



## San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

**Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2021**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**THIS IS A ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING**

Meeting ID: 830 7533 9009

Passcode: 992732

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83075339009?pwd=WTd6Q1hZZjI0VVI1SVZPeFRLWkhZQT09>

Phone only: 1 (669) 900 9128

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Enclosure

1. January 7, 2021 Directors' Meeting

Terri King



### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. MPO Activity During Coronavirus

Terri King

3. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality  
*Update and Discussion*

Ryan Niblock

4. California Transportation Funding

Terri King

*Program and Project Funding Updates:*

- *Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (SICOG & MCAG)*
- *Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (Fresno COG)*
- *State Transportation Improvement Program*

5. Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants

Tony Boren



*Approve submittal of valleywide applications for the Inland Port Study  
and Household Travel Survey*

Kristine Cai

Kings County  
Association of  
Governments  
Terri King - Chair

Kern  
Council of  
Governments  
Ahron Hakimi - Vice Chair

Tulare County  
Association of  
Governments  
Ted Smalley

Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission  
Patricia Taylor

(559) 266-6222  
(559) 314-6015 (Fax)



<http://sjvcogs.org>



Stanislaus  
Council of  
Governments  
Rosa Park

Merced County  
Association of  
Governments  
Stacie Guzman

San Joaquin  
Council of  
Governments  
Diane Nguyen

Fresno  
Council of  
Governments  
Tony Boren

339 W. D. St. Suite B  
Lemoore, CA 93245

6. SJV REAP Committee for Housing  
***Receive Update***

Robert Phipps  
Michael Sigala

7. Valley Voice Sacramento 2021  
***Receive Update***

Michael Sigala

8. I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study  
***Receive Update***

Ahron Hakimi

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

*The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote.*

9. Caltrans Directors' Report  
10. California High Speed Rail  
11. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail  
12. Valley GO (MioCar) and Valley Flex (Vamos & VoGo)  
13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Diana Gomez/Dennis Agar  
Garth Fernandez  
Dan Leavitt  
Michael Sigala  
Eduardo Gonzalez

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

14. Director Items  
15. Public Presentations for Items Not on Agenda.

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes. The public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.*

#### **ADJOURN MEETING**

***Directors Only Closed Session if Necessary***

**Next Directors' Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2021**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations** The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies at (559) 266-6222, at least three days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the meeting. *At this time, all meetings will be conducted via Zoom until further notice.*



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 7, 2021

ITEM 1

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location:

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

Directors	MPOs
Terri King	Kings County Association of Governments
Ahron Hakimi	Kern Council of Governments
Patricia Taylor	Madera County Transportation Commission
Rosa Park	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Tony Boren	Fresno Council of Governments
Stacie Guzman	Merced County Association of Governments
Ted Smalley	Tulare County Association of Governments
Diane Nguyen	San Joaquin Council of Governments

*Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### 1. December 3, 2020 Directors' Meeting

Terri King

There was a motion to approve the December 3, 2020 Directors' Committee Minutes.

First Motion: Ted Smalley  
Second Motion: Ahron Hakimi  
Motion Carried

Kings County  
Association of  
Governments  
Terri King - Chair

Kern  
Council of  
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Ahron Hakimi - Vice Chair

Tulare County  
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## DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

### 2. MPO Activity During Coronavirus

T. King

Madam Chair Terri King guided discussions about coronavirus measures and activities among MPOs. Terri King reported KCAG had few employees in the office and telecommuting occurring. Stacie Guzman (MCAG) reported only two staff in the office with several outbreaks occurring in some of their other operations, including a staff death. Ted Smalley (TCAG) reported a majority of staff telecommuting.

### 3. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

R. Niblock

Ryan Niblock reported the request for proposals for the air quality consultant resulted in one submittal from Trinity Consultants. The Directors indicated support for Trinity. Regarding conformity challenges with EMFAC 2017, Ryan reported a meeting with CARB scheduled for tomorrow. Data from the Valley has been submitted to CARB and the meeting is for resolving technical matters moving forward. Lastly, regarding EPA, Mary Nichols of CARB is no longer considered for Director. Terri King reported the review of their SCS is still pending. Andy Chesley's letter to CARB was noted and Bill Higgins indicated he would follow up on the letter. Kristine Cai noted CARB has responded to Fresno COG's technical memo regarding their SCS. Ahron Hakimi responded that Kern COG has met with CARB over their technical memo.

### 4. California Transportation Funding

T. King

#### ***Program and Project Funding Updates:***

- ***Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (SJCOG & MCAG)***

There was no update provided.

- ***Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (Fresno COG)***

There was no update provided.

Discussed ensued about the future of CTC funding related to minimizing capacity enhancing and widening projects, and the inherent lack of a "bottoms up" approach to transportation planning. Bill Higgins noted the need for the construction and labor industries to provide input on this. Patricia Taylor also noted to need to coalesce around this matter. Discussion ensued regarding "completing what we started" pertaining to our regional transportation system, particularly SR 99. Ted Smalley indicated the need to coalition build around this matter. Gus Khouri noted other regions with similar concerns. Tony Boren noted the will of the people in approving local sales tax measures, which at times is different from state priorities. Additional discussion ensued regarding a "finishing what you started" campaign for SR 99, and it being the focus of Valley Voice Sacramento. Tony Boren suggested getting CTC Commissioner Eager engaged in this effort. Further discussion ensued about a letter from multiple stakeholders in the valley advocating and further coalescing around this. Directors approved of this. Diana Gomez of Caltrans noted an upcoming workshop for SR 99. Ted Smalley offered to lead an effort around SR 99 completion.

- ***State Transportation Improvement Program***

There was no update provided.

### 5. Valleywide Household Travel Survey

K. Cai

Kristine Cai, Fresno COG, noted a valleywide staff meeting to further discuss the survey. The scope of the survey (universe of sample) is being expanded and the cost has increased. Valley staff has met with the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) to discuss utilizing \$350k in REAP funding for the survey provided housing questions are incorporated into the survey. There appears to be concurrence from HCD. Kristine went over funding contributions from various sources for the survey effort, including the intent to apply for a Sustainable Planning Grant from Caltrans to support the survey. Kristine noted the need to submit additional documentation to HCD.

**6. SJV REAP Committee for Housing**

R. Phipps/M. Sigala

Robert Phipps noted the MOU among all eight MPOs is executed. Several MPO invoices have been received by Fresno COG. The RFP for REAP Housing services was noted; nine of the ten submittals have been shortlisted for further engagement if needed. Interviews for the Comprehensive Housing Report were conducted and two consultants, Mintier Harnish and Raimi + Associates have been selected to jointly work on it. Michael Sigala provided additional detail on the scope of work and budget for the Report. Michael noted a \$500k budget for the Report. Ahron Hakimi motioned for approval to contract with Mintier and Raimi for a not-to-exceed collective amount of \$500k, Patricia Taylor seconded. Motion approved.

**7. Regional Policy Council**

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala noted the next Regional Policy Council for January 22nd and asked the Directors for input on agenda items. Valley Voice Sacramento and election of new officers was noted, additional committee appointments and inviting CTC Commissioner Eager were additional items noted for inclusion on the agenda. Ted Smalley noted inclusion of the “finish the SR 99” coalition as well.

Valley Voice Sacramento was discussed and Michael Sigala asked for the Directors to approve utilizing Gus Khouri for Valley Voice. The Directors approved utilizing Gus. Gus proceeded to go over a potential platform concept and meeting ideas. Gus suggested focusing on CAPTI and executive orders and meeting with a few select legislators and the Governor’s Office, versus additional meetings with Caltrans and CARB that have been done in the past. Ted Smalley stressed focusing on SR 99. Discussion around potential meeting dates ensued. Approximately seven meetings were identified.

**8. California Inland Port**

T. Boren

Tony Boren provided a brief update noting the Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant application due on February 12th. Letters of support templates will be circulated.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**9. Caltrans Directors’ Report**

D. Gomez/D. Agar

Diana Gomez, District 6 Director, noted high covid cases continue with construction and maintenance crews. Diana noted a decrease in traffic volume. Average speeds are up. There are more job openings due to recent staff retirements. Homeless encampment policies were noted; District 6 is working with the City of Fresno to move homeless populations into recently purchased hotels. Work on Highway 41 in south Fresno County was noted – a phased approach, no passing, k-rail, then four lane development. This is considered a safety project, not a widening project. Dennis Agar, District 10 Director, introduced Marlon Regisford, deputy director. Dennis mentioned the upcoming summit on SR 99.

**10. California High Speed Rail**

G. Fernandez

There was no update provided at this time.

**11. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail**

D. Leavitt

Dan Leavitt noted the January 22<sup>nd</sup> JPA board meeting. Election of officers and certification of Madera Amtrak relocation will be on the agenda. A draft business plan for High Speed Rail will be out for review in April. Dan asked for continued inclusion of passenger rail in the Valley Voice platform. The new Chair for the Assembly Transportation Committee was noted as favoring the diversion of high speed rail funding to southern California.

**12. Valley GO (MioCar) and Valley Flex (Vamos & VoGo)**

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala noted about 60 percent of normal operations for Miocar and the fare integration into Vamos in the north valley has occurred. Extension funding contracts with CARB has been executed.

**13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**

E. Gonzalez

Patricia Taylor asked about the vacancies and appointments.

**OTHER ITEMS****14. Director Items****15. Public Presentations for Items not on Agenda**

**Meeting Adjourned at Approximately 12:11 P.M.**

**Appendix A – Additional Meeting Participants**

<b>In Attendance:</b>	
<b>Individual(s)</b>	<b>Organization(s)</b>
Ben Kimball	Tulare County Association of Governments
Elisabeth Hahn	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Michael Sigala	Valleywide Coordinator, Sigala Inc
Ryan Niblock	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Rene Gutierrez	San Joaquin JPA
Michael Navarro	Caltrans District 6
Matt Fell	Merced County Association of Governments
Kristine Cai	Fresno Council of Governments
Jeff Findley	Madera County Transportation Commission
Dylan Stone	Madera County Transportation Commission
Bill Higgins	California Council of Governments
Robert Phipps	Fresno Council of Governments
Rob Ball	Kern Council of Governments
Brenda Veenendaal	Fresno Council of Governments
Trai Herr	Fresno Council of Governments
Tom Dumas	Caltrans District 10
Diana Gomez	Caltrans District 6
Dennis Agar	Caltrans District 10
Nabeelah Abi-Rached	Caltrans
Meg Prince	Fresno Council of Governments
Evelyn Espinosa	Madera County Transportation Commission
Dylan Stone	Madera County Transportation Commission
Steven Ingoldsby	Tulare County Association of Governments
Roberto Brady	Tulare County Association of Governments
Dan Leavitt	San Joaquin JPA
Marlon Regisford	Caltrans District 10
Braden Duran	Fresno Council of Governments
Becky Napier	Kern Council of Governments
Gus Khouri	Khouri Consulting
Grace Magsayo	Caltrans

January 15, 2021

Toks Omishakin, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for Fresno COG's FY 2021-22 Caltrans Strategic Partnership Grant  
Application for the California Inland Port Feasibility Study Phase 3

Dear Director Omishakin,

\_\_\_\_[Agency]\_\_\_\_ strongly supports the California Inland Port Feasibility Study Phase 3 project application.

The inland port concept would support a range of State and local community objectives, including a substantial decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, increased roadway safety, and a sizable reduction in highway congestion, particularly along CA99, in addition to significant improvement in economic competitiveness. If this project went forward, given the scale of California's market, the vastness of its geography/positioning and through its seaports – the California Inland Port would become a nationally significant logistics and economic development project. More specifically, the study will be undertaken with Caltrans core objectives in mind:

- To significantly reduce air pollution by reducing the number of truck trips from the seaports complex in the Los Angeles region to the Central Valley and the Bay Area.
- To reduce highway road congestion, with a parallel reduction in the requirement for road maintenance; this reducing cost and creating more capacity from existing infrastructure.
- To improve highway and roadway safety from the removal of larger trucks from the State and local highway/roadway system.
- To support new job creation and investment growth by fundamentally repositioning the economic competitiveness of the Central Valley region; with specific focus on high-value manufacturing sectors and a more robust and efficient distribution system; direct rail service to/from deep seaports would reduce shipping costs for shippers that manage global supply chains.

\_\_\_\_[Agency]\_\_\_\_ appreciates Caltrans consideration of this project and is very pleased to submit this letter of support.

Sincerely,

[Name]  
[Title]