



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Who:** San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council  
**What:** Two-day “Valley Voice” visit to Washington D.C.  
**When:** September 10-11, 2024  
**Where:** United States Congress, Federal Departments, Washington D.C.  
**Why:** Legislative Advocacy for the San Joaquin Valley

Visit [www.sjvcoqs.org/events/](http://www.sjvcoqs.org/events/) to view the 2024 Valley Voice DC Delegation Brochure, which includes a listing of the delegates that will be traveling to Washington D.C. next week.

### **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON D.C. FOR “VALLEY VOICE” SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2024**

Elected officials and staff from all eight San Joaquin Valley counties, The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Commission/Joint Powers Authority will meet with key Federal legislators during their “Valley Voice” advocacy visit to Washington D.C. on Sept. 10 and 11.

The 28-member delegation traveling to the nation’s capital is known as the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council and represents the boards of each regional transportation planning agency, or metropolitan planning organization, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Commission/Joint Powers Authority (passenger rail systems).

The annual trip brings the San Joaquin Valley together to speak to the policymakers as one “Valley Voice” – to highlight regional transportation priorities that range from highway projects to passenger rail, and for policies and programs that improve air quality and provide for the safely moving goods and people throughout the Valley.

Over two days, the delegates will advocate for major transportation and related initiatives for the San Joaquin Valley – from Kern to San Joaquin counties. Topping the list is the need for continued Federal investment to expand Highway 99, ensuring safe mobility for goods and people along this critical freight corridor. The delegation will also

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Authority

be discussing air quality issues, including a wide range of initiatives and collaborative efforts under way in the Valley to reduce emissions and improve air quality. Passenger rail is another priority with the delegation will be advocating for multiple grade separation projects in the north Valley, including expanding Altamont Corridor Express services to Turlock in Stanislaus County, and for Federal assistance to develop the new Madera high-speed rail station.

*“Our highways and interstates are vital to the economic growth of the San Joaquin Valley. Goods and services here are directly tied to the state, nation, and global marketplace,”* said Merced County Supervisor and San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Chairman Daron McDaniel. *“The success of one Valley county weighs heavily on the success of another. Our ability to work together sends a strong message about our regional collaboration and the importance we place collectively on transportation, economic development, social equity, and air quality.”*

The visit includes potential meetings with Senator Alex Padilla and Senator Laphonza Butler and schedule meetings with Rep. Jim Costa, Rep. David Valadao, Rep. Josh Harder, Rep. Vince Fog, Rep. John Duarte, Rep. Jay Obernolte, Rep. Tom McClintock, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure Implementation Team.

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