

**ITEM: 3**

**TCAG SR 65, SR 99, SR 190, and SR 198 Sustainable Corridor  
Committees (SCCs) Joint Meeting**

**November 7, 2019**

**SR 65 Committee**

Kuyler Crocker, Elected Official	Member	A
Dennis Townsend, Elected Official	Member	A
Martha Flores, Elected Official	Member	A
Gail Miller/Michael Navarro, Caltrans	Member	A/A
Aaron Bock/Johnson Vang, County of Tulare	Member	P/A
Eddie Wendt/Daymon Qualls, City of Exeter	Member	P/A
Jeff Cowart/Michael Camarena, City of Lindsay	Member	P/A
Jenni Byers, City of Porterville	Member	P
Karl Schoettler, Planner	Member	P
Mark Hays, TCAG	Staff	P
Brad Cole, Caltrans	Staff	P

**SR 99 Committee**

Eddie Valero, Elected Official	Member	P
Pete Vander Poel, Elected Official	Member	A
Gail Miller/Michael Navarro, Caltrans	Member	A/A
Michael Washam/Dave Bryant, County of Tulare	Member	P/P
Jan Bowen, City of Tulare	Member	A
David Hernandez, City of Visalia	Member	A
Karl Schoettler, Planner	Member	P
Derek Winning, TCAG	Staff	A
Brad Cole, Caltrans	Staff	P

**SR 190 Committee**

Dennis Townsend, Elected Official	Member	A
Martha Flores, Elected Official	Member	A
Gail Miller/Michael Navarro, Caltrans	Member	A/A
Aaron Bock/Michael Winton, County of Tulare	Member	P/A
Jenni Byers, City of Porterville	Member	P
Lisa Ruffa, Springville/Realtor	Member	A
Karl Schoettler, Planner	Member	P
Mark Hays, TCAG	Staff	P
Brad Cole, Caltrans	Staff	P

## SR 198 Committee

Amy Shuklian, Elected Official	Member	A
Kuyler Crocker, Elected Official	Member	A
Paul Boyer, Elected Official	Member	P
Gail Miller/Michael Navarro, Caltrans	Member	A/A
Dave Bryant/Johnson Vang, County of Tulare	Member	P/A
Frank Senteno, City of Visalia	Member	A
Karl Schoettler, Planner	Member	P
Mario Cifuentez, City of Visalia	Member	A
Kasia Poleszczuk, TCAG	Staff	P
Brad Cole, Caltrans	Staff	P

## Additional Attendees

Ted Smalley	TCAG	P
Roberto Brady	TCAG	P
Joshua Medires	Tulare RMA	P
Michael Knight	Porterville	P
John Liu	Caltrans	P
Jenna Whitney	TCAG	P

P=Present A=Absent

## Summary Meeting Minutes

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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

The SCCs Joint Meeting was opened by Mark Hays at 10:07 a.m. at the Tulare County Association of Governments, 210 N. Church Street, Ste. B, Visalia, CA 93291. Persons in attendance introduced themselves.

### 2. Public Comments

Public Comments opened/closed at 10:08 a.m. No comments received.

### 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2019

A motion for approval was made with a second. The committee voted to approve the minutes of the SCCs Meeting on August 15, 2019.

### 4. Partnership Opportunities on Debris Pick-up within highways

John Liu, Deputy District Director of Maintenance and Operations with Caltrans, discussed partnership opportunities for highway clean up, including examples from Fresno and Kern Counties. Highway clean up used to be accomplished mostly by using inmates as a cheap workforce, however that labor pool is drying up. A penitentiary workforce is cheap for Caltrans

because they only needed to pay wages for the security guards, so all other options that include paying workers a minimum wage are, by comparison, much more expensive. A single crew that would be paid minimum wage would cost \$250,000-300,000 a year.

Branching out from an inmate work force, there were a few pilot projects used as examples.

- Adopt-a-highway is a program where an organization commits to a stretch of highway for five years, and does about six clean ups a year. There are many locations available for adoption; while there used to be a waiting list, the option hasn't had as much interest as it did in the past.
- One-time options for adopt-a-highway, where interested groups could clean for a day instead of making a commitment for five years.
- Veteran crews have been used by other locations. The crews are comprised of veterans who have recently left the armed forces, and work in highway clean up as an intermediary job while re-adapting to society and learning new skills to pursue new careers.
- A Delegated Service Agreement pays local agencies to do highway clean up, landscaping, and/or maintenance, and the local agency either conducts the work themselves or contracts it to an organization.
- KernCOG and the City of Bakersfield has started a program with the Bakersfield Homeless Center. Litter piles up quickly partially because of homeless populations, and the Homeless Center has taken on the responsibility to clean it up while providing a job for its residents. This option is also an example of a Delegated Service Agreement; the Homeless Center was paid \$250,000 to conduct the efforts. The example is planned to be expanded within Kern County; Kern County would pay close to a 50% match. The efforts would also be funded by big businesses.
- The City of Fresno has a large and spread out homeless population that is not stationary, and Caltrans is required to hire expensive hazmat cleanup crews because of some of the waste left behind. Fresno's Measure C is helping pay for corridor clean up. An arrangement was made for a short-term fix where Caltrans pays 50%, FresnoCOG 25%, and interested local agency's 25%. Fresno went out to bid and hoped to get the program off the ground next month.
- Parole Violation or Court Referral programs offers clean ups as community service instead of jail time or fines. This option is big in southern California. The option was canceled in Fresno because of issues with covering liability for workers compensation.
- Civic engagement is a declining force, but such partnerships can be highly helpful. An example was the Mighty 190 in Porterville, which started as grassroots efforts to benefit tourism and grew beyond its original purpose.

A question was asked about irrigation of landscaping. Oleanders in the median are usually not watered, and irrigation is scheduled for nighttime in conservative amounts as much as possible. Repairs and tests must be done during the day however, but questions or concerns can be addressed using the customer service option given on Caltrans' website.

A question was asked about liability issues. Any group contracted to do highway clean up would need liability insurance, which would be handled by the contractor.

When asked, Mr. Liu was unable to answer how many miles are up for adoption in Tulare County, but he knew it was a large number.

It was asked how highway adoption is advertised. Advertisements have been successful as brochures in lobbies and road signage, and Caltrans will speak at events regarding the option if invited. Deanna Hornbeck is the coordinator for Tulare County.

It was asked if a development next to a highway could be in charge of landscaping maintenance. Developments can be, and are sometimes permitted to do so, usually when the development is being built. Retroactively seeking responsibility of landscaping happens more rarely.

If a local agency is not interested in maintenance, then Caltrans designs for hardscaping without landscaping to make maintenance easier.

Brad Cole, landscape architect with Caltrans District 06, gave a brief presentation on roadside design features.

### **5. Potential Highway Improvement Projects on Routes 65, 190, 99, 198**

Kasia Poleszczuk showed a PowerPoint for visual reference of the proposed ideas for highway projects. Many were discussing screening to hide unsightly views alongside the highways, or landscaping/hardscaping to improve aesthetics and prevent unkempt visuals, or maintenance for the landscaping at the sites.

### **6. Corridors Update**

No updates were given.

### **11. Schedule Next Meeting**

Mr. Hays stated the next meeting would be held in March 10, 2020.

### **12. Adjourn**

The SCCs Joint Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.