to the exclusion of any of the action plans of the work groups. He proposed that air quality, water and transportation be the top federal and state priorities and recommended adding the medical school as a fourth priority for the state.

Senator Florez commented that the priorities are good, but he had some disagreements with the approach to implementation. The “dual path” system to air quality attainment needs to be a real effort. He recommended that a clean air surcharge be created. As a final step, the state needs to turn to consumers to help with the air quality, and a commitment needs to be made by the Partnership.

Senator Florez commented on the Transportation work plan, which centers on high-speed rail. He recommended that a financing plan be prepared for the 2008 ballot

measure. A Highway 99 authority is a good idea. Regarding water supply, Senator Florez emphasized that the Valley needs alternative methods to move water. Currently, there are 650,000 acre feet of underground space available to make water storage possible in Kern County, but conveyance is needed.

Secretary Chrisman agreed that water plans must be comprehensive and indicated the Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force is developing that comprehensive plan now. Ms. McPeak commented that the San Joaquin Valley's integrated regional water management plan could play a positive role in statewide water issues. It gives the region a platform for engaging the rest of the state.

Assemblyman Arambula commented that while he agrees with the priorities, he does not think we will be effective if we disregard poverty and other areas. We have endemic poverty in the region which ties into unemployment and under-employment. The Partnership needs to advance economic and educational issues. Consideration of education, land use and health and human services issues have an impact on the other goals we are trying to accomplish.

Mr. Jackson acknowledged the importance of air, transportation and water priorities, but raised the issue of job retention in our region. How do we tie into this force of the Partnership to help retain businesses?

Chair Conway said economic development feeds into all of the priorities and was hopeful that throughout the Partnership work, the priorities would be adequately addressed.

The discussion of board priorities will be continued at the next board meeting with recommendations from the Air Quality, Water and Transportation work groups about the specific priorities and actions needed by the board to achieve the goals in the strategic action plan.

### **Process for Supporting Legislation, Process and Programs**

Chair Conway introduced the documents detailing the processes for supporting legislative and non-legislative projects. Assemblyman Arambula noted that the Partnership's support of legislation is of key importance. He commented on the importance of developing legislation that is aligned with the goals of the Strategic Action Plan and tied to the board's strategic approach. Mr. Lindsey moved to approve the processes for supporting legislation, projects and programs. Ms. Medina seconded the motion. All board members voted yes. None opposed and none abstained.

### **Regional Consortia Board Seats**

Ms. McPeak discussed the importance of appointing "regional consortia" members to the board seats. She noted that the governing board should be rooted in Valley leadership and that each regional consortium shall nominate three members for the Governor's final selection and appointment. Ms. McPeak made a motion to approve the Policy and Process for Appointment of Regional Consortia Board Members. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Board Committee Structure**

Secretary Chrisman made a motion to accept the recommendations for work group conveners and committee members as follows:

**Executive Committee:** Connie Conway, Fritz Grupe, Mike Chrisman, Peter Weber, Sunne McPeak, Ashley Swearingin (staff, non-voting), Carol Whiteside (ex officio, non-voting);

**Government Affairs Committee:** Gary Podesto (Chair), Alan Autry, Frank Bigelow, Pete Parra, Katie Stevens (staff, non-voting)

**Funding and Finance Committee:** Gene Voiland (Chair), Fred Ruiz, Leroy Ornellas, Secretary Dale Bonner (ex officio), Ashley Swearingin (staff, non-voting)

**Work Group Conveners:** Carol Tomlinson Keasey (Advanced Communication Services), Pete Weber (Air Quality), Stan Simpson (Economic Development), A.G. Kawamura and Mike Chrisman (Energy), Luisa Medina and Mike Navarro (Health and Human Services), Frank Bigelow (Transportation), David Long (K-12), Vickie Bradshaw and Lorraine Salazar (Higher Education and Workforce), Ray Watson (Water)

Mr. Parra seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

A question was raised about Carol Whiteside's ex-officio role on the Executive Committee given her recently announced retirement. It was agreed that she would remain active on the committee until her successor is announced.

#### **Time Line for Partnership Annual Conference and Reports**

Richard Cummings from the Great Valley Center discussed the options for the delivery of the annual report in conjunction with the annual conference. Mr. Simpson informed the group that "Biz Talk 2007," a business conference to be held in Visalia, will be in October and suggested that it might be beneficial for the Partnership to hold its conference the day before the business conference.

Ms. McPeak suggested that the industry clusters in the Valley could have break-out sessions during this venue. Ms. Swearingin noted that two annual reports and two annual conferences are to be held during the course of the current Executive Order. Assemblyman Arambula said it would be advantageous to have the annual report completed before January for inclusion in the State's 2008-2009 Budget.

Mr. Lindsey made a motion to have the annual conference on October 4, 2007. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crookham. The motion was approved unanimously.

Richard Cummings agreed to have a work plan for the annual report submitted to Ms. Swearingin by May 25, 2007.

#### **Work Group Updates, Action Items**

**AIR QUALITY:** Mr. Weber provided the work group update. Assemblyman Arambula provided an overview of AB575, a bill that identifies criteria for the disbursement of Proposition 1B air quality funds. Ms. Hollowell made a motion to support AB575. The motion was seconded by Mr. Podesto. The motion was approved. Undersecretary George Gomes, California Department of Food and Agriculture; Secretary Mike Chrisman, California Resources Agency; Deputy Secretary Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency; and Kirk Lindsey, California Transportation Commission abstained. Secretary Bradshaw was not present during the vote.

Next, the board discussed AB1223, Assemblyman Arambula's "net metering" bill that allows farmers to aggregate metering for demonstrable cost savings and that encourages use of solar and more reliable energy sources for water pumping. The intention of the bill is to make solar more economically viable for farmers. Mr. Weber made a motion to support AB1223. Mr. Podesto seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Secretary Chrisman and Undersecretary Gomes abstained from the vote.

### **Public comments**

Ron Addington, CEO, San Joaquin Business Council, offered to assist with preparation for the October 4, 2007, annual Partnership meeting.

Jennifer Faughn, work group consultant for the Economic Development Work Group, extended an invitation to everyone to attend the May 18 Economic Development Work Group meeting at the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

### **Lunch Break**

The board meeting was adjourned for a lunch break.

Chair Conway reconvened the board meeting at 1:15 pm.

### **Work Group Updates – Continued**

**AIR QUALITY *continued*:** Assemblyman Arambula's bill AB1455 provides specific financial support (low percentage loans), for communities in significantly impacted areas, to reduce air pollution while creating jobs. A motion to support the bill was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Parra. The motion was carried unanimously. Secretary Chrisman, Undersecretary Gomes, Deputy Secretary Tuck, and Sulma Guzman (Secretary Bradshaw's designee) abstained.

**LAND USE, AG AND HOUSING:** Carolyn Lott, Great Valley Center, noted that the Partnership should consider as a priority the continued funding for the Blueprint Planning Process, allowing it to continue through June 2008.

Rollie Smith, HUD, gave an introduction to the board for Assemblyman Arambula's San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust Fund Bill, AB1129. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Housing Trust is envisioned as a fund in which local jurisdictions that participate would build up and receive flexible funds that would help them achieve their housing goals. The funds could be used for acquiring and banking land, providing incentives to private developers, leveraging government programs and private loans, front-end master planning, and many more uses that would incentivize affordable housing. The funds would be used to encourage higher density, smart growth, or new urbanism projects that link jobs, transportation and housing to ensure that the growth of the Valley preserves agricultural lands and promotes clean energy, air quality and economic expansion.

Assemblyman Arambula noted that the Fund will put the Valley in a position to secure housing bond funds from the state. Ms. McPeak inquired about potential federal funds that could be accessed by the Housing Trust. Mr. Smith indicated that there are HUD and USDA funds that could be accessed. He underscored the importance of the COGs participating in the Trust. Ms. McPeak agreed that there should be an institutional connection to the COGs and the Partnership as the Trust moves forward.

Ms. Lott noted that the COG formed a policy advisory council with an interim chair and board of directors. Mr. Bigelow commented that some counties do not have COGs and that any structure should be inclusive of all residents. Further discussion of the Housing Trust followed.

Mr. Parra said there are different channels to get local communities to join together and increase funding. Ms. Medina commented that this bill will be a spark for the discussion and will encourage out-of-the-box thinking.

Assemblyman Arambula said the bill was drafted in response to the Partnership's Strategic Action Plan. Mr. Parra made a motion to support AB1129. Ms. Medina seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Secretary Chrisman, Ms. Guzman, Ms. Henderson and Deputy Secretary Tuck abstained.

Becky Napier from the Kern County Council of Governments provided an update on the Kern County Blueprint planning process.

Ms. Lott invited board members to visit the Web site, [www.valleyblueprint.org](http://www.valleyblueprint.org), and noted that Sid Craighead is the vice chair of BRAC (Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee). Nathan Magsig is the chairman, and Carolina Simunovic is the liaison to the Partnership board. Mr. Hibbard will represent the Partnership on the BRAC.

Ms. McPeak requested there be a Blueprint update at every Partnership board meeting and that the update be a standing item on the agenda.

Ms. Lott will be leaving the Great Valley Center on May 31, and her duties will be assumed by Barbara Patrick and Tim Fisher. A search for Carol Whiteside's position is now under way, and her replacement will be announced by the Great Valley Center board in September.

**TRANSPORTATION/HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** Ms. Carrie Pourvahidi, Department Director of the High-Speed Railway System gave a presentation on the work of the High-Speed Rail Authority thus far. The High-Speed Rail (HSR) is an approximate \$40 billion project. Programmatic corridors have been identified at the high level, but now the project-specific clearances are needed.

Mr. Ruiz asked Ms. Pourvahidi to identify the reason for the delay with the project. Ms. Pourvahidi indicated the problem has been the "big gulp" of paying \$40 billion to build the project.

Mr. Watson asked if specific numbers have been identified in a pro forma. Ms. Pourvahidi responded that the skeleton of a financing plan would be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Lindsey, who also serves as an HSR commissioner, added that a 10-year payback is expected. Ms. Pourvahidi said the HSR Authority is looking at how to phase the project.

Mr. Lindsey noted that the northern corridor has not been decided and encouraged the Partnership to weigh in. Mr. Watson added that there needs to be accounted for many undefined benefits to the project. He encouraged the Partnership board to go on record

in support of the HSR. The Transportation and Air Quality work groups were asked to evaluate the HSR request for a support letter and provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Ms. McPeak requested that a land use scenario be developed in conjunction with the track alignment and suggested that Mr. Hibbard will need to be involved as the Convener for the Land Use, Ag and Housing Work Group.

**ENERGY:** Rollie Smith introduced the Energy Work Group report. This work group will be co-convened by Secretary Chrisman and Secretary Kawamura.

Paul Johnson, consultant to the Energy Work Group, made a presentation to the board on the findings of the design phase of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO) proposed in the Strategic Action Plan. The effort to launch an SJVCEO was awarded a seed grant. Twenty organizations were identified in the seed grant proposal to partner in the launch of the SJVCEO. Through partnering and collaboration, the SJVCEO will build upon existing efforts and serve as a trusted resource on clean energy for San Joaquin Valley businesses, consumers, nonprofits, and local governments. The SJVCEO will provide a planning resource to help bring together the many independent, clean energy activities in the region through a coherent, well-integrated plan. It will serve as a one-stop shop of information and expertise on current clean energy programs and activities, viable funding resources, and business drivers. It will help identify barriers to greater use of clean energy and serve as an independent source of advocacy and education to remove those barriers. The SJVCEO will be a valued source of technical assistance and support to implement clean energy projects.

The work group envisions the SJVCEO as a stand alone 501c (3) organization with a strong, close working relationship with the Partnership. Board membership will contain a diverse perspective and be reflective of the Valley. Geographic representation from across the region will be sought. It is recommended that the board be composed of at least 51% private sector representatives.

The recommended board membership includes (a) one representative each from the Economic Development, Higher Education/Workforce Development, Land Use/AG/Housing, Transportation, Air Quality, Energy, and Water work groups; (b) one representative each from UC Merced, the CSU System, and the Community College Consortium; (c) one ex-officio voting representative from the California Energy Commission, Federal Interagency Task Force; Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, the California Municipal Utility Association, San Joaquin Power Authority, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; (d) a representative from a community- based organization, and (e) up to three additional representatives with specialized expertise. It is recommended that the Partnership chairs appoint the SJVCEO board chair from among the above representatives.

It is recommended that a temporary office location be established at the Professional Exchange Service Corporation (PESC), a shared office space in Fresno with nominal rent and expenses. A permanent home should be chosen when the board is established and the director is hired. There will be no permanent staff in 2007, with only an interim executive director (contractor) and additional contract staff as needed. In 2008, the

SJVCEO is projected to have three permanent staff members: a director, a manager, and an intern, with additional contract staff as needed. In program year 2009, there would be four to six permanent staff, which would include a director, one to two program managers, a program assistant, and one or two interns, with additional contract staff as needed.

A detailed budget with projected funding sources was provided. In 2007, projected funding is \$100K; in 2008 it will increase to \$487K; and in 2009 it is estimated to be \$600K. Potential funding sources include the Partnership seed grant, public and private utilities, CEC, USDA, US EPA Region IX, foundations and fees for service.

The next steps for launching the SJVCEO include (1) getting approval of the proposed governance structure from the board; (2) initiating the 501c(3) application, by-laws, and Articles of Incorporation; (3) initiating the board recruitment process; and (4) completing the board recruitment process by June 15. By July 1, the board will officially convene and commence with the start-up operation.

Mr. Weber noted that lots of enthusiasm has been expressed for the SJVCEO from major stakeholders. Chair Conway asked about commitment levels from the utilities. Mr. Johnson reported that Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and The Gas Company had been engaged in the design phase of the SJVCEO and are now determining who will sit on the board. Mr. Smith reported that he has reached out to and involved both UC Merced and UC Davis.

Ms. Crookham asked about the budget and what would happen if the organization is unable to raise money. Mr. Weber responded that the SJVCEO would be largely driven by programs that receive funding. If an activity failed to secure funding, then the SJVCEO would not commit to contract its services. He cited the recent partnership with the Sierra Club as an example. The Sierra Club is interested in funding the SJVCEO to develop and deliver a conference on biofuels.

Ms. Crookham suggested that letters of participation be secured from the utilities.

Mr. Navarro reported that he attended the last Energy Work Group/SJVCEO meeting and that he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the stakeholders in the room.

Mr. Lindsey questioned the geographic balance of the stakeholders thus far.

Mr. Weber confirmed that the SJVCEO should represent all areas of the Valley as specified in the design document.

Mr. Ruiz questioned the need to establish another organization. Ms. McPeak explained that the SJVCEO is the centerpiece of the Energy Work Group action plan and stressed that there does need to be a coordinating entity. The question to be answered is how the coordinating entity would be integrated into the Partnership. Additionally, we need to determine how the utilities will be involved. The coordinating entity should be close to the Partnership board so that it is not competing. Utilities initially expressed concern about the San Diego regional energy office being used as a model for the San Joaquin Valley. The \$125,000 seed grant is to be invested in such a way that we have an action-oriented entity. Ms. McPeak explained that saying "yes" on the structure of the SJVCEO will allow the letters of commitment from partner organizations to be secured.

Mr. Weber agreed stating that the next step is to get the structure in place. Mr. Weber made a motion to approve the structure of the SJVCEO with the amendment that there would be at least one representative from each county. Ms. McPeak seconded the motion. Discussion of the motion continued. Mr. Lindsey encouraged the Energy Work Group to “wrap its arms” around the entire Valley, including the Merced Irrigation District, the Turlock Irrigation District, and all other municipal utility districts.

Mr. Voiland expressed concern about the staff and resources needed to attain critical mass and suggested that if it falls under its own weight, then it’s not a sustainable organization.

Mr. Parra commented that it is critical to make sure it’s a Valleywide organization and recommended that the work group take another 30 days to round up all key stakeholders.

Ms. Medina commented that the formation of a SJVCEO is identified in the strategic action plan and that she therefore supported it. She further commented that a tremendous amount of work is going on in a lot of arenas that people don’t know about throughout the Valley and that it was unfair to hold this project to that standard if the others were not.

Mr. Ruiz recommended identifying measurable goals for the early operation of the SJVCEO.

Secretary Chrisman expressed support for spending an additional 30 days on stakeholder recruitment.

Ms. McPeak recommended the following amendments to the motion on the floor: (1) the board accept the report from the work group; (2) the proposed structure for the SJVCEO be accepted as a working premise; (3) the work group continue efforts for 30 days to expand the group and provide an update to the Executive Committee in 30 days; and (4) written commitments from prospective board members be secured by the August board meeting.

Mr. Bigelow seconded the motion as amended. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Guzman abstained from the vote.

**WATER:** The Water Work Group report was given by Jim Tischer, Work Group Consultant. Mr. Tischer reported that a water leadership meeting was held in Bakersfield on May 3, 2007, Participants included Kern County water leaders, Mr. Watson, and stakeholders from Kern County, as well as the chair of San Joaquin Valley Water Coalition. The group agreed that any plan must include Delta conveyance since 25% of our water comes from the Delta. The group agreed to proceed with the development of the regional water plan. Mr. Tischer indicated that a Delta Vision Workshop will be held in the San Joaquin Valley in July and invited everyone to attend.

Secretary Chrisman commented on the importance of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Commission work and encouraged the San Joaquin Valley to provide input on the Delta Vision.

Mr. Tischer asked for the board's support of a resolution commissioning the California Water Institute to engage and convene water leaders in the Valley to develop an integrated regional water management plan. Mr. Watson made a motion to support the resolution. Mr. Voiland seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.

Secretary Chrisman said an integrated regional management plan is critical to help facilitate regional water issues.

Ms. Medina commented on the importance of expanding work group participation. For example, the K-12 and Economic Development work groups only include the eight counties. They need to be expanded.

### **Partnership Seed Grants**

Ms. McPeak referenced page 103 in the agenda package, which listed the 15 seed grants approved by the board at the last meeting. She reminded the board that there was a unanimous decision by the board to add a challenge grant for the Central Valley Tourism Association (CVTA) project. CVTA has accepted the challenge and is approaching stakeholder members to request funding match. As proposed, the Secretariat would be the fiscal agent for the challenge grant and would ensure there was a dollar for dollar match-up to \$75,000 for the 18-month period of the seed grant, to be drawn down in increments of \$10K.

Ms. McPeak made a motion to (1) accept the list of the 15 seed grants, (2) approve the scopes of work, (3) allow the Secretariat to enter into a contract with CVTA for \$10,000 increments up to \$75,000, and (4) authorize the Executive Committee to work with the Secretariat to approve any contractual items to get the funds encumbered. Ms. Medina seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with no opposition and no abstention.

### **Recap of Action Items and Next Steps**

Next quarter action items include connecting the conveners to the work groups, establishing committees, and getting the seed grants contracted and operational, as well as advancing on work group priorities.

### **Public comment**

Public comments were made by a representative of the Kern County Sierra Club chapter and a representative of the UC Merced student body.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Conway adjourned the board meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley at 4:55pm.