



# California Vanpool Authority

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### Joint Powers Authority Member Agencies

AMBAG – Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments  
 Fresno COG – Fresno Council of Governments  
 ICTC – Imperial County Transportation Commission  
 MCTC – Madera County Transportation Commission  
 MCAG – Merced County Association of Governments  
 RCTC – Riverside County Transportation Commission

SJCOG – San Joaquin Council of Governments  
 SBCAG – Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
 StanCOG – Stanislaus Council of Governments  
 TCAG – Tulare County Association of Governments  
 VCTC – Ventura County Transportation Commission

### 1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the California Vanpool Authority was called to order by Chairman McShane at 10:05 A.M. on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Roll Call – Clerk of the Board

Area of Representation	Director (Primary)	Alternate	Present	Absent	Joined Meeting after Roll Call
AMBAG	Steve McShane	Scott Funk	X		
MCTC	Robert Poythress	Jose Rodriguez	X		
Fresno COG	James Horn	Brandon Pursell		X	
ICTC	Ana Beltrán	Maria Nava-Froelich	X		
MCAG	Paul Llanez	Pat Nagy		X	
RCTC	Joseph DeConinck	Vacant		X	
SJCOG	Vacant	Vacant			
SBCAG	Bob Nelson	Ariston Julian	X		
StanCOG	Javier Lopez	Buck Condit	X		
TCAG	Kellie Carrillo	Liz Wynn	X		10:09 AM
VCTC	Mike Johnson	James White	X		

**General Counsel/Contractors present:** David Kahn-KSC, Erika Romero-Environmental and Energy Consulting, Elaine Goodwin-APEX.  
**Staff/Visitors in attendance:** Georgina Landecho, Gabriela Pacheco, Amanda Ruch, Monica Sarzi, Teresa Rodriguez, Tomas Hernandez, Carmen Mora, Maggie Atilano, Leigh Brown, Jean Foletta, Lisa Woodard, Mauricio Torres MCAG, Aubrey Smith, Xavier Garcia, Monica Streeter, Hanan S, Brian Cunanan, Evelyn Espinosa, Giancarlo Bruno,

**2. Unscheduled Appearances:** None

### 3. Consent Calendar

3- Minutes of Board meeting from June 8, 2023

Motion Made By:		Nelson			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion By:		Johnson			
Motion (Pass/Fail)		Pass			
Director (Primary)	Alternate	Yea	Nay	Abstain	
Steve McShane	Scott Funk	X			
Robert Poythress	Jose Rodriguez	X			
James Horn	Brandon Pursell				
Ana Beltrán	Maria Nava-Froelich	X			
Paul Llanez	Pat Nagy				
Joseph DeConinck	Vacant				
Bob Nelson	Ariston Julian	X			
Javier Lopez	Buck Condit	X			
Kellie Carrillo	Liz Wynn	X			
Mike Johnson	James White	X			

### 4. System Updates

4-1. Agency Financials Update (Attachment 2)

Per Director Landecho, positive cash flow as of June 30, 2023. No questions from Board of Directors or the public.

**4-2. Regional Updates and Fleet Activity** (Attachment 3): Regional updates provided by regional Transit Coordinators.

Tomas Hernandez – Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties, 44 vehicles running. All vans repaired before transferring to other areas. Gearing up for summertime outreach events; outreach to a few hospitals and most recently to Cottage Hospital. Shout to our Transit Aides, Erica Ramirez and Roberto Meza Bravo for doing a great job!

Gabriela Pacheco – Kings, Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and north of Napa Counties, all vans from the south have moved to the Central Valley region. More vans than usual is out of service for repairs mostly, A/C issues. Excited about the Women’s Farmworkers Conference for the entire Central Valley. This event brings in speakers from all over the nation to educate and empower the farmworker community dedicated to working farmworker women and mothers on events happenings in their community. It’s a great marketing and outreach opportunity for CalVans.

Teresa Rodriguez – Monterey County, Santa Cruz, San Benito, new Transit Coordinator, relocated to the King City area. We are renovating the office, hiring staff and still bringing in new business to the area.

Carmen Mora – Imperial, Riverside, northeastern San Diego, and Yuma County. We’re preparing for the return of vans with new season.

**4-3. Marketing and Outreach Updates** (Attachment 4)

The CalVans Board of Directors Meeting, Sacramento Summer Retreat, is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. All information is included in the provided link along with Attachment 4. Please RSVP by July 17<sup>th</sup> by registering on the Eventbrite link, if you plan to attend in person.

**4-4. ACTION: Lobbyist Update and Request for: California Environmental & Energy Consulting (CalEEC)**

Erika Romero of CalEEC - Legislature passed budget and it’s been signed by Governor Newsom earlier this week. \$80 million funding for some of the programs at the Air Resources Board which we have been advocating for on behalf of CalVans. We’ve been drafting bonding language that would support the vehicle replacement/deployment of EVs for vanpools and for agricultural work into a Senate bond measure. We are hoping CVA board members have relationships with legislators at the State level, whether it be Assemblymembers or senators to support these bond measures. Bill 537 by Senator Becker, East Bay area, exemption for Brown Act, multi regionals continue to Zoom, we need to support bill through written letters. The bill is out of policy committees and we’re going into summer recess, so they all need to go into the Appropriations Committee. Wanted to make sure that we can confirm CalVans support on the measure by a motion.

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	<b>Poythress</b>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Motion By:</b>	<b>Johnson</b>			
<b>Motion (Pass/Fail)</b>	<b>Pass</b>			
<b>Director (Primary)</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Steve McShane</b>	Scott Funk	X		
<b>Robert Poythress</b>	Jose Rodriguez	X		
James Horn	Brandon Pursell			
<b>Ana Beltrán</b>	Maria Nava-Froelich	X		
Paul Llanez	Pat Nagy			
Joseph DeConinck	<i>Vacant</i>			
<b>Bob Nelson</b>	Ariston Julian	X		
<b>Javier Lopez</b>	Buck Condit	X		
<b>Kellie Carillo</b>	Liz Wynn	X		
<b>Mike Johnson</b>	James White	X		

Director Nelson – So on the electric van approach from CalVans; are we still kind of going for more of a pilot project type of concept for that funding what are we looking for? Is there money long term for electric vans? I think we still need CARB to understand that it is a proof of concept and to prove that it can actually work within the structure of what we need to get done.

Associate Romero - Yeah, that is a great question. Thank you so much. So, EEC’s perspective is we’re taking two approaches here. There are already a few what we’ll call clean mobility option programs at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), that currently exist. But as Georgina and I learned when you all tried to apply last year, it was a little more complicated for CalVans because you operate in so many jurisdictions throughout the State. The approach we’re taking there to resolve that issue is engage the ARB as they develop these programs as they have workshops. We’re engaging them to try to advocate that they change their guidelines to allow a program like this to apply for

that funding, moving forward. So far, there has been at least increasing funding going there from the State. I think we'll probably continue for several years, as the State is taking both approaches to electrified transportation. Both by helping people buy their own electric vehicles, but now also by supporting people who want to car share and vanpool. There seems to be a trend that there will be funding there, moving forward. Then the second approach that we're also taking is why we think this bond language would be immensely helpful for CalVans in particular is that it's general language that would just plant funding at the ARB for vanpools moving forward and hopefully facilities as well to house those vanpools. That would be long-term funding from ARB, if that language can be added and then goes to the voters to support that language. Then potentially there will be opportunities for CalVans to again apply for additional grants, either for a pilot to ensure that there are the kinds of vans out there that you need or also generally for funding to just transition and repair and maintain those vans at any associated infrastructure.

Director Nelson – Due to the nature of CalVans and their ag customers, electrification will be an ongoing challenge and we need to be careful about accepting mandates that require full electrification, because I don't see those technologies there just yet, or the infrastructure. I don't want to go down a path where we've signed on to towards full electrification, that ends up a problem down the line. We need to keep in mind and keep the language that pilots and other kinds of experimental work are just that; and that we're doing to try to prove out the concept. I think CalVans is a trusted partner, can be a leader in the discussion at the State level on the electrification of vanpools, especially within agriculture. So just want to keep that in mind as we have those conversations.

Associate Romero - No, yeah, totally understand where you are coming from, and I think that at least from EEC's perspective there are multiple pathways. I know that there are other technologies out there; one that is increasingly being discussed, at least at the medium and heavy-duty level is hydrogen, for which there is funding and support in the legislature. I do not think that that is off the table. There is just certainly not as many programs like battery fuel cell electric vehicles which are hydrogen powered that would be suited for CalVans' needs, but happy to explore those, as well as other opportunities.

Director Nelson - Yeah, I just don't want to close the door asking them for exemptions, for CalVans for our work down the line. I just don't want to get too far into accepting that we will absolutely have to go to zero emission vehicles in the future. This may not be practical if the technology is not there. I want to make sure that we're preserving our space, and that a political advocacy lane, to go down that route; if we've explored everything and can't make it pencil, that we still have the ability to pivot to something that you know might be exempt. I mean, we're saving quite a bit of greenhouse gases by doing what we already do in the first place, and I think we're part of the solution. I want to make sure that we keep our space in that lane as best as possible.

Chair McShane - Noted, yeah and thank you Director Nelson.

Associate Romero - I'll close the loop on this, but I think that if that's something that CalVans wants to continue discussing there'd be a great opportunity to discuss that in your visit, next month.

Chair McShane - Yeah, definitely. That came up last year it came up at our stakeholder meeting, tying ourselves to an all-electric solution long term, you know, it could be problematic. Preserving that ability to entertain hybrid alongside electric is that technology emerges has been the standing position. But definitely, please be prepared to flesh that out a little bit more, because growing our fleet is in our goal.

No public comment.

## **5. Other Business Information Action items**

### **5-1. ACTION: Approval of Agreement for Private Vehicle Donations (Attachment 5)**

David Kahn - Both parties agree that if any repair cost will exceed 50% of the fair market value of the unit, and the repair will not extend the life of the unit by at least 5 years, the unit will either be retired or sold at public auction. So that is the concept. Just want to make sure everyone is comfortable with that. This agreement is kind of a novel agreement. I want everyone to make sure they have read it and are comfortable with it. There is no real precedent as to an agreement like this.

Director Landecho - If the vehicle were of a certain age and if we repaired the unit; new engine, transmission, etc., and it didn't extend the life of the vehicle by 5 years or 100,000 miles, we could then put the vehicle up for sale. It was questions like those that we've not come across before and had to be creative on how we went about this, but the document, Attachment 5, essentially names all of the things that we thought could occur. We went from a 2 pager to several pages, but we feel that this is the best approach to protect both the employer and the agency. We're bringing this completed agreement to our Board for approval. The very last edit made were regarding the amount of time to hold the unit and what actions we could take, if any, should the employer choose to get the unit back. In this agreement, the vehicle belongs to the agency, so we would dispose of the unit(s) in the same manner as other agency vehicles, which closed that part of the conversation.

Chair McShane – Let's take questions or feedback.

Director Nelson - It's a couple of things. First, I just wanted to thank everybody for working on this. I've gotten some feedback from some of the contractors in my area that utilize CalVans extensively about how important this program will be moving forward for accessing vehicles. It's a necessary step to growing the fleet and there is a huge appetite, this could potentially get us there.

Director Nelson- One suggestion, as we move forward, is maybe revisiting this before and after the winter next year, just to see if there are any issues that come up in this first year and seeing if it's something we want to revisit or amend from staff and from our partners. If there are some things we hadn't thought through, I think this is kind of like we're building a plane while flying it a little bit. It might be good to bring up some of those unanticipated issues. Maybe report back in 9 months, or sooner to regarding issues; potential edits, might be a good idea just to have that on our radar.

David Kahn - I agree with that and think even in the meantime that Georgina and this client have regular check-ins to make sure this is all working the way we intend it to, and that there aren't any unforeseen situations that we're all learning from it.

Director Nelson - That brings me to my next question. So, is this now available across the board? for any of our partners to step in and have a similar offer like they do with Peri & Sons.

David Kahn – I think the Board will have to, of course decide this, but from my perspective, I think yes, we'd always entertain other offers. I think each situation should be considered separately. I want to be careful mostly because this is a novel concept. I don't want to be setting too much of a precedent by moving too quickly and wishing we hadn't moved so quickly. But my suggestion would be, yes, the more we can help and the more vehicles we can get to help solve the shortage, we should be thinking about that.

Chair McShane - And this is something we've done in the past you know, and I don't recall what year, but I want to say early in the agency's existence. So this is definitely one of those creative solutions to growing the fleet and I would also complement the work that's gone in the several drafts that I've seen back and forth and the patience on the part of Peri and Sons. Woo! Okay! Anything else Director Nelson?

Director Nelson - Yes. Just one curiosity; would those donating units, since this is a public agency, is there a potential deduction for them? Do they get some additional tax breaks? I guess that is more of an issue between them and their accountant. I am just curious.

David Kahn – That was going to be my response. I would want them to consult their accountants in that regard.

Director Nelson - Okay, excellent. Well, I anticipate there will be additional partners that we're going to be looking to step up and maybe if it's too much, maybe Georgina, you can say, "Hey! we need to cap it at some point for this first year!" But I would suspect that you're going to start to see quite a few trickle in here over the next couple of months is some of our partners as this is now an option for them.

Director Landecho – We will monitor, and report back monthly, or as needed. If we get approval for this document today, we will create a generic form of this agreement, and make it available on our website for other organizations that would like to utilize this option.

Director Nelson – Thank you.

Steve McShane - Okay. We'll bring it back for a motion again. Just want to acknowledge this has been several meetings in the making and you could even say up to a year in the making as a way to grow the fleet and be of service and I think it's comprehensive and we'll monitor it, as I think Director Nelson indicated. I do not see public comment, so, I'm looking for a motion.

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	<b>Poythress</b>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Motion By:</b>	<b>Nelson</b>			
<b>Motion (Pass/Fail)</b>	<b>Pass</b>			
<b>Director (Primary)</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Steve McShane	Scott Funk	X		
Robert Poythress	Jose Rodriguez	X		
James Horn	Brandon Pursell			
Ana Beltrán	Maria Nava-Froelich	X		
Paul Llanez	Pat Nagy			
Joseph DeConinck	Vacant			
Bob Nelson	Ariston Julian	X		
Javier Lopez	Buck Condit	X		
Kellie Carillo	Liz Wynn	X		
Mike Johnson	James White	X		

**5-2. Review of DRAFT Agency Audits for FY 19/20, 20/21 & 21/22 (Attachment 6)**

Director Landecho – Price Paige and Company had setbacks early on, but they are on track now. Drafts were submitted and the government audits are now in progress. Final Audits should be ready for the August 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.

**5-3. CONSENT: Approval of Single Source Quote for Contract for Price Paige and Company for the 22/23 Audits (Attachment 7)**

Director Landecho - Staff is submitting a quote for the completion of audit of FY 22/23 and future audits. Due to the unique nature of CalVans, and the time needed to understand the program, a single source quote was prepared from Price Paige and Company. Staff is requesting approval for this single source quote from Price Paige and Company for 22/23 audit.

<b>Motion Made By:</b>		<b>Johnson</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Motion By:</b>		<b>Poythress</b>		
<b>Motion (Pass/Fail)</b>		<b>Pass</b>		
<b>Director (Primary)</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Steve McShane	Scott Funk	X		
Robert Poythress	Jose Rodriguez	X		
James Horn	Brandon Pursell			
Ana Beltrán	Maria Nava-Froelich	X		
Paul Llanez	Pat Nagy			
Joseph DeConinck	<i>Vacant</i>			
Bob Nelson	Ariston Julian	X		
Javier Lopez	Buck Condit	X		
Kellie Carillo	Liz Wynn	X		
Mike Johnson	James White	X		

**5-4. Review of Draft 2023 Employee Handbook (Attachment 8)**

Director Landecho- Drafts need to go through legal, and we have lots of previously approved stand-alone policies to attach.

**5-5. Discussion of executed Separation Agreement and General Release**

David Kahn - Confirm matter has been concluded and settled.

**5-6. Informational Items: Executive Director, CalVans Staff or Board Members:**

None

**5-7. Requests from Board Members for Future Agenda Item:**

None

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 10, 2023 in Sacramento, Ca.

**8. ADJOURN:**

**TIME:** 10:49 AM

Respectfully submitted,



Georgina Landecho  
Calvans Executive Director