

April 26, 2024, Board of Directors Minutes

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Chairwoman Nora Vargas (County of San Diego) called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments

Public Comments: Alan C., Truth, Mark, Allegedly Audra, and Rita Clement.

Member Comments: Mayor Rebecca Jones (San Marcos), Deputy Mayor Ryan Keim (Oceanside), and Director Everett Townsend (Caltrans).

Agency Updates: Chief Executive Officer Coleen Clementson.

Closed Session Public Comments: Truth, Mark, Allegedly Audra, Mary K., Paul the Bold, Blair Beekman, and Dave Everett.

Chairwoman Vargas recessed to closed session at 9:38 a.m.

Closed Session

2. Appointment of the SANDAG Chief Executive Officer (Government Code 54957(b)(1))

The Board of Directors was asked to discuss the potential appointment of the Chief Executive Officer.

Rod Betts, Paul Plevin Quarles, reported out of closed session: The Board met in closed session on Agenda Item No. 2, and there was no reportable action.

Chairwoman Vargas reconvened to open session at 10:35 a.m.

Reports

3. Appointment of the SANDAG Chief Executive Officer

Chairwoman Vargas introduced the item.

Pam Darby, CPS HR Executive Search presented the item and asked the Board of Directors to discuss and approve the proposed salary, benefits, and other terms of employment with the Chief Executive Officer candidate selected by the Board in Closed Session on April 12, 2024; and to authorize the Chair to execute an employment agreement, including such terms.

Public Comments: Truth, Allegedly Audra, Mark, Consuelo, Mike, Blair Beekman, and Paul the Bold.

A motion was made by Chairwoman Vargas, and a second by Councilmember Vivian Moreno (City of San Diego), to vote to approve the proposed salary, benefits, and other terms of employment with the Chief Executive Officer candidate selected by the Board in Closed Session on April 12, 2024; and to authorize the Chair to execute an employment agreement, including such terms.

Action: Upon a substitute motion by Mayor Steve Vaus (Poway), and a second by Mayor Jones, the Board voted to reject the contract terms and restart the recruitment process for the Chief Executive Officer.

The motion failed.

Yes: Councilmember Melanie Burkholder (Carlsbad), Councilmember John Duncan (Coronado), Mayor Bill Wells

(El Cajon), Mayor Dane White (Escondido), Deputy Mayor Keim, Mayor Vaus, and Mayor Jones.

No: Chairwoman Vargas, Councilmember Carolina Chavez (Chula Vista), Deputy Mayor Terry Gaasterland (Del Mar), Mayor Tony Kranz (Encinitas), Councilmember Jack Fisher (Imperial Beach), Councilmember Jack Shu (La Mesa), Mayor Racquel Vasquez (Lemon Grove), Councilmember Luz Molina (National City), Councilmember Raul Campillo (San Diego), Mayor John Minto (Santee), Deputy Mayor Jewel Edson (Solana Beach), and Deputy Mayor Katie Melendez (Vista).

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The Board voted on the original motion.

The motion passed.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Councilmember Chavez, Deputy Mayor Gaasterland, Mayor Kranz, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Shu, Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Molina, Councilmember Campillo, Deputy Mayor Edson, and Deputy Mayor Melendez.

No: Councilmember Burkholder, Councilmember Duncan, Mayor Wells, Mayor White, Deputy Mayor Keim, Mayor Vaus, Mayor Jones, and Mayor Minto.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Chairwoman Vargas announced that Mario Orso was the successful candidate for the position of Chief Executive Officer for SANDAG and will start his employment on June 17, 2024.

Consent

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors was asked to approve the minutes from its March 22, and April 12, 2024, regular meetings; and its March 29, 2024, special meeting.

5. Chief Executive Officer Delegated Actions*

In accordance with various Board Policies, this report summarized delegated actions taken by the Chief Executive Officer.

7. FY 2023 TransNet Extension Ordinance Funding Eligibility Request *

The Transportation Committee recommended that the Board of Directors, acting as the San Diego County Regional Transportation Commission, approve the TransNet funding eligibility requests of the City of Solana Beach, Metropolitan Transit System, and North County Transit District.

8. 2025 Regional Plan: Draft Series 15 Growth Forecast Regional and Subregional Results

This report provided an overview of the Series 15 Subregional Forecast of population, jobs, and housing that will be used for the 2025 Regional Plan.

Public Comments: Alan C., Truth, Allegedly Audra, Mark, Lori Robbin, Consuelo, Mike, Paul the Bold, and Blair Beekman.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Moreno, and a second by Councilmember Burkholder, the Board voted to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda.

The motion passed.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Lesa Heebner (Solana Beach), Councilmember Burkholder, Councilmember Chavez, Councilmember Duncan, Deputy Mayor Gaasterland, Mayor Wells, Mayor Kranz, Mayor

White, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Shu, Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Molina, Deputy Mayor Keim, Mayor Vaus, Councilmember Moreno, Mayor Jones, Mayor Minto, and Deputy Mayor Melendez.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

6. Mid-Coast Trolley Ridership Update

This report provided an update on ridership of the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley with a focus on the Mid-Coast extension.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Burkholder and a second by Mayor Jones, the Board voted to agendaize a future board report on the Mid-Coast line including how the new extension segment is performing relative to the overall Blue Line and the Blue Line segment between downtown and San Diego's southern border including how is the project meeting project performance objectives and goals, including onboarding and offboarding information to inform what segments and stops are in demand and where to focus future improvements and maintenance, and how does the ridership of the overall Blue Line over the last 10-years in compare to the ridership of the Mid-Coast extension against the very popular southern portion which we know is being utilized.

The motion passed.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Heebner, Councilmember Burkholder, Councilmember Chavez, Councilmember Duncan, Deputy Mayor Gaasterland, Mayor Wells, Mayor Kranz, Mayor White, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Shu, Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Molina, Deputy Mayor Keim, Mayor Vaus, Councilmember Moreno, Mayor Jones, Mayor Minto, and Deputy Mayor Melendez.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Reports

9. Management Response to the SR 125 Investigation

Chief Executive Officer Coleen Clementson presented the management response to the Independent Performance Auditor's Report on SANDAG's State Route 125 Toll Operations.

Public Comments: Alan C., Truth, Allegedly Audra, Mark, Consuelo, Paul the Bold, Eric Christen, and Blair Beekman.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Molina, and a second by Second Vice Chair Heebner, the Board voted to adopt the revised Toll Operations Action Plan as referenced in Attachment 1B to Agenda Item 10, Management Response to the SR 125 Investigation.

The motion passed.

Yes: Chairwoman Vargas, Second Vice Chair Heebner, Councilmember Burkholder, Councilmember Chavez, Councilmember Duncan, Deputy Mayor Gaasterland, Mayor Kranz, Mayor White, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Shu, Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Molina, Deputy Mayor Keim, Councilmember Campillo, Mayor Jones, Mayor Minto, and Deputy Mayor Melendez.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: El Cajon and Poway.

10. Response by the Office of the Independent Auditor to Management's Response to the SR 125

Investigation

Independent Performance Auditor Courtney Ruby presented the Office of the Independent Auditor's (OIPA) response to the materials prepared by Management in response to the OIPA Investigation on SANDAG's State Route 125 Toll Operations.

Public Comments: Alan C., Truth, Allegedly Audra, Mark, Consuelo, Mike, Paul the Bold, and Blair Beekman.

Action: Information.

11. Process for Removing Tolls on State Route 125

This item was postponed to a future meeting of the Board of Directors.

Continued Non-Agenda Public Comments: Consuelo, Paul the Bold, and Blair Beekman.

Closed Session

12. Conference With Legal Counsel Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (D)(4) Initiation of Litigation (Three Potential Cases)

This item was postponed to a future meeting of the Board of Directors.

13. Conference with Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

This item was pulled from the agenda.

14. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(D)(1) – Garcia v. San Diego Association of Governments (San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2024-00014432-CU-OECTL)

This item was postponed to a future meeting of the Board of Directors.

15. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(D)(1) – Neel v. San Diego Association of Governments (San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00011222-CU-WT-CTL)

This item was postponed to a future meeting of the Board of Directors.

16. Adjournment

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Second Vice Chair Heebner adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Board of Directors	Title	Name	Attend
City of Carlsbad	Councilmember	Melanie Burkholder (Primary)	Yes
City of Chula Vista	Councilmember	Carolina Chavez (Primary)	Yes
City of Coronado	Councilmember	John Duncan (Primary)	Yes
County of San Diego	Chairwoman	Nora Vargas (Primary)	Yes
County of San Diego	Supervisor	Joel Anderson (Primary)	Yes
City of Del Mar	Deputy Mayor	Terry Gaasterland (Primary)	Yes
City of El Cajon	Mayor	Bill Wells (Primary)	Yes
City of Encinitas	Mayor	Tony Kranz (Primary)	Yes
City of Escondido	Mayor	Dane White (Primary)	Yes
City of Imperial Beach	Councilmember	Jack Fisher (Primary)	Yes
City of La Mesa	Councilmember	Jack Shu (Primary)	Yes
City of Lemon Grove	Mayor	Racquel Vasquez (Primary)	Yes
City of National City	Councilmember	Luz Molina (Primary)	Yes
City of Oceanside	Deputy Mayor	Ryan Keim (Primary)	Yes
City of Poway	Mayor	Steve Vaus (Primary)	Yes
City of San Diego	Councilmember	Raul Campillo (Alternate) 9 am – 11:35 am	Yes
City of San Diego	Councilmember	Vivian Moreno (1st Alt) 9 am – 1:59 pm	Yes
City of San Marcos	Mayor	Rebecca Jones (Primary) 9 am – 1:30 pm	Yes
	Councilmember	Ed Musgrove (Alternate) 1:30 pm – 1:59 pm	Yes
City of Santee	Mayor	John Minto (Primary)	Yes
City of Solana Beach	Second Vice Chair	Lesia Heebner (Primary) 11:30 am – 1:59 pm	Yes
	Deputy Mayor	Jewel Edson (Alternate) 9 am – 11:30 am	Yes
City of Vista	Deputy Mayor	Katie Melendez (Primary)	Yes - virtual
Caltrans	Director	Everett Townsend	Yes
Metropolitan Transit System	Councilmember	Patricia Dillard (Alternate)	Yes
North County Transit District	Deputy Mayor	Jewel Edson (Primary)	Yes
Imperial County	Deputy Mayor	Jesus Eduardo Escobar	No
U.S. Department of Defense	Supervisor	Dennis Keck (Primary)	No
Port of San Diego	Executive Director	Dan Malcolm (Primary)	No
San Diego County Water Authority	Commissioner	Mel Katz (Primary)	Yes
SDCRAA	Director	Gil Cabrera (Primary)	Yes
Mexico	Director	Alicia Kerber (Primary)	No
SCTCA	Consul General	Erica Pinto (Primary)	No
Association of Planning Groups	Chairwoman	Robin Joy Maxson	Yes