



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
AGENDA**

Monday, January 26, 2025 — 10:30 a.m.

Glendale Central Library
Teen Room
222 E Harvard Street
Glendale, CA 91205

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Councilmember Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando
Vice-Chair: Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Mayor Tamala Takahashi, City of Burbank
Councilmember Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale
Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachele Anema, County of Los Angeles
SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office
John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG
Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

6. MINUTES

November 17, 2025 Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes ([PAGE 4](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve minutes.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

7. FINANCIAL REPORT ([PAGE 10](#))

Review FY 2025-26 Financials October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Recommended Action: *Receive and file financial report.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

8. SEPULVEDA TRANSIT CORRIDOR ([PAGE 11](#))

Recommended Action: *Support Metro's Modified Option 5 for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor and the completion of the full alignment as the SFVCOG priority.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

9. PRIORITIZING MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL FIRE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ([PAGE 13](#))

Recommended Action: *Establish an ad hoc committee to develop full recommendations on how the SFVCOG jurisdictions can cooperate on the improvement of the cross-jurisdictional fire roads in the hills around the region.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

11. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting: April 13, 2026 10:30 AM in San Fernando

13. ADJOURNMENT

Notices:

Meetings of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments are recorded. Minutes of each meeting are available at <http://sfvcog.org/> after the Board approves them. A person with a disability may contact the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments before the scheduled meeting to request receipt of an agenda in an alternative format or to request disability-related accommodations, in order to participate in the public meeting, requests will be met to the extent feasible. Email info@sfvcog.org for accommodation. The entire agenda package and any meeting related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda package, unless exempt from disclosure pursuant to California Law, are also available.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES **DRAFT****

Monday, November 17, 2025 - 12:30 p.m.
Community Room 104
150 N. Third St Burbank CA 91502

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando
Vice-Chair: Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi, City of Burbank
Councilmember Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale
Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles
Council member Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

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John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG
Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted by staff.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (11 Members):

Present 11: Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
William Dahlin for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Elen Asatryan for Mayor Ara Najarian (Arrived after Roll Call)
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (Arrived after Roll Call)
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman

Absent 1: Councilmember Marsha McLean
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alondra Lopez, LA Metro, made public comments.

5. MINUTES

October 6, 2025 Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes ([Page 4](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve minutes.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion of Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, seconded by Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, there being no objection, the SFVCOG approved the October 6, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes by the following roll call vote:

Ayes 9: Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
William Dahlin for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman

Abstentions 1: Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Absent 2: Councilmember Marsha McLean
Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Elen Asatryan for Mayor Ara Najarian

6. SEPULVEDA TRANSIT COORIDOR (Page 14)

Recommended Action: *The Board supports Alternatives 5 and/or 6 as presented in Metro's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, with an openness to consider additional alignment and grading options, different technologies (the automated version of the Alternative 6 alignment), and value engineering in order to deliver a heavy-rail alternative, mitigate housing impacts, property acquisitions, utility conflicts, and projects costs. Any alternative must have a direct connection, within the paid area, between the G Line and the Sepulveda Transit Corridor.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

John Bwarie, Executive Director, read a written public comment submitted by Mr. Bob Anderson of Sherman Oaks, stating his opposition to Alternative No. 4 of Metro's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on Alternatives for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC) Project. Executive Director Bwarie, then

provide a report and recommendation from the STC Ad Hoc Committee on Metro's DEIR Alternatives. He stated that an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to provide a further study of alternatives and intends to take a broad view in terms of project delivery and equity. He then highlighted additional key discussion themes and provided a written outline of the following from the Ad Hoc Committee's Report:

- Tunnel Portal Location
- Connections to G Line, Metrolink, and East Valley Corridor
- Technology and Operations
- Value Engineering and Cost
- Phasing and Project Implementation
- 405 Express Lanes and Regional Connectivity

After presentation, there was a recommendation to the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Ad Hoc Committee's report be revised as follows:

Technology and Operations:

- "The use of automated trains and different travel methods offers potential operational benefits with higher frequency and reduced ventilation infrastructure for Alternative 6."

On motion of Alternate Daniel Lopez, seconded by Alternate Mehmet Berker, there being no objection, the Board amended the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Ad Hoc Committee's report under **Technology and Operations**, and approved the recommendations in support of Alternatives 5 and/or 6, as presented in Metro's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes 9: Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
William Dahlin for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee

Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi
Elen Asatryan for Mayor Ara Najarian
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman

Absent 2: Councilmember Marsha McLean
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Executive Director, John Bwarie, indicated that the next steps will be to draft a letter, for the Chair's signature, to Metro, stating that the Board's adopted position is to support Alternatives 5 and/or 6, as presented in Metro's DEIR, for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Discussion ensued regarding setting the calendar for future meetings. Executive Director, John Bwarie, reported that the meeting calendar meeting dates are reviewed and set in July. After discussion, it was determined that the next meeting that is scheduled for January 12, 2026 in Glendale at 10:00 a.m. would be cancelled and a Special Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Glendale.

The next Transportation meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025. Currently there are no scheduled agenda items, and this meeting may be cancelled.

8. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Board Meeting that is scheduled for January 12, 2026, in Glendale at 10:00 a.m. is cancelled and a Special Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Glendale.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mary Mendoza adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Notices:

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
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Board of Directors Special Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2025

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DRAFT

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FUND V54
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025**

		<u>Fund V54/Org 55665</u>
Cash Balance, October 1, 2025		\$ 354,866.64
Receipts:		
Interest Earnings	10/1/2025	972.99
Interest Earnings	11/1/2025	1,051.28
Interest Earnings	12/1/2025	859.82
DP AC 2600001427 - Membership - City of Burbank	11/4/2025	12,500.00
Total Beginning Cash Balance and Receipts		<u>\$ 370,250.73</u>
Disbursements:		
AD AU A2600464165 Stratiscope - August & September 2025	10/1/2025	16,666.66
AD AU A2600565886 Stratiscope - Hostway Annual Renewal Fee Svc October 2025	10/23/2025	239.40
AD AU A2600565886 Stratiscope - Color Images Service October 2025	10/23/2025	13.26
JVCT AC CMSF2600091 - Auditor-Controller 10% Admin Fee For FY24-25 Audit	10/30/2025	490.00
AD AU A2600611168 Stratiscope - Color Images Printing October 2025	11/5/2025	4.14
AD AU A2600616454 Stratiscope - October 2025	11/6/2025	8,333.33
AD AU A2600755458 Stratiscope - November 2025	12/7/2025	8,333.33
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 34,080.12</u>
Cash Balance, December 31, 2025		<u>\$ 336,170.61</u>

Prepared by May Lam
 Los Angeles County
 Department of Auditor-Controller
 Accounting Division
 ML 1/14/2026



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: January 22, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: Sepulveda Transit Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a position of support for the Metro's Sepulveda Transit Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recommendation of Modified Alternatives 5, as adopted by the Metro Board on January 22, 2026.

Direct staff to work with Metro to advance the LPA and ensure the segment in the Valley is fully built out.

BACKGROUND

The SFVCOG has been working to support the Sepulveda Transit Corridor since the development and passage of Measure M in 2016. In the past few years, the SFVCOG Board has taken position on principles and most recently in November 2025, a recommendation to approve the heavy rail alignment (Alternatives 5 and 6) with key considerations around timing, impacts, and advancing technologies.

Earlier this month, Metro staff released their locally preferred alternative: a Modified Alternative 5.

After technical evaluation and carefully reviewing the more than 8,000 comments received during the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) public comment period, Metro staff has proposed Modified Alternative 5 as an underground heavy rail line between the Van Nuys Metrolink Station and E Line Expo/Sepulveda Station modified to connect to the G Line on Van Nuys Boulevard.

Modified Alternative 5 balances the strengths of Alternative 5 – high ridership, high frequencies, and shorter station construction sites, while avoiding geographic challenges in the Santa Monica Mountains. It also offers the connectivity benefits of Alternative 6 along Van Nuys Boulevard instead of Sepulveda Boulevard, which reduces the project's overall length and is anticipated to reduce cost. The modifications to Alternative 5 will increase direct connections to Metro's growing transit network. Direct connections get our riders to and from their destinations faster.

The initial operating segment would be from the G Line to K Line, with 4 stops total. Eventually, the line would travel the full committed length from Van Nuys Metrolink Station to E Line/Sepulveda Station, as represented in the following graphic:



On January 22, 2026, the Metro Board unanimously approved the staff recommendation of the LPA, so now the project advances, including evaluating phasing, the Public/Private Partnership (P3) delivery model, identifying opportunities for value engineering, and making refinements to Alternative 5 to allow for connection to the G Line at Van Nuys Boulevard. In addition to design refinements, the environmental process would continue, including corresponding community outreach and opportunities for public comment.



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: January 22, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: Prioritizing Multi-Jurisdictional Fire Road Improvements

RECOMMENDATION

Establish an ad hoc committee to develop full recommendations on how the SFVCOG jurisdictions can cooperate on the improvement of the cross-jurisdictional fire roads in the hills around the region.

BACKGROUND

The SFVCOG region is surrounded by and encompassed various mountain ranges, and in many areas, the access and fire roads that exist to increase public safety cross city or county lines and become shared resources. In light of the recent wildfires, these roads must be maintained and in many cases, improved. When one such road is completely in one jurisdiction, this maintenance is clear and direct, and with the topography of our region, this is not always the case.

Some of these fire roads that go between jurisdictions include:

- [Hostetter Fire Road](#) (Glendale and Los Angeles)
- [Chandler Fire Road](#) (Burbank and Los Angeles)
- [Rim of the Valley/Haines Canyon Mountainway](#) (Glendale and Los Angeles)
- [Elsmere Grapevine Road](#) (Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita, and City of Los Angeles)
- [Wilson Canyon](#) (Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles)

Of particular interest are improvement projects such as fire roads, fire breaks, fire detection systems, and other items that aid in fire response. The SFVCOG should explore opportunities to identify joint projects and joint applications for funding (e.g. Prop 4 funds).