

Action Summary Minutes

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SPECIAL CITY SELECTION  
COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, April 20, 2023**

*Meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, the Southern Region Office, VTC Room, 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, and teleconference in the Northern Region Office, VTC Room, and 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto. Members of the public were allowed to participate in-person at any of the referenced locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The meeting was also webcast.*

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Chair of the Special City Selection Committee, Councilmember Drew Bessinger, called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following members were present:

<b>City</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Arvin	Olivia Trujillo	Bakersfield
Atwater	Danny Ambriz	Modesto
Avenal	Alvaro Preciado	Fresno
Chowchilla	Jeff Troost	Fresno
Clovis	Drew Bessinger	Fresno
Delano	Salvador Solorio-Ruiz	Bakersfield
Dinuba	Kuldip Thusu	Fresno
Exeter	Justin Mills	VTC
Firebaugh	Elsa Lopez	Fresno
Fowler	Amarjeet Gill	Fresno
Gustine	Rich Ford	Modesto
Hanford	Travis Paden	Fresno
Hughson	Sam Rush	Modesto
Kingsburg	David Silva	Fresno
Lathrop	Paul Akinjo	Modesto
Lemoore	Patricia Matthews	Fresno
Lodi	Lisa Craig	Modesto
Los Banos	Deborah Lewis	Fresno
Maricopa	Virgil Bell	Bakersfield

<b>City</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
McFarland	Anita Gonzalez	Bakersfield
Mendota	Jose Alonso	Fresno
Merced	Shane Smith	Modesto
Modesto	Chris Ricci	Modesto
Oakdale	Christopher Smith	Modesto
Porterville	Don Weyhrauch	Fresno
Reedley	Suzanne Byers	Fresno
Riverbank	Darlene Barber-Martinez	Modesto
Shafter	Cathy Prout	Bakersfield
Stockton	Kevin Lincoln	Modesto
Taft	Josh Bryant	Bakersfield
Tracy	Mateo Bedolla	VTC
Turlock	Cassandra Abram	Modesto
Visalia	Liz Wynn	Fresno
Wasco	Alexandro Garcia	Bakersfield
Woodlake	Jose Martinez	Fresno

3. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES OF MAY 31, 2022:

The Chair asked for member comments or suggested revisions to the Minutes for the meeting held on May 31, 2022.

Public Comments: None

In the absence of opposition, Chair Bessinger deemed the minutes approved.

4. APPOINT CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GOVERNING BOARD:

Mr. Sheikh explained there are currently two vacancies on the District's Governing Board, one for a larger city and one for a small city. The North and South Valley Chapters of the California League of Cities requested that the District seek nominees to fill the vacant city seats. Based upon the adopted procedures and rotation schedule, the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) determined that the large city representative must come from Stanislaus County and the small city representative must come from Kern County.

On February 17, 2023, the District mailed applications to city council members for small cities in Kern County and the large city in Stanislaus County. Two applications were received from Kern County and ballots were mailed to all cities in Kern County to select their preferred candidate. The majority cities within Kern County who took action selected Councilmember Gilberto Reyna, City of Wasco, as their preferred candidate for the District's Governing Board. For Stanislaus County, there was one

application received from the City of Modesto and ballots were mailed to all cities in Stanislaus County to select their preferred candidate. Modesto City Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton was selected by the Stanislaus County cities as the large city candidate for the District's Governing Board.

Mr. Sheikh advised the Committee that, in accordance with state law, final appointments require approval by the Special City Selection Committee.

Mr. Bryant inquired if the item would be taken as a single vote or if they would be presented separately. Chair Bessinger stated that the candidates would be voted on individually.

*Moved:* Weyhrauch  
*Seconded:* Wynn  
*Ayes:* Trujillo, Ambriz, Preciado, Troost, Bessinger, Solorio-Ruiz, Thusu, Mills, Lopez, Gill, Ford, Paden, Rush, Silva, Akinjo, Matthews, Craig, Lewis, Bell, Gonzalez, Alonso, Smith, Alvarez, Smith, Weyhrauch, Byers, Barber-Martinez, Prout, Lincoln, Bryant, Bedolla, Abram, Wynn, Garcia, Martinez  
*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried 35-0 to appoint Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton to the District's Governing Board as the large city representative from Stanislaus County.***

Chairman Bessinger opened the floor for a motion to appoint Councilmember Gilberto Reyna from the City of Wasco.

*Moved:* Garcia  
*Seconded:* Trujillo  
*Ayes:* Trujillo, Ambriz, Preciado, Troost, Bessinger, Solorio-Ruiz, Thusu, Mills, Lopez, Gill, Ford, Paden, Rush, Silva, Akinjo, Matthews, Craig, Lewis, Gonzalez, Alonso, Smith, Alvarez, Smith, Weyhrauch, Byers, Barber-Martinez, Prout, Lincoln, Bedolla, Abram, Wynn, Garcia, Martinez  
*Nays:* Bell, Bryant

***Motion carried 33-2 to appoint Councilmember Gilberto Reyna to the District's Governing Board as the small city representative from Kern County.***

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Ms. Byers thanked the candidates for taking the time to apply and felt confident in appointing them to the Governing Board.

Mr. Thusu appreciated being back in person and asked if there was a way to give more perspective and how often the committee would be meeting. Mr. Sheikh thanked Mr. Thusu for his question and explained that the sole charge of the body is to appoint members who are city representatives to the Governing Board and generally meets once a year to fill vacancies on the Board.

Mr. Bell asked if the Committee could consider multiple candidates for a vacant position. Mr. Sheikh explained that based on the policies set forth by the Committee, the Committee may only confirm or reject the nomination that comes from the cities within county that the vacant seat is representing. In this case, the cities within Kern County considered the two candidates and voted to forward Councilmember Reyna as the candidate for consideration by the Committee.

Mr. Akinjo asked for clarification on the Committee's adopted procedures and rotation schedule. Mr. Sheikh responded that an overview of the adopted procedures and rotation schedule could be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Rush suggested that nominees to be present at the meeting in order to assist the committee members in their voting process.

Mr. Paden asked which counties would be next in the rotation. Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, responded that it is dependent upon how the order of vacancies that occur on the Board. State law requires that the Governing Board has members representing two large cities and three small cities subject to the following criteria: no county can have more than one city representative on the Board, one small city representative shall be from each of the three regions (Northern, Central, Southern), large city representatives must be from a city with a population over 100,000, large city representatives cannot be from the same county as a small city representative, and large representatives must be from different regions. Mr. Jordan stated that the adopted procedures and rotation schedule must be applied based on the vacancy and state law criteria to determine the next county and eligible city/ies.

Mr. Bryant asked for clarification from Mr. Jordan about the first step in the process of filling vacancies. Mr. Jordan stated that the first step is to contact the League of Cities and determine if the League wants to nominate a candidate or if they want the District to handle the nomination process using the procedures and rotation schedule adopted by the Committee.

7. ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.