

San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
July 24, 2015

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Joint Powers Authority (JPA) met in Sacramento, CA on July 24, 2015 from 1:30 PM to 3:15 PM. The following transpired:

1. **Attendees** – Chair Pedrozo (Merced Co.), Vice-Chair Perea (Fresno Co.), Tatzin (Contra Costa Co.), Hume (Elk Grove/RT), O'Brien (Alternate-Stanislaus Co.), Blalock (Alternate-Alameda Co./BART), Ishida (Tulare Co.), Johnson (San Joaquin Co.).
2. **Signing if the Interagency Transfer Agreement (ITA)** – The ITA for transfer of the San Joaquins from CalSTA to the SJJPA oversight was signed at the end of June. Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) was a key player in this process. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Authority is the Managing Agency under contract to the SJJPA for the service.
3. **Presentation by City of Sacramento** – Sacramento Councilmember Steve Hansen welcomed the Board and the 50+ attendees to Sacramento and provided an overview of the various related transportation and land use efforts underway in the Sacramento region/rail corridor. Mr. Hansen noted the special interest and issues in the Railyards including the connection to the CCJPA/Amtrak tracks, MLS, Kaiser, Streetcar, Green Line, I Street Bridge and (offsite) the Arena/ESC.
4. **Consent Calendar** – Approved including the next SJJPA Board meeting in Merced on September 18, beginning at 1:30 PM.
5. **Public Comments** – Comments were provided by RT GM/CEO Wiley who provided congratulations to the Board, the potential and opportunity for an Elk Grove Station, and RT's ongoing commitment and partnership. Other public comments focused dynamic pricing of fares, joint marketing with local communities and expansion of the state passenger railroad services particularly to the (far) northern CA area.
6. **BNSF** – Mr. Rick Depler of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) provided an overview of their operations and coordination with the CA passenger services. He noted that on-time performance was fluxuating based on "hot weather" and construction schedules. He noted that there would be new dispatchers in CA in August and this would help improve passenger rail performance. Mr. Depler mentioned that Positive Train Control (PTC) needs to be implemented by 12/30/15 (per federal law) and BNSF is ready; however, UPRR is uncertain.
7. **State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee Representatives** – The Committee is a national committee comprised of representatives from 23 states and includes four (4) representatives from California. The SJJPA representative is Ms. Stacey Mortenson (Exec Dir) and the alternate is Mr. Brian Schmidt (Mgr of Rail Ops).
8. **San Joaquin Operations** – Mr. Brian Schmidt provided an update. He noted that six locomotives (being constructed at the Siemens Facility in Sacramento) will be in

service in July 2016 in Northern CA. Mr. Schmidt noted that ridership was down 5% on the San Joaquins and that the staff will be assessing the reasons for this and reporting back.

- 9. Amtrak 2015-16 Contract** – The existing contract goes through September 30, 2015 and the new SJJPA and Caltrans met with Amtrak to continue negotiations on the contract for FFY16.
- 10. Marketing & Outreach** – Ms. Karla Davies of the SJJPA discussed upcoming efforts including developing a strategic plan that will focus on redesign of the website (emphasis on easy access and use, access to ticketing, schedules, connectivity to other sites and communities), branding, local and linkages, graphic design and outreach/feedback connections. Ms. Davies intends to present the draft Strategic Plan at the next Board Meeting in September.
- 11. San Joaquin Rail Committee** – The existing San Joaquin (SJ) Rail Committee is a “citizens” committee intended to provide input to the Board on the SJ rail service. With the formation of the new JPA, the Committee will need to be restructured to not include Elected or staff of the Member Agencies (these representatives will remain on the Technical Committee). For RT, this allows for the selection of two new members. RT’s GM has been requested by the SJJPA to identify candidates and will work with the RT Board to confirm the candidates.
- 12. Northern CA Mega Region Study** – There is funding at the state level to fund a major study, environmental documentation and some infrastructure improvements for the San Joaquin corridor including the Stockton to Sacramento segment. The SJJPA Staff are working with CalSTA and the CAHSRA to have the funding released with the goal being to hire a consultant in 2016 to advance the planning and environmental clearance for this corridor.
- 13. CA Intercity Passenger Rail Leadership Coalition Update** – It was announced that the State Assembly Select Committee for Intercity Rail will hold a hearing in Modesto on August 21, 2015 from 10 AM to 12 Noon. And it was noted that there is discussion in the Legislature on increasing the percent of Cap & Trade funding for the TIRCP program.
- 14. Administrative Matters** – It was noted that the CCJPA received 4.6M in TIRCP funding for track improvements that will also benefit the San Joaquins. And it was noted that the Stockton to Escalon segment of the San Joaquin corridor will be funded with \$25M from the STIP.
- 15. Board Member Comments** – Board members noted that funding bills SBX1 8 and ABX1 and SBX1 7 and ABX1 8 were working through the state legislature with the goals of increasing funding for the rail programs in California.
- 16. Adjournment** – The SJJPA Board meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM. The next Board meeting is in Merced on September 18 beginning at 1:30 PM.