



**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**S.R. 710 Tunnel Technical Study**  
**August 21, 2008 3:00 p.m.**  
**CHARO Community Development Center, Auditorium**  
**4301 E. Valley Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90032**



**I. CALL TO ORDER –**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING OVERVIEW**

**The following people attended the meeting:**

<p><b>TAC Members:</b></p> <p>Amir Alan, Senior Civil Engineer- LA County Public Works, Representative for County Supervisor, Gloria Molina, 1st District</p> <p>Ray Alfonso, Assistant City Engineer, City of Monterey Park (Alternate for June Yotsuya)</p> <p>Shahrzad Amiri, Deputy Executive Officer, METRO</p> <p>Tony Catenacci, Interim Transportation Manager, City of South Pasadena (Alternate for Richard A. Gutschow, A.E.)</p> <p>Marisa Creter, SGVCOG (Alternate for Nicholas Conway)</p> <p>Pat Dechellis, Deputy Director- LA County Public Works, Representative for County Supervisor, Michael D. Antonovich, 5th District</p> <p>Fred Dock, Director, Department of Transportation, City of Pasadena (Alternate for Bahman Janka)</p> <p>Leland Dolley, Representative, City of Alhambra (Alternate for Mary K. Swink)</p> <p>Paul Habib, Northeast Area Director/Public Works Manager, Office of LA Councilman Jose Huizar CD-14</p> <p>Philip Law, Corridors Program Manager, SCAG</p>	<p><b>Caltrans District 7 Staff</b></p> <p>Douglas R. Failing, District 7 Director</p> <p>James McCarthy, Deputy Director, Planning</p> <p>Abdi Saghafi, Project Manager</p> <p>Deborah Harris, Chief, Media Relations &amp; Public Affairs</p> <p>John Hasan, Geotechnical Design</p> <p>Maria Raptis, Media Relations &amp; Public Affairs</p> <p>Pratheep Piratheepan, Geotechnical Unit</p> <p>Anoosh Shamsabadi, Senior Bridge Engineer</p> <p><b>Community Facilitation Consultants:</b></p> <p>Rebecca Barrantes, The Sierra Group</p> <p>Ed Salcedo, The Sierra Group</p> <p>Enrique Gasca, The Sierra Group</p> <p>Rena Salcedo, The Sierra Group</p> <p>Al Wattson, Engineering Consultant, The Sierra Group</p> <p>Katherine Padilla, KP&amp;A</p> <p>John Limon, KP&amp;A</p>
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<p><b>Technical Advisory Committee Members Continued:</b></p> <p>Ann Wilson, Senior Management Analyst, City of La Cañada Flintridge</p> <p><b>Elected Officials:</b></p> <p>Monica Alemán, Field Representative, Office of Assemblymember Mike Eng, 49<sup>th</sup> District</p> <p>Arturo Chavez, District Director, Office of Senator Gil Cedillo, 22<sup>nd</sup> District</p> <p>Matthew Dodson, Field Representative, Office of Senator Jack Scott, 21<sup>st</sup> District</p> <p>Dan Farkas, Senior Assistant, Office of Senator Gilbert Cedillo, 22<sup>nd</sup> District</p> <p>Yvonne Hsu, District Representative, Office of Congressman Adam Schiff, 29<sup>th</sup> District</p> <p>Daisy Ma, District Director, Office of Assemblymember Mike Eng, 49<sup>th</sup> District</p> <p><b>Absent/No Alternate Present:</b></p> <p>Derek Higa, Senior Transportation Engineer, California Department of Transportation, District 7</p> <p>Ing Jones, Civil Engineering Associate, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering</p> <p>Thomas E. Mitchell, Assistant Traffic &amp; Transportation Administrator, City of Glendale</p> <p>Eugene Sun, Councilmember, City of San Marino</p>	<p><b>Technical Consultants:</b></p> <p>Ayman Salama, Project Manager, CH2M HILL</p> <p>Hubert Law, Geotechnical Lead, CH2M HILL</p> <p>Donald Anderson, Geotechnical Technical Advisor, CH2M HILL</p> <p>Steve Dubnewych, TBM Expert, CH2M HILL</p> <p>Thomas Marcher, Tunnel Modeling &amp; Soil-Structures Interaction, ILF</p>
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**For the purpose of review, Committee Member's names are spelled out during the question and answer periods. Project Staff names are denoted by their first initial and spelling of their last name.**



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**The meeting started at approximately 6:15 p.m.**

Welcome, Doug Failing

Douglas R. Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director, opened the meeting by welcoming the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and guests. Introductions of TAC Members (or Alternates) and consultants followed shortly.

Meeting Overview: Doug Failing, Rebecca Barrantes

- D. Failing: Advised the TAC on their role and interaction with the Steering Committee (SC).
- R. Barrantes: Went over housekeeping items. She asked that comments on minutes from the July meeting be submitted to [egasca@thesierragr.com](mailto:egasca@thesierragr.com).
- R. Barrantes: Reviewed the role of the Steering Committee and the TAC.
- R. Barrantes: Introduced the members of the consultant team. The Tunnel Technical Advisors introduced themselves.
- R. Barrantes: Presented the outreach consultant team's scope of work and org chart.
- A. Salama: Discussed the technical team's scope of work.
- A. Salama: Reviewed the development of project milestones.
- R. Barrantes: Reviewed the technical study's public process.
- K. Padilla: Reviewed the ground rules and guiding principles and process for providing input to the SC.
- Lee Dolley: Reviewed the SC's intent for choosing a collaborative consensual and/or consultative process for making decisions. The SC also agreed that they would not entertain a political direction, but rather would only look at the technical aspects of the study – not whether the project should be built or not, but whether it can technically be built.
- Tony Catennaci: Is the TAC to facilitate sound research and provide recommendations to the SC?



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- K. Padilla: Yes, the SC would be relying on the TAC to provide input.
- H. Law: Reviewed the exploration program, geotechnical objectives and proposed Zone map. He also reviewed factors influencing tunneling and the geological map.
- Lee Dolley: Will the TAC be receiving a separate presentation for each Zone?
- H. Law: Each corridor has its own slide.
- Lee Dolley: Does the exploration program have to keep all the presented boring sites?
- A. Salama: Yes, more information would be issued before going out into the field.
- A. Saghafi: Ayman (Salama) can you review how the number of borings, for each Zone, were developed.
- H. Law: In Zone 3, the number of borings recommended was based on trying to identify the fault that exists in this Zone. Additionally, different geological units are also anticipated to be in Zone 3.
- Ann Wilson: How were Zones defined? Would the exploration program be adhering to those parameters?
- A. Salama: The consultant team first presented the 8 routes in an effort to ensure route neutrality. The team has now decided to define “Zones” instead of routes, to give the committee more options. The Zones are flexible.
- H. Law: The number of borings in each Zone is sufficient for the study.
- A. Saghafi: Could Hubert Law discuss geophysical testing?
- H. Law: Geophysical testing was described as similar to ultrasound. Mr. Law proceeded to describe the actual process for this test.
- A. Salama: Geophysical testing would give the study team more information before commencing the boring program.
- Shahrzad Amiri: Does Caltrans have a boring schedule?
- A. Salama: A boring schedule will be available by the end of 2008.
- Shahrzad Amiri: Will traffic studies also be conducted?



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- A. Saghafi: The consultant team will first be utilizing current data. It will be up to the committee to request more traffic studies and counts.
- A. Salama: A regional traffic impact may be performed at a later point.
- Shahrzad Amiri: What will happen if all the corridors are deemed feasible for tunneling?  
The TAC needs to have the traffic data to make a decision.
- D. Failing: Caltrans wants to respect route neutral and is leaving traffic data out.
- Amir Alam: Will the TAC be determining which Zones will be bored?
- A. Salama: Yes.
- Amir Alam: The TAC needs to address and define the project's purpose.
- A. Salama: The team is looking to the committee to provide that feedback.
- Amir Alam: Would the borings stay at 200-300 feet?
- A. Salama: Most borings will be required to go to a depth at where the bottom of the tunnel will be located.
- Amir Alam: Will the team be performing 150-foot borings?
- A. Salama: Yes.
- H. Law: Some borings would be at an incline, to access the fault information.
- Paul Habib: Have borings already been performed?
- A. Salama: No.
- Ann Wilson: Is the TAC trying to establish the feasibility of a tunnel or geotechnical feasibility?
- D. Failing: The study is limited to determining the geotechnical feasibility of a tunnel, not choosing a preferred Zone.
- Tony Catenacci: Will the process be to present the information, have the TAC review it, and then schedule another meeting?



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- A. Salama: The goal is to give information to the committee a week before the meeting.
- Tony Catenacci: Could the zones be configured contiguously to include all possible routes in the exploration program?
- A. Salama: The Zone lines can be redrawn, but the boring sites have been selected at specific locations. The Zones are intended to define the area where the borings will be performed.
- A. Saghafi: The Zones were based on geological changes that occur in the soil strata. He asked Hubert Law to provide a description of the different strata.
- H. Law: Described the reason for Zone parameters as being based on soil strata.
- A. Saghafi: The committee may decide if they only wanted 2 Zones, instead of 5, to be studied.
- Lee Dolley: Didn't see a difference or purpose between Zones 1 and 2.
- A. Salama: Caltrans is trying to maintain route neutrality.
- Lee Dolley: Stated that between Zone 1 and 2 there is a gap and that there was no need to increase the boundaries of Zone 1 and 2.
- Tony Catenacci: These zones look very similar to the corridor options presented at the last meeting. He recommended expanding the zones to research the geotechnical aspects of all possible routes.
- Lee Dolley: Will there be any difference by extending the Zones' borders?
- A. Salama: No.
- Shahrzad Amiri: If we start extending zones like suggested, why not call the whole thing Zone 1?
- D. Failing: Zones 1-5 all look different geologically. The results from the borings will demonstrate the difference in feasibility.
- Shahrzad Amiri: Who provided input on the Zone designations?
- D. Failing: The Zones were developed internally. Caltrans is looking for the Committee's guidance on the material presented.



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- Ann Wilson: Why do the gap areas need to be left out.
- Amir Alam: The borings in each Zone are characteristic of that Zone. If the Zone boundaries are expanded but the number of borings stays the same, you might not get a true representation of the Zone.
- A. Saghafi: No additional information would be gathered by extending the Zone boundaries.
- Ann Wilson: What are the geological differences between Zone 1 and 2? Locations of the borings do not matter as much as the locations of the proposed potential alignments.
- H. Law: Described differences in units between each of the Zones.
- Lee Dolley: The Zones need to look at how to get to the freeways. There is no need to look at all the different Zones.
- Tony Catenacci: I will be providing Mr. Gutschow with the information and he might have some questions or input to provide them in the near future. I also request that for future meetings the materials be distributed in advance so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting which will facilitate analysis and discussion.
- Lee Dolley: How would Caltrans add more area without adding more borings?
- Tony Catenacci: Requested assurances that no potential route would or could be eliminated from consideration in the future because it is not included in one of the zones.
- ALL: A collaborative consensus was reached upon receiving assurances that in the future no potential route could or would be eliminated for consideration if it was not included in one of the zones.
- A. Salama: Reviewed proposed evaluation criteria.

1. Tunnel Length
2. Fault Crossings
3. System Connectivity
4. Number of Portals with New ROW
6. Effects on Existing Interchanges
7. Traffic Impacts to Other Freeways
8. Required Improvements to Other Freeways
9. Expected Traffic Volume in Tunnel



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**5. Geologic/Geotechnical Condition      10. Groundwater Consideration**

- Fred Dock:                      How will the impact on other freeways be germane to the technical feasibility of this study?
- D. Failing:                      I am route neutral and also neutral in the selection of the proposed evaluation criteria.
- Paul Habib:                      Will the volume on other freeways be an item discussed by the SC?
- D. Failing:                      A freeway discussion may not necessarily take place.
- A. Saghafi:                      Would Criteria 1, 2, 5 and 10 be acceptable to the TAC?
- Fred Dock:                      Criteria 1, 2, 5 and 10 are all acceptable at this time. Criteria 1 goes into cost which borders on having to perform other studies.
- A. Saghafi:                      May I get some input from the other TAC members?
- Amir Alam:                      Criteria 2, 5 and 10 strictly deal with geotechnical issues.
- Marisa Creter:                      Will eliminating Criteria 1 change the feasibility of the tunnel?
- A. Salama:                      No.
- Tony Catenacci:                      We need to respect the SC's direction of keeping the study to the geotechnical conditions. The TAC needs to focus on the science.
- Lee Dolley:                      I agree with Mr. Catenacci. I will be relying on the experts to give advice as needed.
- R. Barrantes:                      Will there be a need for additional criteria other than Criteria 2, 5 and 10 at a later date?
- ALL:                              A collaborative consensus was reached which stated that Criteria 2, 5 and 10, as stated below, focused on geotechnical issues appropriate in the Study process:
- Criteria 2: Fault Crossings  
Criteria 5: Geologic/Geotechnical Condition  
Criteria 10: Groundwater Consideration



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- Lee Dolley: The other criteria will be used in an EIR. The TAC needs to answer if any of the options are feasible.
- Paul Habib: The study needs to be called a “Geotechnical Study”.
- Ann Wilson: It is very clear what the TAC should be doing.
- Lee Dolley: Yes.
- Amir Alam: Will the consultants be moving forward with the exploration plan and borings?
- A. Saghafi: The boring results, depending on the permits process, will be available at the Fall meeting.
- D. Failing: All the information goes to Abdi Saghafi.
- R. Barrantes: Is the TAC expected to comeback to make a decision?
- Lee Dolley: It is a great idea to have a meeting with the tunnel experts. May I receive, in advance, the items to be decided, during the course of the meeting?
- R. Barrantes: I want to thank all the committee participants for their attendance. The information for the next meeting will be forth coming.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Enrique Gasca, The Sierra Group