



# Nomination Packet 2025 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards

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**American Planning Association California –  
Central Section**



***San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference  
2025 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Presentation***  
Hosted by the Merced County Association of Governments  
**April 11, 2025**  
Merced, CA

## Nomination Packet

### 2025 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards

Nomination Deadline: February 26, 2025, 11:59 pm (via email)  
Georgiena M. Vivian, San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Coordinator  
Email: [gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com](mailto:gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com)  
Phone: (559) 259-9257

## Introduction

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards program aims to promote quality planning and development by recognizing outstanding achievements and practices in the built environment. By highlighting projects that embody the Blueprint Principles, we hope to showcase visually appealing, functional, and environmentally friendly initiatives that can serve as models for similar efforts throughout the Valley.

Awards will be presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Merced Theatre at 301 W. Main Street.

## Blueprint Principles

On April 1, 2009, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council adopted a list of Smart Growth Principles, known as the "Blueprint Principles," to guide Blueprint planning in the San Joaquin Valley, including:

1. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
2. Create walkable and bikeable neighborhoods
3. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration
4. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
5. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective
6. Promote a mix of land uses
7. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices
9. Strengthen and direct development toward existing communities
10. Take advantage of compact building design
11. Enhance the economic vitality of the region
12. Support actions that encourage environmental resource management
13. Plan for future water needs

These principles remain applicable today and align with current climate, social, environmental, transportation, and housing goals at the state and federal levels.

## Award Categories

Only one first-place award, the "Award of Excellence," will be given in each category. In addition, one outstanding finalist in each category may receive an "Award of Merit." If the judges determine that none of the nominations in a category meet the criteria, no award will be given in that category.

- A. Residential Development Project Category**
- B. Commercial Development Project Category**
- C. Mixed-Use Development Project Category**
- D. Downtown Revitalization Project Category**
- E. Transportation Enhancement Project Category**
- F. Historic Revitalization Project Category**

The above Development Project Categories must include documentation of existing projects completed from January 2020 to December 2024.

### **G. Planning Project/Program Category**

Recognition of outstanding planning projects or programs that promote and facilitate Blueprint-friendly initiatives. Eligible projects or programs must have been developed within the last four years (between January 2021 and December 2024). Examples may include specific plans, transportation plans, downtown revitalization efforts, corridor plans, or on-the-ground environmental and sustainable programs.

### **H. Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award Category**

This award honors the memory of the former Blueprint project manager from Kern COG, who was deeply involved in the planning process. The results of his efforts continue to support our transition from the planning phase to the implementation phase of the Blueprint. Darrel is remembered for his meticulous attention to detail and commitment to ensuring that the planning principles remained the focal point of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process.

### **I. Jenny Kenoyer Outstanding Local Elected Official Category**

This award is named in honor of Jenny Kenoyer, a former Modesto City Councilmember and Regional Policy Council member, who was the first recipient of the award in 2022. Jenny demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to local and regional issues. The award will be presented to a local elected official (from the city or county) who has displayed outstanding leadership and advocacy for promoting local and regional initiatives aligning with the Blueprint Principles.

## Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Nominations are now open for candidate projects and individuals from the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley: Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin.

- Development projects must be completed or fully built/constructed within the last five years or between January 2020 and December 2024. Projects completed before January 2020 will not be considered.
- Planning projects/programs or individuals should align with the Blueprint Principles, and nominators must provide strong justification for the nomination.
- The planning project or program must have been adopted or implemented by its jurisdiction within the last four years or between January 2021 and December 2024.
- The project or individual cannot be a previous recipient of the Blueprint Award (please refer to the list of past recipients on pages 6-8).
- Eligible applicants include jurisdictions, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, collaborative efforts, and private entities.

## Nomination Submittal Requirements

1. Nomination Form: Completed Blueprint Awards Nomination Form.
2. Summary Description: One-page summary of the nominated award candidate.
3. Award Criteria: One to two-page explanation of how the candidate specifically reflects at least two Blueprint Principles listed in the packet.
4. Letter(s) of Support: At least one, but no more than three, one-page letter(s) of support for the nominated project/candidate.
5. Images: 3 to 5 high-quality digital images in JPG format. Include a brief description for each image.

Please note:

- All submissions must strictly follow the material requirements outlined below and on the Blueprint Awards Nomination Form.
- Each applicant (agency or nominator) may only submit one project or nomination per award category (reference Categories A through I listed on Page 3).
- Do not submit paper copies.
- Incomplete submissions or late submittals will not be accepted.

## Submittal

Nominations must be received via email by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 (End of Day). If possible, please compress the files into a single folder.

Email the completed nomination package to:

Georgiena M. Vivian  
 San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Coordinator  
 Email: [gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com](mailto:gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com)  
 Phone: (559) 259-9257

## Selection Process and Schedule

Judging: Nominations will be submitted to a panel of judges composed of staff from the Central California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), staff from the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies, and representatives from other related agencies/firms.

### Schedule:

January 13, 2025	Begin Call for Nominations
February 26, 2025	Nomination Deadline, 11:59 pm
March 10, 2025	Judging Completed
March 19, 2025	Awards Announcement
April 11, 2025	SJV Policy Conference Awards Ceremony

## Questions

Georgiena M. Vivian  
San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Coordinator  
Email: [gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com](mailto:gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com)  
Phone: (559) 259-9257

## San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Past Recipients 2009-2024

CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
<b>2024</b>	
Residential Development Project (Award of Excellence)	Grand View Village Apartments, Visionary Home Builders of California
Residential Development Project (Award of Merit)	Merced Preapproved ADU, Duplex and Triplex Program, City of Merced, Planning Department
Commercial Development (Award of Excellence)	Kerman Animal Shelter, City of Kerman
Downtown Revitalization Project (Award of Excellence)	The Lofts at Fort Visalia, Self-Help Enterprises
Transportation Enhancement Project (Award of Excellence)	Modesto Transit Center, City of Modesto
Transportation Enhancement Project (Award of Merit)	Caltrans Walk Assessment Program, Caltrans District 6 Office of Multimodal Transportation Planning
Planning Project (Award of Excellence)	Water Supply Study for the San Joaquin Valley REAP Program, Rincon Consultants
Planning Project (Award of Merit)	Mendota Safe Routes to School Master Plan, City of Mendota
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Tony Boren, Executive Director, Fresno Council of Governments
Jenny Kenoyer Outstanding Local Official	Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, Stanislaus County
Jenny Kenoyer Outstanding Local Official	Cherylee Wegman, Mayor, City of Wasco
<b>2023</b>	
Residential Development Project (excellence)	Victory Gardens, Stockton. SJ Housing Authority
(merit)	Sugar Pine Village, Madera. Self Help Enterprises
Commercial Development	Merced County Castle Development, Merced County
Transportation Enhancement Project	Griggs Neighborhood Improvement Project, Dinuba
Planning Project	Accessory Dwelling Unit Program, Kerman
Downtown Revitalization	Stone Plaza, City of Kingsburg
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Benjamin Kimball, Deputy Director TCAG
Outstanding Local Elected Official	Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County
<b>2022</b>	
Residential Development Project	Sequoia Commons, Self-Help Enterprises
Transportation Enhancement Project	The "Q", City of Fresno FAX Rapid Transit
Planning Project	City of Kerman's 2040 General Plan & EIR
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Ted Smalley, Executive Director, TCAG
Outstanding Local Elected Official	Jenny Kenoyer, Council Member, City of Modesto
<b>2019</b>	
Mixed Use Project	Tesoro Viejo -The McCaffrey Group, Madera County
Residential Development Projects	Sierra Village - Self-Help Enterprises, City of Dinuba
	Anchor Village -Domus Development LLC, City of Stockton
Transportation Enhancement Projects	Palm Terrace - Self-Help Enterprises, City of Lindsay
	Operations & Maintenance Facility - Transit Joint Powers Authority of Merced County
Downtown Revitalization Project	City of Woodlake Staff and Council
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Bill Zigler, City of Lindsay
<b>2018</b>	
Downtown Revitalization Project	UC Merced

CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Residential Development	Magnolia Crossing, Innovative Development and Living Solutions of California
<b>2017</b>	
Commercial Development Project	Dry Creek Business Park Phase II, Clovis
Residential Development Project	Highland Gardens Affordable Rental Project, Self-Help Enterprises
Downtown Revitalization-Small Jurisdiction	Rio Villas (Firebaugh, CA), Fresno Housing Authority
Downtown Revitalization-Large Jurisdiction	"The Lede" Project, Granville Homes, Inc.
Historic Revitalization Project	The Belding Building, Ten Space
Transportation Enhancement Project	Multi-Phased Downtown Enhancement Project, City of Woodlake
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Darius Assemi, Granville Homes, Inc.
<b>2015</b>	
Mixed Use Project	1612 City Lofts, Bakersfield
Residential Project	Avena Bella, Turlock
Downtown Revitalization Projects	Brio on Broadway, Fresno
	The Newberry Building, Stockton
Transportation Enhancement Projects	Dry Creek Trailhead, Clovis
	Bradley Overhead - Highway 140, Merced
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	San Joaquin Sustainable Communities Coalition, San Joaquin County
<b>2014</b>	
Commercial Development	M Streets Arts Complex, Fresno
Mixed Use Project	Goshen Park Village, Goshen
	Lemoore Recreation Center, Lemoore
Downtown Revitalization Projects	Crichton Place, Fresno
	Downtown Beautification Project, Waterford
Historic Revitalization Project	Bungalow Court, Fresno
Transportation Enhancement Project	Whitney Transit Center, Woodlake
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
<b>2013</b>	
Residential Development Projects	Mustang Peak Village, Newman
	Parc Grove Commons, Fresno
Mixed Use Project	1612 Fulton, Fresno
Downtown Revitalization Project	Commercial Building Façade Improvement & Blight Remediation Project, Stockton
Historic Revitalization Project	Downtown Stockton Alliance, Stockton
Transportation Enhancement Projects	Manteca Transit Center, Manteca Hammer
	Triangle Station, Stockton
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	John Wright, Valley Planner's Network
<b>2012</b>	
Residential Development Projects	330 North Van Ness Cottages, Fresno
	Tule Vista Rent to Own Housing, Tulare
Mixed Use Project	Baker Street, Bakersfield
Commercial Development Project	Main Street Promenade, Visalia

CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Downtown Revitalization Projects	Downtown Revitalization, Tracy
	Arts Alive District, Bakersfield
Historic Revitalization Project	Merced Theatre, Merced
Transportation Enhancement Projects	Lowell Community Garden, Fresno
	Santa Fe Bridge Project, Visalia
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Bill Spriggs, SJV Regional Policy Council
<b>2011</b>	
Public Infrastructure Projects	Mill Creek, Bakersfield
	Downtown Plaza, Newman
	Street Improvements, Avenal
Mixed Use Projects	Fulton Village, Fresno
	Fulton Complex, Fresno
Transportation Enhancement Project	Downtown Transit Center, Stockton
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Carol Ornelas, Visionary Home Builders
<b>2010</b>	
Residential Development Project	Villa Monterey Apartments, Stockton
Mixed Use Project	Wagner Woods, Ripon
Downtown Revitalization Project	Downtown Revitalization, Riverbank
Historic Revitalization Project	Theater Restoration Project, Avenal
Revitalization – Unincorporated Area	Revitalization Project, Woodbridge
Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award	Lew Nelson, City of Tulare Public Works
<b>2009</b>	
Community Plan – Unincorporated Community	Hilmar Community Plan, Merced County
Master Planned Community	Harlan Ranch, Clovis
General Plan- Small Jurisdiction	General Plan, Porterville
Community Plan – Unincorporated Community	General Plan – 4 Community Plans, Kings County
General Plan – Small Jurisdiction	General Plan, Tracy
Master Planned Community	Copper River Ranch, Fresno
Sustainable Development Policies	General Plan – Land Use and Resource Conservation Elements, Kings County



# 2025 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Award Nomination Form

Nominations for the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards are due by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Materials submitted after this date will not be accepted and will not be returned.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for a 2025 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Award in the category of (check one):

## Development Project

- Residential
- Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Downtown Revitalization
- Transportation Enhancement
- Historic Revitalization

**Planning Project/Program Award Category**

**Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award Category**

**Jenny Kenoyer Outstanding Local Elected Official**

## NOMINATION INFORMATION

The following documentation must be provided in full.

### A. Nominator.

The Nominator will be the main point of contact for all decisions regarding this nomination and will collaborate with Blueprint Awards program staff to gather additional information and materials.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Primary Award Recipient.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Recognition.**

Primary organization to be listed on trophy/plaque if chosen as the winner:

\_\_\_\_\_

Optional. Other supporting organizations that contributed to the project and that should be recognized at the Blueprint Awards Ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_

**E. Nominator/Award Recipient**

I confirm that the work submitted was completed by the credited parties in this Blueprint Awards Application Form and that it aligns with the nomination submission requirements outlined in the instructions.

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_