



San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

Meeting
Friday, June 21, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Members of the Policy Council may participate via video teleconference at the following locations:

Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Stanislaus Council of Governments
1111 I St., Suite 308
Modesto, CA 95354

Tulare County Association of Governments
210 N. Church St., Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Rd., Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637

San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 E. Weber Ave., Suite 400
Stockton, CA 95202

Kings County Association of Governments
339 W. D St., Suite B
Lemoore, CA 93245

Merced County Association of Governments
369 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340

396 Tahoe Woods Blvd.
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Members of the public may participate at any of the above locations or remotely via Zoom. Please contact Michael Sigala at (559) 266-6222 or michael@sigalainc.com prior to the meeting to determine which physical locations will be utilized.

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81741953319?pwd=OQ9eNLI9A2mOyhimu5vQkOitlSaiV.1>

Meeting ID: 817 4195 3319, Passcode: 981021

Phone only: (669) 900-9128

Enclosure

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McDaniel

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve March 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair McDaniel




2. Valley Voice D.C. 2024


Jen Covino



a. Discuss and approve draft legislative platform.

b. Discuss trip itinerary and logistics (September 10-11, 2024).

 (559) 266-6222

 (559) 314-6015

 210 N Church St. Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

 <http://sjvcogs.org/>

Chair
Supervisor Daron McDaniel
Merced County

Vice-Chair
Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Tulare County
Association of
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Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

San Joaquin
Joint Powers
Authority

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>2. California Legislative and Budget Update
<i>Receive update.</i></p> | Gus Khouri | |
| <p>3. State Route 99 and Major Highway Funding
<i>Receive update.</i></p> | Grace Magsayo and
Diana Gomez | |
| <p>4. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Valleywide Overall Work Program
<i>Consider approving.</i></p> | Michael Sigala | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>5. Valleywide Coordinator Contract
<i>Consider approving three-year contract with VRPA Technologies.</i></p> | Robert Phipps | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>6. Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2024-25
<i>Consider approving.</i></p> | Michael Sigala | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

C. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District | Samir Sheik |
| 2. High Speed Rail | Toni Tinoco |
| 3. ACE/SJJPA | Michael Hanebutt |

D. OTHER ITEMS

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Executive Directors' Report | Ted Smalley |
| 2. Regional Policy Council Member Comments | |

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public Comment will be allowed during the Discussion/Action Items above.

F. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.0 One potential case.

G. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

H. ADJOURN

Next Regular Regional Policy Council Meeting: Friday, January 24, 2025.

Provisional Meeting on November 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

There will be a Pre-Valley Voice DC meeting on August 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The public meeting location and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies at 559.266.6222, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting.



Item B.1

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 1, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Location:


Remote Zoom Video Teleconference


In accordance with Brown Act meeting requirements, each COG office was a designated meeting location for Policy Council members.

Policy Council Member Attendees:


MEMBER	MPO/COG	TITLE	JURISDICTION
Daron McDaniel (Chair)	MCAG	Supervisor	Merced County
Vito Chiesa (Vice Chair)	StanCOG	Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Gary Yep	Fresno COG	Councilmember	City of Kerman
Alma Beltran	Fresno COG	Mayor	City of Parlier
Bob Smith	Kern COG	Councilmember	City of Bakersfield
Doug Verboon	KCAG	Supervisor	Kings County
Joe Neves	KCAG	Supervisor	Kings County
Pat Nagy	MCAG	Mayor	City of Gustine
Dan Wright	SJ COG	Councilmember	City of Stockton
Gary Singh	SJ COG	Mayor	City of Manteca
Rosa Escutia-Braaton	StanCOG	Councilmember	City of Modesto
Rudy Mendoza	TCAG	Mayor	City of Woodlake
Dennis Townsend	TCAG	Supervisor	Tulare County
Samir Sheikh	SJVAPCD	Executive Director	SJVAPCD
Dan Leavitt (for Stacey M)	SJIPA	Executive Director	SJIPA
Linda Launer - Alternate	TCAG	Councilmember	City of Dinuba
Buck Condit - Alternate	StanCOG	Supervisor	Stanislaus County

Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees

 (559) 266-6222

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 210 N Church St. Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

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Chair
Supervisor Daron McDaniel
Merced County

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Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

San Joaquin
Joint Powers
Authority

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair

McDaniel

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve January 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair McDaniel

There was a motion to approve the January 23, 2024, minutes.

First Motion: Rosa Escutia-Braaton

Second Motion: Pat Nagy

No Nays

Motion Carried (A roll call vote was conducted for this item.)

2. Water Committee Policy Item

Gary Yep

Gary Yep reported on a subcommittee meeting where water as a policy item for the Regional Policy Council was discussed. Bob Smith noted that the focus of the group should be on transportation. Rudy Mendoza noted the need to have expertise on water and highlight regional water projects, not necessarily dams. Mr. Mendoza noted this should be included in Valley Voice trips in a brief manner. Chair McDaniel recalled spending an extra day in D.C. with the water subcommittee and how effective that was. Gary Yep noted water has been handled at the water subcommittee level and we need to decide if we elevate those efforts. Dennis Townsend noted flood control, water storage and conveyance as being important for the platform. Rudy Mendoza motioned that staff bring this item back after the Sacramento Valley Voice trip to discuss next logical steps and identify professionals to help us design a narrative around water.

First Motion: Rudy Mendoza

Second Motion: Doug Verboon

No Nays

Motion Carried (A roll call vote was conducted for this item.)

3. Valley Voice Sacramento, March 13-14, 2024

Gus Khouri

Gus Khouri reviewed the itinerary for Valley Voice and the various meetings scheduled. Mr. Khouri noted a committee room in the Capitol Annex Building for the meetings. The legislative platform was adopted at the January meeting. Mr. Khouri briefly reviewed the platform items and asked for speaker volunteers for each of the four priority areas. Vito Chiesa proposed choosing three speakers for each topic area. The speakers shall be from the north, central and southern Valley and shall be called upon to lead the discussion with legislators as geographically appropriate. The following speakers by topic area were selected:

- Pragmatically address **air quality**, equity, and mobility goals through operational improvements.

Samir Sheikh, Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Tom Jordan, and Doug Verboon

- Leverage **state funding** to address safety, goods movement, and mobility.

Alma Beltran, Robert Poythress, Daron McDaniel

- Access **transit** funding.

Linda Launer, Pat Nagy, Doug Verboon

- Enhance **passenger rail** service.

Doug Verboon, Leticia Gonzalez, Vito Chiesa

Gus Khouri noted he will be sending talking points out to the group. Mr. Khouri encouraged everyone to add to the conversations in Sacramento.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47 am.

Appendix: A – List of other meeting attendees.

Individuals	Organization
Michael Sigala	Sigala Inc.
Stacie Guzman	MCAG
David Gellman	Simon, Smith & Co.
Jen Covino	Simon, Smith & Co.
Jose Luis Caceres	StanCOG
Leticia Gonzalez	Madera County
Monica Streeter	StanCOG
Michael Hanebutt	SJJPA
Robert Phipps	Fresno COG
Nick Salinas	Madera County
Diane Nguyen	San Joaquin COG
Patricia Taylor	MCTC
Rosa De Leon-Park	StanCOG
Terri King	KCAG
Gus Khouri	Khouri Consulting
Steve Dial	San Joaquin COG

DRAFT
Valley Voice
Federal Platform
September 2024

Highway Projects

The San Joaquin Valley generates major economic activity throughout California and the United States with goods produced in our dominant industries, including agriculture and food and beverage sectors. A burgeoning logistics sector has emerged in recent years, facilitating goods movement from maritime ports along the West Coast to inland ports and market destinations. Safe and efficient goods movement corridors are critical to ensure the reliability of our supply chains as freight is expected to exceed 500 million tons annually by 2040.

The Regional Planning Agencies work in close consultation with federal and state partners to prioritize investments in ensuring the safety and enhancing the capacity of State Route (SR) 99, the economic backbone of the Valley that supports the movement of goods and people. Our delegation supports requests seeking federal funding to support the planning, design, or construction of key segments and connections that have been identified as regional priorities to complete the modernization of the corridor.

These requests are critical to maintain a state of good repair and improve travel and goods movement along SR 99:

- LIST OF PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Multimodal Projects

The Regional Planning Agencies continue building upon their ongoing efforts to enhance multimodal connectivity throughout the transportation system, reduce carbon emissions, and improve air quality for residents of the San Joaquin Valley. Our delegation supports federal funding requests that advance those objectives in alignment with the Administration's policy goals focused on mobility, economic opportunity, sustainability, resiliency, and environmental justice. We urge your support for the following grant applications submitted by the Regional Planning Agencies:

- LIST OF PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Rail Projects

The delegation supports new federal investments that will enhance passenger rail service in the San Joaquin Valley. The expansion of rail service and improvements to freight rail are integral to our planning efforts, while our Regional Planning Agencies prepare for continued population growth, support economic development and workforce development strategies envisioned by our intergovernmental partners, connect with other regions, and comply with federal clean air standards. We encourage lawmakers and the Administration to support the following projects of regional significance:

- LIST OF PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

FY 2025 Budget and Appropriations

Programmatic Priorities

As appropriators continue working toward a resolution Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 spending bills, we urge Members of Congress to avoid cuts to key transportation programs authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169). The Regional Planning Agencies encourage lawmakers to maintain critical investments, particularly in the FY 2025 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) spending bill. Discretionary grant programs help our Regional Planning Agencies in ongoing work to enhance mobility, safety, goods movement, transit, and air quality in the Central Valley. Programmatic reductions would counter our ability to fully realize the potential of the federal investments in our regional infrastructure. The Regional Planning Agencies also oppose any legislative efforts to rescind previously awarded federal grants supporting transportation projects and benefitting local communities and our workforce in the San Joaquin Valley.

Project Priorities

As negotiations involving FY 2025 spending bills progress, we urge lawmakers to maintain Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending requests as submitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by the Members of our San Joaquin Valley Congressional delegation. These pending requests are included below, sorted by Member listed alphabetically by chamber. Together, these requests represent **\$ WORTH OF FEDERAL INVESTMENT across X counties**.¹

Senator Laphonza Butler

List of T-HUD Disclosures

Recipient Name: Kern Council of Governments

Project Purpose: Bakersfield, California at State Route (SR) 58 and SR 99 interchange, this project completes the funding package for a missing freeway-to-freeway ramp from southbound SR 99 to westbound SR 58, completing a National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) interchange on the SR 58 corridor.

Project Location: Kern County CA

Amount Requested: \$10,000,000

Recipient Name: Merced County Association of Governments

Project Purpose: Funds would be used for the acquisition of four new clean-diesel motor coaches to replace portions of an obsolete Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) fleet.

Project Location: Merced CA

Amount Requested: \$3,400,000

Recipient Name: San Joaquin Council of Governments

Project Purpose: Phase 1B of the State Route 99/120 Connector Project will improve the connector from northbound State Route (SR) 99 to northbound State Route 120 by widening the connector to two lanes and adding a merge/weave lane on westbound SR 120 between SR 99 and the Main Street Interchange.

Project Location: San Joaquin County CA

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipient Name: Stanislaus Council of Governments

Project Purpose: Funds would be used to secure right-of-way for approximately 5 miles of realigned highway, two grade separations with overpasses, and a roundabout.

Project Location: Modesto CA

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Senator Alex Padilla

List of T-HUD Disclosures

Recipient Name: Kern Council of Governments

Project Purpose: The funding will be used to replace a rural 4-way stop with a safer, trucking-enabled roundabout.

Project Location: City of Bakersfield CA

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipient Name: Kern Council of Governments

Project Purpose: This funding will support construction of a ramp from southbound SR 99 to westbound SR 58.

Project Location: County of Kern CA

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipient Name: Merced County Association of Governments

Project Purpose: This funding will secure four new motor coaches to replace portions of a fleet that provides public transit access to Yosemite National Park.

Project Location: Counties of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Tuolumne CA

Amount Requested: \$3,400,000

Recipient Name: San Joaquin Council of Governments

¹ To be updated after spending bills are introduced

Project Purpose: This funding will reconstruct the existing interchange between SR 99 and SR 120 in the City of Manteca.

Project Location: County of San Joaquin CA

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipient Name: Stanislaus Council of Governments

Project Purpose: This funding will provide for right-of-way acquisition.

Project Location: Stanislaus CA

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Recipient Name: San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

Project Purpose: This funding will support the expanded installation of positive train control on Altamont Corridor Express from Natomas to Ceres.

Project Location: County of San Joaquin CA

Amount Requested: \$2,900,000

Congressman John Duarte

[Full List of Disclosures](#)

Project Name: SR 132 Dakota Avenue to Gates Road

Requested Amount: \$5,000,000

Intended Recipient: Stanislaus County

Full Street Address of Intended Recipient: 1111 I Street, Suite 308, Modesto, CA, 95354

Explanation of the Request: The funding would be used to acquire rights-of-way to construct an expressway, two grade separations with overpasses, and a roundabout.

[Member Certification Form](#)

Congressman Vince Fong

[Full List of Disclosures](#)

Project Name: Centennial Corridor SB 99 to WB 99 Connector

Sponsor: Kern Council of Governments

Recipient Address: 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Explanation of Request: The funding would be used to build a connector ramp from southbound State Route 99 to westbound State Route 58. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this will help improve safety and access to an important transportation route.

[Certification Letter](#)

Project Name: Roundabout and Ancillary Facilities

Sponsor: Kern Council of Governments

Recipient Address: 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Explanation of Request: The funding would be used to upgrade a four way stop with a roundabout at State Route 34 and 7th Standard Road. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because of the improvements to safety and flow of traffic.

[Certification Letter](#)

Congressman Josh Harder

[Full List of Disclosures](#)

Project Name: I-205 Managed Lanes

Requested Amount: \$5,000,000

Subcommittee: THUD

Project Sponsor: San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)

Project Explanation: The funding would be used for the design element of the I-205 Managed Lanes Project, which will make vital improvements to the I-205 corridor.

Financial Disclosure: [View here](#)

Congressman Jay Obernolte

[Full List of Disclosures](#)

Project name: SR58/Edwards AFB North Gate Intersection-Interchange Safety Consolidation
Location: 1401 19th St Ste 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Project Sponsor/Requestor: Kern County
Amount requested: \$6,000,000
[Click here for certification letter.](#)

[Congressman David Valadao](#)
[Full List of Disclosures](#)

Project Name: State Route 43/7th Standard Road Roundabout Project
Proposed Recipient: Kern Council of Governments
Address of Recipient: 1402 19th St., Ste 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Requested Amount: \$5,000,000

Explanation of Request: The funding would be used to replace a rural 4-way stop with a safer, trucking-enabled roundabout at the intersection of SR 43 and a county expressway corridor (7th Standard Rd), providing access to southern and northern California via I-5. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will fix this vital linkage between the Cities of Bakersfield and Shafter, which serves the needs of agriculture and goods movement.

IIJA/IRA Implementation

Lawmakers must hold states accountable throughout the implementation of the IIJA and IRA, ensuring that state governments are appropriately coordinating with regional or local government partners and distributing federal resources as required by the law and intended by the spirit of it.

As the Administration continues to focus on improving safety outcomes as its top policy priority, we ask our federal and state partners to recognize that increasing highway and road capacity throughout the Valley is critical to helping to prevent crashes, injuries, and fatalities on two-lane facilities in our most disadvantaged communities.

Reauthorization Principles

Ensuring the Solvency of the Highway Trust Fund

As reauthorization approaches, Congress must soon begin discussions on how to provide adequate, stable funding to ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. Recognizing that outflows have long exceeded HTF cash inflows, we understand that policymakers may consider increasing federal fuel (gasoline and diesel) taxes or instead establishing new taxes or fees on electric vehicles (EVs), commercial trucks, and/or Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). We urge lawmakers to consider potential disparate impacts on rural road users in low-income communities throughout the Valley while assessing these options, recognizing our residents may need to commute dozens of miles for access to jobs, education, or medical services.

Prioritizing Regional and Local Funding

Regional governments, including councils of government and metropolitan planning organizations, are uniquely situated within our system of federalism to effectively implement projects and policies supported by intergovernmental partners and federal investments. Our Regional Planning Agencies convene county, municipal, and community interests and coordinate with federal, state, and local government entities. It is our mission to work across multi-jurisdictional boundaries to ensure the effective planning and delivery of infrastructure projects and services as well as the equitable distribution of federal, state, and local funds. The diversity of our regional board representation is our strength, balancing the interests of our urban, suburban, and rural communities and partner transportation agencies across modes to deliver the outcomes and solutions desired by federal policymakers.

Regional and local governments are responsible stewards of direct dollars who can maximize the use of federal funding to deliver impactful projects and services without the administrative costs and burdens associated with distributing resources through state government agencies. Our Regional Planning Agencies support federal efforts to redistribute a greater share of federal formula funds directly to regional councils or MPOs. We recommend increasing formula funding levels for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and the Metropolitan Planning (PL) Program. Our delegation respectfully urges lawmakers to seek legislative opportunities to expand eligibility to include regional councils and MPOs wherever appropriate across the full spectrum of discretionary and competitive funding opportunities.

Maintaining a State of Good Repair

According to a CBO report from October 2023, state and local governments spent \$180 billion on highways in 2022, which was “three times as much as the federal government on highways.” State and local spending on highways was equal to 0.71 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The federal government only spent \$52 billion – or 0.21 GDP – that same year. According to the same CBO report, operations and maintenance accounted for 57% of that state and local spending on highways in 2022. We encourage federal lawmakers to prioritize funding programs that support maintaining a state of good repair on highways in the next reauthorization.

Reauthorization OR Farm Bill Principles

Farm-to-Market Routes

The Regional Planning Agencies support federal funding to support the maintenance of critical farm-to-market routes that are subject to heavy truck traffic carrying agricultural products through a set-aside in the next Farm Bill or surface transportation reauthorization. Trucks hauling dairy can weigh up to 80,000 pounds each, putting immense stress on roadway and bridge infrastructure and costing local governments throughout the region.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Rural Development (RD) administers grants to support public facilities and infrastructure improvements, the federal award size and share are oftentimes not attractive to address these specific infrastructure needs in our local communities. Additionally, those commercial trucks bringing food to market often traverse exurban and suburban communities with populations greater than 20,000 people in route to ultimate destinations, but those agricultural producers in rural communities are the economic beneficiaries of the goods movement.

Potential solutions include creating a new grant program to be administered by either the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or USDA for this sole purpose; creating a formula set-aside for local corridors to be designated under existing transportation programs would be a welcome solution; or increasing the maximum grant award and federal share and expanding eligibility for RD programs administered by USDA as an effective alternative solution. Any of these changes can help remove barriers and better enable the Regional Planning Agencies to overcome challenges associated with seeking federal resources to help maintain farm-to-market routes locally.



DATE: June 21, 2024

TO: San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

SUBJECT: Valleywide Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Summary: An Overall Work Program (OWP) is a federal and state mandated planning and budgeting work product that Regional Planning Agencies of the San Joaquin Valley develop on an annual basis. The OWP is a one-year scope of work and budget for transportation, related planning activities, and funding sources to be accomplished between July 1 and June 30 of the fiscal year. The Policy Council has stipulated in its memorandum of understanding the need to annually produce an eight-county Valleywide OWP.

The Valleywide Overall Work Program for FY 2024-25 details the coordinated activities that all eight regional planning agencies, and its partners, are actively engaged in. Each Valley RPA will also include a Valleywide Chapter in their respective Overall Work Program that details and proportionally budgets for the shared tasks identified in the enclosed Valleywide OWP.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee has approved the Valleywide OWP subject to pending legislative advocacy contracts and is recommending approval from the Policy Council for this item.

Action: Consider approving the Valleywide Overall Work Program for FY 2024-25.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES



OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

FY 2024-2025



San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council Members and Staff, June 2024

Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)

Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Councilmember Gary Yep, City of Kerman
Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Bill Nijjer, City of Kerman

**STAFF: Robert Phipps, Interim Executive Director
Chair, Directors' Committee**



Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)

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

STAFF: Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director



Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)

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

STAFF: Terri King, Executive Director



Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)

Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County
Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera
Alternate: Councilmember Waseem Ahmed, City of Chowchilla

STAFF: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director



Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County - **CHAIR, POLICY COUNCIL**
Mayor Pat Nagy, City of Gustine
Alternate: Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County

**STAFF: Stacie Guzman, Executive Director.
Vice Chair, Directors Committee**



San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJ COG)

Mayor Gary Singh, City of Manteca
Councilmember Dan Wright, City of Stockton
Alternate: Supervisor Rick Rickman, San Joaquin County
STAFF: Diane Nguyen, Executive Director



Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)

Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County - **VICE CHAIR, POLICY COUNCIL**
Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton, City of Modesto
Alternate: Supervisor Buck Condit, County of Stanislaus
STAFF: Rosa Park, Executive Director



Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)

Mayor Rudy Mendoza, City of Woodlake
Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County
Alternate: Councilmember Linda Launer, City of Dinuba
STAFF: Ted Smalley, Executive Director.



San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
Alternate: Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor



San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJ JPA)

Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director
Alternate: Michael Hanebutt, Manager of Regional Initiatives



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, and the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA). In FY 2021-22, government affairs contracts for state and federal representation for the Regional Policy Council were implemented.

The FY 2024-2025 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, MCAG, TCAG, MCTC

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 in 2006, 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 continued project planning and funding utilizing SB1 funding, RAISE, and other funding strategies.

In FY 2023-2024, multiple funding requests related to SR 99 improvements took place including STIP funding awards for the Tulare, Merced and Madera segments.

Additionally, Caltrans initiated the **State Route 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP)** to identify a broad range of multimodal opportunities for improving and enhancing the SR 99 corridor and for developing a stakeholder shared vision and implementation plan for the corridor that aligns with state goals to reduce GHG emission and passenger VMT and increase freight reliability and throughput for inclusive economic development. The CMCP is a prerequisite for additional state funding for SR 99 capital projects. The CMCP planning process will be coordinated between Caltrans' district offices and the Valley MPOs and is a current ongoing planning effort.

Activities for FY 2024-2025:

- Continue to advocate to complete the SR 99 system, to a least six lanes of travel throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including non-SOV and truck lanes being considered by the CMCP.
- Monitor and participate in the planning process for the State Route 99 CMCP.
- Partake in and lead discussions with the Regional Policy Council, the California Transportation Commission, legislators, 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. Federal infrastructure funding programs, and the state Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are major SB1 funding sources to be targeted.
- 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 converting temporary lanes to permanent lanes when feasible. Kern COG will coordinate with Caltrans D6, and MCAG will coordinate with D10 on opportunities for additional programming.
- Consider the findings of the Rural Counties Task Force: 2024 Rural Induced Demand Study funded by Caltrans (<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/RCTF-Rural-Induced-Demand-Study/index.html>) for determining impacts in predominantly rural areas.

2. 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 \$45 billion every year in agricultural commodities. 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.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies have a strong history of regional goods movement planning. The San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan (2015), San Joaquin Valley I-5/SR 99 Goods Movement Corridor Plan (2017), the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan (2017), and the I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study (2019) are examples of regional coordination to enhance freight movement in the Valley. In 2020, funding and regional support for the California Inland Port concepts was solidified among the RPAs.

Activities for FY 2024-25:

- Continue to coordinate project prioritization for RAISE, SB1 and other goods movement federal and state funding, particularly for State Route 99.
- 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 and economic development industries to enhance goods movement planning and implementation efforts.
- 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, including the now TradePort California and the Castle Commerce Center.
- Continue to explore alternative fuels and technology strategies for meeting the California's Sustainable Freight mandates.

3. 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, TCAG, Kern COG, SJV Air Pollution Control District

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.

In FY 2023-24, the ***SJV Swap Meet Committee*** was reinstated on the staff level. The SJV Swap Meet Group is comprised of transportation programming staff from each of the San Joaquin Valley MPO's. The group meets virtually, approximately every other month. Meetings provide a forum for staff to discuss a variety of programming topics including FTIP best practices, apportionment exchange opportunities, new programming rules and regulations, air quality conformity, and other important issues. The forum also provides a great opportunity for entry level programmers to learn about the complexities of programming from more experienced staff. In the coming months, meetings will be focused on topics related to the preparation of the 2025 FTIP and Air Quality Conformity documentation.

In FY 2023-24 the ***Valley Transportation Modelers Group (TMG)*** was created on the staff level to coordinate with the Valleywide air quality modeling consultant and MPO transportation modeling consultants. The Valley TMG provides a staff perspective to the COG Directors group on technical modeling issues such as induced demand, and coordinates resource saving collaboration such as travel model updates, training, data collection, and software licensing, best practices, etc.

Activities for FY 2024-25:

- 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; provide EMFAC emissions modeling support.
- Assist Valley staff in SCS review performed by the California Air Resources Board.

4. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

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

Lead: San Joaquin COG and Fresno 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. The Valley Regional Planning Agencies will be working independently, and collectively, to meet the 2022 and 2026 targets and have invested considerable resources towards technical staff, modeling, and scenario development. Furthermore, SB 743 (2014), introduced the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric, which is separate from SB 375 but associated with similar goals to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips.

In addition, the Valley's Regional Planning Agencies will continue to work with ARB on new protocols for the updated SCS review guidelines, as well as establishing regular and ongoing communication with ARB staff to better implement the SCS planning process for future plan cycles.

In FY 2023-24, a **Housing and Land Use Committee** on the staff level was formed to further evaluate and monitor land use policy and funding decisions at the state level that impact the RTP/SCS planning process.

Activities for FY 2024-25:

- Work with and encourage ARB staff to finalize the 2022 RTP/SCS reviews as quickly as possible ahead of the 2026 RTP cycle.
- Establish regular and ongoing communication between ARB staff and Valley MPOs for an enhanced, transparent and consistent SCS planning and review process in future cycles.
- Assist ARB, and other state entities, 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, CSIS, and other climate change and social equity polices for implementation into Valley RTPs where appropriate.

5. RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT WITH EXTERNAL AGENICES AND ENTITIES

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

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Government Affairs Consultants

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 2024-2025:

- Directors to coordinate and attend one-third of CTC meetings and meet throughout the year with our CTC Commissioner representative.
- Directors to meet annually with CalSTA Secretary or pertinent staff.
- CTC staff to be invited to Directors’ Committee meeting once a year; Directors to meet with at least two CTC Board Members they don’t currently know.
- 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’ 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 sister MPO (MTC, Central Coast or SCAG) to come to a Valley Directors’ Committee meeting.

- Valley Directors to meet annually with ARB management and board members and attend the joint CTC/ARB and joint CTC/ARB/HCD Board meetings.

6. 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: Government Affairs Consultants, Valleywide Coordinator, VLAC

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.

In FY 2023-24, the ***Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)*** was reinstated as a subcommittee of the Directors' Committee. In conjunction with the government affairs personnel, the VLAC provides a staff perspective to the COG Directors' Committee and SJV Regional Policy Council on legislative priorities, potential bills to sponsor, as well as helping to direct logistics for the signature "Valley Voice" trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. each year.

Activities for FY 2024-25:

- Track legislation and regulations, develop a unified Valley-wide position, communicate those positions to federal and state officials, and participate in advocacy campaigns and other coalition-building activities as appropriate.
- Share information regarding grant opportunities and other financial resources available at the state or federal level.
- Develop the Valleywide Legislative Platform (state and federal).
- Continue to routinely meet with state and federal officials, including elected officials representing our region, regarding legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities of interest or concern to the Valley.
- Plan and execute "Valley Voice" Washington D.C. visit scheduled for September 2024.
- Plan and execute the "Valley Voice" Sacramento visit scheduled for Spring 2025.

7. OTHER VALLEYWIDE ACTIVITIES

- **Housing Planning Funds, REAP.** The Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program is a State of California funded grant program to help regions and jurisdictions with planning activities to meet the sixth cycle of the regional housing needs assessment, and to spur affordable housing production. 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 \$14.6 million of the roughly \$19 million 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 2024.

\$59 million in REAP 2.0 funding was slated to come to Valley MPOs beginning in FY 2022-23. Valley MPOs have completed initial applications for funding and are starting the implementation process. The Governor’s budget for FY 2024-25 included significant proposed cuts to the REAP 2.0 program. The Valley is advocating for a restoration of the funding.

- **Passenger Rail.** The valley regional planning agencies coordinate and implement regional passenger transportation planning and capital efforts with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJ JPA). The SJ JPA was added as member of the Policy Council at the beginning of FY 2021-22. The SJ JPA advises the Policy Council on passenger rail matters that are in need of a coordinated and unified position and passenger rail continues to be a significant part of the annual state and federal legislative platforms. The Policy Council fully supports the passenger rail activities and frequently provides letters of support for funding applications.
- **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 2024 conference was held in Visalia, in Tulare County. The 2025 conference will be held in Merced County. The Central California American Planning Association is also a contributor to the conference and manages the Blueprint Awards.

Past Conferences

Modesto (StanCOG) 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 (Fresno COG), Spring 2022

Future Conferences

Merced County (MCAG), 2025
Stanislaus County (StanCOG), 2026
Madera County (MCTC), 2027
Kings County (KCAG), 2028
Fresno County (Fresno COG), 2029
San Joaquin County (SJ COG), 2030
Tulare County (TCAG), 2031
Kern County (Kern COG) – may be available to host at some time.

Manteca (SJ COG), Spring 2023

Visalia (TCAG), Spring 2024

- **Policy Council Meetings and Directors’ Committee Meetings.** The Valleywide Coordinator shall continue to schedule monthly Directors’ Committee meetings and meetings for the Policy Council. In FY 2017-18, an Executive Committee and Water Policy Committee were created for the Policy Council. The Regional Policy Council usually meets two to three times per year, primarily via conference meetings. Up to four additional provisional and emergency meetings are also held each year. The Chair of the 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.

Directors’ Chair

Fresno Council of Governments, 2024-25

Rotation Schedule

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

San Joaquin Council of Governments, 2030-31

Tulare County Association of Governments, 2031-32

Policy Council Chairs

Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2024

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2023

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2022

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2021

Charles “Chuck” Winn, San Joaquin County Supervisor, 2020

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2019

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2018

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2017

Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin, 2016

Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, 2015

Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, 2014

Allen Ishida, Tulare County Supervisor, 2013

Allen Ishida, Tulare County Supervisor, 2012

Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, 2011

Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, 2010

Michael Rubio, Kern County Supervisor, 2009

Michael Rubio, Kern County Supervisor, 2008

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

The budget for the shared Valleywide activities noted in this document is detailed below. Budget amounts by agency represent the total direct cost for this activity. Budget amounts by activity are apportioned by population share for all items, except for legislative advocacy/Valley Voice, which is apportioned equally.

SJ COG is the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning which is conducted by Trinity Consultants with project management support by SJ COG staff.

Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for the Valleywide Coordinator contract.

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

The total budget for shared valleywide activities for fiscal year 2024-2025 is detailed below.

Valleywide Activities			Air Quality Planning ⁽²⁾	Legislative Advocacy, Valley Voice ⁽³⁾	Valleywide Coordinator ⁽⁴⁾	Legal Counsel ⁽⁵⁾	Total FY 2024-25
MPO Share by Population ⁽¹⁾				<i>estimated cost</i>			
Fresno	1,010,914	23.4%	\$52,699	\$16,500	\$31,268	\$1,000	\$101,466
Kern	906,165	21.0%	\$47,238	\$16,500	\$28,028	\$1,000	\$92,766
Kings	151,629	3.5%	\$7,904	\$16,500	\$4,690	\$1,000	\$30,094
Madera	157,909	3.7%	\$8,232	\$16,500	\$4,884	\$1,000	\$30,616
Merced	285,193	6.6%	\$14,867	\$16,500	\$8,821	\$1,000	\$41,188
San Joaquin	783,903	18.2%	\$40,865	\$16,500	\$24,246	\$1,000	\$82,611
Stanislaus	545,753	12.6%	\$28,450	\$16,500	\$16,880	\$1,000	\$62,830
Tulare	474,680	11.0%	\$24,745	\$16,500	\$14,682	\$1,000	\$56,927
SJPA				\$16,500		\$1,000	\$17,500
SJVAPCD				\$16,500		\$1,000	\$17,500
Total FY 2024-25	4,316,146	100.0%	\$225,000	\$165,000	\$133,499	\$12,000	\$533,499

(1) CA DOF, E-1, January 1, 2024 estimates

(2) SJ COG Staff (\$50,000). Air Quality Consultant, Trinity (\$175,000).

(3) No PL Funds, cost for Valley Voice is apportioned equally (not by population).

Legislative advocacy costs (\$150k) are estimates from previous years. A Request for Proposals will be issued in July 2024 for legislative advocacy, cost may change.

(4) VRPA Technologies

(5) Monica Streeter, esq.



DATE: June 21, 2024

TO: San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

SUBJECT: Valleywide Coordinator Proposed Contract

Summary: Following a request from the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' COG Directors group, Fresno COG contracts on a pro-rata basis for the SJV Valleywide Coordinator on behalf of the eight valley regional planning agencies.

The SJV Valleywide Coordinator undertakes several administrative responsibilities, including:

- Directors' Committee and Regional Policy Council meeting coordination, agendas, minutes, staff reports, guest speaker coordination, special meetings, and meeting follow ups.
- Public relations (newsletters, press releases, support letters, marketing and rebranding).
- Planning and participating in the Valley Voice advocacy visits, and coordination of government affairs consultant work.
- Research and Organizational Development (Valleywide OWP, multi-organizational MOUs, etc.).
- Assist in planning the Annual Policy Conference
- Coordination with various outside agencies such as CalCOG, Caltrans, California Partnership, California Transportation Commission, Air Resources Board, California Strategic Growth Council, and the SJV Air Pollution Control District.
- Coordination with federal and state legislators and staff as appropriate.
- Web site maintenance and administration (sjvcogs.org; with subconsultant support).
- Grant writing as needed.
- Project management and support to other Valleywide initiatives such as SR 99 advocacy efforts.
- Other assignments as directed by the Chair of the Directors' Committee and the Chair of the Regional Policy Council.

In March 2024, the COG Directors group voted to put the coordinator's contract out to bid. In response, Fresno COG received four proposals from qualified firms:

- Crocker Knoll, LLC
- LSA
- Rincon
- VRPA Technologies

Sigala, Inc., which has held the contract since 2010, did not propose. The bids ranged, on an annual average, from a low of \$131,060 to \$173,399 for a three-year term.

The COG Directors and representatives from the SJVAPCD and SJVRRRC provided a technical review of each proposal and selected VRPA as the recommended consultant firm at an average, annual cost of \$133,498.59. The specific rankings are listed below:

VRPA --	99+85+91+90+80+89+86.5+94+96+88	= 898.5
LSA --	72+79+75+83+89+82.5+86+90+86+89	= 831.5
Rincon --	92+67+70+76+78.5+91+83+70+83+70	= 780.5
K. Crocker --	46+51+62+81+66+50+94+50+57+38	= 595

Action: Staff requests the SJV Policy Council recommend that the Fresno COG Policy Board authorize two actions:

1. its agency to serve as the fiscal agent; and
2. its executive director to enter into a contract with VRPA Technologies to serve as the SJV Policy Council Coordinator, for an amount not to exceed \$400,495.77, for a three-year contract commencing August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2027.

Valleywide Meeting Calendar FY 2024-2025

San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies

2024						
July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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29	30	31				

2025						
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June						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

	Executive Directors' Committee Meetings
	Washington DC Valley Voice (September 10-11, mtg dates)
	Regional Policy Council Regular Meetings
	Regional Policy Provisional Meetings
	Pre Valley Voice Planning Meetings
	Annual Policy Conference (Dates TBD)
	Sacramento Valley Voice (March 2025, actual dates TBD)