

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**ECO-RAPID TRANSIT/ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**September 8, 2021**  
**Teleconference Meeting via Zoom or by Phone**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Eco-Rapid Transit Board Chair Ali Sajjad Taj called the meeting to order at 6:32PM online and on the phone.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sean Ashton, Vice Chair Board, Councilmember, City of Downey led the assembly in the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES**

Authority Board Members Present:

Ali Sajjad Taj, Chair, Mayor, City of Artesia  
Sean Ashton, Vice Chair Board, Councilmember, City of Downey  
Vrej Agajanian Board Secretary, Councilmember, City of Glendale  
Silvia Martinez, Board Member, Planning Commissioner, City of Bell  
Marco Barcena, Alternate, City of Bell Gardens  
Bruce Barrows, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Cerritos  
Karina Macias, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Huntington Park  
Reyna Mendez, Alternate Board Member, City of Maywood  
Maria Davila, Board Member, Mayor, City of South Gate  
Laurie Guillen, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Paramount  
Frank Quintero, Alternate Board Member, Airport Authority (Burbank)  
William Rawlings, Ex-Oficio City Manager Representative, City of Artesia

Others:

Michael R. Kodama, Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit  
Mathew Summers, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, Eco-Rapid Transit General Counsel  
Karen Lee, Management Analyst, City of Artesia  
Torrey Contreras, Senior Assistant City Manager, City of Cerritos  
Sergio Infanzon, City of Huntington Park- Community Development  
Lillian Burkenheim, Eco-Rapid Transit Community Planning and Development Director  
Allyn Rifkin, Transportation Planner/Engineer, Eco-Rapid Transit  
Cristina Quintero, Administration, Michael Kodama Planning Consultants  
Julia Stewart, Consultant

**ITEM 4 - CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a) Approval of Minutes of August 11, 2021**
- b) Approval of Warrant Register dated September 8, 2021**
- c) Approval of Treasurer's Report for the period of August 2021**

**MOTION:** Board Member Frank Quintero, Burbank Airport Authority, moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Board Member Maria Davila, City of Southgate, seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

**ITEM 5 - PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comments were received.

**ITEM 6 - PRESENTATION TO NORM ARIKAWA AS HE RETIRES FROM THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES AND IN RECOGNITION FOR HIS LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION TO BUILDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ECO-RAPID TRANSIT**

The Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors recognized Mr. Norman Arikawa as he retires from the Port of Los Angeles and for his contributions to building international relations with Eco-Rapid Transit.

Mr. Norman Arikawa served as the Assistant Director of Trade Development for the Port of Los Angeles. Mr. Arikawa worked with Eco-Rapid Transit, providing his expertise to help us engage with the international trade community, specifically participating in our Eco-Rapid Transit Transportation Summits, hosting meetings with the Port of Los Angeles, participating in Eco-Rapid Transit board meetings and being a key advisor with our delegations to Japan and China.

Board Directors Frank Quintero and Maria Davila thanked Mr. Arikawa for his help and look forward to continuing to work with him.

**ITEM 7 - UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH PUBLIC HEARINGS, POP-UP EVENTS, AND IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

Executive Director Kodama discusses methods of public participation related to the WSAB environmental process, upcoming hearings and Metro Board meetings. Executive Director Kodama stated he would talk with Mark Dierking of Metro to see what is possible.

Board Member Maria Davila, City of South Gate stated her City is having a Family's day at the Park on October 9, 2021 and requested to share that information with Mark Dierking of Metro. She will make sure there will be a place for Metro to have a booth to provide information about the rail system and the upcoming Metro Board meetings in November and December.

**MOTION:** Moved to Receive and File Items 6 and Item 7.

**ITEM 8 - CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL; INITIATION OF LITIGATION (GOV. CODE § 54956.9(d)(4))  
NUMBER OF POTENTIAL CASES: 1**

Eco-Rapid Transit General Counsel Matthew Summers introduced the closed session item and turned the meeting over to Executive Director Michael Kodama.

General Counsel Matthew Summers announced the closed session.

General Counsel Matthew Summers reported that no reportable action was taken.

**ITEM 9 - WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AND BOARD DIRECTION RE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT'S COMMENT LETTER TO METRO ON WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Executive Director Michael Kodama introduced the Item. He explained the item is a summary of the status on a comment the letter to Metro on the West Santa Ana Branch Corridor Project EIS/EIR. Staff is in the process of preparing the letter and is seeking guidance and input from the Board of Directors. Staff will work with the Eco Rapid Transit Board members and their staff and anticipate coming back in two weeks with the draft document for review and consideration for final approval.

Upon request, no comments regarding the item were made.

**MOTION:** Chair Ali Sajjad Taj of Artesia asked unless there are any objections and since there are no actions, to receive and file items 6, 7, 8, and 9.

**ITEM 10 - COMMUNICATION ITEMS TO THE BOARD**

Executive Director Michael Kodama thanked the Board for their participation during the meeting and thanked staff for all the hard work put in this month working on the review and comments of the Project.

**ITEM 11 - COMMUNICATION ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

Board Member Reyna Mendez, City of Maywood thanked all the Board members and staff for being passionate about serving the community. She also thanked Chair Ali Taj of Artesia and Executive Director Michael Kodama for attending her Maywood's City Council Meeting and she is very grateful that time was taken to advocate for the project and to be at the meeting.

Chair Ali Sajjad Taj of Artesia thanked Board Member Reyna Mendez, City of Maywood for the acknowledgement and said it was a pleasure to speak at the meeting and restated his commitment to go wherever he can be of assistance and speak to advocate for the Project.

Chair Ali Taj of Artesia also thanked Board Secretary Vrej Agajanian, City of Glendale for hosting lunch for Board Member Frank Quintero, Burbank Airport Authority, Executive Director Michael Kodama and himself. He also mentioned an upcoming interview on Board Secretary Agajanian's television station.

Vrej Agajanian, City of Glendale thanked Chair Ali Taj of Artesia for coming to Glendale and being his guest. He noted his television station reaches areas between Santa Barbara and to Riverside/San Bernardino going South and Glendale to far North and looks forward to giving the rail project greater exposure.

**ITEM 12 - ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ali Sajjad Taj, City of Artesia adjourns the meeting and states next meeting is October 13, 2021.

**The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.**

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Secretary  
Attest:

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Chair

Approved:

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF**  
**ECO-RAPID TRANSIT/ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**September 21, 2021**  
**Teleconference Meeting via Zoom or by Phone**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Eco-Rapid Transit Board Chair Ali Sajjad Taj called the meeting to order at 7:00PM online and on the phone.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sean Ashton, Vice Chair Board, Councilmember, City of Downey led the assembly in the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES**

Authority Board Members Present:

Ali Sajjad Taj, Chair, Mayor, City of Artesia  
Sean Ashton, Vice Chair Board, Councilmember, City of Downey  
Alicia Romero, Board Member and Mayor, City of Bell  
Silvia Martinez, Board Member, Planning Commissioner, City of Bell  
Marco Barcena, Board Member, Mayor, City of Bell Gardens  
Bruce Barrows, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Cerritos  
Karina Macias, Board Member, Councilmember, City of Huntington Park  
Ricardo Lara, Board Member, Mayor, City of Maywood  
Reyna Mendez, Alternate Board Member, City of Maywood  
Maria Davila, Board Member, Mayor, City of South Gate  
Frank Quintero, Alternate Board Member, Airport Authority (Burbank)

Others:

Michael R. Kodama, Executive Director, Eco-Rapid Transit  
Karen Lee, Management Analyst, City of Artesia  
Jamie Wong, Transportation Deputy, Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office  
Mathew Summers, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, Eco-Rapid Transit general Counsel  
Lillian Burkenheim, Eco-Rapid Transit Community Planning and Development Director  
Allyn Rifkin, Transportation Planner/Engineer, Eco-Rapid Transit  
Walter Beaumont, Community Planner, Eco-Rapid Transit  
Julia Stewart, Consultant  
Sarah McMinimy, Senior Consultant, Steer  
Cristina Quintero, Administration, Michael Kodama Planning Consultants

**ITEM 4 - PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comments were received.

## **ITEM 5 - APPROVE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT COMMENT LETTER TO METRO RE WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Executive Director, Michael Kodama introduced the item. He stated notes were used from the last Board meeting in preparation of this item, as guidance for the Comment letter to Metro. Mr. Kodama stated the key to the letter is in the first paragraph, which is stating the selection of alternative one, design option 2 and with permission of the Board, staff's recommendation will be submitted to Metro as the official position of the Eco-Rapid Transit Board. Executive Director Michael Kodama introduced Eco-Rapid Transit Community Planning and Development Director Lillian Burkenheim to give a brief overview of some of the issues highlighted in the comment letter.

Eco-Rapid Transit Community Planning and Development Director Lillian Burkenheim stated that after reading the draft EIR/EIS and listening to issues raised at meetings with the Board, their staff, community meetings, and hearings, the comment letter was drafted to convey your concerns on the draft EIR/EIS to Metro, as well as to provide and outline for the Board's cities to expand their specific issues. Mrs. Burkenheim listed top areas of concern:

- One seat ride to Union Station;
- A connection between the industries in Gateway Cities to Downtown Los Angeles;
- Transportation for workers from their homes to the job rich areas;
- Easy access to the amazing restaurants, shops, and neighborhoods throughout Gateway Cities;
- Creation of a state-of-the-art transit line that is environmentally friendly and economically sustainable and equitable;
- Neighborhood land use protection for negative construction and operating impacts;
- Maximizing protection for our businesses and districts through a robust mitigation program, planning with the community, active marketing, and a business loss fund;
- Working together to find alternative sources of funding both for the transit line as well as for the Cities 3% funding contributions;
- Minimize traffic impacts to station design areas and promote connectivity;
- Ensure security and safety to the highest level feasible;
- Study and reconsider the proposed parking plan;
- Maintain or improve upon current level of trees open space and recreation facilities

Eco-Rapid Transit Community Planning and Development Director Lillian Burkenheim stated the letter was drafted with these key goals in mind and currently, Metro's proposed design option does not meet those goals.

Chair Ali Sajjad Taj, City of Artesia opens for discussion.

Board Member Bruce Barrows of Cerritos, makes reference to attempts to develop the corridor back in the 80's and suggests restating the timeframe for working on this project from 19 years to 30+ years and that the development of the stations along the corridor should be at least to the standard of the better stations in the other cities.

Board Member Ricardo Lara thanked Eco-Rapid Transit staff for preparing the letter and thanks his Alternate, Reyna Mendez for doing a great job at representing Maywood at the Board meetings. Thanks for the inclusion of Maywood in the process and the report and the project has Maywood's full support.

Vice Chair Sean Ashton, City of Downey asks if it is possible to include comments received by Eco-Rapid Transit into the Comment Letter. Executive Director, Michael Kodama asked that staff be given the authority to add to and or revise the draft letter up until it is sent to Metro. Eco-Rapid Transit Community Planning and Development Director Lillian Burkenheim stated the letter received can be added to the comment letter, but will serve their purpose as separate letters from the individual cities. Mr. Kodama also mentioned staff is making additional efforts in assisting the City of Huntington Park to ensure housing concerns are properly worded in their letter.

Board Member Maria Davila, City of South Gate states we must be very clear that they support Alternative 1, Design Option 2 (Artesia to Union Station with a stop in Little Tokyo) and it has been the only option considered by the Eco-Rapid Transit Board from the beginning. She is glad to know the cities along the corridor have participated and provided information regarding their concerns and needs in the corridor area. Board Member Davila also praised the representatives sent by other Cities to be on the Board and that they are doing a great job speaking on behalf of their Cities. She also mentioned the support of Little Tokyo and how everyone needs to continue to stand strong together as they have from the beginning.

Board Member Silvia Martinez, City of Bell asks for clarity on what extension is being referred to at the beginning of the Letter. Executive Director, Michael Kodama stated it was in reference to the 3% contribution required by the Cities along the corridor. Eco-Rapid Transit General Counsel, Matthew Summers suggested changing the language to make the contribution distributed equally throughout the life of the project. Executive Director, Michael Kodama stated that the update can be made.

Board Member Marco Barcena, City of Bell Gardens made request to have a paragraph from the middle of page five stating: "Bell Gardens and Maywood should be included in all analysis..." could be introduced toward the beginning of Section 4. Executive Director, Michael Kodama stated that staff will look at it and make the adjustment.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Sean Ashton, City of Downey made the motion to approve the letter with the recommended updates as discussed in the meeting as well as previous emails. Board member Maria Davila seconds the motion

Chair Ali Sajjad Taj, City of Artesia requested a formal version of the motion be read by Executive Director, Michael Kodama.

Executive Director, Michael Kodama stated the motion is to approve Eco-Rapid Transit comment letter regarding the draft West Santa Ana Branch EIR/EIS and direct the Executive Director to finalize the letter with the comments from today, as well as others we have received, including incorporating the final revisions and file them with Metro and related agencies.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors.

## **ITEM 6 - COMMUNICATION ITEMS TO THE BOARD**

No items to report

## **ITEM 7 - COMMUNICATION ITEMS FROM THE BOARD**

No items to report

**ITEM 8 - ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ali Sajjad Taj, City of Artesia adjourns the meeting. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:26PM.

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Secretary  
Attest:

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Chair

Approved:



**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT  
WARRANT REGISTER  
(OCTOBER 13, 2021)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
MOHAMMED ALI SAJJAD TAJ	\$100.00
SILVIA MARTINEZ	\$100.00
MARCO BARCENA	\$100.00
BRUCE BARROWS	\$100.00
SEAN ASHTON	\$100.00
VREJ AGAJANIAN	\$100.00
KARINA MACIAS	\$100.00
REYNA MENDEZ	\$100.00
LAURIE GUILLEN	\$100.00
MARIA DAVILA	\$100.00
FRANK QUINTERO	\$100.00
MOHAMMED ALI SAJJAD TAJ	\$50.00
SILVIA MARTINEZ	\$50.00
MARCO BARCENA	\$50.00
BRUCE BARROWS	\$50.00
SEAN ASHTON	\$50.00
KARINA MACIAS	\$50.00
RICARDO LARA	\$100.00
MARIA DAVILA	\$50.00
FRANK QUINTERO	\$50.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Admin General)	\$3,074.48
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Admin Grants)	\$412.50
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Admin Grants)	\$1,575.00
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Reimbursement)	\$672.64
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (General Fund)	\$5,005.60
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant Funds)	\$6,147.40
MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant Funds)	\$2,000.00
LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (General Fund)	\$900.00
LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (Grant Funds)	\$7,350.00
ALLYN D. RIFKIN (General Fund)	\$350.00
ALLYN D. RIFKIN (Grant Funds)	\$1,250.00
WALTER BEAUMONT (General Fund)	\$37.50
WALTER BEAUMONT (Grant Funds)	\$1,012.50
BRUNO NAULLS (General Funds)	\$1,137.50
BRUNO NAULLS (Grant Funds)	\$601.25
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	\$1,083.39
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (Grant Funds)	\$17.50
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (Grant Funds)	\$52.50
JOHN MARTINEZ (General Funds)	\$435.92
JOHN MARTINEZ (Grant Funds)	\$36.00
JOHN MARTINEZ (Grant Funds)	\$45.00
JULIA STEWART (Grant Funds)	\$8,850.00
COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY	\$659.50
CLASSIC PLAN (DIRECTORS & OFFICERS)	\$462.95
CLASSIC PLAN (GENERAL POLICY)	\$127.10
KONICA MINOLTA	\$392.46
LA FORET ADVERTISING	\$350.00
ALL AMERICAN TROPHY & ENGRAVING CO.	\$165.38
SMART GROWTH AMERICA	\$10,528.66
SMART GROWTH AMERICA	\$14,080.63
 <b>VOID CHECKS</b>	
CK 12483 - SMART GROWTH AMERICA	\$9,318.59
CK 12484 - SMART GROWTH AMERICA	\$12,392.92
	-\$21,711.51
 <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$48,701.85</b>



Check #	Invoice #	Dated	Name	Distribution	Net Amount
12574	2021-09	9/8/2021	MOHAMMED ALI SAJJAD TAJ	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12575	2021-09	9/8/2021	SILVIA MARTINEZ	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12576	2021-09	9/8/2021	MARCO BARCENA	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12577	2021-09	9/8/2021	BRUCE BARROWS	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12578	2021-09	9/8/2021	SEAN ASHTON	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12579	2021-09	9/8/2021	VREJ AGAJANIAN	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12580	2021-09	9/8/2021	KARINA MACIAS	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12581	2021-09	9/8/2021	REYNA MENDEZ	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12582	2021-09	9/8/2021	LAURIE GUILLEN	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12583	2021-09	9/8/2021	MARIA DAVILA	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12584	2021-09	9/8/2021	FRANK QUINTERO	9/8/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12585	2021-09	09/21/21	MOHAMMED ALI SAJJAD TAJ	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12586	2021-09	09/21/21	SILVIA MARTINEZ	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12587	2021-09	09/21/21	MARCO BARCENA	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12588	2021-09	09/21/21	BRUCE BARROWS	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12589	2021-09	09/21/21	SEAN ASHTON	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12590	2021-09	09/21/21	KARINA MACIAS	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12591	2021-09	09/21/21	RICARDO LARA	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$100.00
12592	2021-09	09/21/21	MARIA DAVILA	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12593	2021-09	09/21/21	FRANK QUINTERO	9/21/21 Board Meeting Stipend	\$50.00
12594	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Admin General)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$3,074.48
12595	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Admin Grants)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$412.50
12596	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Admin Grants)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$1,575.00
12597	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Reimbursement)	Reimbursement Board Exp/office supplies	\$672.64
12598	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,005.60
12599	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$6,147.40
12600	2021-09	9/30/2021	MICHAEL R. KODAMA (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$2,000.00
12601	2021-09	9/30/2021	LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$900.00
12602	2021-09	9/30/2021	LILLIAN BURKENHEIM (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$7,350.00
12603	2021-09	9/30/2021	ALLYN D. RIFKIN (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$350.00
12604	2021-09	9/30/2021	ALLYN D. RIFKIN (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$1,250.00
12605	2021-09	9/30/2021	WALTER BEAUMONT (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$37.50
12606	2021-09	9/30/2021	WALTER BEAUMONT (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$1,012.50
12607	2021-09	9/30/2021	BRUNO NAULLS (General Funds)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$1,137.50
12608	2021-09	9/30/2021	BRUNO NAULLS (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$601.25

12609	2021-09	9/30/2021	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$1,083.39
12610	2021-09	9/30/2021	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$17.50
12611	2021-09	9/30/2021	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$52.50
12612	2021-09	9/30/2021	JOHN MARTINEZ (General Funds)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$435.92
12613	2021-09	9/30/2021	JOHN MARTINEZ (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$36.00
12614	2021-09	9/30/2021	JOHN MARTINEZ (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Caltrans TOC	\$45.00
12615	2021-09	9/30/2021	JULIA STEWART (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/WSAB	\$8,850.00
12616	49018	9/10/2021	COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY	Legal Services/General Fund	\$659.50
12617	332360	10/31/2021	CLASSIC PLAN (DIRECTORS & OFFICERS)	Insurance Fees/General Fund #332360	\$462.95
12618	333478	10/31/2021	CLASSIC PLAN (GENERAL POLICY)	Insurance Fees/General #333478	\$127.10
12619	38584815	9/28/2021	KONICA MINOLTA	Copy Charges/General Fund	\$392.46
12620	822	9/30/2021	LA FORET ADVERTISING	Web Maintenance/Eco-Rapid Transit	\$350.00
12621	112774	9/9/2021	ALL AMERICAN TROPHY & ENGRAVING CO.	Professional Services/General Fund	\$165.38

**Sub Total Disbursements**

**\$45,804.07**

**Replacement Checks**

12622	12483	4/30/2021	SMART GROWTH AMERICA (Grant Funds)	\$10,528.66
12623	12484	5/31/2021	SMART GROWTH AMERICA (Grant Funds)	\$14,080.63

**Total Replacement Check**

**\$24,609.29**

**Voided Checks**

13483	11	04/30/21	SMART GROWTH AMERICA (Grant Funds)	\$9,318.59
13484	12	05/31/21	SMART GROWTH AMERICA (Grant Funds)	\$12,392.92

**Total Void Payment**

**-\$21,711.51**

**Total Disbursements**

**\$48,701.85**

Approved for payment by Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$48,701.85**

ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2021  
(PREPARED ON OCTOBER 13, 2021)

	<u>Bank of the West</u>
Cash, beginning balance (deficit)	\$6,315.86
	<b>\$6,315.86</b>
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>	
City of Bellflower (WSAB Special Assessment)	\$2,500.00
City of Maywood (WSAB Special Assessment)	\$481.63
<b>Total cash receipts</b>	<b><u>\$2,981.63</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>	
Bank fee/Positive Pay Service/Other Charges	-\$10.00
Warrants, approved on 9/8/21	-\$63,183.77
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b><u>-\$63,193.77</u></b>
Cash, ending balance	<b><u><u>-\$53,896.28</u></u></b>

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Jose R. Gonzalez, Treasurer



Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Cerritos
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority
- Chair
- Ali Sajjad Taj  
Council Member  
City of Artesia
- Vice-Chair
- Sean Ashton  
Councilmember  
City of Downey
- Secretary
- Vrej Agajanian  
Councilmember  
City of Glendale
- Treasurer
- Jose R. Gonzalez  
Mayor  
City of Cudahy
- Internal Auditor
- Alejandra Cortez  
Councilmember  
City of Bell Gardens
- Executive Director  
Michael R. Kodama
- General Counsel  
Matthew T. Summers
- Ex-Officio  
William Rawlings  
City Manager Representative

**AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

**FROM:** Michael Kodama, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 13, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **NEW TELECONFERENCING LEGISLATION: AB 361 AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-02 OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCING MEETINGS OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(E) FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND TELECONFERENCE AS THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IS UNDER CERTAIN EMERGENCY ORDERS AND STILL PROMOTES SOCIAL DISTANCING AND THE USE OF FACE MASK**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker

**ISSUE**

Assembly Bill No. 361 (Rivas), signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 16, 2021, which establishes exceptions to teleconference requirements in the Brown Act during states of emergency takes effect immediately and requires certain actions by the Board to ensure its ability to continue to hold virtual and teleconference meetings.

**BACKGROUND**

The Brown Act sets certain restrictions on public agencies holding teleconference meetings. Most notably, public officials attending a meeting virtually must post the agenda in the location they are participating from and allow members of the public to attend the meeting from that space. AB 361 amends the Brown Act to allow "a local agency to use teleconferencing" during a proclaimed state of emergency without meeting these usual Brown Act teleconference requirements. AB 361 defines "state of emergency" by cross-reference to Government Code section 8625, which empowers the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency. The Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency must be in writing and takes immediate effect upon the Governor's issuance. This means AB 361 applies only when the Governor has declared a state of emergency, not when the Authority or another local agency has done so.



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William Rawlings  
City Manager Representative

If the Governor has declared a state of emergency, public agencies are not subject to the typical Brown Act teleconferencing requirements described above if one of the three standards is met:

1. Social distancing is imposed or recommended by state or local officials;
2. The legislative body is holding a meeting to determine, by majority vote, whether in-person meetings present an imminent risk to those attending the public meeting; or
3. The legislative body has already decided, by majority vote, that in-person meetings pose an imminent risk to those attending the public meeting, and meetings must continue.

If one of those circumstances exists, the Authority may hold meetings by teleconference without complying with Brown Act limitations so long as it complies with the following standards:

- Notice of the meeting must be given as otherwise required by the Brown Act, i.e., posting agendas at least 24 or 72 hours in advance in the usual places in Authority Hall and online.
- The agenda must state how members of the public can access the meeting and offer public comment, including attendance by call-in option and/or internet-based service option. If the meeting broadcast or access to participation is disrupted (e.g., by technology issues), the Authority cannot take further action on agenda items until public access to the meeting is restored.

The Authority cannot require public comments be submitted in advance of the meeting, but instead must provide an opportunity for real-time participation by members of the public. The Authority can encourage public comment be submitted before meetings.

- If the Authority provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item (i.e., 20 minutes per item), it cannot close public comment until that time period has concluded. If the Authority does not provide a timed public comment period for each agenda item, then it must allow a reasonable amount of time for members of the public to participate.

The third and fourth bullet points, in particular, establish new requirements not clearly described in the Brown Act Orders. Under the Brown Act Orders, many public agencies have required public comment be submitted in advance of meetings. AB 361 requires public agencies accept public comment in some form during meetings. Further, public agencies must either set and maintain a specific amount of time to provide public comments on each item or, if a specific time allotment is not provided, leave public comment open for each item for a reasonable amount of time. This time is intended to allow members of the public "the opportunity to register" to submit comment, or to actually provide comment. Therefore, AB 361 disallows public



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agencies from closing public comment on items when there is not immediate public participation.

AB 361 requires the Authority to regularly review and find an ongoing need to hold public meetings by teleconference. Specifically, the Authority must make the following findings by majority vote within 30 days of teleconferencing for the first time under AB 361, then every 30 days thereafter:

1. The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. One of the following circumstances exists:
  - The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person; or
  - State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

In short, to continue with virtual meetings, the Authority must adopt a resolution making the abovefindings within 30 days of its first teleconference meeting under AB 361. Then, the Authority must re-adopt those findings every 30 days if it wants to continue holding meetings by teleconference.

Staff has prepared the attached resolution entitled:

**"A RESOLUTION OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)"** for consideration of the Board with required findings for the continuance of virtual meetings and teleconference as the County of Los Angeles is under certain emergency orders and still promotes social distancing and the use of face mask.

This item is brought before the Board for immediate action as AB 361 went into effect September 16, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve Resolution 2021-02 authorizing remote teleconference meetings pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e);
2. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
3. Receive and file the item

## RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e), as amended by Assembly Bill No. 361, allows legislative bodies to hold open meetings by teleconference without reference to otherwise applicable requirements in Government Code section 54953(b)(3), so long as the legislative body complies with certain requirements, there exists a declared state of emergency, and one of the following circumstances is met:

1. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
2. The legislative body is holding the meeting for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. The legislative body has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to option 2, that as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

WHEREAS, the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8625 on March 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD desires to hold its public meetings by teleconference consistent with Government Code section 54953(e).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD OF THE ECO-RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Conditions are Met. The ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD hereby finds and declares the following, as required by Government Code section 54953(e)(3):

1. The Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency on March 4, 2020, pursuant to Government Code section 8625, which remains in effect.
2. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, including the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.



3. The Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors hereby determines that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and will conduct open and public meetings by teleconference in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.
4. All meetings held pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) shall comply with the requirements of that section and all other applicable provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54950 et seq.).
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the ECO-RAPID TRANSIT BOARD of the ECO-RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ali Sajjad Taj  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vrej Agajanian  
Secretary

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**AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Michael Kodama, Executive Director  
**DATE:** October 13, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** **APPROVAL TO ADD URBAN FUTURES INC TO APPROVED STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS LIST**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker

**ISSUE**

Eco-Rapid Transit staff requests approval to add Urban Futures Inc. to the Eco-Rapid Transit Statement of Qualifications List.

Staff has reviewed the attached statement of qualifications and determined that Urban Futures Inc. is qualified to provide services in the following categories:

- Financial and Economic Analysis; and
- Transportation Financing

Urban Futures has extensive experience working as a financial advisor related to public financing and funding issues with local jurisdictions. They also have experience with Metro, Metrolink and specific project concepts such as municipal and shared use parking structures, street repairs and transit projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
2. Approve adding Urban Futures Inc. to the Eco-Rapid Transit Statement of Qualifications List