

Chair  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel  
Merced County



Vice Chair  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa  
Stanislaus County

The attachment for Item E.3. has been revised

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Friday, February 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.

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

**Fresno Council of Governments**

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721

**Madera County Transportation Commission**

2001 Howard Road., Suite 201  
Madera, CA 93637

**Stanislaus Council of Governments**

1111 I Steet, Suite 308  
Modesto, CA 95354

**Kern County Administration Building**

1115 Truxtun Ave # 504  
Bakersfield CA 93301

**Kern Council of Governments**

1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Merced County Association of Governments**

369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Stanislaus County**

1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby  
Modesto, CA 95354

**McFarland Veterans Community Center**

103 W. Sherwood Ave.  
McFarland, CA 93250

**Kings County Association of Governments**

339 W. D Steet, Suite B  
Lemoore, CA 93245

**San Joaquin Council of Governments**

555 E. Weber Avenue, Suite 400  
Stockton, CA 95202

**Tulare County Association of Governments**

210 N. Church Street, Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291

Public members may participate at any of the above locations or remotely via Zoom. Please contact Georgiena Vivian at (559) 259-9257 or [gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com](mailto:gvivian@vrpatechnologies.com) prior to the meeting to determine which physical locations will be utilized.

### Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83429625589?pwd=sTIOO2a0NTHK7LkzmEohfC3gd3sHi7.1>

Meeting ID: 834 2962 5589

Passcode: 089190

Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

Agenda Item	Speaker	Enclosure
A. CALL TO ORDER	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. ROLL CALL	Georgiena Vivian	<input type="checkbox"/>



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian  
(559) 259-9257



Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721



Fresno Council of  
Governments  
Fax (559) 233-9645

Fresno Council  
of Governments

Kern Council of  
Governments

Kings County  
Association of  
Governments

Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission

Merced County  
Association of  
Governments

San Joaquin  
Council of  
Governments

Stanislaus  
Council of  
Governments

Tulare County  
Association of  
Governments

San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

San Joaquin  
Joint Powers  
Authority



## San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

### Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
<b>Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)</b>					
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember, District 1	City of Kerman	
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	
<b>Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)</b>					
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 <sup>th</sup> District	County of Kern	
<b>Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)</b>					
Member	Alvaro	Preciado	Mayor	City of Avenal	
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	
<b>Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)</b>					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	
<b>Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)</b>					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	
Member	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	
<b>San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)</b>					
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	County of San Joaquin	
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	
<b>Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)</b>					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	
Member	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	
<b>Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)</b>					
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	
<b>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)</b>					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	
<b>San Joaquin Powers Authority (SJPA)</b>					
Member	Michael	Hanebutt	Senior Planner	SJPA	

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<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
<b>C. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 24, 2025, Meeting</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS</b>		
1. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update	<b>Jen Covino</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. State Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update	<b>Gus Khouri</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. ACTION: Approve the 2025 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council State Legislative Platform	<b>Gus Khouri</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Valley Voice Sacramento Pre-Trip Planning	<b>Gus Khouri and Georgiena Vivian</b>	
a. <i>Potential Meetings with Legislators/Agencies</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. <i>Valley Voice Sacramento Speaker Assignments – Friday, March 7, 2025, 10:00 AM</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>
c. <i>Reception – March 11, 2025, and Lunch – March 12, 2025</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. <i>Other Logistics</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Policy Council Purpose and Goals for 2025	<b>Robert Phipps, Stacie Guzman, Monica Street, and Georgiena Vivian</b>	
a. <i>Bylaws and Memorandum of Understanding</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. <i>Meeting Schedule</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Policy Council		
ii. Executive Committee		
c. <i>Policy Council State and Federal Priorities</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>F. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</b>		
The following items are for informational purposes only and require no action. Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.		
1. Letter to Federal Rail Agency Administrator to Advance Completion of the High-Speed Rail Project from Merced to Bakersfield in the San Joaquin Valley	<b>Robert Phipps and SJJPA/SJRRRC</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. 2025 Policy Conference Update	<b>Stacie Guzman</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Blueprint Awards Information	<b>Georgiena Vivian</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>G. OTHER ITEMS</b>		
1. Executive Directors' Committee Report	<b>Robert Phipps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Policy Council Member Comments	<b>Members</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>H. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>		
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 Items above.		
<b>I. ADJOURN</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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### Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahron Hakimi, Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt, SJJPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Derek Winning   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Illic   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham, VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman   Vice Chair   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rosa De León Park   Stan COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong   Caltrans, D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Jordan   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen   SJJPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJJPA			

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AGENDA ITEM D.

***January 24, 2025 Policy Council Meeting Minutes***

Chair  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel  
Merced County



Vice Chair  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa  
Stanislaus County

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Friday, January 24, 2025  
8:30 a.m.

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1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
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**Merced County Association of Governments**

369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
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**Stanislaus County**

1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby  
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### Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84052662861>

Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 840 5266 2861

Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order.

Chair

### B. ROLL CALL

Roll was called. Attendance is noted in the table below. A quorum was present.

Georgiena Vivian



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian  
(559) 259-9257



Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721



Fresno Council of Governments  
Fax (559) 233-9645

Fresno Council  
of Governments

Kern Council of  
Governments

Kings County  
Association of  
Governments

Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission

Merced County  
Association of  
Governments

San Joaquin  
Council of  
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Stanislaus  
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San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
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San Joaquin  
Joint Powers  
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[www.sjvcogs.org](http://www.sjvcogs.org)



## San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

### Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
<b>Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)</b>					
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember. District 1	City of Kerman	Y
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	Y
<b>Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)</b>					
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	N
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 <sup>th</sup> District	County of Kern	N
<b>Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)</b>					
Member	Alvaro	Preciado	Mayor	City of Avenal	Y
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	N
<b>Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)</b>					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	Y
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	N
<b>Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)</b>					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Y
Member	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	Y
<b>San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)</b>					
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	San Joaquin County	Y
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	Y
<b>Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)</b>					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	Y
Member	Rosa	Escutia- Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	Y
<b>Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)</b>					
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	Y
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	Y
<b>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SVAPCD)</b>					
Member	Tom	Jordan	Dir. of Policy & Govt. Affairs	SVAPCD	Y
<b>San Joaquin Powers Authority (SJPA)</b>					
Member	Michael	Hanebutt	Senior Planner	SJPA	Y

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## C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Enclosure

1. Motion to Approve November 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair



A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Poythress and seconded by Member Mendoza. Roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Federal and California Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

Jen Covino and Gus



- a. *California High-Speed Rail (HSR) Funding Issues*

Khouri

Jen Covino with Covino, Smith, and Simon noted the following:

- ✓ The Trump Vance administration plans to influence California's high-speed rail project through executive orders, viewing it as over budget and delayed. Following past issues with grant agreements, they may try to reclaim federal funds that have been allocated to the project.
- ✓ Former Congressman John Duarte attempted to reallocate \$3 billion in HSR funding to street and road funding programs. Congressman Kylie seeks to block further funding for the high-speed rail and reclaim \$6 billion already granted, highlighting scrutiny over spending.
- ✓ Private discussions suggest an alternative route from Los Angeles to San Francisco via the I-5 corridor to improve regional connectivity. It's crucial for the Policy Council to engage with the incoming administration to advocate for local interests. Jen notes the importance of addressing project concerns, especially since local plans depend on this infrastructure.
- ✓ The Policy Council should quickly express support or concerns as developments arise. With the Governor considering a shift towards a broader regional rail network including the Brightline project, a reevaluation of current infrastructure for future freight or commuter services may be necessary. Jen stressed that Policy Council input will be vital in the coming months.

Gus Khouri from Khouri Consulting highlighted the following:

- ✓ Concerns extend beyond high-speed rail funding due to unprogrammed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds being at risk.
- ✓ The project has caused tensions between the State and the Governor, further complicated by past litigation.
- ✓ The State intends to allocate 25% of Cap-and-Trade proceeds to this initiative, with discussions for a possible increase.
- ✓ We support multimodal options, funding the State's highway system and active transportation grants. Enhancing air quality and mobility is crucial for our constituents, and we have invested significantly in economic development and housing.
- ✓ Maintaining our supportive stance is vital now.

Dan Leavitt with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJRR/SJPA), noted the following:

- ✓ A few years ago, there was a threat to reallocate the \$4.1 billion in Prop 1A funding from the Valley to Southern California, but we successfully secured it.
- ✓ Additionally, we've received about \$3.5 billion in federal funds for high-speed rail, including \$54.5 million for the Madera High-Speed Rail station.
- ✓ It's crucial that these funds remain in the Valley.
- ✓ Our working group is collaborating with Gus and Jen to prepare a positive recommendation and support for the High-Speed Rail project between Merced and Bakersfield during the upcoming state lobby trip.

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Jen Covino asked Dan if the grant agreement had been executed for the Madera HSR station.

Dan replied no, noting that the grant is still unapproved despite previous efforts. He mentioned that securing an executed grant takes nearly a year and that environmental clearance under NEPA adds another 10 months. He emphasized the importance of support from the Policy Council to retain grant funds for the project and secure HSR funding for train operations between Merced and Bakersfield.

Jen highlighted that an executive order titled "Unleashing American Energy," signed by the President, pauses all federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for at least 90 days. This impacts the National EV Charging Infrastructure Program and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) stated that the review aims to enhance clean energy policies but provides little assurance to project sponsors. She warned that agencies without grant agreements should be cautious due to potential delays or rescinded funding, particularly for HSR projects. Legal challenges could arise if funding is withheld, urging the Policy Council to take the situation seriously.

Member Rudy Mendoza emphasized the need for caution with the new administration and its commitment to HSR, which affects our counties and MPOs. He stressed the importance of using our expertise in discussions.

Robert Phipps, Executive Director of Fresno COG, highlighted the urgency of responding quickly, whether by letter or visit, seeking immediate action.

Vice-Chair Vito Chiesa pointed out that despite changing administrations, completing a rail segment is vital for northern areas and addresses air quality issues. He supports holding HSR accountable for costs.

Member Townsend highlighted the need for a working group to adjust policy and focus on completed projects to ensure effective goods and people movement.

Saul Ayon, commenting as a member of the public, urged collaboration with the new administration, given previous failures in delivering on grants and project delays.

Member David Couch expressed support for completing projects to avoid creating monuments.

Toni Tinoco, representing the California High-Speed Rail Authority, suggested coordinating with them to convey progress, including job creation and economic benefits, while emphasizing transparency and oversight.

Jen clarified the distinction between existing projects and a new private-sector initiative for a route from Los Angeles to San Francisco, advocating for discussions with the Trump Administration to share local perspectives.

Gus noted that initial funding expectations included significant private investment, which has not materialized due to perceived risks.

Vice-Chair Chiesa made a motion proposing that we continue with our current strategy, focusing on collaboration with the new federal administration. It's crucial that we clearly articulate the necessity of completing the HSR system through the San Joaquin Valley. While we can engage in discussions about what the final completion

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looks like, it's evident that we still have a significant journey ahead of us. Therefore, maintaining our momentum and effectively communicating our intentions and desires for progress in the valley is a prudent course of action.

Member Nagy seconded the motion. Role was taken and the motion passed.

Robert Phipps requested clarification as to whether Vice Chair Chiesa's motion included granting permission for staff to draft a letter that outlines the details of our discussion and clearly states the position we've taken today. Vice Chair Chiesa and Member Nagy both noted that drafting a letter was absolutely implied.

3. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update **Jen Covino** ☐

Jen Covino noted that she covered her update during the previous item and emphasized the pause in the disbursement of infrastructure, law, and the Inflation Reduction Act grants, noting that if anyone is affected, please let Jen's office know, especially if we need to involve our delegation about previously awarded funds and any delays impacting your projects.

4. California Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update **Gus Khouri and Georgiena Vivian** ☐

*a. General Legislative and Budget Update*

Gus Khouri provided an overview of the current legislative situation in Sacramento, highlighting several key points:

- ✓ The Legislature resumed on January 6, welcoming 35 new members, including Assemblymembers Macedo and Tangipa, and Senator McNerney, who replaced Susan Eggman.
- ✓ On January 10, the Governor announced a modest budget surplus of \$363 million, following measures taken to address a \$30 billion deficit. There are no major changes to transportation programs, and updates on cap-and-trade are pending.
- ✓ Key issues remain in our state legislative platform: air quality challenges persist, and we're concerned about greenhouse gas emission target changes impacting transportation funding. The Air District, facing a funding deficit due to the defunded farmer program, seeks \$200 million from cap-and-trade. We also need to ensure transit operators have adequate resources, and we should advocate for increased funding for passenger rail projects like Valley Link and Ace to support GHG reduction compliance. The California State Rail Plan and the 2024 high-speed rail business plan highlight significant projects for our support.

Chair McDaniel sought clarification regarding whether the State Legislative Platform was an informational or action item. Monica Streeter, General Counsel, mentioned that the legislative platform isn't on the agenda, but there will be a Policy Council meeting before the March trip to Sacramento providing the Policy Council with an opportunity to consider the platform.

*b. State Gas Tax Replacement Discussion – Update*

*The item was tabled.*

*c. 2025 Valley Voice Sacramento (Reception March 11, 2025 & Meetings March 12, 2025)*

Gus Khouri noted that the Ella Dining Room and Bar in Downtown Sacramento has been reserved for the reception on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the same venue as last year. We are finalizing the itinerary for meetings with legislators and agencies on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Speaker Rivas has announced Committee updates, but the Senate schedule is still pending. We are returning to a one-day event on Wednesday to accommodate members traveling from the South Valley, aiming for earlier meetings for easier travel.

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Member Poythress encouraged colleagues to stay for the entire Valley Voice schedule as leaving early can negatively impact the representation of the Valley. He emphasized the importance of engaging meaningfully with legislators rather than reading from notes.

Member Mendoza mentioned opportunities to connect with new state legislators during Division League of Cities dinners. He emphasized the need for in-district meetings focused on transportation issues. He also offered to connect members through his Cal City Statewide board position.

Vice Chair Chiesa announced a vacancy created by Steve Qualls' departure and called for applicants with legislative and policy experience from the Central Valley.

Georgiena Vivian, Valley Coordinator, noted that she reserved venues for the March 11<sup>th</sup> reception and March 12<sup>th</sup> lunch, each accommodating 30-35 people. She asked that agencies coordinate internally to ensure necessary attendees are present.

5. California Air Resources Board (CARB) - Green House Gas Target Setting Update Robert Phipps ☐

Robert Phipps mentioned that Fresno COG and TCAG are part of a working group for SB 375 called Reform, consisting of six MPOs and four state agencies. He noted that the group was formed after MPOs sent letters to CARB, stating they wouldn't participate in the next round of GHG target setting due to ongoing data transfers and dwindling target potential amid declining population estimates. He noted that while CARB has a mandate to set targets, progress has been slow, and the Valley's letter specifically requested to maintain current targets, which were distinctive compared to others from the state.

6. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Presentations Erik Ruehr, P.E., ☒  
a. VMT Implementation Issues VRPA Technologies  
b. Rural Induced Demand Study Presentations Jim Damkowitch,  
DKS

These presentations did not occur. However, it was noted that presentations would be made at the 2025 San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference in April in Merced. A panel is currently being designed. A PowerPoint presentation was available in the Agenda Package.

#### D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair

Chair McDaniel asked if there was any comment from the public.

Saul Ayon, participating as a member of the public, raised concerns about increasing dust storms from a dairy south of Highway 99 in McFarland, which have persisted for years and pose serious health risks, particularly to low-income residents. He urged staff to strengthen efforts to address these storms and sought support from the Air District for a healthier environment for McFarland families.

Member Poythress emphasized the need for goal setting and updates to the Policy Council Bylaws due to ongoing challenges in California, particularly from outdated transportation funding practices like SB 743. He mentioned a recent letter from 59 groups that complicates matters, especially from cycling and train travel advocates. Poythress highlighted the importance of developing effective policies and engaging with communities, noting that some members feel disconnected and only familiar with their specific sections, such as the D.C. and Sacramento Valley trips.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations** – The public meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian, at (559) 259-9257, at least three days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the meeting.



His recommendations include:

1. Establish a regular meeting schedule, ideally three or four times a year, to tackle ongoing challenges.
2. Reestablish the Executive Committee for priority review and results.
3. Review and revise the bylaws, as necessary.
4. Better involve Policy Council members in advocating for valley priorities at state and federal levels.

He emphasized the need for regular legislative updates for the Policy Council to improve effectiveness and relationships, highlighting that engagement and consideration of these suggestions are crucial for addressing these issues.

#### **E. ADJOURN**

**Chair**

Chair McDaniel then adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations** – The public meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian, at (559) 259-9257, at least three days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the meeting.



AGENDA ITEM E.3.

***ACTION: Approve the 2025 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council  
State Legislative Platform***

# San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

## 2025 State Legislative Priorities-DRAFT

Issue	Goal	Strategy
<p><b>1. Pragmatically Address Air Quality, Equity, and Mobility Goals Through Operational Improvements, and without compromising economic activity</b></p>	<p>Support stable, equitable, and environmentally conscious state funding of alternatives to petroleum fuel sources to expand infrastructure and incentives for conversion to electric vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Prioritize feasible implementation strategies for State and regional climate goals to improve air quality and mobility.</p> <p>Extend the Cap-and-Trade Program beyond 2030.</p> <p>Pursue Innovative <u>and pragmatic</u> Solutions to Address Climate and Mobility Goals.</p> <p>Monitor activities on conversations regarding the jobs-housing imbalance and the impact on vehicle miles traveled.</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of SB 743, AB 285, and discussion on amending SB 375 and protect the ability to continue addressing congestion management and safety on the</p>	<p>SJVRPC supports a revenue-neutral conversion from the gas tax to a source that ensures equity in revenue collection that does not disadvantage those who must drive further to job centers. Distribution should respect San Joaquin Valley's vital role in maintaining system integrity and providing mobility options. This includes continuing to monitor the Road User Charge Technical Advisory Committee's activities.</p> <p>SJVRPC will collaborate with all stakeholders to implement CAPTI to promote mode-shift where feasible while also working towards completing key highway projects that enhance safety and support goods movement, tourism, disaster response, <del>and</del> military operations, <u>and general economic vitality</u>.</p> <p>SJVRPC will work to ensure that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions account for opportunities and limitations within the region due to socioeconomic disadvantages, geographical considerations, the jobs-housing imbalance, the lack of density, and the profile of the regional economy. <u>SJVRPC will oppose efforts to continually revise emissions targets, which undermine previous investments and condition competitiveness for state funding beyond what is achievable for the region.</u></p> <p>SJVRPC will also work with organizations such as the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG), California League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, and Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC), <u>Cal Cehamber</u>, among others, to extend and pursue funding from Cap-and-Trade revenues beyond 2030 or other means to comply with the statewide mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and endorse policies that promote equity and regional job creation to reduce vehicle miles traveled with pragmatic solutions that fit the region.</p> <p>SJVRPC will also support greater <u>Regional and Geographic appropriate</u> investments into transit priority projects, operational improvements such as telecommuting, vanpools, shipping more freight via rail, availability of more e-bikes, and promoting opportunities for regions to sell mitigation credits to generate revenue for providing multi-modal options.</p> <p>SJVRPC will work with organizations such as CALCOG and SHCC, among others, to protect transportation funding from being withheld or diverted, while working with stakeholders to find alternatives to address jobs-housing imbalance. This includes</p>

Issue	Goal	Strategy
	<p>state highway system, <u>without compromising economic activity</u>.</p> <p><del>Restore REAP 2.0 funding to meet affordable housing goals.</del></p> <p>Restore FARMER funding to accelerate air quality goals.</p>	<p>monitoring the implementation of SB 743 and AB 285 recommendations and the impact on addressing safety, congestion management, goods movement on the state highway system to ensure that capacity projects are not precluded from being funded.</p> <p>SJVRPC will work with CALCOG to develop additional revenue sources at the state, regional and local levels to support the planning required by SB 375 to support the construction of affordable housing in the region. <del>This includes advocating for the full restoration of the \$300 million that is proposed to be cut in the Governor's proposed FY 24-25 State Budget for the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 2.0) planning grants.</del></p> <p>SJVRPC will also continue to pursue revenue made available through the Cap and Trade, Active Transportation Program, and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, for operations and capital needs for bus, rail and bicycle and pedestrian programs.</p> <p><u>SJVRPC will advocate for \$200 million be included in this year's budget for the FARMER Program, and annually over the next five years, in order to achieve critically needed air quality and GHG emission reductions. This funding will: 1) achieve emission reductions of approximately 800,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and 2) achieve emission reductions of over 8 tons per day of harmful air pollutants, such as particulate matter and nitrogen oxide.</u></p> <p><u>SJVRPC will advocate for the restoration of \$150 million in funding for the FARMER program in the FY 24-25 State Budget.</u></p> <p>SJVRPC will support efforts to maintain local control for air districts and oppose efforts to enact redundant, costly oversight to meet air quality goals.</p>
<p><b>2. Leveraging State Funding to Address Safety, Goods Movement, and Mobility</b></p>	<p>Aggressively pursue funds through the State Budget, California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocation process or any other state sources to address safety, congestion management, and goods movement.</p> <p>Advocate for a successor source to the gas tax to ensure stability and predictability of funding.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will remain diligent in competing for additional state funds to complete gap closures to improve safety, congestion management, and goods movement throughput on State Route 99 and other regional arterials. This includes building out SR 99 to a minimum of six lanes, consistent with the Caltrans-adopted State Route 99 Business Plan. This will also maximize the return on previous state and local investments.</p> <p>SJVRPC will monitor Road User Charge Technical Advisory Committee's activities and consider sponsoring legislation to implement a successor source to the gas tax and advocating for the restoration of truck weight fees to ensure predictable, stable funding, and consider additional resources to expedite project delivery.</p>

Issue	Goal	Strategy
	Ensure that CSIS allows investments to enhance safety and goods movement on state highway system.	SJVRPC will advocate to ensure that goals expressed in the Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) does not limit the ability to address safety and goods movement projects on the state highway system, <u>while enhancing the Region's Economic Vitality.</u>
<b>3. Access Transit Funding</b>	<p>Support potential changes to the Transportation Development Act that will assist local public transportation systems with funding eligibility.</p> <p>Stabilize and increase transit funding levels.</p> <p>Protect and augment existing programs to encourage mode-shift.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will monitor the CalSTA Transit Transformative Task Force and support modifications to the TDA process as appropriate to ensure that transit operators are provided with flexibility to continue accessing funding to maintain and expand service.</p> <p>SJVRPC will support efforts to advocate for additional flexibility for TDA, State Transit Assistance Program, and State of Good Repair funding. This includes supporting additional funding for operations.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate for increased, ongoing transit operations and capital funding, either through existing programs or longer-term programs, including updates to TDA and a successor to the sales tax on diesel, to provide predictable and stable funding.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate to protect SB 125 formula funds provided by the legislature for operations and capital needs from being diverted.</p>
<b>4. Enhance Passenger Rail Infrastructure and Service</b>	<p>Provide enhanced passenger rail service to better connect the San Joaquin Valley to Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Southern California.</p> <p>Maintain and increase funding for commuter and intercity passenger rail for ACE, San Joaquins, and Valley Link. Pursue funding opportunities made available through CalSTA.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will work cooperatively with CalSTA, Caltrans Division of Rail, Amtrak, CTC, ACE, San Joaquins, Valley Link, BNSF, and Union Pacific Railroad to expand passenger rail service and connectivity to accommodate Valley residents.</p> <p>SJVRPC will continue to diligently work on establishing extended commuter/intercity rail and high-speed rail service, to provide enhanced mobility options and connectivity, reduce vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impacts of congestion on SR 99, and expand equitable transportation options for San Joaquin Valley residents.</p> <p><del>SJVRPC will advocate to preserve SB 125 funding administered regionally and consistent with the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), given the needs for current operations and planned expansions. Preserving this funding and exploring additional future opportunities for capital and operations funding is a critical component for continued passenger rail operations and delivering upon planned service expansions.</del></p>

Issue	Goal	Strategy
		<p>SJVRPC will advocate to increase, recalibrate, and acquire funding from CalSTA through the State Rail Assistance (SRA) and TIRCP <del>Cycle 7</del> to help expedite delivery of multimodal options and meet 2030 climate goals. This includes supporting the extension of Cap and Trade to allow for the TIRCP program to continue <u>and be augmented.</u></p> <p><u>SJVRPC supports the Governor’s plan for further passenger rail investments, the 2024 California State Rail Plan, and CHSRA’s 2024 Business Plan to complete the Early Operating Segment between Merced and Bakersfield between 2030 and 2033. Together, these plans will link high-speed rail with investments for extended ACE commuter service between Stockton, San Jose, Sacramento, and Merced; expanded San Joaquin intercity rail service in the valley, Valley Link passenger rail service between Dublin/Pleasanton BART and Mountain House, and future expansion of passenger service north to Chico. These many passenger rail investments are critical for Valley communities and help promote local and regional coordination efforts around station-area planning, station design, and increase connectivity to align with the region’s priorities for project delivery and enhanced mobility in the San Joaquin Valley. SJVRPC supports the Governor’s plan and CHSRA’s 2022 Business Plan to complete the Early Operating Segment between Merced and Bakersfield between 2030 and 2033 and will continue to promote local and regional coordination efforts around station design, station-area planning, and connectivity to align with the region’s priorities for project delivery and enhanced mobility in the San Joaquin Valley.</u></p>

AGENDA ITEM E.4.a.

*Valley Voice Sacramento Pre-Trip Planning -  
**Potential Meetings with Legislators/Agencies***

# **Draft Agenda**

## **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

### **Valley Voice Sacramento**

<b>8:30 am – 9:00 am</b>	<b>Pre-Briefing w/ Gus Khouri</b> 1021 O Street, Conference XXXX
<b>9:00 am – 9:30 am</b>	<b>Senator Melissa Hurtado (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference XXXX
<b>9:30 am – 10:00 am</b>	<b>Assembly Member Juan Alanis (Merced, Stanislaus)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference Room XXXX
<b>10:30 am – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Assembly Member Rhodesia Ransom (San Joaquin)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference Room XXXX
<b>11:15 am – 11:45 am</b>	<b>Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains (Kern)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference Room XXXX
<b>12:00 pm – 1:15 pm</b>	<b>Lunch - Mark Tollefson, Chief Deputy, High-Speed Rail Authority</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria (Fresno, Madera, Merced)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference Room XXXX
<b>2:00 pm - 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Senator Anna Caballero (Fresno, Madera, Merced, Tulare)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference XXXX
<b>2:30 pm – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Senator Jerry McNerney (San Joaquin)</b> 1021 O Street, Conference Room XXXX

AGENDA ITEM E.4.c.

*Valley Voice Sacramento Pre-Trip Planning -*

***Reception – March 11, 2025, and Lunch – March 12, 2025***



*You're Invited!*

San Joaquin Valley Voice Sacramento

*Evening Reception*

Tuesday

March 11, 2025

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM



Ella Dining Room and Bar  
131 K Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please keep in mind that we have a limited number of spots available. We would especially like to see members of the Policy Council and Directors attend. Thank you!

Please RSVP by Tuesday  
February 25, 2025  
Via text at (559) 259-9257

AGENDA ITEM E.5.a.

*Policy Council Purpose and Goals for 2025 -*  
***Bylaws and Memorandum of Understanding***



TO: San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

FROM: Stacie Guzman, Vice-Chair, Executive Directors' Committee

DATE: February 9, 2025

RE: San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Bylaws

## Summary

At a previous meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council (Policy Council), members of the Policy Council requested an item to review and discuss updates to the Policy Council's Bylaws. Since that meeting, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Directors' Committee, along with legal counsel and the Valleywide Coordinator, met to discuss this request. The initial review of the Bylaws is underway with initial edits tracked in the attached document. At this time, staff recommends the Policy Council review the Bylaws, and provide any initial feedback on the document or the schedule. There is no action requested at this time.

## Proposed Changes for Discussion

### *Administrative Edits*

In the initial review of the current Bylaws, several administrative edits were identified and are included in the attached document with track changes. In summary:

- Title: The current Bylaws are titled "San Joaquin Valley Regional *Planning Agencies* Policy Council Bylaws" which is inconsistent with the Memorandum of Understanding that established the Policy Council. Therefore, the title in the draft Bylaws has been edited to remove *Planning Agencies* from the title to read "San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Bylaws."
- First Paragraph: With the expansion of the Policy Council in 2021 to include the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA), the first line of the Bylaws should reflect the eight Regional Planning Agencies, as well as, the Air District and the SJJPA.
- Section 5.2: Staff proposes striking FAX as a method of notifying members of all meetings.



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian  
(559) 259-9257



Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721



Fresno Council of  
Governments  
Fax (559) 233-9645

- Section 6.2: The Policy Council has expressed its intention to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair to two-year terms. Staff is proposing a change to the language in this section to reflect a two-year appointment. Additionally, the Policy Council has been electing officers in January rather than July as noted in the Bylaws. Therefore, staff is proposing that change be reflected in the document.
- Throughout the document, the word “Policy” has been added ahead of the word “Council.”

#### *Council Member Topics*

- Executive Committee: At the previous Policy Council meeting, interest was expressed in reactivating the Executive Committee. The Bylaws provide details on the composition of the committee in Section 4.1; however, the composition does not include representation from either of the two newest members – the Air District and the SJJPA. Staff is seeking direction as to the Policy Council’s desire to amend the Bylaws regarding the composition of the Executive Committee.
- Additional Meetings: Also at the previous Policy Council meeting, the Chair indicated an interest in having more meetings per year. In its current form in Section 5.1, the Bylaws establish a minimum of two meetings per year and does not include language that would prohibit additional meetings or require an amendment in order to do so.

#### **Next Steps**

Following any direction provided at the February 21, 2025 Policy Council meeting and/or subsequent meetings, the Executive Directors’ Committee will collaborate to develop a final draft document for Policy Council review and potential action.

#### **Contact**

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director, Merced County Association of Governments (209) 617-7759 or [Stacie.Guzman@mcagov.org](mailto:Stacie.Guzman@mcagov.org)

#### **Attachment**

Bylaws – Tracked Changes

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL ~~PLANNING AGENCIES'~~  
POLICY COUNCIL BY-LAWS**

WHEREAS, the eight Regional Planning Agencies in the San Joaquin Valley, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District have executed a Memorandum of Understanding creating the San Joaquin Valley Regional ~~Planning Agencies'~~ Policy Council, and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding vests the Policy Council with the responsibility of overseeing the coordination efforts of Valley issues and concerns and providing guidance on common interregional policy issues, and

WHEREAS, the organizational structure, process and functions of the Policy Council are set forth within the Memorandum of Understanding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The By-Laws of the Policy Council shall be specified herein, except that these By-Laws shall not limit restrict, modify or supersede those activities or duties conferred or implied in the Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Membership of the Policy Council shall be as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2021.

3. The Policy Council, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, shall provide guidance on common interregional policy issues. -The Policy Council shall also represent the San Joaquin Valley at public forums, including before the California Transportation Commission, the Governor and his/her administration, and before State and Federal legislative bodies that require a common voice. The Policy Council shall also provide direction and guidance to the Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee on the development of an Annual Work Program and Budget for activities to be carried out jointly, including identifying revenue for the implementation of these activities.

**4. Committees.**

*4.1. The Executive Committee of the Policy Council is created to take legislative and administrative actions on behalf of the Policy Council. The Executive Committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Policy Council appointed for two years. The Chair of the Policy Council shall serve as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Membership of the Executive Committee shall include geographic representation from the northern San Joaquin Valley counties (San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced), the central San Joaquin Valley counties (Fresno and Madera) and the southern San Joaquin Valley counties (Kings, Tulare and Kern). The Executive Committee shall be operated in accordance with the Bylaws of the Policy Council.*

4.2. The Water Policy Committee of the Policy Council is created to advise the Policy Council on local, state and federal matters of importance related to water infrastructure funding and policy. The Water Policy Committee shall consist of eight (8) members of the Policy Council appointed for two years. The Chairperson of the Water Policy Committee shall be elected by the Policy Council. Membership of the Water Policy Committee shall include geographic representation from each San Joaquin Valley county. The Water Policy Committee shall be operated in accordance with the Bylaws of the Policy Council, except for voting. Voting by the Water Committee shall be conducted on 100 percent consensus (not majority) among its members.

4.3. The Policy Council shall have the ability to form additional committees and/or subcommittees, either formally or ad hoc, as deemed necessary.

## **5. Policy Council Meetings.**

5.1. *The Policy Council shall meet at least twice each fiscal year, at such time and location as may be prescribed by vote of the membership at a previous meeting.* If no time or location is so prescribed, the Chairman, or his representative, shall be authorized to fix said meeting time and location. Accommodations shall be made so that members may officially participate in all meetings through the use of videoconferencing and/or telephone conference facilitation in accordance with applicable statutory provisions.

5.2. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or his representative at any time. The members shall be notified in writing ~~and via FAX~~ or e-mail of all special and regular meetings; written nature of meeting shall be forwarded by first class mail or other appropriate means not less than five days prior to the meeting.

5.3. All regular and special meetings of the Policy Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, as amended.

5.4. Except as provided herein or in the Memorandum of Understanding, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall constitute the parliamentary authority for the Policy Council.

5.5. Items of an emergency nature, which require immediate action by the Policy Council, may be added to the agenda in accordance with the provisions of Government Code Section 54954.2.

5.6. The duly authorized representatives of a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Council. No action shall be taken except upon a majority vote ~~2/3~~ of those present and voting.

## 6. Policy Council Officers.

6.1. Officers of the Policy Council shall consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall be elected from the duly authorized representatives of **member regional planning agencies**. Their duties shall be as follows:

6.1.1. Chairman: To preside over all meetings, maintain order, decide questions of parliamentary procedure, call special meetings, and such other duties as elsewhere herein provided.

6.1.2. Vice-Chairman: To perform the duties of the Chairman in the absence of such officer or upon disqualification of such officer.

6.2. Nomination and election of officers shall be held every two years in January~~July~~, at the beginning of each fiscal year, or at the first meeting subsequent to January~~July~~, and such officers shall serve a ~~one~~two-year term. Any vacancy during the term shall be filled by nomination and election of such officer for the remainder of the term.

6.3. Nominations may be made either by a committee appointed by the Chairman or directly from the floor by duly authorized representatives.

6.4. An election for each office, beginning with that of Chairman, shall be held immediately after all nominations have been declared closed by the Chairman. If there is more than one nominee for any office, voting shall be by roll call of all duly authorized representatives.

6.5. Officers shall take office immediately after their election or as soon thereafter as practicable, and serve until disqualified or their successors are duly elected, whichever condition occurs first.

7. **Amendment of Bylaws.** The Policy Council shall be responsible for making all amendments to these By-Laws.

7.1. Proposed amendments may be originated by the any duly authorized representative to the Policy Council.

7.2. Proposed amendments may not be finally acted upon unless all of the members have been given written notice thereof at a prior meeting or by mail at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting at which final action is to be taken.

7.3. Amendment to these By-Laws shall require the approval of a majority of the duly authorized representatives of the members, the same number of members that constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Policy Council.

## **8. Executive Directors Committee.**

8.1. The San Joaquin Valley **Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee**, as specified in the Memorandum of Understanding, shall select a Chairman and Vice-Chairman in July of each year from among its members. The duties of the Executive Directors Committee shall be:

8.1.1. To hold meetings and conduct business as deemed appropriate under the Memorandum of Understanding.

8.1.2. To recommend agenda items for the Policy Council's regular agenda.

8.1.3. To be the primary advisory body to the Policy Council, with review and recommendation, on all items appearing on its agenda, including but not limited to, the annual work program and budget, reports, studies, plans and policy items.

8.1.4. To continue to provide coordination and direction on all administrative work required to carry out the development of plans that address interregional issues.

8.1.5. To implement the annual work program and budget as approved by the Policy Council.

8.1.6. The Executive Directors Committee shall have the ability to form additional committees and/or subcommittees, either formally or ad hoc, as deemed necessary.

8.1.7. The Executive Directors Committee shall hold regular meetings, at such time and location as may be prescribed by vote of the committee members. If no time or location is so prescribed, the Chairman, or his representative, shall be authorized to fix said meeting time and location. Accommodations shall be made so that members may officially participate in all meetings through the use of videoconferencing and/or telephone conference facilitation.

8.1.8. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or his representative at any time.

8.1.9. All regular and special meetings shall be conducted in the following manner:

- a. Posting an agenda at least 72 hours prior to a meeting of the Directors
- b. Providing the agenda packet to those who request it
- c. Holding meetings at a location that complies with the American's with Disabilities Act



8.1.10. Except as provided herein or in the Memorandum of Understanding, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall constitute the parliamentary authority for the Committee.

8.1.11. Items of an emergency nature which require immediate action by the Committee may be added to the agenda upon concurrence of a majority vote of the members, once a quorum has been established.

8.1.12. Business may be conducted when there are at least five (5) members present to perform the duties of the Executive Directors Committee. Any motion or action of the Executive Directors Committee, in order to be deemed carried or approved, must receive an affirmative vote from a majority of the members present.

8.1.13. All administrative work of the Policy Council shall be performed by or under the direction of the Executive Directors Committee. The Executive Directors Committee, or its designee, shall:

- a. Serve as Secretary to the Policy Council.
- b. Serve as Secretary to such committees as the Policy Council may establish.
- c. Keep a good and sufficient record of the proceedings and business of the Policy Council.
- d. Maintain files for all reports, correspondence and other business of the Policy Council.
- e. Maintain a record of all financial transactions.
- f. Perform such other duties as may be assigned.

**AMENDED AND RESTATED  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE  
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”), which shall be effective June 25, 2021, by and between the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Kern Council of Governments, the Kings County Association of Governments, the Madera County Transportation Commission, the Merced County Association of Governments, the San Joaquin Council of Governments, the Stanislaus Council of Governments, the Tulare County Association of Governments, collectively the “**San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies**” or “**Valley RPAs**”, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (“**District**”), and the Altamont Corridor Express/San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (“**ACE/SJJPA**”), herein referred to collectively as the “**San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council**” or “**Policy Council**”, hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Recitals**

A. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on September 21, 1992, to create the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies’ Policy Council which MOU was superceded and replaced by a Memorandum of Understanding dated September 21, 2006 (“**2006 MOU**”).

B. The 2006 MOU was superceded and replaced by a Memorandum of Understanding dated September 9, 2009 (“**2009 MOU**”) and the 2009 MOU added the District as a member of the Policy Council.

C. The Policy Council now desires to add ACE/SJJPA as a member of the Policy Council.

**Agreement**

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

**Section 1. Replace and Supersedes.** This Memorandum of Understanding supersedes and replaces that certain Memorandum of Understanding dated September 9, 2009, by and between the above listed eight valley regional planning agencies and the District.

**Section 2. New Member and Coordinated Role.** This Memorandum of Understanding hereby adds the Altamont Corridor Express/San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority as a member of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council thereby increasing the membership of the Policy Council to ten agencies. ACE/SJJPA will take the lead in establishing and maintaining viable and efficient modes of passenger rail travel for the San Joaquin Valley including coordination with regional transportation and air quality planning efforts, securing federal and state funding for rail improvements, coordination with the High-Speed Rail Authority, and other related planning and implementation activities in consultation with the Valley RPA’s and the District.

**Section 3. Cooperative Relationship.** The formal cooperative relationship between the San Joaquin Valley RPAs, District and ACE/SJJPA is continued to ensure the effectiveness of regional transportation plans, to comply with the requirements of state and federal law, to contribute toward the attainment of federal and state ambient air quality standards, and passenger rail planning.

**Section 4. Air Quality Strategies and Planning.**

4.1. The District has the lead for air quality planning, but effective air quality strategies require the cooperation and joint actions of the Valley RPAs, ACE/SJJPA, other local, regional, state and federal government agencies, and the people of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Toward that end, the Valley RPAs and ACE/SJJPA agree to participate in regularly scheduled conference calls with local, state and federal agencies including the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure good communication is maintained on issues important to the San Joaquin Valley.

4.2. The parties involved will comply with the Federal Clean Air Act and related regulations and guidance requiring that transportation-related State Implementation Plan (SIP) development decisions be made through interagency consultation. The parties agree to use the latest planning assumptions and emissions factors, conduct regional emissions analyses, and coordinate on the development of motor vehicle emissions budgets. The Valley RPAs will work toward keeping the Transportation Conformity Rule current with federal requirements and guidance, as appropriate. The District will also assist the Valley RPAs in obtaining appropriate and timely technical assistance from the ARB.

4.3. The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJJPA agree that it is in their interest to work closely together and develop joint or consistent policy positions whenever possible when dealing with state and federal air quality and transportation agencies. Each party has the responsibility to notify the other in a timely manner of anticipated or known policy issues with state and federal agencies, and to coordinate their response in an effort to present a unified position.

4.4. The Valley RPAs will take the lead in compliance with Section 108(f)(1) of the Federal Clean Air Act in developing the transportation control measure (hereinafter “TCM”) component of air quality plans (State Implementation Plans or SIPs). The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJJPA will consult with their member jurisdictions to facilitate consensus on implementing measures to address transportation related sources of air pollution. The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJJPA have limited legal authority to implement emission reduction measures directly, but will seek commitments from member jurisdictions, as appropriate, for inclusion in air quality plans. The Valley RPAs will submit an analysis and recommendation concerning which TCMs are reasonably available control measures for formal consideration by the District.

4.5. The Valley RPAs will take the lead in establishing and maintaining transportation conformity in the Valley as required by Section 176 (c) of the federal Clean Air Act, [42U.S.C. 7506(c)] and U.S Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR parts 51 and 93). The Valley RPAs

will work to ensure that regulatory requirements are met and federal funding and approval are given to highway and transit projects that are consistent with and conform to the air quality goals established by the SIP. Conforming transportation plans, programs, and projects will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

4.6. The Valley RPAs will coordinate with the District in updating the status of implementing local agency transportation control measures described in adopted air quality plans (State Implementation Plans or SIPs).

4.7. The Valley RPAs and District will work together in addressing state and federal initiatives such as greenhouse gas emission reductions as well as future air quality regulations. The parties recognize the importance and the expertise necessary to develop comprehensive local and regional approaches. The parties involved agree to dedicate staff resources as needed to cooperatively address state and federal requirements, while still meeting individual core mission elements such as protecting public health and delivering safe and efficient transportation projects.

4.8. The Valley RPAs will determine the allocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to projects in a manner consistent with federal law and through locally developed project selection criteria. The Valley RPAs will consult with the District on project selection.

#### **Section 5. Regional Transportation Planning.**

4.1. The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJIPA will continue the coordination to develop Valleywide initiatives such as goods movement planning, Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) implementation and other regional activities to provide more efficient and effective transportation systems and land use patterns through the integration of transportation, housing, land use, economic development and environmental protection elements and to ensure continuity of air quality planning approaches throughout the Valley.

4.2. The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJIPA agree to discuss key issues related to air quality and delivery of transportation projects. If staff level coordination is not adequate to achieve a unified position, either party has the option of bringing issues to senior management attention.

**Section 6. Coordination of Legislative Efforts.** The Policy Council agrees it is in its best interest to work on the coordination of legislative action at the state and federal level. These efforts will be directed at maximizing funding for the San Joaquin Valley. To implement these efforts, the Policy Council will collectively act as a lobbying coalition and focus its efforts on areas guided by the Policy Council.

**Section 7. Resolution of Disputes.** In order to reduce and resolve conflicts that may arise between the Valley RPAs, District or ACE/SJIPA in a timely manner, each party agrees to establish an issues resolution coordination procedure within its own organization. Each party will designate a policy- level staff person as the point of contact or “Issues Coordinator”. When either party believes a conflict exists or is emerging, it is their responsibility to alert the other party through its

Issues Coordinator. Each party will choose its own manner of communicating internally, but communications between the parties will be coordinated through the Issues Coordinators. If staff level coordination is not adequate to achieve a common position, either party has the option of bringing issues to senior management attention.

**Section 8. Indemnification.** The parties shall mutually indemnify, defend, and save harmless each other, their officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims and losses whatsoever occurring or resulting from their respective performance of this MOU.

**Section 9. Severability.** If any portion of this MOU or application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction or if it is found in contravention of any Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations the remaining provisions of this MOU or the application thereof shall not be invalidated thereby and shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that the provisions of this MOU are severable.

**Section 10. Amendment.** This MOU may be modified, amended, changed, added to, or subtracted from by the mutual consent of the parties hereto if such amendment or change is in written form and executed with the same formalities as this MOU and attached to the original MOU to maintain continuity.

**Section 11. Counterparts and Electronic Signatures.**

11.1. This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

11.2. Each party agrees that this MOU and any other documents to be delivered in connection herewith may be electronically signed, and that any electronic signatures appearing on this MOU or such other documents are the same as handwritten signatures for the purposes of validity, enforceability, and admissibility.

***\*\*\*Signatures contained on next page\*\*\****

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed by their respective officers to be effective on the date first written above.

**Council of Fresno County Governments**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**Kern Council of Governments**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**Kings County Association of Governments**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**Madera County Transportation  
Commission**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**San Joaquin Council of Governments**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**Stanislaus Council of Governments**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**Tulare County Association of Governments**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution  
Control District**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

**Merced County Association of  
Governments**

**Altamont Corridor Express/San Joaquin  
Joint Powers Authority**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM E.5.b.

*Policy Council Purpose and Goals for 2025 -*

***Meeting Schedule***



## ***Preliminary Draft – Potential Alternative 2025 Policy Council Schedules***

Two alternative Policy Council schedules have been prepared for 2025:

### **Alternative 1 – Additional Policy Council Meetings**

- ✓ **Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**: Additional Policy Council Meeting to discuss the Sacramento Valley Voice Trip, Meeting Schedule, Bylaws, 2025 Goals and Platform
- ✓ **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Valley Voice Sacramento Trip – Review Speaker Assignments (will not conflict with SJJPA Board Meeting scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>)**
- ✓ **March 11 & 12 - Valley Voice Sacramento Trip**
- ✓ **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** – Potential Policy Council Meeting
- ✓ **Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Regularly Scheduled Meeting - a Save the Date has already been sent
- ✓ **Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Valley Voice DC – Pre-Trip Planning Policy Council Meeting
- ✓ **September 7-11 – Valley Voice D.C. Trip**
- ✓ **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** - Potential Policy Council Meeting
- ✓ **Dark in December or meet on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

### **Alternative 2 – Reinstate Policy Council Executive Committee Meetings**

- ✓ **Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**: Additional Policy Council Meeting to discuss the Sacramento Valley Voice Trip, Meeting Schedule, Bylaws, 2025 Goals or Platform
- ✓ **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Valley Voice Sacramento Trip – Review Speaker Assignments (will not conflict with SJJPA Board Meeting scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>)**
- ✓ **March 11 & 12 - Valley Voice Sacramento Trip**
- ✓ **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> or other date** – Potential Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting
- ✓ **Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Regularly Scheduled Policy Council Meeting - a Save the Date has already been sent
- ✓ **Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Valley Voice DC – Pre-Trip Planning Policy Council Meeting
- ✓ **September 7-11 – Valley Voice D.C. Trip**
- ✓ **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> or other date** - Potential Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting
- ✓ **Dark in December or meet on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

*The PC occurs on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month. None of the meetings above conflict with the SJJPA Board meetings. SJJPA Board meetings in 2025 are in March, May, July, September, and November.*

AGENDA ITEM F.1.

***Letter to Federal Rail Agency Administrator to Advance Completion of  
the High-Speed Rail Project from Merced to Bakersfield  
in the San Joaquin Valley***



February 14, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_, Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE W-32  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Advance Completion of the High-Speed Rail Project from Merced to Bakersfield in the San Joaquin Valley**

Dear Administrator \_\_\_\_\_:

On January 24, 2025, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Policy Council (Policy Council) convened for a pivotal meeting, where members voted unanimously to prioritize collaboration with the newly elected federal administration regarding the future of the California High-Speed Rail System under construction in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The Policy Council underscored the importance of clearly articulating the need to complete the operational segment of the High-Speed Rail System with Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings/Tulare, and Bakersfield stations.

The Policy Council, established nearly 20 years ago, is comprised of local mayors, council members, and county supervisors from the Valley's eight regional transportation planning agencies. It also includes executives from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA), representing over 4.3 million people in this part of California, which serves as a major hub for global agricultural trade. The Policy Council believes that a **completed and operational high-speed rail line** will contribute to continued economic growth, faster travel, and better air quality in the Central Valley.

It is no secret that a spectrum of opinions exists throughout the Valley regarding the high-speed rail project. However, what emerges as common ground is a shared interest in keeping federal funding in the San Joaquin Valley. Despite the controversies surrounding the high-speed rail project, stakeholders and policymakers from various backgrounds agree on completing a usable segment of the rail line. This consensus highlights a pragmatic approach. Even those opposed to high-speed rail acknowledge that securing these funds is essential for the Valley's economic development.

The Policy Council recognizes the Federal government's already substantial investment and acknowledges the journey that still lies ahead to implement a fully operational segment. Members agree upon the importance of maintaining momentum and are eager to engage in meaningful discussions with both the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the White House to envision what the final completion of the system should entail.

Investments worth \$13 billion for high-speed rail infrastructure have completed over 60 miles of guideway and 70 structures, including bridges, viaducts, overcrossings, and undercrossings, representing one of the most significant road investment programs the Valley has ever seen. This new infrastructure has already improved road safety by eliminating dangerous at-grade rail crossings, benefiting not only our local residents but also the existing freight rail operations.



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiana Vivian  
(559) 259-9257



Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721



Fresno Council of  
Governments  
Fax (559) 233-9645



While the improvements establish a foundation for the upcoming track-laying phase and mark a significant advancement in the overall construction timeline of the high-speed rail system, the work has required road closures and land acquisitions from both public and private owners. Given these impacts, it is imperative that our communities receive the long-term tangible benefits from this investment rather than disconnected structures with no practical uses.

**Table 1 and Table 2** (attached) show that a significant array of high-speed rail-related projects have either been successfully completed, are in progress, or are already in the planning stages. These initiatives play a vital role in realizing the high-speed rail segment in the Valley, and local projects tied to this high-speed rail segment contribute substantially to the Valley's economic vitality and overall growth. The projects enhance connectivity and travel efficiency, stimulate local economies, create jobs, and foster regional development. If the high-speed rail segment remains unfinished, it could jeopardize the success of other transportation initiatives, potentially diminishing their efficacy in creating a seamlessly connected, Valleywide, multimodal transportation network. The interdependence of these projects underscores the crucial role of high-speed rail in achieving a comprehensive and efficient transportation system for the region. **Table 3** (attached) provides a list of recent high-speed rail federal grants (that have not been fully expended) that are critical to the future of the San Joaquin Valley.

The initiative has generated over 14,000 construction jobs, already providing benefits to blue-collar workers in the Valley, particularly in low-income communities. These construction jobs have been important for our local economy. With continued investment, we anticipate sustained economic stimulation via additional housing construction, business attraction, job creation, and access improvements in our local downtown areas near the high-speed rail stations.

The Policy Council recognizes that while opinions on high-speed rail may vary, the overarching message is clear: We will eagerly work with the Administration to preserve federal funding that ensures the completion of a fully operational segment of the high-speed rail line between Merced and Bakersfield, stimulating prolonged economic growth for our local communities.

I would be honored and pleased to discuss our perspectives with you in more detail. Don't hesitate to contact me at my office: (209) 525-6464, Cell: (209) 345-5436, or at [chiesav@stancounty.com](mailto:chiesav@stancounty.com) to schedule a meeting with me and other San Joaquin Valley Policy Council members on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Vito Chiesa, Vice Chair  
San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Policy Council  
Member, San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, and Supervisor, Stanislaus County, California

Enclosures (3)

cc: XXX

**TABLE 1**  
**CHSRA COMPLETED AND ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WITHIN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**  
**(CP-1, CP-2-3, & CP-4)**

Jurisdiction	Project	HSR Segment	Notes
City of Fresno	Church Avenue Grade Separation	CP-1	Active Construction
Madera County	Road 26 Grade Separation	CP-1	Active Construction
Madera County	Avenue 17 Grade Separation	CP-1	Active Construction
City of Fresno	Central Avenue Overcrossing	CP-1	Active Construction
Madera County	Avenue 9 Grade Separation	CP-1	Active Construction
Madera County	Avenue 10 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Avenue 11 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Avenue 12 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Avenue 15 1/2 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Avenue 15 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Avenue 7 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Avenue 8 Overpass	CP-1	Completed
City of Fresno	Belmont Avenue Grade Separation	CP-1	Active Construction
City of Fresno	Cedar Viaduct	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Cottonwood Creek Viaduct	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Fresno River Viaduct	CP-1	Completed
City of Fresno	Fresno Trench & State Route 180 Passageway	CP-1	Active Construction
City of Fresno	Golden State Boulevard Realignment	CP-1	Active Construction
City of Fresno	Muscat Avenue Viaduct	CP-1	Completed
Madera County	Road 27 Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
City of Fresno	San Joaquin River Viaduct & Pergola	CP-1	Completed
City of Fresno	Tulare Street Undercrossing	CP-1	Active Construction
City of Fresno	Ventura Street Undercrossing	CP-1	Active Construction
City of Fresno	Veterans Boulevard	CP-1	Completed
City of Fresno	State Route 99 Realignment	CP-1	Completed
Fresno County	American Avenue Grade Separation	CP-1	Completed
City of Fresno	Tuolumne Street Bridge	CP-1	Completed
			<b>CP-1 Total Cost: \$5,728,454,903</b>
City of Corcoran	Whitley Avenue Underpass	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	SR 43 Curved Bridge	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Lakeland Bridge	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Kings River Bridge	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Dutch John Cut Bridge	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Fresno County	Peach Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Fresno County	Floral Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Tulare County	Deer Creek Viaduct	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Tulare County	Avenue 88 Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Cairo Avenue Viaduct	CP-2-3	Completed
Fresno County	Conejo Viaduct	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Fresno County	Davis Avenue Overcrossing	CP-2-3	Completed
City of Hanford	DFJV Pre-Cast Facility	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Dover Avenue Overcrossing	CP-2-3	Completed
Fresno County	Elkhorn Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Kings County	Excelsior Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Fargo Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Flint Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Fresno County	Fowler Avenue Overcrossing	CP-2-3	Completed
Kings County	Hanford Viaduct	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Idaho Avenue Overcrossing	CP-2-3	Completed
Kings County	Jackson Avenue Overcrossing	CP-2-3	Completed
Kings County	Kansas Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Kings County	Kent Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Fresno County	Mountain View Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Kings County	Ninth Avenue Viaduct	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Fresno County	South Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
Fresno County	State Route 43 Tied Arch Bridge	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Tulare County	Tule River Viaduct	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Tulare County	Avenue 156 Overcrossing	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Kings County	Cross Creek Viaduct	CP-2-3	Active Construction
Fresno County	Adams Avenue Grade Separation	CP-2-3	Completed
			<b>CP-2-3 Total Cost: \$4,706,852,263</b>
City of Wasco	Wasco Pedestrian Underpass	CP-4	Active Construction
City of Wasco	Poso Avenue Underpass	CP-4	Completed
Kern County	Garces Highway Viaduct	CP-4	Completed
Kern County	Kimberlina Viaduct	CP-4	Completed
City of Wasco	McCombs Road Grade Separation	CP-4	Completed
Kern County	Merced Avenue Grade Separation	CP-4	Completed
Kern County	Peterson Road Bridge	CP-4	Completed
Kern County	Pond Road Viaduct	CP-4	Completed
Kern County	Poso Creek Viaduct	CP-4	Completed
City of Wasco	State Route 46 Underpass	CP-4	Active Construction
City of Wasco	Wasco Viaduct	CP-4	Completed
			<b>CP-4 Total Cost: \$1,439,715,684</b>
			<b>Total Cost for All Segments: \$11,875,022,850</b>

TABLE 2

## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY PROJECTS TIED TO HSR BY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY/COUNTY

## KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - KERN COUNTY

Local Projects Tied to HSR Project				
Jurisdiction	Project	Est. Cost	HSR Segment	Notes
Wasco	SR 43/46 Intersection Improvements/Roundabouts	\$5,000,000	Seg 4	
Wasco	Wasco Amtrak Station Relocation	\$2,000,000	Seg 4	
Shafter	6 BNSF Grade Separations in Shafter (settlement)	\$202,000,000	LGA	
Kern County	7th Standard Rd Interchange Rebuild (settlement)	\$150,000,000	LGA	
Bakersfield	F Street Interchange	\$75,000,000	LGA	
Bakersfield	Golden Empire Transit Early Relocation	\$75,000,000	LGA	
Bakersfield	Relocate Bakersfield Homeless Center (settlement)	\$5,000,000	Bak.-Palm.	
TOTAL:		\$514,000,000		

## TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS - TULARE COUNTY

Local Projects Tied to HSR Project				
Jurisdiction	Project	Est. Cost	HSR Segment	Notes
Various	Cross Valley Rail (CVC) implementation	\$59,100,000		Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) state grant. Transit is the first phase and then transit. Ted has contacted KCAG and SJPA as they have more funding that can be identified for CVC. TCAG, along with all MPOs) received SB-125 funding in the amount of \$56 million. Of that funding, likely \$30 million will be used in relation to CVC.
TOTAL:		\$59,100,000		

## KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS - KINGS COUNTY

Local Projects Tied to HSR Project				
Jurisdiction	Project	Est. Cost	HSR Segment	Notes
Hanford	RAISE Fast Trak Hanford HIGH SPEED RAIL CONNECTIVITY AND HISTORIC DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	\$15,533,000	CP 2-3	FY 24/25
Hanford	Community Project Funding - East Lacey Blvd. Corridor Improvement	\$7,315,000	CP 2-3	FY 24/25
KCAPTA	Kings-Tulare Cross-Valley Corridor ZEB Expansion Phase 1	\$53,702,693	CP 2-3	Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program 5th Round FY 22/23. Budget include Federal CFP funds of \$5 million; 5307 apportionment of \$5,303,924; 5339 apportionment \$529,108. This project funded the KART Transit Center and 4 BEBs to connect to the Kings/Tulare High Speed Rail station
TOTAL:		\$76,550,693		

## MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION - MADERA COUNTY

Local Projects Tied to HSR Project				
Jurisdiction	Project	Est. Cost	HSR Segment	Notes
Madera County	Madera SR 41 Expressway Phase 1	\$144,800,000		FY 24/25
Madera	City of Madera Planning Study to Determine Modifications to Cleveland Ave and Yosemite Ave – RR Crossings	\$1,600,000		FY 24/25
Various	Madera High-Speed Rail Project <sup>*1</sup>	\$258,099,000		
TOTAL:		\$404,499,000		

<sup>\*1</sup> Early Operating Segment total: \$134M - Recent MEGA award of \$54,500,000 leverages \$80,000,000 secured State ITIP allocation and fully funds the station for the EOS.

## MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS - MERCED COUNTY

Local Projects Tied to HSR Project				
Jurisdiction	Project	Est. Cost	HSR Segment	Notes
Various	Transit/Passenger Rail Planning:	\$427,324		FY 24/25
Merced	Station Area Planning (Multi-Modal Access Plan):	\$241,239		FY 24/25
Various	Rail Infrastructure Account: \$2,681,188	\$2,681,188		FY 24/25
TOTAL:		\$3,349,751		

San Joaquin Valley Total: \$1,057,499,444

**TABLE 3**  
**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HSR FEDERALLY FUNDED GRANTS (NOT FULLY EXPENDED)**

Grant Program	Date	Amount	Scope	Notes
<b>AWARDED</b>				
<b>FY10</b>	Awarded	\$929,000,000	The FY10 grant provides the Authority with \$929 million and has state match requirement of \$360 million. The period of performance under the grant is through 2026 with planned expenditures to start in the summer of 2024.	CHSRA
	2010			
<a href="#">RAISEPDF Document</a>	Awarded	\$24,000,000	The grant was awarded to fund crucial safety, efficiency, and construction projects in and around the City of Wasco.	CHSRA
	Nov-21			\$84 million (Total Project Cost)
<a href="#">RAISEPDF Document</a>	Awarded	\$25,000,000	This grant was awarded to fund design for the Merced Extension of the California High-Speed Rail project. The project will design civil infrastructure, track and systems and station platforms from Madera to Merced.	CHSRA
	Aug-22			\$41 million (Total Project Cost)
<a href="#">RAISEPDF Document</a>	Awarded	\$20,000,000	This grant was awarded to fund the Fresno Historic Depot Renovation and Plaza Activation Project, and to integrate zero emissions vehicle infrastructure into historically disadvantaged communities.	CHSRA
	Jun-23			\$33 million (Total Project Cost)
<a href="#">CRISIPDF Document</a>	Awarded	\$202,000,000	This grant was awarded to fund complete design, purchase right-of-way and construct six grade separations in the city of Shafter.	
	Sep-23			\$292 million (Total Project Cost)
<a href="#">Corridor IdentificationPDF Document</a>	Awarded	\$500,000	Acceptance into this program included California High-Speed Rail in the National Rail Network.	No monetary request, but acceptance into the program came with \$500,000
	Dec-23			
<a href="#">Federal-State PartnershipPDF Document</a>	Awarded	\$3,073,000,000	Inaugural High-Speed Service:	CHSRA
	Dec-23			
			Procure 6 electric trainsets for testing and use	\$3.842 billion (Total Project Cost)
			Fund design and construction of trainset facilities	
			Fund design and construction of the Fresno station	
			Fund final design and right-of-way acquisition for the Merced and the Bakersfield extensions	
			Construction, including track and systems, for the Merced-Bakersfield Initial Operating Segment	
<a href="#">MPDG - MEGA</a>		\$54,500,000	Construction of the improvements needed for the Madera HSR Station for Early Train Operations	Caltrans awarded the MEGA grant in partnership with San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJIPA). SJIPA is responsible for funding and implementing Madera HSR Station
				\$134 million (Total Project Cost) - SJIPA secured \$80 million in ITIP funding from Caltrans to fully fund project
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,328,000,000</b>		
<b>APPLIED FOR</b>				
<a href="#">RCEPDF Document</a>	Submitted	\$89,650,000	The Le Grand Road Overcrossing Project consists of the following elements:	(Applied)
	Sep-24			
		\$112,060,000	Construction of the Le Grand Road Overcrossing;	(Total Project Cost)
			Closing of two at-grade crossings at Ranch Road and Lingard Road;	
			Construction of new connecting roads to reach the Le Grand Road Overcrossing; and	
			Construction management, project management and reporting.	
<a href="#">RCPPDF Document</a>	Submitted	\$127,000,000	Chowchilla and Fairmead Community Improvements include the following elements:	(Applied)
	Sep-24			
		\$254,000,000	Construction of two new grade-separated crossings at State Route 152;	(Total Project Cost)
			Installation of walking and biking infrastructure;	
			Creation of a multi-use trail;	
			Modifications of water supply and sewer systems; and	
			Construction of a community center.	
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$582,710,000</b>		
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,910,710,000</b>		

AGENDA ITEM F.2.

***2025 Policy Conference Update***



# SAVE THE DATE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE

April 9-11, 2025

EL CAPITAN HOTEL • UC MERCED • MERCED THEATRE



**MCAG**

MERCED COUNTY  
ASSOCIATION OF  
GOVERNMENTS

@MCAGMERCED     MCAGOV.ORG

AGENDA ITEM F.3.

***Blueprint Awards Information***

Nominations are now open for the 2025

# San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards

Awards will be presented on April 11th at  
the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference hosted by  
the Merced County Association of Governments.

**Nominations due February 26, 2025**

**[Download Nominations Packet Here](#)**



## **Award Categories**

### ***Development Projects***

On the ground, existing projects that exemplify the Blueprint principles:

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



### ***Planning Project or Program***

Recognition of sustainable and innovative planning projects or programs.

### ***Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award***

Awarded to an individual who has shown enthusiasm and tenacity in promoting the Blueprint principles.

### ***Jenny Kenoyer Outstanding Elected Official***

Awarded to an elected official who demonstrates great leadership and advocacy for promoting Blueprint principles.

For more information, please visit the 2025  
San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference website.

