San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies’ Directors’ Committee

Meeting Agenda
Thursday, May 5, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 880 4835 6074
Passcode: 588932
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88048356074?pwd=cGVqcGlWa3RiczFjbVc0YmJsLzNKdz09
Phone only: 1 (669) 900 9128

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 7, 2022 Directors’ Meeting
   Ahron Hakimi ✓

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. MPO Activity Related to COVID 19
   Ahron Hakimi

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

4. Budget, Policy and Legislative Updates
   a) Federal, Discuss Valley Voice DC for Fall 2022
   Jen Covino
   b) State of California, Sacramento
   Gus Khouri
   c) CTC Fresno Meeting and Reception, May 18-19

5. SR 99 Multimodal Corridor Plan
   Update and Discussion
   Caltrans

Kern
Council of Governments
Ahron Hakimi - Chair

San Joaquin
Council of Governments
Diane Nguyen - Vice Chair

Tulare County
Association of Governments
Ted Smalley

Madera County
Transportation Commission
Patricia Taylor
(559) 266-6222
(559) 314-6015 (Fax)
http://sijvco.gov

Stanislaus
Council of Governments
Rosa Park

Merced County
Association of Governments
Stacie Guzman

Kings County
Association of Governments
Terri King

Fresno
Council of Governments
Tony Boren
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301
6. California Transportation Funding Updates
   - Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (SJCOG & MCAG)
   - Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (Fresno COG)
   - State Transportation Improvement Program

Ahron Hakimi

7. SJV REAP Program
   a. Receive Update
   b. Comprehensive Housing Report Final Update

Michael Sigala
Robert Phipps
Jim Harnish

8. Annual Policy Conference, May 11-13, 2022
   Receive Update

Robert Phipps

9. FY 2022-23 Valleywide Overall Work Program
   Consider Approving; including government affairs, air quality, and valleywide coordinator annual contract terms.

Michael Sigala

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. Listed individuals will provide a brief verbal update at the meeting.

10. Caltrans Directors’ Report

Diana Gomez/Dennis Agar

11. California High Speed Rail

Garth Fernandez/Toni Tinoco

12. Valleywide Household Travel Survey

Kristine Cai

13. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail

Dan Leavitt

14. I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study

Linda Urata

15. California Inland Port Study

Braden Duran

16. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Tom Jordan

17. Valley GO (MioCar) and Valley Flex (Vamos & VoGo)

Michael Sigala

18. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
   Valley Broadband Deployment Update

Eduardo Gonzalez
Frank Gornick

OTHER ITEMS

19. Director Items

20. 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, June 2, 2022

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 are conducted via Zoom.
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location:
Zoom Conference

Directors | MPO
---|---
Ahron Hakimi – Chair | Kern Council of Governments
Steve Dial for Diane Nguyen – Vice Chair | San Joaquin 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
Terri King | Kings County Association of Governments

Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 3, 2022 Directors’ Meeting

Ahron Hakimi

There was a motion to approve the February 3, 2022 Directors’ Committee minutes.

First Motion: Stacie Guzman
Second Motion: Patricia Taylor
Motion Carried
DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. MPO Activity During Coronavirus A. Hakimi
Ahron Hakimi inquired about AB 361 (remote meetings) given a state disaster declaration ending March 31st. Gus Khouri clarified that the declaration applies to state agencies only. All other public agencies are under AB 361 and can continue to meet remotely.

3. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality R. Niblock
Ryan Niblock noted the joint ARB/CTC meeting today. He noted the 2022 Ozone SIP development with a similar timeline to the RTP/SCS. The Air District is asking for a bracken analysis of ozone standards which Trinity Consultants is working on. The TCM listing is also being looked at. Ahron Hakimi noted the positive impacts of telecommuting. Tom Jordan noted meetings with EPA about this.

4. Budget, Policy and Legislative Updates
   Washington D.C. J. Covino
Jen Covino reported that three upcoming grants: RAISE ($1.5B), Bus and Bus Facilities ($1.1B), and Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity which includes INFRA, Megaproject, and Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program ($2.85B). She noted the Valley could be eligible for all three categories, including a Megaproject opportunity for SR 99. More upcoming DOT grant opportunities include Safe Streets and Routes for All, Federal Highway Competitive Bridge Grants, and FTA Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program. June and July show additional programs being available. Community Project Request and Discretionary Program Request are upcoming as well. Union labor for construction, labor agreements, climate change and equity are “themes” found in most federal grant programs.

Michael Sigala noted current RAISE letter of support request in the Valley: Madera SR 99, Inland Port, Kern SR 58, and SJSPA/ACE. Stacie Guzman asked about the Policy Council support for the Inland Port Project. It was noted that multiple inland ports are supported in the Valley.

   State of California G. Khouri
Gus Khouri reported the Governor’s FY 2022-23 budget is in a holding pattern. Gus noted the budget project support letter from the Valley. The May revised budget comes out May 13th, there is about $56 billion in surplus and federal transportation funding that is being negotiated on at this time. AB 2237 and AB 2438 (Friedman bills), Gus noted the Valley letters drafted and his ongoing discussions with Friedman’s staff. AB 1944 (allowing remote meetings) was discussed further.

5. 99 Summit Caltrans/T. Smalley
Ted Smalley noted follow up discussions regarding continued SR 99 funding. Diana Gomez noted the Summit was successful and Caltrans HQ appreciated hearing about all the other activities the Valley is doing. Completing SR 99 is consistent with CAPTI goals, an important theme to note. SR 99 Corridor Plan is in the planning stage. Diana requested a follow up meeting to discuss the summit.

6. California Transportation Funding A. Hakimi
   Program and Project Funding Updates:
   • Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (SJCOCG & MCAG)
     There was no update provided.
   • Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (Fresno COG)
     There was no update provided.
   • State Transportation Improvement Program
     There was no update provided.

7. SJV REAP Program R. Phipps/M. Sigala
Robert Phipps and Michael Sigala provided a summary of REAP activities in the past month. Technical assistance is ongoing, new Valleywide studies focused on the SGMA impacts on housing and
Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing are pending. The Comprehensive Housing Report final report was noted as being complete with jurisdictional housing data sets still pending HCD approval. The April Workshop, Housing Elements 101 was noted. Robert noted that REAP 2.0 includes mostly federal CARES Act funding and is less flexible as originally envisioned. $500 million of REAP 2.0 is federal and $100 million is state general funds. The short expenditure deadline is problematic as well with REAP 2.0.

8. **Annual Policy Conference**
   R. Phipps
   Robert Phipps noted lots of new sponsorships and speakers. He discussed several aspects of the conference including the trolley tours and Blueprint awards. The conference is in person, no virtual presentations.

9. **FY 2022-23 Valleywide Overall Work Program**
   M. Sigala
   Michael Sigala noted that during the month of April he will work with staff on updating next fiscal year’s OWP. The Valley OWP will be back on the agenda for consideration of approval at the May’s Directors’ meeting.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

10. **Caltrans Directors’ Report**
    D. Gomez/D. Agar
    Diana Gomez, District 6, noted that 50 percent of staff is telecommuting. Mr. Almaguer has been appointed as Central Region Services Division Chief, and Maria Tolmes (sp) as Director of Right of Ways. Clean California grants were announced last month, District 6 funded 15 of the 34 applications submitted. Caltrans Sustainable Planning grants were recently announced; eight awards were granted in District 6. Multicorridor Plan Update, Headquarters has approved the consultant RFP. CTC recently approved Fresno 41 in Fresno County, and Madera SR 99, Ave 7-12. Marlon Regisford from District 10 announced a new Project Delivery Deputy District Director, Carolina Reyes. Post 99 Summit survey is pending. ATP cycle six NOFA was recently released. Caltrans Sustainable Planning grants were recently announced; five awards were granted in District 10.

11. **California High Speed Rail**
    T. Tinoco
    Toni Tinoco noted the draft HSR 2022 Business Plan was released for public comment in February. A RFQ for design teams for additional project sections, Merced Wye and South Bakersfield was recently released. Ahron Hakimi inquired about total parcel ROW acquisitions in Kern County, he urged HSR to acquire those now versus later in the design process.

12. **Valleywide Household Travel Survey**
    K. Cai
    Kristine Cai noted a technical advisory committee for communication and marketing. The survey questions have been finalized. The 10 housing questions have been completed as well. The survey is scheduled to out to households in late April.

13. **San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail**
    S. Mortensen
    Stacie Mortensen reported the San Joaquin Business Plan was approved last month. The Madera station project is slated for submittal as a Megaproject (federal funding). Merced to San Jose thruway bus service is being implemented. The closed Wasco station was discussed.

14. **I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study**
    L. Urata
    Linda Urata noted a final executive summary and final report being circulated for comments. A final report and invoices to partners will be done in the first week of May.

15. **California Inland Port Study**
    B. Duran
    Braden Duran noted the upcoming CalSTA supply chain listening session in Fresno. He noted the opinion editorial by Costa and Valadao in local newspapers. He also requested a RAISE letter of support for additional planning and outreach for the project. Phase III of the feasibility study is underway. Tony Boren noted a $64.5 million budget request from the Fresno COG board for the system of inland ports.
16. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
T. Jordan
No report.

17. Valley GO (MioCar) and Valley Flex (Vamos & VoGo)  
M. Sigala
Michael noted the final report to ARB is pending.

18. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley  
E. Gonzales
Frank Gornick provided an update on Broadband for the Valley. The California Emerging Technology Fund is supporting three projects in the Valley: western Fresno County, Bakersfield (Lake Isabella area) and western Kern County. A RFQ will be released in April to become a preferred provider for comprehensive service in the Valley.

OTHER ITEMS

19. Director Items
Patricia Taylor noted focus group meetings regarding the AB 285 report. Kristine Cai provided additional information, particularly noting the lack of information in the California Transportation Plan as a benching marking tool for AB 285. The CTC Townhall meeting in April in Tulare was noted. A focused update on AB 285 with the directors was noted as needed. Terri King noted a pending bill which would further shift LTF road funding to transit, bike and ped uses.

20. Public Presentations for Items not on Agenda
No public comment.

Meeting Adjourned at Approximately 12:27 P.M.

Appendix A – Additional Meeting Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Sigala</td>
<td>Valleywide Coordinator, Sigala Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monica Streeter</td>
<td>Stanislaus Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Kim Anderson</td>
<td>San Joaquin Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Ryan Niblock</td>
<td>San Joaquin Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Stacie Mortensen</td>
<td>SJJPA</td>
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<td>Michael Navarro</td>
<td>Caltrans District 6</td>
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<td>Diana Gomez</td>
<td>Caltrans District 6</td>
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<td>Kristine Cai</td>
<td>Fresno Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Tom Jordan</td>
<td>SJVAPCD</td>
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<td>Robert Phipps</td>
<td>Fresno Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Braden Duran</td>
<td>Fresno Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Marlon Regisford</td>
<td>Caltrans District 10</td>
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<td>Roberto Brady</td>
<td>Tulare County Association of Governments</td>
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<td>Becky Napier</td>
<td>Kern Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Stephen Ingoldsby</td>
<td>Tulare County Association of Governments</td>
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<td>Linda Urata</td>
<td>Kern Council of Governments</td>
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<td>Rob Ball</td>
<td>Kern Council of Governments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toni Tonoco</td>
<td>CA High Speed Rail</td>
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<td>Meg Prince</td>
<td>Fresno Council of Governments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jen Covino</td>
<td>Simon and Company</td>
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<td>Gus Khouri</td>
<td>Khouri Consulting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Gornick</td>
<td>CA Partnership for the SJV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Arriola</td>
<td>Stanislaus Council of Governments</td>
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Technical Assistance to Valley jurisdictions is now available utilizing the following consultants:

- AECOM
- Mintier Harnish
- Precision Engineering
- QK (Quad Knopf)

Four cities have requested technical assistance to date. Jurisdictions can request technical assistance via a web site portal: https://sjvcogs.org/reap/reap-technical-assistance/

Additional Valleywide work efforts include:

1. SJV ADU template development (Precision Engineering)
2. SJV Guide to Recent California Housing Laws and Policies Affecting Local Land-Use Planning (AECOM)
3. Housing Capacity and Urban Footprint Scenario Development (HDR)
4. pending analysis for SGMA impacts on housing production, and
5. future jurisdictional housing element support for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)

The Comprehensive Housing Report is completed and a web landing page for online resources from the housing report, like jurisdictional data sets, is being established. Jim Harnish from Mintier Harnish will provide a summary of the final report at the May 5th meeting.

The final and third REAP funding application was provided to HCD in early November 2021. We received comments from HCD in late February 2022. The revised draft of the final application was submitted to HCD on April 4th. We received another round of questions on April 28th and are working on responses to HCD now.

Valley MPOs continue to work on the sixth cycle RHNA (regional housing needs allocations) planning. Allocations to jurisdictions are occurring in several counties.

Monthly REAP workshop series:
The next workshop, Site Identification Process for New Housing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 1pm. The April Workshop, Housing Elements 101, included 75 attendees.

REAP Workshop Series: https://sjvcogs.org/reap/reap-workshops/

The San Joaquin Valley Annual Policy Conference is being planning for May 11-13, 2022 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Housing speakers, panelist and tours will be provided.
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY 2022
POLICY CONFERENCE
The Road Ahead

MAY 11-13, 2022
CLOVIS VETERANS MEMORIAL DISTRICT

www.sjvcogs.org/events
San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies

Overall Work Program

Fiscal Year 2022-23
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES POLICY COUNCIL
MEMBERS AND STAFF, JUNE 2022

Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)

Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Mayor Eli Ontiveros, City of Sanger
Alternate: Councilmember Michelle Roman, City of Kingsburg

STAFF: Tony Boren, Executive Director – Fresno COG

Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)

Supervisor Zack Scrivner, Kern County
Councilmember Bob Smith, City of Bakersfield
Alternate: Councilmember Cathy Prout, City of Shafter

STAFF: Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director – Kern COG

Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)

Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County
Mayor Alvaro Preciado, City of Avenal
Alternate: Supervisor Joe Neves, Kings County

STAFF: Terri King, Executive Director – KCAG

Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)

Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County – CHAIR
Supervisor Brett Frazier, Madera County
Alternate: Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera

STAFF: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director – MCTC
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
Councilmember John Cale, City of Atwater
Alternate: Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County

STAFF: Stacie Guzman, Executive Director – MCAG

San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJ COG)

Supervisor Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County
Vice-Mayor Dan Wright, City of Stockton
Alternate: Councilmember Gary Singh, City of Manteca

STAFF: Diane Nguyen, Executive Director – SJ COG

Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)

Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County
{Vacant}
Alternate – Councilmember Jenny Kenoyer, City of Modesto

STAFF: Rosa Park, Executive Director – StanCOG

Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)

Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County
Mayor Rudy Mendoza, City of Woodlake – VICE CHAIR
Alternate – Councilmember Linda Launer, City of Dinuba

STAFF: Ted Smalley, Executive Director – TCAG

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director
INTRODUCTION

The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) covers over 27,000 square miles and encompasses the eight-county region of Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. Since 1992, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies (Valley RPAs) have coordinated planning activities where interregional issues are involved, including air quality conformity, goods movement, funding for regional transportation projects, legislative advocacy, and Sustainable Communities Strategies.

Planning efforts of Valleywide importance are conducted among the eight RPAs through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies’ Directors’ Committee (Directors’ Committee) and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council (Regional Policy Council), a governing board including elected officials from each Valley RPA and the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District).

In FY 2021-22, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) was added to the membership of the Regional Policy Council, represented by the Executive Director. Also in FY 2021-22, government affairs contracts for state and federal representation for the Regional Policy Council was implemented.

The FY 2022-2023 Valleywide Overall Work Program is a summary document and details major coordinated activities that all eight regional planning agencies, along with the Air District and SJJPA, are actively engaged in. The Valleywide OWP does not replace the need or requirements of each RPA to conduct their own OWP, rather it is a planning and budgeting tool for shared Valleywide activities.

(Note – the terms Regional Planning Agency (RPA), Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Council of Governments (COG) are used interchangeably in this document.)

CURRENT VALLEYWIDE MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. MAJOR HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES

Objective: To develop and foster regional coordination and prioritization for improving SR 99, I-5, and other regionally significant corridors.

Lead: Kern COG and MCAG

The Valley RPAs work in close consultation with Caltrans, and other stakeholders, to prioritize funding for SR 99, and other major highways and interstates. The 99 Business Plan helped the Valley achieve dedicated funding for SR 99 through Proposition 1B, the only transportation earmark in the bond placed
before the voters. Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 have updated the 99 Business Plan and Master Plan, and worked with the Valley RPAs on project selection and funding alternatives. The Directors, working in close consultation with Caltrans District 6 and 10 staff, routinely meet and discuss Proposition 1B bond savings, SB1 funding programs, RAISE, INFRA, and other funding strategies and opportunities to enhance and improve SR 99, I-5, and other critical corridors.

In FY 2021-22, considerable activities related to SR 99 improvements took place including coalition building for finishing the system, a SR 99 Summit held in March 2022, and STIP funding awards for Tulare and Madera segments.

**Activities for FY 2022-2023:**

- Continue to advocate to complete the SR 99 system, to a least six lanes of travel throughout the SJV.

- Continue to prioritize significant regional projects in accordance with criteria developed by the Directors’ Committee for coordinated, and consensus driven, advocacy for funding.

- Partake in and lead discussions with the Regional Policy Council, the California Transportation Commission, and others, about the importance of identifying and prioritizing state and federal funding for all major Valley projects.

- Seek federal and state funding for major highway and interstate projects and coordinate pre-construction activities, when feasible, to ensure project readiness. New federal infrastructure funding programs, and the state Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, are major SB1 funding sources to be targeted. Other sources at the state level include budget surplus funds.

- Work in close consultation with Caltrans Districts 6 & 10 to identify the most congested highway segments for eligibility for Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SB 1) funding. Continue to refine and prioritize regionally significant projects through a methodical mutually agreed upon evaluation process.

- Outline policies for using SHOPP funding for auxiliary lanes, and other concepts, as projects are eligible. Outline policies for converting temporary lanes to permanent lanes when feasible. Kern COG to coordinate with Caltrans D6, and MCAG to coordinate with D10 on opportunities for additional programming.

2. **JOINT FUNDING STRATEGIES – STIP, IIP AND OTHER FUNDING**

**Objective: To develop and foster greater coordination across various funding programs to enhance and increase transportation funding to the Valley.**

Lead: TCAG and San Joaquin COG
The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a multi-year capital improvement program to assist the State and local entities to plan and implement transportation improvements, and to utilize resources in a cost-effective manner. STIP funded improvements include state highways, local roads, public transit, intercity rail, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, grade separations, intermodal facilities, etc. Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) funds are programmed by Caltrans on a statewide priority basis, for use primarily on the State highway system (outside urbanized areas) and projects that generate economic development.

Activities for FY 2022-23:

- Collaborate on STIP policy development and preparation of the RTIPs. This includes the goal of coordinating RIP/IIP priorities and developing consistent RTIP submittals which showcase valleywide priorities and transportation themes to the California Transportation Commission.
- Continue partnership efforts (for example the former Valley “Swap Meet”) to exchange information on federal funding programs such as the Regional Surface Transportation Program and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program so no funds lapse in the Valley.
- Continue communication on emerging policy and process changes to the state Active Transportation Program.
- Brief directors on any key developments and issues related to various funding programs throughout the year including the Congested Corridor Program, Local Partnership Program, other SB 1 funding, RAISE, INFRA, etc.
- Monitor and report on any developments that impact the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) process.
- Participate and provide input to the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) to ensure appropriate state highways are included in the system.

3. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY INTERREGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT

**Objective: To prioritize, coordinate and implement goods movement planning and capital projects to improve the Valley’s economic competitiveness.**

Lead: Fresno COG, TCAG and Kern COG

The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) has always been California’s geographic and agricultural production center generating more than $40 billion every year in nuts, lettuce, tomatoes, wine, and other grains and agricultural products. It also plays a major role in the national and international distribution of processed foods and energy products, and has a burgeoning logistics and distribution industry.
Recognizing the importance of goods movement to the region, the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies and Caltrans commissioned a series of regional goods movement plans: San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan (2015), San Joaquin Valley I-5/SR 99 Goods Movement Corridor Plan (2017) and the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan (2017). In 2019, funding was identified for the I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study to ascertain the feasibility of utilizing cargo depots and driverless autonomous electric trucks on Interstate 5. In 2020, funding and regional support for the California Inland Port Study was solidified among a majority of the RPAs. Goods movement continues to be a priority for transportation related investments in the region.

In FY 2021-22, Regional Policy Council member Dan Wright (Stockton City Council) was assigned as the representative from the Valley for the California Freight Advisory Committee.

Activities for FY 2022-23:

- Continue to coordinate project prioritization for INFRA, RAISE, SB1 and other goods movement federal and state funding.
- Participate and provide input to California’s Freight Mobility Plan and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).
- Continue to work with regional partners conducting logistics, economic development and other analysis related to goods movement.
- Advocate and support efforts to maintain short line rail corridors, inland ports and last-mile connectivity facilities.
- Continue to identify multimodal strategies to compliment and support the movement of goods in the SJV.
- Continue to actively fund and participate in inland port concepts for the Valley.
- Continue to explore alternative fuels and technology strategies for meeting the California’s Sustainable Freight mandates.
- Develop a strategy for “telling the story” of the importance of goods movements and related transportation investments in the Valley. Implement a Valleywide goods movement task force if necessary.

4. AIR QUALITY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Objective: To continue successful coordination of Valleywide air quality planning minimizing potential impacts to project delivery.

Lead: San Joaquin COG and StanCOG
Transportation conformity is required by the federal Clean Air Act and ensures that federal funding is given to transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals. The Clean Air Act strengthened conformity requirements for transportation projects, necessitating a more enhanced level of technical analysis of plans, programs, and projects than in the past. Conformity determinations must be conducted at least every four years, or as amendments are made to plans or projects. The federal transportation conformity rule requires interagency consultation on issues that would affect the conformity analysis, such as the underlying assumptions and methodologies used to prepare the analysis. Consultation is generally conducted through the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Coordinating Committee (IAC). The IAC has been established to provide a coordinated approach to Valley air quality, conformity and transportation modeling issues.

Coordination among the Valley RPAs, the Air District and other air quality and transportation agencies is proving to be a very effective process. The Valley RPA Directors have budgeted to continue joint funding for a valleywide Air Quality Coordinator, responsible to the Directors, to ensure that air quality conformity and related modeling within the Valley is accomplished on a consistent and timely basis.

**Activities for FY 2022-23:**

- Monitor state and federal guidance related to air quality transportation planning requirements.
- Conduct conformity determinations to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan, Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and subsequent amendments conform to the State Implementation Plans (SIPs), as required by federal laws and regulations.
- Submit future-year travel forecasts to the SJVAPCD and the California Air Resources Board as requested.
- Continue to utilize the Interagency Coordinating Committee (IAC) for routine communication and coordination.
- Coordinate with California Air Resources Board staff related to future SCS review template.
- Assist Valley staff in demonstrating conformity.
- Assist Valley staff in SCS review performed by the California Air Resources Board.

**5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS**

**Objective:** To develop and coordinate SB 375 compliant Sustainable Communities Strategies for the Valley

Lead: Fresno COG and San Joaquin COG

California’s Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) requires each MPO to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of their Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). A
SCS outlines the plan for reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions by integrating transportation and land use elements.

Under the Sustainable Communities Act, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) sets regional targets for GHG emissions reductions from passenger vehicle use. New targets will be applied to the 2022 RTP/SCS for the Valley MPOs. The Valley Regional Planning Agencies will be working independently, and collectively, to meet these targets and have invested considerable resources towards technical staff, modeling, and scenario development.

In addition, the Valley’s Regional Planning Agencies will continue to work with ARB to interpret the new protocols for the updated SCS review guidelines.

Activities for FY 2022-23:

- Work with ARB staff on 2022 RTP/SCS reviews.
- Assist ARB, and other state entities, with fulfilling SB 150 requirements on SB 375 progress reporting, and other guidance or policy documents as needed.
- Continue to implement transportation and land use strategies developed in the RTP/SCS.
- Continue to evaluate and monitor CAPTI, and other climate change and social equity polices for implementation into Valley RTPs where appropriate.
- Continue work on the 2022 RTP/SCS planning process; Assist Valley staff, as necessary, with 2022 RTP/SCS planning documentation.
- Monitor CARB 2022 Scoping Plan updates.

6. RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

Objective: To develop and foster greater communication and coordination between Valley Regional Planning Agencies and other related agencies and stakeholders.

Lead: StanCOG, Valleywide Coordinator

To maintain ongoing communication and cooperation with other external agencies, the Valley RPAs have included a relationship development component to foster routine “two way” communication with related state and federal transportation and related agencies.

Federal entities include the Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Rail Administration (FRA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). State entities include the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), California Transportation Commission (CTC), California Air Resources Board (ARB), Caltrans Districts 6 and 10, Caltrans Headquarters, California Association of Council of Governments
(CalCOG), California Self Help Counties Coalition, Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the High-Speed Rail Authority, and Housing and Community Development (HCD). Regional entities include the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the San Joaquin Valley JPA for Passenger Rail, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG), MPOs in the Central Coast, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Other stakeholders include the California Trucking Association, agricultural associations, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, colleges and universities, environmental groups, and the public.

Activities for FY 2022-2023:

- Directors to coordinate and attend one-third of CTC meetings, and meet throughout the year with our CTC Commissioner representative.
- Directors to meet with at least two CTC Board Members they don’t currently know.
- Directors to meet annually with CalSTA Director.
- CTC staff to be invited to Directors’ Committee meeting once a year.
- RPA staff to be encouraged to take more leadership positions on Valleywide matters.
- Valley Directors to develop and maintain relationships with the Caltrans Director and Deputy for Planning.
- Valley Directors should attend and speak at each CalCOG meeting.
- Valley Directors’ Committee meetings should be moved, periodically, to a time of the month where Valley Directors can review and discuss the CalCOG meetings, to develop timely joint strategies on issues.
- Request MTC or SCAG staff come to a Valley Directors’ Committee meeting.
- Valley Directors to meet annually with management of ARB, ARB Board members, and attend the joint CTC/ARB and joint CTC/ARB/HCD Board Meetings.
- Additional, and targeted outreach, shall be made to the Strategic Growth Council, SJV Air Pollution Control District, High-Speed Rail Authority, and other metropolitan planning organizations.

7. VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To engage in a unified process that allows the eight county region to discuss and comment on legislative affairs, and build consensus on issues of Valleywide importance.
Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, StanCOG

In FY 2021-22, government affairs contracts for state and federal representation for the Regional Policy Council were implemented with StanCOG as the fiscal agent. The federal and state government affairs staff routinely update the Directors and Policy Council when legislative advocacy is needed for the Valley. Several times annually, position letters are written and circulated regarding legislation to support or oppose, and funding opportunities to pursue and support. Working in close consultation with the Directors and government affairs personnel, the Coordinator will plan and coordinate the annual Valley Voice advocacy visits to Sacramento and Washington D.C.

Activities for FY 2022-23:

- Continue to routinely meet with our state and federal legislators regarding legislation and funding opportunities for the Valley.
- Track legislation, communication with legislative offices, letter campaigns and other activities to develop a unified, Valleywide position.
- Develop the Valleywide Legislative Platform (state and federal).
- Plan “Valley Voice” Sacramento visit for early 2022.

8. VALLEYWIDE MODEL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Objective: To maintain a continuing, cooperative, and coordinated regional transportation modeling process which is responsive to local needs as well as state and federal requirements.

Lead: Fresno COG

Fresno COG was the lead agency for the San Joaquin Valley Model Improvement Plan (MIP), which updated all eight San Joaquin Valley transportation demand models. These improvements were required to respond to the requirements of Assembly Bill 32, the Global Solutions Warming Act of 2006, and Senate Bill 375, which requires the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) in Regional Transportation Plans (RTP). Six of the eight MPOs are still using the MIP models. Fresno COG has developed an Activity-Based Model (ABM), and TCAG is in the process of transitioning into ABM.

Traffic model runs are made as necessary to support transportation planning, conformity analysis, SB 743 VMT analysis, and greenhouse gas emissions analysis. The COG staff also runs the latest EMFAC emissions model for air quality in support of transportation conformity. This activity supports both highway planning activities and the air quality conformity process. Some MPO staff used the Envision Tomorrow visioning tool to help test various land use scenarios for SB 375 target setting and Sustainable Communities Strategies.
A related action includes the coordination of valleywide modeling analysis, and participation in the San Joaquin Valley model users group. These activities are critically important to an understanding of the role of the transportation sector in resolving serious air quality problems in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

**Activities for FY 2022-23:**

- Continue long-term model improvements.
- Participate in the testing of EMFAC adjustment factors and monitor other EMFAC update activities.
- Continue to research off-model GHG reduction quantification methodology for strategies that can’t be modeled by traffic models.
- Continue development and improvement of advanced four step models, tour base models or activity based models in select counties.
- Improve coordination and participation of the Valley model users group.
- Coordinate with SJV Goods Movement planning efforts to develop a framework for a regional freight movement modeling tool.
- Provide VMT analysis assistance for SB 743 implementation.
- Conduct a Valleywide Household Travel Survey, and start new model updates with survey results.

**9. OTHER VALLEYWIDE ACTIVITIES**

- **Ecosystems of Shared Mobility Services in the San Joaquin Valley** was funded by ARB in 2017 and was implemented starting in 2018. The $2.25M grant is for technology improvements, and BEV car sharing in rural areas of four Valley counties. This grant activity is a continuation of the SCS Implementation Alternatives for Meeting Transit Needs in the Rural San Joaquin Valley, a Caltrans planning grant administered by MCAG, and conducted by the UC Davis Institute for Transportation Studies. The current project is segmented into Valley Go in the south valley counties of Tulare and Kern for the Miocar car sharing program, strategically located at affordable housing communities. Valley Flex and VOGO in the north valley counties of Stanislaus and San Joaquin is implementing technology enhancements (software application) for coordinated interregional transit, as well as coordinated volunteer driver services. ARB funding for these programs expired in FY 2021-22; ongoing operational support is being sought to continue these programs.
• **Housing Planning Funds, REAP.** The Governors’ budget proposal for FY 2019-20 included housing planning funds to the Valley MPOs through the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant program. The Valley MPOs have organized and coordinated activities for this program starting in January 2020. A 24-member working group has been formed and approximately $10.2 million of the roughly $19 available to the Valley has been received from the State of California. Considerable and additional work efforts utilizing this new funding source have begun and will continue through August 2023. Work efforts will include planning activities in support of the upcoming sixth cycle of the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) and Housing Element processes, valleywide housing analysis, technical assistance, educational workshops, and funding suballocations to local jurisdictions.

Approximately $59 million in REAP 2.0 funding is slated to come to Valley MPOs beginning in FY 2022-23. Valley MPOs are currently assessing eligible activities and completing initial applications for funding.

• **San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference.** The valleywide conference is held in the spring, at a different location each year, and is coordinated by the host agency. The 2020 conference was to be held in May 2020 at Bass Lake in Madera County. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it was postponed until May 2022. The 2022 conference was hosted by the Fresno Council of Governments at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. The conference is co-planned by the Valleywide Coordinator, and event subconsultant(s), who will work with the host agency for conference implementation. The Central California American Planning Association is also a contributor to the conference planning and manages the Blueprint Awards.

**Past Conferences**
- Modesto (StanCOG), Fall 2010
- Bass Lake (MCTC), Fall 2011
- Lemoore (KCAG), Fall 2012
- Stockton (SJ COG), Fall 2013
- Visalia (TCAG), Fall 2014
- Tenaya (MCAG), Fall 2015
- Fresno (Fresno COG), Spring 2017
- Modesto (StanCOG), Spring 2018
- Lemoore (KCAG), Spring 2019
- Fresno COG, 2022

**Future Conferences**
- San Joaquin COG, 2023
- TCAG, 2024
- MCTC, 2025
- MCAG, 2026
- StanCOG, 2027
**Regional Policy Council Meetings and Directors’ Committee Meetings.** The Valleywide Coordinator shall continue to schedule monthly Directors’ Committee meetings and meetings for the Regional Policy. In FY 2017-18, an Executive Committee and Water Policy Committee were created for the Regional Policy Council. The Regional Policy Council usually meets twice a year in person and holds two to three zoom conference meetings in preparation for Valley Voice visits. The Chair of the Regional Policy Council is elected for a one year term in the first meeting of the fiscal year (usually in January). Activities for the coordinated efforts of the Valley are maintained at [www.sjvcogs.org](http://www.sjvcogs.org).

### Directors’ Chair
San Joaquin Council of Governments, 2022-23

### Rotation Schedule
- Tulare County Association of Governments, 2023-24
- Fresno Council of Governments, 2024-25
- Merced County Association of Governments, 2025-26
- Stanislaus Council of Governments, 2026-27
- Madera County Transportation Commission, 2027-28
- Kings County Association of Governments, 2028-29
- Kern Council of Government, 2029-30
The budget for the Valleywide activities, identified in the OWP, is detailed below. Budget amounts by MPO represent the total direct cost for this activity by MPO. Budget amounts by activity are apportioned by population share for all items, except for Valley Voice advocacy visits, which are apportioned equally.

SJ COG is the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning.

Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for Valley Voice, the Valleywide Coordinator contract, and is coordinating funding for the California Inland Port study (figures for the Inland Port Study are not shown below).

StanCOG is the fiscal agent for the state and federal government affairs contracts.

Fresno COG is also the fiscal agent for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program, an eight-county program for housing planning activities (page 12). A 24-member working group established by California statute, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Committee, has budgetary authority over REAP funding. REAP budgets figures are not shown below.

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<th>Valleywide Activities</th>
<th>Air Quality Planning$1</th>
<th>Valley Voice$2</th>
<th>Valleywide Coordinator$3</th>
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(1) CA DOF, January 1, 2021 estimates
(2) SJ COG Staff ($50,000), Air Quality Consultant, Trinity ($150,000).
(3) No PL Funds, cost for Valley Voice is apportioned equally (not by population). Amount may be lower if travel restrictions are in place due to the coronavirus.
    Cost for Valley Voice includes federal and state government affairs consultants at $120,000.
(4) Sigala Inc., includes subcontracts for administering the Annual Policy Conference, website maintenance (sjvcoags.org) and IT support, and other subcontracts and subscription services.