



San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 856 3155 1435, Passcode: 830942

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85631551435?pwd=xbmTEuFiCuiQBueF9BnAycYMR7Vky.1>

Phone only: 1 (669) 900-9128

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Enclosure

1. May 2, 2024, Directors' Meeting

Ted Smalley ☒

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality
Update and discussion.

Ryan Niblock

3. Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates
a. California
b. Federal

Gus Khouri
Jen Covino ☒

4. Committee Updates
a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)
b. SJV Swap Meet
c. Housing and Land Use
d. Travel Modelers Group

Robert Phipps
Gabriel Gutierrez
Kim Anderson
Rob Ball/Kasia Poleszczuk

5. Regional Policy Council, June 21st meeting
Discuss Agenda Topics.

Michael Sigala ☒

Tulare County
Association of
Governments
Ted Smalley - Chair

Fresno
Council of
Governments
Robert Phipps - Vice Chair

Kern
Council of
Governments
Ahron Hakimi

Madera County
Transportation
Commission
Patricia Taylor

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



Stanislaus
Council of
Governments
Rosa Park

Merced County
Association of
Governments
Stacie Guzman

Kings County
Association of
Governments
Terri King

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments
Diane Nguyen

<http://sjvcogs.org>



210 N Church St. Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. DOT SMART Grant – SAFETEC Logistics Zone Demo
<i>Approve letter of support.</i> | Rob Ball | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Valleywide Overall Work Program, FY 2024-25
<i>Consider approving.</i> | Michael Sigala | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Meeting Calendar
<i>Review and approve.</i> | Michael Sigala | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. SJV REAP Program
<i>Receive update.</i> | Michael Sigala &
Robert Phipps | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Focus on the Future 2024 Conference
<i>Select representative for conference planning committee.
Conference will be held November 10-12 in Long Beach.</i> | Ted Smalley | |

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.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 11. Caltrans Directors' Report | Diana Gomez/Grace Magsayo |
| 12. California High Speed Rail | Toni Tinoco |
| 13. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail | Dan Leavitt |
| 14. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District | Tom Jordan |
| 15. Miocar Car Sharing | Michael Sigala |
| 16. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley – <i>Consider nominating a new Directors' Representative</i> | |

OTHER ITEMS

17. Director Items
18. Public presentations for items not on the 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' Executive Session if necessary.

Next Directors' Meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2024.

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. Currently, most meetings are conducted via Zoom.



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 2, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Item 1

Meeting Location: Zoom Videoconference

Directors	MPO
Ted Smalley – Chair	Tulare County Association of Governments
Robert Phipps – Vice Chair	Fresno Council of Governments
Stacie Guzman	Merced County Association of Governments
Rosa Park	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Dylan Stone for Patricia Taylor	Madera County Transportation Commission
Terri King	Kings County Association of Governments
Ahron Hakimi	Kern Council of Governments
Diane Nguyen	San Joaquin Council of Governments

Please see Appendix A for a list of other attendees

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 4, 2024, Directors' Meeting

Ted Smalley

There was a motion to approve the April 4, 2024, Directors' Committee minutes.

First Motion: Ahron Hakimi

Second Motion: Robert Phipps

Motion Carried

Tulare County
Association of
Governments
Ted Smalley - Chair

Fresno
Council of
Governments
Robert Phipps - Vice Chair

Kern
Council of
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Ahron Hakimi

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

2. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

R. Niblock

Ryan Niblock noted the 2025 FTIPs are under development, Kern COG has released their draft. FTIP submissions to Caltrans are due October 1st. The 2024 PM2.5 SIP is under development; Trinity has been working with CARB on budgets. Dust emissions are now included in the analysis. RTP/SCS modelers meeting was yesterday. Updates to auto operating cost are being worked on by Trinity. Lastly, MPO staff are working the project level conformity process with the IAC partners (FHWA, EPA and Caltrans) to more clearly meet and document the public participation process.

Valley specific hot spot guidelines are being worked on by Trinity. The first hot spot determination is in Fowler (Fresno County). Public comment in Zoom settings is being looked whereas the public will be invited to IAC meetings. Templates for checklists and hot spot presentations are being worked on. Robert Phipps asked for clarification on the length of the hot spot meetings for the public. A workshop on training MPO staff for hot spot meetings was mentioned. Ahron Hakimi asked about what types of projects will be required for public meetings. Jose Luis Caceres noted any project in category 126 is not required, only category 127 projects which are not exempt from project level conformity. Ted asked about the impact on capacity increasing projects. Jose Luis noted this will take place during the NEPA process. If you are not using federal funds, you don't have to go through this process. If you are using federal funds, you need to consider if the project is included in a long-range transportation plan that includes clean air goals (regional conformity), and if the project is going to worsen diesel emissions at the local level (project level conformity). Jose Luis noted the process should take about a month. Jose Luis did note that this process is a mechanism for project opposition. Ryan noted that this is a requirement to Caltrans from FHWA, a requirement that we should comply with. Stacie Guzman noted this process is ongoing for the Atwater Merced Expressway (last mile of new roadway from Castle to SR 99). The approval process has taken a few years. Elizabeth Forte noted that this new hot spot process could have potentially helped the Atwater project by streamlining the approval process.

Tom Jordan noted that their board approved the ozone contingency package last week and CARB quickly submitted it to EPA. The deadline for highway sanctions is November 2nd.

3. Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates

State of California

G. Khouri

Gus Khouri reported the SB 125 suspension of funding could be a one-to-two-month delay, not necessarily a budget cut. The early action plan by the legislature on the budget includes using \$12 billion in rainy day funds, so the budget deficit is approximately \$8 to \$23 billion. The May revised budget will come out by May 14th. REAP 2.0 fixes are looking at cap and trade funding, AHSC funding, or homelessness funding.

Washington D.C.

J. Covino

Jen Covino noted republicans did select a new chair for the House Appropriations Committee, Tom Cole of the State of Oklahoma. Guidance for Community Project Funding requests has now been released. The deadline for submittals is May 10th. The Senate will post their transportation and housing development projects by May 28th. The White House released a new permitting rule this week for infrastructure project streamlining. Ted Smalley noted a potential Valley Voice DC ice cream social on the balcony of the capitol overlooking the mall; Representative Valadao is coordinating.

4. Committee Updates

a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)

Robert Phipps reported VLAC debriefed on the Sacramento Valley Voice trip, and work is commencing for the DC trip.

b. SJV Swap Meet

No report.

c. Housing and Land Use

No report.

d. Travel Modelers Group

Kasia Poleszczuk reported an update from the modelers meeting yesterday. Fehr and Peers provided an update on model assessments for the latest CARB SCS/RTP reviews. A presentation from DKS Consultants on the rural induced demand study was conducted at the meeting. The DKS study showed that the NSCT calculator is producing false results. Discussion ensued regarding NSCT aspects of the study.

5. Valleywide Overall Work Program, FY 2024-25

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala noted he worked with MPO staff during the month of April to develop the draft included in the agenda packet. There was a slight adjustment in the conference scheduling, and budget numbers need to be updated.

6. SJV REAP Program

M. Sigala & R. Phipps

Robert Phipps noted recent conversations with HCD. REAP 2.0 25 percent invoices should be able to be processed by HCD. REAP 1.0, the last \$4.3 million from HCD is an eligible invoiceable amount, however, given the short timeline of the remaining program it would be problematic to request the total amount of remaining funds. Michael Sigala noted the upcoming May 28th webinar on Housing Elements, Lessons Learned.

7. 2024 Annual Policy Conference

T. Smalley

Ted Smalley thanked everyone for attending the conference.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8. Caltrans Directors' Report

D. Gomez/G. Magsayo

Diana Gomez, District 6 Director, provided the update: Caltrans is currently updating their Strategic Plan with a draft for review in July 2024; District 6 staffing changes; Caltrans Worker Memorial was held last week in Sacramento; District 6 will hold a memorial at May 8th; CAPTI listening session will be held at Fresno COG today; SR 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP), virtual public workshops will be held during the month of June; DOT multimodal grants applications are due next week; Safe Streets for All has multiple deadlines coming up in the next couple of months; and, ATP cycle 7 applications are due June 17th.

Grace Masgayo, District 10 Director, noted the state has provided guidance to all state departments that employees are to work in person at least two days per week.

9. California High Speed Rail

T. Tinoco

Toni Tinoco noted station design meetings, Monday in Bakersfield, Hanford on Tuesday, Fresno last night, and Merced tonight. There was also a tour after the Policy Conference of the Hanford HSR improvements. A project update report is forthcoming.

10. San Joaquin JPA for Passenger Rail

M. Hanebutt

Michael Hanebutt thanked the group for all the letters of support. Rail transit senior staff are working on a brochure for future lobbying trips.

11. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

T. Jordan

No report provided.

12. MioCar EV Car Sharing

M. Sigala

Michael Sigala noted Escalon, Kings County CTNA, and Tulare-Kern NPV as new contracts. There are 40 vehicles in the fleet and expansion noted in several valley locations.

13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

A new Director representative needs to be nominated from the group.

OTHER ITEMS**14. Director Items**

Stacie Guzman noted worker placed violence mitigation plans are due by July 1st.

15. Public Presentations for items not on the agenda

No public comment.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:11 A.M.

Appendix A – Additional Meeting Participants

Individual	Organization
Nabeelah Abi-Rached	Caltrans District 6
Roberto Brady	Tulare County Association of Governments
Sabrina Bradbury	CalCOG
Jose Luis Caceres	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Jen Covino	Simon & Company
Gilbert Contreras	CA FHWA
Steve Dial	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Tom Dumas	Caltrans District 10
Jeff Findley	Madera County Transportation Commission
Elizabeth Forte	Merced County Association of Governments
Diana Gomez	Caltrans District 6
Elisabeth Hahn	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Blair Knox	Kern County LAFCO
Michael Hanebutt	San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority
Steven Ingoldsby	Tulare County Association of Governments
Tom Jordan	SJVAPCD
Ben Kimball	Tulare County Association of Governments
Gus Khouri	Khouri Consulting
Dan Leavitt	SJJPA
Grace Magsayo	Caltrans District 10
Becky Napier	Kern Council of Governments
Michael Navarro	Caltrans District 6
Ryan Niblock	San Joaquin Council of Governments
Kasia Poleszczuk	Tulare County Association of Governments
Meg Prince	Merced County Association of Governments
Ben Raymond	Kern Council of Governments
Michael Sigala	Valleywide Coordinator
Monica Streeter	Stanislaus Council of Governments
Toni Tinoco	CA High Speed Rail

Item 3.b



Covino Smith & Simon
1155 15th Street NW Suite 405
Washington, DC 20005

To: San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee
From: Jen Covino, President
David Gellman, Senior Advisor
Date: May 31, 2024
Subject: Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

See below for a review of developments at the federal level of interest to the Central Valley. Topics include Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Community Project Funding (CPF) and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), Vince Fong's election in the 20th Congressional District, water infrastructure awards in the Central Valley, Congressional oversight related to high-speed rail, and current and upcoming funding opportunities from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and other agencies. Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide further information.

Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending

Community Project Funding

Earlier this month, Members of the House of Representatives disclosed their Community Project Funding (CPF) requests submitted to the House Appropriations Committee for potential inclusion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations legislation. Each Member was able to submit up to 15 total requests in seven of the twelve annual spending bills. See below for disclosures from Members of the Central Valley delegation who participated in the process:

- [Congressman Jim Costa](#)
- [Congressman David Valadao](#)
- [Congressman Josh Harder](#)
- [Congressman John Duarte](#)
- [Congressman Jay Obernolte](#)

We have provided a full review below of surface transportation and water infrastructure projects requested to the Appropriations Committee from the Central Valley for potential inclusion in the FY 2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) and Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bills and highlighted projects requested by members of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies. The House Appropriations Committee is now vetting the proposals and will





announce projects selected for inclusion in the House T-HUD spending bill on Thursday, June 27, 2024 and the Interior-Environment spending bill on Friday, June 28, 2024.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Project
San Joaquin Council of Governments	\$5,000,000	Harder	I-205 Managed Lanes
Kern Council of Governments	\$5,000,000	Valadao	State Route 43/7 th Standard Road Roundabout Project
Stanislaus Council of Governments	\$5,000,000	Duarte	SR 132 Dakota Avenue to Gates Road
City of Fresno	\$5,000,000	Costa	Fresno Airport Improvement Project
City of Fresno	\$5,000,000	Costa	San Joaquin River Parkway – Eaton Trail Extension Project
City of Fresno	\$1,500,000	Costa	Clean Air Mobility Network Project
City of Visalia	\$5,000,000	Costa	Visalia Downtown Improvement Project
City of Exeter	\$3,500,000	Costa	Exeter Street Improvement Project
Tulare County	\$1,650,000	Costa	Neighborhood Village Salt and Light Project
City of Manteca	\$1,500,000	Harder	Animal Shelter Enhancement Project
San Joaquin County Housing Authority	\$1,000,000	Harder	French Camp Crossings
City of Stockton	\$2,500,000	Harder	Pershing Avenue Road Safety Improvement and Enhancement Project

San Joaquin County	\$4,596,000	Harder	Be Well Campus
San Joaquin County	\$401,250	Harder	Veterans Mobile Outreach Program
San Joaquin Regional Transit District	\$1,800,000	Harder	Vehicle Replacement Project
South San Joaquin County Fire Authority	\$2,000,000	Harder	Regional Fire Training Facility
City of Arvin	\$1,250,000	Valadao	Arvin 4 th Street Project
City of Bakersfield	\$5,000,000	Valadao	Bakersfield Monitor Street Safe Route to Schools Project
Kern County Housing Authority	\$7,575,900	Valadao	Bakersfield Senior Center Housing Project
City of Delano	\$8,145,000	Valadao	Delano Water Plant No. 6 Blending Tank Project
Tulare County Resource Management Agency	\$4,000,000	Valadao	Farm to Market – Avenue 192 and Road 192 Project
City of Wasco	\$7,189,799	Valadao	Wasco Downtown Revitalization Project
Madera County	\$14,000,000	Duarte	SR-41 Expressway
City of Patterson	\$4,000,000	Duarte	I-5/Sperry Avenue Interchange
City of Merced	\$3,000,000	Duarte	Childs and Canal Roadway Construction Project
San Joaquin County	\$1,800,000	Duarte	Corral Hollow Bridge Replacement

City of Chowchilla	\$7,000,000	Duarte	State Route 99/233 Chowchilla Multimodal Interchange Improvement Project
City of Gustine	\$987,788	Duarte	Community Wellness Project
City of Newman	\$750,000	Duarte	Downtown Mixed-Use Project
City of Ceres	\$2,265,688	Duarte	American Legion Memorial Building Resiliency Center Renovation Project
City of Kerman	\$5,000,000	Duarte	Kerman Area Multi-Generational Resiliency Center Project
City of Mendota	\$4,000,000	Duarte	Mendota Community Center Project
Kern County	\$6,000,000	Obernolte	SR58/Edwards AFB North Gate Intersection-Interchange Safety Consolidation

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Project
Tulare County	\$5,600,000	Costa	East Orosi Sewer Project
Tulare Irrigation District	\$7,350,000	Costa	Kaweah River Siphon Resilience Project
City of Woodlake	\$2,628,473	Costa	Woodlake Storm Drain Enhancement Project
City of Escalon	\$2,000,000	Harder	SSJID Surface Water Connection Project
City of Avenal	\$4,000,000	Valadao	Avenal Water Storage Tank Project
City of Corcoran	\$2,000,000	Valadao	Corcoran Stormwater Enhancements Project

Tulare Irrigation District	\$5,000,000	Valadao	Kaweah Siphon Resiliency Project
City of McFarland	\$5,747,374	Valadao	McFarland Water Well Project
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	\$4,600,000	Valadao	North Canal Spreading Works Expansion Project
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District	\$5,000,000	Valadao	Shafter-Wasco Groundwater Recharge Project

Congressionally Directed Spending

Senators began disclosing Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for potential inclusion in FY 2025 spending legislation in the upper chamber this week. See Senator Padilla and Senator Butler's disclosures for requests submitted under the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies spending bill:

- [Senator Alex Padilla](#)
- [Senator Laphonza Butler](#)

The following rural water infrastructure projects were requested by member agencies in the Central Valley:

Recipient	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Project
Chowchilla Water District	\$1,500,000	Padilla	Funding for bidirectional pipeline to allow the Chowchilla Water District and Le Grant Athlone Water District to share water in certain years.
Tulare Irrigation District	\$5,000,000	Padilla	Funding to support the Kaweah River Siphon Resiliency Project.



Both Senators will disclose their lists of requests for the T-HUD spending bill next Tuesday, June 4 and the Interior-Environment spending bill on Thursday, June 6, 2024. We will be sure to keep you updated once those requests are announced.

Vince Fong Elected to Serve Remainder of Speaker McCarthy's Term

On May 21, Vince Fong was elected to lead the 20th Congressional District in the seat formerly held by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy through the remainder of his term. The California State Assemblymember won the special election against Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux with 60.6% of the vote. Assemblymember Fong will face off against Sheriff Boudreaux again in November for a full subsequent term in Congress. We expect Assemblymember Fong to be sworn into his seat imminently and look forward to fostering a new relationship with him and his team.

USBR Announces New Awards for Central Valley Water Projects

The Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) announced a series of awards for water infrastructure projects in the Central Valley over the past month. First, on May 6, the agency [announced](#) the following [awards](#) through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP) program:

- Cawelo Water District Reservoir C Auxiliary Recharge Facility: \$1,342,111
- City of Fresno Increasing Drought Resiliency in a Disadvantaged Community with a Wellhead Treatment System: \$734,452
- Fresno Irrigation District Hornor and Laub Recharge basin Project: \$5,000,000
- Kern Tulare Water District Well and Conveyance for Banking Return: \$2,000,000
- North Kern Water Storage District, Return Capacity Improvements - \$4,000,000
- San Luis Water District Ortigalita Creek Recharge and Recovery Project: \$3,233,100
- Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District Dressler Recharge Facility: \$4,243,590
- Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District Caratan Groundwater Recharge Facility: \$2,000,000
- Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District Driver Road Pipeline Project: \$2,165,565
- West Kern Water District: North Well 1 Replacement Project - \$1,776,354

On May 16, USBR [announced](#) that the following [projects](#) will receive FY 2024 funding to replace aging water infrastructure:

- Tracy Fish Facility Louver Replacement - \$25,000,000
- O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant Upgrades Project - \$11,600,000
- Delta Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction - \$50,000,000



On May 21, USBR and Central Valley Project South-of-Delta contractors [signed](#) a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) outlining a long-term drought plan for the region. The agency announced that it will provide a \$81 million investment from the *Inflation Reduction Act* (P.L. 117-169) to support water conservation and drought resilience projects identified in the plan.

Finally, on May 30, USBR [awarded](#) \$75 million in funding for the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project as part of a \$242 million investment in western water storage and conveyance projects. Funding will support the enhancement of off-stream storage capability for approximately 130,000 acre-feet of water to be delivered to water contractors and wildlife refuges.

Congressional Committees Examine California High-Speed Rail Funding

We wanted to make you aware that Republican leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee are [conducting](#) oversight related to the recent \$3 billion award for the California Inaugural High-Speed Rail Service Project by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and 2023 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Program-National. In a [letter](#) to DOT, House T&I Committee Chair Sam Graves and Senate CST Committee Ranking Member Ted Cruz expressed concerns with the project and requested an in-person briefing from the agency as well as relevant documents and information on the project. We will keep you updated if any forthcoming legislative action emerges.

Current Funding Opportunities

U.S. Department of the Interior **Bureau of Reclamation**

[DOI USBR FY 2024 and 2025 Environmental Water Resources Projects](#)

(First Application Deadline: June 18, 2024)

[DOI USBR FY 2024 and 2025 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#)

(Second Application Deadline: July 9, 2024)

[DOI USBR FY 2023 and 2024 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I](#)

(Second Deadline: September 3, 2024)

[DOI USBR FY 2024 and 2025 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants \(WEEG\)](#)

(FY 2025 Funding Deadline: October 30, 2024)

[DOI USBR FY 2023 and 2024 WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects](#)

(New Third Deadline: November 26, 2024)





[DOI USBR FY 2024 and 2025 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#)

(Third Application Deadline: January 14, 2025)

[DOI USBR FY 2024 and 2025 Environmental Water Resources Projects](#)

(Second Application Deadline: March 11, 2025)

[DOI USBR FY 2024 and 2025 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#)

(Fourth Application Deadline: July 8, 2025)

U.S. Department of Labor

[DOL ETA Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program](#)

(Deadline: July 1, 2024)

U.S. Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

[DOT FY 2024 SMART Stage 1 Grants](#)

(Deadline: July 12, 2024)

[DOT Modernizing NEPA Challenge](#)

(Deadline: July 15, 2024)

[DOT FY 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program](#)

(Third Planning and Demonstration Grants Deadline: August 29, 2024)

Federal Highway Administration

[DOT FHWA FY 2023 Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program](#)

(Deadline: June 17, 2024)

[DOT FHWA Charging and Fueling Discretionary Grant Opportunity: Round 2](#)

(Application Reconsideration Deadline: July 1, 2024)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program: Large Bridge Project Grants](#)

(FY 2025 Deadline: August 1, 2024)

[DOT FHWA Charging and Fueling Discretionary Grant Opportunity: Round 2](#)

(New Application Deadline: August 28, 2024)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program: Planning Grants](#)

(FY 2025 Deadline: October 1, 2024)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program: Bridge Project Grants](#)

(FY 2025 Deadline: November 1, 2024)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration Grants](#)

(FY 2025 Notice of Intent Deadline: April 15, 2025)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration Grants](#)

(FY 2025 Full Application Deadline: May 27, 2025)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program: Large Bridge Project Grants](#)

(FY 2026 Deadline: August 1, 2025)



[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program: Planning Grants](#)

(FY 2026 Deadline: October 1, 2025)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Bridge Investment Program: Bridge Project Grants](#)

(FY 2026 Deadline: November 1, 2025)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration Grants](#)

(FY 2026 Notice of Intent Deadline: April 14, 2026)

[DOT FHWA FY 2023-2026 Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration Grants](#)

(FY 2026 Full Application Deadline: May 26, 2026)

Federal Transit Administration

[DOT FTA FY 2024 Ferry Programs](#)

(Deadline: June 17, 2024)

[DOT FTA FY 2024 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning](#)

(Deadline: July 22, 2024)

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[DOT PHMSA FY 2024 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Program](#)

(Deadline: June 20, 2024)

Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

[Joint Office FY 2024 Communities Taking Charge Accelerator](#)

(Full Application Deadline: June 16, 2024 - Previous Concept Paper Required)

[NREL Clean Bus Planning Awards](#)

(Deadline: September 30, 2024)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants](#)

(Deadline: July 25, 2024)

[EPA FY 2025 Brownfields Job Training Grants](#)

(Deadline: August 15, 2024)

[EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program](#)

(Deadline: November 21, 2024)

Upcoming Funding Opportunities



The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has shared a [calendar of upcoming notices](#) for your awareness and planning. Please let us know if you have any interest in applying for these upcoming solicitations as soon as possible.

Imminent

FHWA National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration

June

FHWA Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grants - Round 2 Non-State

FHWA Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities

FRA Railroad Crossing Elimination

FAA Airport Terminal Program

July

OST Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

OST Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

OST Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation

OST Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Demonstration Program

FHWA Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT)

Fall

OST Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants (RAISE)

FRA Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (National)



June 21, 2024
Regional Policy Council Meeting
10:00 am to 11:30am
Zoom meeting via remote locations

Proposed Agenda Topics:

- Approve March 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Valley Voice D.C., legislative priorities – Jen C.
- State budget/legislative update – Gus K.
- State Route 99 and other major highway funding – Caltrans update
- Valleywide OWP 2024-25
 - Legislative Advocate Agreements
 - Valleywide Coordinator Agreement
- Approve meeting calendar for FY 2024-25
- Info items, member comments,
- Director's update

Additional partner logos



Safe Autonomous Freight Enhanced Testing Environmentally Clean (SAFETEC) Logistics Zone Demonstration

Kern Council of Governments plans to pursue SMART Grant funding to plan the rollout of a 3-phase zero emission (ZE) autonomous demonstration focused on clean air, efficient goods movement, safer roads, and high-wage regional jobs. SMART Stage 1 grants fund demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety. Stage 1 funds will allow KernCOG and partners to develop an implementation plan for platooned ZE autonomous trucking operations in multiple, different duty cycles that allows the project team to quantify potential emission reduction and gained efficiencies at scale. Potential duty cycles include: Onsite Goods Movement Between Warehousing Facilities in Shafter, CA (Disadvantaged Community); Agricultural Goods Distribution and Inland Port Connection; Alternative Fueling Corridor Network Testing (I-5).

With the development of large warehouse and e-commerce facilities and the resulting increase in vehicle traffic, Kern County is experiencing significantly more pavement damage to its highways. The Kern Area Regional Goods-movement Operations (KARGO) studies have identified a need to limit emissions caused by the surge in truck traffic as well as for policy options for County jurisdictions to recapture the costs of roadway maintenance, as well as limit emissions caused by the surge in truck traffic.

The project will not only test the autonomous platooned technology in 3 unique routes but include assessments specific to Kern County related to extreme heat, traffic congestion, and roadway maintenance. The project will also evaluate workforce needs with the adoption of ZE trucks utilizing autonomous technology including truck operation, training on integrated technologies, the relation to existing warehousing/automation programs, and logistics needs regarding safe distribution. The project will engage the community early in the planning process, focusing on technology access and education, understanding community needs, and integrating workforce/training opportunities.

Grant Info

[Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants](#)

Deadline: July 12, 2024

Project Details

Duration: 9 months

Request: \$2M

Potential Partners/ Collaborators

- City of Shafter
- CALSTART
- Watt EV
- Ross Dress for Less
- University of California-Merced
- CSU-Bakersfield
- Kern Community College Center



Alleviates congestion



Efficiency gain, reduced cost, mode-shift



Positive Community Impact



Emission reduction to scale



Ecosystem Approach to Partnerships



AV/EV Integration, Platooning

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: **Letter of Commitment** for Kern Council of Governments' **SMART** Application: Safe Autonomous Freight Enhanced Testing Environmentally Clean (**SAFETEC**) **Logistics Zone Demonstration**

Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (SJVRTPA), a coalition of the eight metropolitan planning organizations in California's San Joaquin Valley. We commit to working with Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) on the SAFETEC Logistics Zone Demonstration.

To support the project and its partners, SJVRTPA commits to participating independently in the evaluation/review process and commenting on the stage 1 plan, as well as participate training events and programs, future research collaborations, and future policy changes as appropriate.

This commitment is new, specific, and measurable in the following ways:

- Relevant – This project leverages the significant public input valley-wide from previous SJVRTPA freight planning efforts including: 2022 I-5 Freight Zero Emission Route Operations (ZERO) Study; 2021 to Present, three Kern Area Regional Goods Movement Operations (KARGO) Sustainability studies (third one on Climate Adaptation is still underway; 2020 California Inland Port Feasibility Study; 2017 SJV Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan; 2017 SRV Goods Movement I-5 SR-99 Corridor Study;
- Public – As demonstrated publicly by previous collaborative efforts of the SJVRTPAs of which Kern COG is member, this project has tremendous potential for a follow-on stage 2 full demonstration pilot project spanning multiple counties.
- High Impact – Often referred to as the Appalachia of the West, the San Joaquin Valley suffer from chronically high unemployment. This project provides potential to develop high tech, living wage jobs, while helping reduce air emissions from heavy-duty trucks in the region.

In Conclusion, this Demo project builds on significant past collaborations to help the historically underserved communities of the San Joaquin Valley to become a leader in autonomous, zero-emission heavy duty truck technology. The phased approach envisioned for the Demo provides an opportunity for a national laboratory for implementing autonomous truck safely while leveraging expertise in neighboring Silicon, and Antelope Valleys where autonomous tech was originally developed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Smalley
Chair

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES



Item 7

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: Dan Leavitt, 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 policies 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 Madera 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

DRAFT

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 Valley Voice/legislative advocacy, 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 of \$491,000 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⁾	Total FY 2023-24
MPO Share By Population ⁽¹⁾						
Fresno	1,011,499	23.4%	\$46,822	\$17,000	\$29,264	\$93,086
Kern	907,476	21.0%	\$42,007	\$17,000	\$26,254	\$85,261
Kings	151,018	3.1%	\$6,991	\$17,000	\$4,359	\$28,350
Madera	158,148	3.7%	\$7,321	\$17,000	\$4,575	\$28,896
Merced	285,337	6.6%	\$13,208	\$17,000	\$8,255	\$38,463
San Joaquin	786,145	18.2%	\$36,390	\$17,000	\$22,744	\$76,134
Stanislaus	545,939	12.6%	\$25,271	\$17,000	\$15,795	\$58,066
Tulare	475,064	11.0%	\$21,991	\$17,000	\$13,744	\$52,735
SJIPA				\$15,000		
SJVAPCD				\$15,000		
Total FY 2023-24	4,320,626	100.0%	\$200,000	\$166,000	\$125,000	\$491,000

(1) CA DOF, E-1, January 1, 2023 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).

Cost for Valley Voice includes federal and state government affairs consultants at \$150,000.

(4) Sigala Inc, includes subcontracts for administering the Annual Policy Conference, website maintenance (sjvcogs.org) and IT support, and other subcontracts and subscription services.

Valleywide Meeting Calendar FY 2024-2025

San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies

Item 8

2024						
July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November						
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						1
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2025						
January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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)



**REAP Update
June 6, 2024**

- **The REAP program will end on December 31, 2024. All invoices from MPOs to Fresno COG are due by August 31, 2024.**

- **Technical Assistance** to Valley jurisdictions is available utilizing the following consultants:

- Mintier Harnish
- Precision Engineering
- Rincon Consultants (AFFH)
- VTA (AFFH)
- Estolano (AFFH)

23 jurisdictions have requested technical assistance to date: *Arvin, McFarland, Atwater, Kingsburg, Bakersfield, Clovis, Stanislaus County, Hughson, Wasco, Stockton, Madera County, Madera, Merced County, Tulare County, Kings County, Selma, Lodi, Parlier, Porterville, Merced, Gustine, Dos Palos and Lemoore.*

Jurisdictions can request technical assistance via a web site portal:

<https://sjvcogs.org/reap/reap-technical-assistance/>

- **Additional Valleywide work efforts include:**

- Comprehensive Housing Report; status – complete and available on-line.
- Housing Element Data Sets; status – complete and available on-line.
- ADU Template Program; status – complete, on-line, ongoing TA.
- Guide to Recent California Housing Laws and Policies Affecting Local Land-Use Planning; status – complete and available on-line.
- RHNA Insights GIS Tool (UF); status – complete, 11 jurisdictions/COGs are utilizing.
- Condo Construction Analysis (EPS); status – complete and available on-line.
- Inclusionary Housing Analysis (EPS); status – complete and available on-line.
- Water Supply/SGMA Analysis (Mintier/Rincon Consultants); status- complete and available on-line.
- Small lot planning study is underway with Mintier Harnish.
- REAP Workshop Series; status – ongoing.
 - ***Next workshop is in August 2024.***

- **REAP TAC Committee** meeting was held on May 14th. The June TAC meeting will occur on June 11th.