# San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee

# **Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:00 am

Via Zoom:
Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89075151490?pwd=r7mUvsWDxShZUSuOAeP9QvaB6sFL1J.1

Meeting ID: 890 7515 1490, Passcode: 113401

One tap mobile Phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency	
		Robert Phipps   Chair   Fresno COG			Diane Nguyen   SJCOG	
		Stacie Guzman   Vice Chair   MCAG			Rosa De León Park   Stan COG	
		Ahron Hakimi   Kern COG			Ted Smalley   TCAG	
		Terri King   KCAG			Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD	
		Patricia Taylor   MCTC			Stacey Mortensen   SJJPA	
APPRO	OVAL (	OF MINUTES				<u>Enclosure</u>
1.	Mar	ch 5, 2025, Directors' Meeting			Robert Phipps	$\boxtimes$
DISCU	SSION	I/ACTION ITEMS				
2.	-	/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Qu <i>Update and discussion</i>	ality		Ryan Niblock	
3.		get, Policy, and Legislative Updates  State  1. CAPTI, Cap and Trade, and State Bud 2. ACTION: Approve Positions on State	•	•	Gus Khouri	
	b.	Federal			Jen Covino	

4.	Policy Council Discussion and Action Items  a. Motion to Recommend the Policy Council Approve Amendments to the MOU and ByLaws  b. Draft Policy Council and Executive Committee Schedule	Robert Phipps, Stacie Guzman, Monica Streeter & Georgiena Vivian	
5.	committee Updates  a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)  b. SJV Swap Meet  c. Housing and Land Use  d. Travel Modelers Group	Robert Phipps Ofelia Abundez Kim Anderson Rob Ball	
6.	SJV REAP Program  Receive update	Michael Sigala & Robert Phipps	
7.	San Joaquin Valley Annual Policy Conference 2025 & Blueprint Awards (April 9-11, 2025, in Merced, CA)	Stacie Guzman & Georgiena Vivian	

# **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. The individuals listed will provide a brief verbal update at the meeting.

•	Caltrans Directors' Report	Michael Navarro, D6 & Grace Magsayo, D10
9.	California High-Speed Rail	Toni Tinoco
10.	San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail	Michael Hanebutt
11.	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Mark Montelongo
12.	Miocar Car Sharing	Michael Sigala

13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

# **OTHER ITEMS**

- 14. Director Items
- 15. Public presentations for items not on the agenda.

  This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes. The public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.
- 16. Directors' Only Session Not Scheduled

# **ADJOURN MEETING**

Next Directors' Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2025

# **Other Meeting Participants**

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
		Paul Herman   Fresno COG			Dan Leavitt   SJJPA
		Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG			Michael Hanebutt, SJJPA
		Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG			Samer Shaath, CHSRA, SJJPA
		Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG			Georgiena Vivian, Valleywide Coordinator   VRPA
		Elizabeth Forte   MCAG			Carolina Ilic, Valleywide Coordinator Staff   VRPA
		Meg Prince   MCAG			Dena Graham, Valleywide Coord. Staff   VRPA
		Becky Napier   Kern COG			Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
		Rob Ball   Kern COG			Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
		Jeff Findley   MCTC			Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
		Troy McNiel   MCTC			David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
		Dylan Stone   MCTC			Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
		Ryan Niblock   SJCOG			Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
		Kim Anderson   SJCOG			Michael Navarro   Caltrans D6
		Elisabeth Hahn   Stan COG			Nabeelah Abi-Rached   Caltrans D6
		Monica Streeter   Stan COG			Grace Magsayo   Caltrans D10
		Jose Luis Caceres   Stan COG			Tom Dumas   Caltrans D10
		Nick St. Cook   Stan COG			Duper Tong   Caltrans, D10
		Ben Kimball   TCAG			Bill Higgins   CALCOG
		Ben Guiliani   TCAG			Sabrina Bradbury   CALCOG
		Roberto Brady   TCAG			Gregory McAteer   CALCOG
		Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG			Michael Sigala   Sigala, Inc.
		Tom Jordan   SJVAPCD			Kristine Cai   LSA
		Mark Montelongo   SIVAPCD			

# AGENDA ITEM 1 March 5, 2025, Directors' Committee Meeting Minutes

# San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

# **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 10:00 am

# Via Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88078420894?pwd=HyBPTlcRBZI4L4jeoa5uQkbpbSiJue.1

Meeting ID: 880 7842 0894, Passcode: 426454, One tap mobile, Phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
$\boxtimes$		Robert Phipps   Chair   Fresno COG	$\boxtimes$		Diane Nguyen   SJCOG
$\boxtimes$		Stacie Guzman   Vice Chair   MCAG	$\boxtimes$		Rosa De León Park   Stan COG
$\boxtimes$		Ahron Hakimi   Kern COG (B. Napier)	$\boxtimes$		Ted Smalley   TCAG
$\boxtimes$		Terri King   KCAG	$\boxtimes$		Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD
$\boxtimes$		Patricia Taylor   MCTC	$\boxtimes$		Stacey Mortensen   SJJPA (D. Leavitt)

# **APPROVAL OF MINUNUTES**

February 6, 2025, Directors' Meeting
 Ted Smalley, TCAG, moved to approve the minutes, which Vice Chair Stacie
 Guzman, MCAG, seconded. The motion passed.

Robert Phipps, Chair

# **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

2. RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

# a. Update and discussion

Ryan Niblock, SJCOG

Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, mentioned the following:

Proposed a letter to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding the upcoming EMFAC model for 2020. The model will inform our Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) process for 2030. The goal is to address potential future issues. CARB develops the EMFAC tool based on planning data and then seeks approvals before releasing it. However, this process can lead to challenges at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) level, such as failing conformity due to changes made during development—similar to what was encountered with the 2021 EMFAC model for Stanislaus and Tulare counties. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) agrees with the Valley Planning Agencies' approach and working together. Chair Robert Phipps of Fresno COG expressed concern about the impact of the model's alarming numbers. Staff sought general approval to proceed with the letter, aiming to get it signed and sent to CARB soon. Ryan agreed to receive electronic signatures from each of the regional agencies' Directors and send the letter.

Chair Robert Phipps noted that many MPOs have submitted letters to CARB stating they would not participate further in the target-setting process, focusing instead on the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Forum board meeting. He highlighted a legislative framework in response to a spot bill (SB 486) related to these reforms.

Chair Phipps mentioned a divergence in approaches, with the SB 375 working group mainly comprised of planning directors from major organizations focusing on administrative solutions, while the Big Four and CALCOG concentrate more on legislative fixes. He said that the upcoming meetings may serve as a workaround to the earlier letters sent by numerous MPOs, which requested that targets remain unchanged.

He outlined three key talking points for the Valley's response:

- 1. Participating in these meetings could detract from the overall reform efforts.
- 2. Data needed by CARB for target setting has already been provided.
- 3. The collective position is to maintain existing targets, emphasizing that their initial stance remains unchanged.

Ben Kimball, TCAG agreed with Robert's analysis and mentioned a future meeting with other MPOs to discuss a united response. The team decided to politely decline participation in the meetings, consistent with their earlier letters, and to maintain their existing targets.

- Robert also mentioned the ongoing efforts to address the issue on the legislative front and the possibility of moving the ball forward more quickly. Gus Khouri of Khouri Consulting suggested engaging the legislature for an informational hearing and proposed pursuing this option offline.
- 3. Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates

a. State Gus Khouri

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, noted the following:

- ✓ There is a Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies with Senator Hurtado and Assembly Member Flora representing the Valley. The Committee is chaired by Jackie Irwin from Ventura County and vice-chaired by Henry Stern, also from Ventura.
- On the budget front, the administration is attempting to shield the state from potential federal clawbacks, with little progress on Cap and Trade. Assembly members Ransom and Soria are forming a working group to assess the situation, especially regarding labor interests tied to HSR, the original motivation for Cap and Trade. Gus has been meeting with delegation members, urging them to maintain their commitment to projects despite opposition. There are discussions about extending Cap and Trade, but a 30-year extension proposed by labor may not align with the program's design, which includes a sunset provision. Additionally, exploring investments for the region and collaborating with the Central Coast to sustain services in Southern California is ongoing, although it remains preliminary. The California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Road User Technical Advisory Committee recently met, but further updates on Cap and Trade and the gas tax are still forthcoming.
- ✓ The transportation improvement fee from vehicle registrations, noting that revenues are increasing while the gas tax is decreasing. They are considering a higher fee for zero-emission vehicles, but since these makeup only 6% of registered vehicles, this won't cover revenue gaps.
- Paul Herman of Fresno COG noted that the HSR Authority released a project update report, highlighting a notable shift in focus from San Francisco to Bakersfield, particularly towards the Gilroy to Palmdale segment, which hasn't received much attention. This new direction from the CEO could impact discussions about Caltrain extending to Gilroy. Gus Khouri stated that Gilroy is the end of the Caltrain line, but there's no passenger rail service to San Luis Obispo. Union Pacific runs minimal freight on that stretch. It raises questions about connectivity to Palmdale. Paul concluded that the key point is that there are plans for

Caltrain to electrify to Gilroy, which represents a significant change in approach, potentially shifting responsibility from the HSR Authority to Caltrain. He requested that the shift be investigated further.

b. Federal David Gellman

- Chair Phipps noted that a revised letter regarding the High-Speed Rail (HSR) project in the Valley had been prepared to remove the list of projects and other minor adjustments. He further stated that the revised letter was sent to Policy Council Vice Chair Chiesa for his signature. It was suggested that all members of the Policy Council sign the letter by listing their names in the letter as well. As a result, the letter will be sent again to Vice Chair Chiesa for his final signature, including a couple of minor edits. Once received, Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, and Jen Covino, Cavino, Smith, and Simon will distribute the letter to State and federal agencies copied on the letter, ensuring it is received before the Valley Voice Sacramento trip, which begins on March 11, 2025. The group emphasized the importance of showing unified support to complete the HSR project through the Valley and to maintain federal funding.
- ✓ Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon discussed the following:
  - In Washington D.C., state-level partners are pivoting to support federal partners, potentially opening doors for future federal funding.
  - Secretary Duffy recently expressed appreciation for Brightline, and updates to the project referencing connections to Vegas provide flexibility moving forward.
  - Jen met with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to introduce Christine Serrano Glassner, the former Mayor of Mendham, NJ, who will serve as our point of contact for local government officials.
  - The Continuing Resolution (CR) funding of the federal government is set to expire in the next week. Speaker Johnson is aiming for a full-year clean CR, which typically means that earmarked projects may be dropped. However, the White House has sent a list of requested anomalies concerning earmarks. Jen's office is awaiting guidance on fiscal year (FY) 2025 earmark requests while Congress is starting to open portals for FY 2026 submissions.
  - Encouraged Valley agencies to prepare two to three (2-3) project proposals, as the opportunity for new earmark requests for next year may arise quickly. It's essential to touch base with staff, particularly if there are changes in representation.
  - The legislative branch is aligning with the executive branch's priorities, focusing on fiscal responsibility. While there may be statutory funding requirements, being competitive in this cycle may mean demonstrating higher leverage in project requests. The committees will be attentive to the leverage achieved. Jen and staff are available to discuss potential submission concepts if you have questions.
  - Chair Phipps noted that leveraging is essential, as we saw in the first administration.

#### 4. 2025 Valley Voice Sacramento Trip

Gus Khouri & Georgiena Vivian

Gus Khouri and Georgiena Vivian noted the following:

- Ten (10) meetings with legislators or other agency staff have been planned, including a lunch with Mark Thompson from the HSR Authority.
- Updates on meeting schedules and reception details, as well as confirmed interest from several legislators and other agency staff members in meeting with the delegation at the reception.
- Will send a bill matrix of 2,500 introduced bills with possible positions to consider later.
- ✓ Provided an update on the joint legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies.
- ✓ Will forward the talking points to the delegation by Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. Policy Council Discussion Items

a. Bylaws and MOU Review

Robert Phipps, Stacie Guzman, Monica Streeter, & Georgiena Vivian

Chair Phipps, Vice Chair Stacie Guzman, and others noted the following:

- ✓ Since the February Policy Council meeting, staff have made necessary adjustments, particularly regarding the Executive Committee membership, which needs reappointment. Currently, there are no proposals to change the language, except perhaps to add the SJJPA and the Air District. Tom Jordan mentioned that while some options for participation were discussed, including permanent membership, it might be excessive. He suggested either a rotational presence or eligibility without being a permanent member, keeping the executive director as the representative to ensure valley-wide representation.
- Confirmed strong feelings from Policy Council members about taking prompt action while ensuring discussions occurred first. They focused on clear and obvious changes based on previous discussions and planned to gather more feedback before proceeding.
- ✓ Highlighted the need for a final draft before the next policy Council agenda, urging all members to review and provide feedback. She mentioned incorporating the Air District and Rail Commission as partners while removing planning agencies from the bylaws and updating the Policy Council logo.
- Noted the proposal to adjust the number of meetings, suggesting a minimum of two per year and proposing alternative options for additional meetings and re-engagement of the Executive Committee.
- Emphasized the importance of finalizing the version for review at the next Policy Council meeting.
- 6. Committee Updates

# a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)

**Robert Phipps** 

Chair Phipps and Ryaan Niblock noted that there was nothing to report beyond what had already been discussed in previous items.

b. SJV Swap Meet Kayle Clay

Kayle Clay, KCAG noted that there was nothing to report.

c. Housing and Land Use Kim Anderson

An update was not provided.

d. Travel Modelers Group Rob Ball

An update was not provided.

7. SJV REAP Program

a. Receive update Robert Phipps

Chair Phipps discussed the need for counties to submit closeout reports by March 7th and expressed gratitude for the three (3) counties that have done so.

8. San Joaquin Valley Annual Policy Conference 2025

#### a. April 9 - 11, 2025, Merced, CA

Stacie Guzman

Stacie made the following points regarding conference planning:

- Registration is closed, but let us know if you need assistance. We encourage everyone to use the transit option for convenience.
- Thursday's dinner (April 10) will be held outdoors and is casual, so please come dressed comfortably—business attire is not recommended.
- Excited to have Ian Choudhury, the CEO of high-speed rail, in an interview-style session with Bill Higgins. The SR 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) draft will also be unveiled at the Policy Conference, along with discussions on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

- On Friday, April 11, we'll be at the theater for policy-related items and the Blueprint Awards. Congressman Adam Gray and State Treasurer Fiona Ma will host a joint conversation. Also planning a transportation policy panel featuring state lawmakers and CTC representatives.
- Emphasized the importance of staying through Friday's session, which will wrap up by lunchtime.
- ✓ The detailed program will be sent out by the end of the week.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. The individuals listed will provide a brief verbal update at the meeting.

9. Caltrans Directors' Report

Michael Navarro Caltrans D6 and Grace Magsayo, Caltrans D10

Michael Navarro, Caltrans District 6, mentioned the following items:

- Congratulated the city of Merced and the Continuum of Care on receiving the \$3.2 million Encampment Resolution funding grant.
- ✓ District 6 staffing announcements. James Perrault will cover the Planning Deputy position from March 1-16, followed by Caleb Brock from March 17-31.
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the SR 99 six-lane project, located north of Tulare, is scheduled for April
- ✓ The CMCP workshop has been rescheduled for this Thursday due to technical difficulties. The next milestone CMCP update meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:30 PM to discuss recent public engagement and the draft SR 99 CMCP. The technical advisory committee meeting is on the 20th at 1 PM, planned as a dry run for the upcoming Policy Conference presentation.
- In District 6, there are 31 projects totaling \$35.5 million in the SIP Cycle 12. District 10 has 13 projects totaling \$17.9 million.
- An update to the State Highway System Management Plan (SHSMP) is now available for public review until March 31st. Comments on the draft for 2025 are welcome.
- Key actions for the Climate Action Plan 2.0 include a statewide Express Mobility Action Plan and increased transparency and access for tribes and tribal governments.

Tom Dumas, Caltrans District 10, provided the following update:

- ▼ The SR 99 CMCP is progressing well, with one more virtual meeting scheduled for San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced counties.
- ✓ The California Department of Energy has a rural electric charging program with a May 23rd application deadline, offering \$10 million for rural counties.
- A separate program for fast chargers has a deadline of March 31st, with \$10 million available. For more details, visit www.energy.ca.gov.
- ✓ The Costa Climate Action Plan 2 has been released, focusing on 14 new actions to reduce emissions. Familiarizing yourself with this plan is encouraged to facilitate its incorporation into local planning documents.

10. California High-Speed Rail

Toni Tinoco

An update was not provided.

11. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail

Dan Leavitt

Dan Leavitt, SJRRC/SJJPA, noted the following:

- There are two key updates to report regarding the upcoming board meeting on March 19 in Stockton, which will offer virtual options.
  - First, the SJJPA Board needs to adopt the Draft Business Plan. This year's plan includes the return of the 7th daily round trip, alongside an adjusted schedule for all trips to improve on-time performance and connections, particularly with services in the southern region. The Board will review this plan in March, with final approval expected in May.
  - Second, the agency is actively working through the Passenger Rail Transit Land Use Working Group for the Policy Council. Next week, we plan to utilize a one-page handout for state lobbying, which was previously used for federal efforts. Additionally, we are finalizing county-level documents for five (5) counties and anticipate having them available on our website soon. The Kings, Tulare, and Kern updates may take a bit longer, but we expect them to be completed within the next few weeks.
- 12. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Tom Jordan

Tom Jordan, SJVAPCD, informed the team of their pursuit of a clean data finding for the annual PM 2.5 standard set in 1997.

13. Miocar Car Sharing

Michael Sigala

An update was not provided.

14. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

An update was not provided.

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

15. Director Items

Chair Phipps

No items.

16. Public Presentations for Items not on the Agenda

**Chair Phipps** 

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes. The public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.

No public comment.

17. Closed Session

Chair Phipps

A closed session was held.

**ADJOURN MEETING** 

Chair Phipps

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 A.M.

# **Other Meeting Participants**

Voc	No	Diversity   Against	Voc	No	Diversion I Account
Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
		Becky Napier   Kern COG	X		Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
	$\boxtimes$	Rob Ball   Kern COG			Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
$\boxtimes$		Kayley Clay, KCAG	X		Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
		Ben Kimball   TCAG			David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
	$\boxtimes$	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG		X V	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
		Roberto Brady   TCAG		$\boxtimes$	Alex Marguesi   Trinity Consultants
	$\boxtimes$	Ben Giuliani   TCAG			Alex Marcucci   Trinity Consultants
		Aime Kane   TCAG	$\boxtimes$		Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
$\boxtimes$		Paul Herman   Fresno COG			Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
	$\boxtimes$	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG			Samer Shaath, CHSRA
		Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG			Toni Tinoco, CHSRA
		Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG			Harpreet Binning   Caltrans D6
	$\boxtimes$	Dylan Stone   MCTC			Caleb Brock   Caltrans D6
		Jeff Findley   MCTC			Michael Navarro   Caltrans D6
		Evelyn Espinosa   MCTC			Alec Kimmel   Caltrans D6
	$\boxtimes$	Nav Bagri   MCAG		$\boxtimes$	Nabeelah Abi-Rached   Caltrans D6
$\boxtimes$		Elizabeth Forte   MCAG		$\boxtimes$	Grace Magsayo   Caltrans D10
	$\boxtimes$	Meg Prince   MCAG		$\boxtimes$	Eric Mather   Caltrans D10
	$\boxtimes$	Stephanie Jackson   MCAG	$\boxtimes$		Tom Dumas   Caltrans D10
		Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG		$\boxtimes$	Duper Tong   Caltrans, D10
		Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG		$\boxtimes$	Gurwinder Sekhon   Caltrans D10
		Monica Streeter   StanCOG			Gregoria Ponce   Caltrans D10
		Nick St. Cook   StanCOG			Gabbie Sefranek   Caltrans D10
		Shannon Silva   StanCOG			Natalia Castillo Deleon   Caltrans
		Josephine Oshana   StanCOG		$\boxtimes$	Bill Higgins   CALCOG
		Jean Foletta   StanCOG	$\boxtimes$		Sabrina Bradbury   CALCOG
		Cindy Malekos   StanCOG		$\boxtimes$	Gregory McAteer   CALCOG
$\boxtimes$		Ryan Niblock   SJCOG		$\boxtimes$	Vincenzo Caporale   CALCOG
		Kim Anderson   SJCOG		$\boxtimes$	Michael Sigala   Sigala, Inc.
		Yvette Davis   SJCOG	$\boxtimes$		Rene Gutierrez   ACE Rail
	$\boxtimes$	Christine Corrales   SJCOG	$\boxtimes$		Kristine Cai   LSA
$\boxtimes$		Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD	$\boxtimes$		Carolyn Newman
$\boxtimes$		Tom Jordan   SJVAPCD	$\boxtimes$		Gilberto Contreras   FHWA
$\boxtimes$		Dan Leavitt   SJJPA			
$\boxtimes$		Michael Hanebutt, SJJPA			
$\boxtimes$		Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies			
$\boxtimes$		Carolina Ilic   VRPA Technologies			
	$\boxtimes$	Dena Graham   VRPA Technologies			
	$\boxtimes$	Ryan Vivian   VRPA Technologies			

# AGENDA ITEM 3.a.2.

# SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025

	SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025						
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position				
AB 12 (Wallis)  Low-carbon fuel standard: regulations	2/18/25 Assembly Natural Resources	This bill would void amendments to the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations adopted by the California Air Resources Board on November 8, 2024, which would prevent the increase to gas prices.	Watch				
AB 30 (Alvarez) Air Resources Board: gasoline specifications: ethanol blends	3/25/25 Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require the state board to complete a rulemaking on or before July 1, 2025, to adopt specifications for blends of gasoline containing 10.5% to 15% ethanol by volume for use as a transportation fuel. If the state board does not complete the rulemaking on or before that date, the bill would require that blends of gasoline containing 10.5% to 15% ethanol by volume be treated as approved by the state board and would authorize them to be sold in the state as transportation fuel.	Watch				
AB 34 (Patterson) Air pollution: regulations: consumer costs: review	3/17/25 Assembly Natural Resources	This bill would prohibit the Air Resources Board from adopting any standard, regulation, or rule that affects the Low Carbon Fuel Standard or the California Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Program until the Legislative Analyst has analyzed the cost to the consumer of the proposed standard, regulation, or rule and submitted its analysis to the Legislature.	Watch				
AB 39 (Zbur) General Plans: Local Electrification Planning Act	2/26/25 Assembly Local Government	This bill, the Local Electrification Planning Act, would require a local jurisdiction to prepare and adopt a specified plan, or integrate a plan in the next adoption or revision of the general plan, that includes the identification of opportunities to expand electric vehicle charging and includes policies and implementation measures that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, low-income households, and small businesses for equitable and prioritized investments in zero-emission technologies that directly benefit these groups.	Watch				

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025						
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position			
AB 41 (Macedo) Air Resources Board: regulations: impact: estimates; retail gasoline prices: public disclosure	2/10825 Assembly Natural Resources	This bill would require the Air resources Board, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, before adopting or amending a regulation that imposes costs on gasoline refiners, distributors, or retailers, to make available to the public, including on its internet website, an estimate of the impact on retail gasoline prices due to the proposed new regulation or the existing regulation and the proposed amendments to that regulation. The bill would require the estimate to include a maximum estimated impact on retail gasoline prices that assumes the maximum possible cost imposed, as specified, and that all costs are passed on to consumers.	Watch			
AB 230 (Ransom)  Valley Link: City of  Mountain House	2/10/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would require a representative from the City of Mountain House to be on the Valley Link governing board, instead of a representative from the Mountain House Community Services District.	Watch			
AB 259 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	2/10/25 Assembly Local Government	This bill removes the January 1, 2026, sunset under the Brown Act for local agencies to use teleconferencing as an option for participation, thus extending the current practice of hybrid meetings indefinitely.	Support			

	SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025					
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position			
AB 267 (Macedo) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: high- speed rail: water infrastructure and wildfire prevention	2/18/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would suspend the appropriation to the High-Speed Rail Authority for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fiscal years and would instead require those amounts from moneys collected by the state board to be transferred to the General Fund. The bill would specify that the transferred amounts shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to augment funding for water infrastructure and wildfire prevention.	Oppose			
AB 289 (Haney) State highway: work zone speed safety program	3/25/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would authorize Caltrans to establish a speed safety system pilot program for speed enforcement in state highway construction or maintenance areas. The bill would require Caltrans to adopt written guidelines and would require Caltrans, in developing the guidelines, to consult with the California Highway Patrol and other relevant stakeholder organizations.	Watch			
AB 314 (Arambula) CEQA: major transit stop	2/10/25 Assembly Natural Resources	CEQA exempts from its requirements residential projects on infill sites and transit priority projects that meet certain requirements, including a requirement that the projects are located within 1/2 mile of a major transit stop. CEQA defines "major transit stop" to include, among other locations, the intersection of 2 or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods. This bill would additionally define "major transit stop" to include a planned or existing high-speed rail station. Because the bill would require a lead agency to make an additional determination as to whether a location is a major transit stop for purposes of determining whether residential or mixed-use residential projects are exempt from CEQA, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.	Watch			

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025					
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position		
AB 377 (Tangipa) High-Speed Rail Authority: business plan	3/25/25 Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require the High-Speed Rail Authority, as part of the business plan that is due on or before May 1, 2026, to provide a detailed funding plan for the Merced to Bakersfield segment that includes certain information, including an updated estimate of the funding gap for completing the segment and a strategy for addressing the funding gap.	Watch		
AB 382 (Berman) Pedestrian safety: school zones	2/25/25 Assembly Transportation	This is a spot bill pertaining to the safety of pedestrians near schools.	Watch		
AB 555 (Jackson) Air resources: regulatory impacts: transportation fuel costs.	3/17/25 Natural Resources	This bill would require the California Air Resources Board, on a quarterly basis, to submit a report to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature providing data and describing the impacts of its regulations of transportation fuels on the prices of those fuels to California consumers.	Watch		
AB 612 (Rogers) Transportation: Highway Design Manual: emergency response times	3/25/25 Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require Caltrans, on or before, January 1, 2026, to update the Highway Design Manual to direct local governments to consult with local fire departments when making road improvements to prevent delay response times.	Watch		

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025						
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position			
AB 830 (Rogers) State highways: encroachment permits	3/10/25 Assembly Transportation	Current law requires an encroachment permit issued to a jurisdiction that is authorized by law to establish or maintain any works or facilities in, under, or over any public highway, to contain a provision that, in the event the future improvement of the highway necessitates the relocation or removal of the encroachment, the permittee will relocate or remove the encroachment at the permittee's sole expense. This bill would exempt a public utility district from the above-described provision and instead would require Caltrans to bear the sole expense of relocating or removing the public utility district's encroachment in the event a future improvement of the highway necessitates the relocation or removal of the encroachment.	Watch			
AB 891 (Zbur) Transportation: Quick- Build Project Pilot Program	3/3/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would establish the Quick-Build Project Pilot Program within Caltrans' maintenance program to expedite development and implementation of low-cost projects on the state highway system. The bill would require Caltrans to develop and publish guidance for the deployment of district quick-build projects. The bill would require Caltrans to identify and commit to funding a minimum of 6 quick-build projects statewide.	Support			
AB 902 (Schultz)  Transportation planning and programming: barriers to wildlife movement	3/17/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would require a regional transportation plan or sustainable communities strategy to identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability, and natural landscape areas that are partially or fully within the region of the MPO or RTPA, and consider the impacts of development and the barriers caused by transportation infrastructure and development to wildlife and habitat connectivity.	Watch			

	SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025					
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position			
AB 939 (Schultz) The Safe, Sustainable, Traffic-Reducing Transportation Bond Act of 2026	3/10/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would enact the Safe, Sustainable, Traffic-Reducing Transportation Bond Act of 2026 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$20 billion pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance transit and passenger rail improvements, local streets and roads and active transportation projects, zero-emission vehicle investments, transportation freight infrastructure improvements, and grade separations and other critical safety improvements. The bill would provide for the submission of the bond act to the voters at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election.	Watch			
AB 954 (Bennett) STIP: bicycle highway pilot program	3/10/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would require Caltrans to prepare a proposal for the development, including the selection of sites for a pilot program establishing branded networks of bicycle highways that are numbered and signed within 2 of California's major metropolitan areas. The bill would require Caltrans to include the proposal in the draft ITIP and would require Caltrans to perform all other actions necessary for the pilot program to be programmed in the STIP.	Watch			
AB 975 (Gallagher) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: culverts and bridges	2/20/20 Introduced	Provides an exemption from CEQA for those projects or actions taken for the installation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of culverts and those projects or actions taken for the repair or replacement of a bridge spanning 200 feet or less.	Watch			

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025			
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
AB 1058 (Gonzalez)  Motor Vehicle Fuel  Tax: suspension of tax	3/10/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would suspend the imposition of the tax on motor vehicle fuels for one year.  This bill would direct the Controller to transfer an amount equal to the amount collected in the 2023-24 fiscal year, adjusted for inflation, from the General Fund to the Motor Vehicle Fuel Account in the Transportation Tax Fund.	Oppose
AB 1070 (Ward) Transit districts: governing boards: compensation: nonvoting members	3/17/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would prohibit a transit district from compensating a member of the governing board unless the member demonstrates personal use of the transit system for at least one hour or for four trips during the month for which the member seeks compensation. The bill would require the governing board of a transit district to include 2 nonvoting members and 4 alternate nonvoting members, as specified. The bill would authorize the chair of the governing board of a transit district to exclude these nonvoting members from meetings discussing negotiations with labor organizations.	Watch
AB 1132 (Schiavo)  Caltrans: climate change vulnerability assessment	3/13/25 Assembly Transportation	Caltrans developed 12 district-based Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment reports designed to provide Caltrans with a comprehensive database to help in evaluating, mitigating, and adapting to the effects of increasing extreme weather events on the state transportation system. This bill would require Caltrans to identify key community resilience indicators for measuring the impacts of climate-induced transportation disruptions. The bill would require Caltrans, to include in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment reports an evaluation of the broader social and economic impacts on communities connected to the evaluated infrastructure risks.	Watch

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025			
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
AB 1275 (Elhawary) Regional housing needs: regional transportation plans	3/25/25 Assembly Housing and Community Development	This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to harmonize the regional housing needs allocation process with the regional transportation plan and sustainable community strategy processes to ensure the needs of both existing populations and projected populations are met, and to ensure local governments have plans for sufficient housing in climate-friendly locations near transit, jobs, and services.	Watch
AB 1290 (Wilson) High-Speed Rail Authority: Senate conformation	3/10/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would require that the members of the High-Speed Rail Authority appointed by the Governor be subject to confirmation by the Senate.	Watch
AB 1421 (Wilson) Vehicles: Road Usage Charge Technical Advisory Committee	3/13/25 Assembly Transportation	This bill would extend the operation of the Road User Technical Advisory Committee from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2035.	Watch

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025			
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
SB 2 (Jones)  Low-carbon fuel standard: regulations	3/19/25 Senate Environmental Quality Failed Passage	This bill would void amendments to the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations adopted by the California Air Resources Board on November 8, 2024, which would prevent the increase to gas prices. Same as AB 12.	Watch
SB 71 (Wiener)  California  Environmental Quality  Act: exemptions:  transit projects	3/25/25 Senate Transportation	This bill would indefinitely extend CEQA exemptions for active transportation plans, restriping on streets and highways, bicycle parking, signage, and storage, transit projects, and transit planning.	Support
SB 73 (Cervantes) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions	3/7/2025 Senate Environmental Quality	CEQA exempts from its requirements certain residential, employment center, and mixed-use development projects meeting specified criteria, including that the project is located in a transit priority area and that the project is undertaken and is consistent with a specific plan for which an environmental impact report has been certified. This bill would exempt projects located in a very low vehicle travel area. The bill would require that the project is consistent with either a specific plan or a community plan for which an EIR has been certified within the preceding 15 years. The bill would require the project site to have been previously developed or to be a vacant site.	Watch

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025			
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
SB 239 (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body	3/24/25 Senate Local Government	This bill is a Brown Act bill that would allow for subsidiary bodies of a local agency to use teleconferencing rather than in-person attendance to conduct meetings.	Support
SB 441 (Hurtado) Air Resources Board: membership: removal: regulations review	2/26/25 Senate Environmental Quality	This bill would authorize any member of the State Air Resources Board to be removed from office by the Legislature, by concurrent resolution adopted by a majority vote of all members elected to each house, for dereliction of duty or corruption or incompetency.	Watch
		This bill would, for any regulation proposed by the state board that would impose costs exceeding \$10,000,000 on California consumers, require the state board to submit the proposed regulation to the Legislative Analyst for an independent economic analysis, as specified. The bill would require the state board to prepare and publish on its internet website a written response to the Legislative Analyst's report no less than 30 days before adopting the proposed regulation, as provided. The bill would require the state board to publish on its internet website all final resolutions, supporting documents, and proposed regulations in their complete and final form no less than 72 hours before any state board vote, and, once published, would prohibit any amendments, revisions, or alterations to be made to the final resolutions, supporting documents, or proposed regulations before the state board's vote.	

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025			
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
SB 445 (Wiener) Sustainable Transportation Project Permits and Cooperative Agreements	2/26/2025 Senate Transportation and Local Government	This bill would require a CEQA lead agency to provide a written notice to a local agency, electrical corporation, or private telecommunications provider, regarding its need to use, relocate, alter, change, or otherwise improve facilities, publicly owned and managed utilities, public spaces, or other publicly or privately owned facilities under the third-party entity's jurisdiction or ownership for the implementation of a sustainable transportation project.	Watch
SB 545 (Cortese) High-Speed Rail: economic opportunities	3/25/25 Senate Transportation	This bill would require the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, on or before July 1, 2026, to commission a study on economic opportunities along the high-speed rail alignment, as provided. The bill would require an infrastructure district established in support of the high-speed rail project to include local improvements among the eligible projects to be funded by district revenues. The bill would require any revenues collected beyond the establishment of an infrastructure district to be committed to the ongoing maintenance and operation of the high-speed rail system.	Support

SJVRPC Legislative Bill Matrix – March 2025			
Measure	Status	Bill Summary	Recommended Position
SB 569 (Blakespear) Caltrans: homeless encampments	3/5/25 Senate Transportation	This bill would require Caltrans to coordinate with local governments to address and prevent homeless encampments located on Caltrans property and to establish a dedicated liaison office for this purpose. The bill would require Caltrans to develop a joint action plan for each district of Caltrans in which homeless encampments are located on Caltrans property in collaboration with local governments located in the district. The bill would require Caltrans, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to allocate funds to support collaborative efforts with local governments to address homeless encampments on department property, and establish an advisory committee in each district for the purpose of providing advice on the implementation of these provisions. The bill would require the department to submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing specified information and recommendations regarding homeless encampments on department property.	Watch
SB 752 (Richardson) Sales and use taxes: exemptions: California Hybrid and Zero- Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project: transit buses	3/18/25 Senate Revenue and Taxation	This bill would extend the sales tax exemption on zero-emission bus purchases from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028.	Support

# AGENDA ITEM 4.a.

# Revised Draft MOU and ByLaws

# **DRAFT**

# 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 April \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by and between the Council of Fresno Council of 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, and the Tulare County Association of Governments, collectively the "San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council" or "Valley RPAs", and 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. The terms "Party" and "Parties" as may be used herein refer to the signing agencies to this MOU.

# 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 2009 MOU was superceded and replaced by a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2021 ("2021 MOU"). The 2021 MOU added the SJJPA as a member of the Policy Council.
- C.D. The Policy Council now desires to add ACE/SJJPA as a member of the Policy Council amend the 2021 MOU to reflect revisions to member agency names and other minor administrative updates issues.

# **Agreement**

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. Replace and Supersedes. This Memorandum of Understanding supersedes and replaces that certain Memorandum of Understanding dated <u>September 9, 2009 June, 25, 2021, by and between the above listed eight valley regional planning agencies, and the District and the SJJPA, also known as of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council., by and between the above listed eight valley regional planning agencies and the District.</u>

- <u>Section 2.</u> New Member and Coordinated Role. This—The June 25, 2021 Memorandum of Understanding, as amended, 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/The SJJPA will has taken 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 other members of the Policy Council. the Valley RPA's and the District.
- <u>Section 3.</u> Cooperative Relationship. The formal cooperative relationship between <u>member agencies of</u> the San Joaquin Valley <u>Regional Policy Council RPAs</u>, <u>District and ACE/SJJPA</u> 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/SJJPAmember agencies of the Policy Council, other local, regional, state and federal government agencies, and the people of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Toward that end, member agencies of the Policy Council 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 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 RPAsmember agencies will work toward keeping the Transportation Conformity Rule current with federal requirements and guidance, as appropriate. The District will also assist the member agencies of the Policy Council Valley RPAs—in obtaining appropriate and timely technical assistance from the ARB.
- 4.3. The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJJPAThe Policy Council agrees 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 RPAsMember agencies of the Policy Council will take the lead in compliance with Section 108(f)(l) of the Federal Clean Air Act in developing the transportation control measure (hereinafter "TCM") component of air quality plans (State Implementation Plans or SIPs). -Member agencies of the Policy Council 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/SJJPAMember agencies of the Policy Council –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 RPAsMember agencies of the Policy Council will submit an analysis and recommendation concerning which TCMs are reasonably available control measures for formal consideration by the District.
- 4.5. The Valley RPAsMember agencies of the Policy Council 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 CPR parts 51 and 93). The Valley RPAs Member agencies of the Policy Council—will work to ensure that regulatory requirements are metmet, 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. <u>Member agencies of the Policy Council The Valley RPAs</u> 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. <u>Member agencies of the Policy Council The Valley RPAs</u> 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 <u>health\_and\_health\_and\_delivering</u> safe and efficient transportation projects.
- 4.8. <u>Member agencies of the Policy The Valley RPAs willCouncil will</u> 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. <u>Member agencies of the Policy Council The Valley RPAs</u> will consult with the District on project selection.

# Section 5. Regional Transportation Planning.

4.1. <u>Member agencies of the Policy Council The Valley RPAs and ACE/SJJPA</u> 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. <u>Member agencies of the Policy Council The Valley RPAs</u> and <u>ACE/SJJPA</u> 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.
- <u>Section 6</u>. 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 Member agencies of the Policy Councilthe Valley RPAs, District or ACE/SJJPA\_in a timely manner, each partymember agency agrees to establish an issues resolution coordination procedure within its own organization. Each partymember agency will designate a policy—levelpolicy level staff person, generally the Executive Director or each member agency, as the point of contact or "Issues Coordinator". When eitherany partymember agency believes a conflict exists or is emerging, it is their responsibility to alert the other member agencyparty through its Issues Coordinator. Each member agencyparty will choose its own manner of communicating internally, but communications between the member agenciesparties will be coordinated through the Issues Coordinators. If the Issues Coordinators are not able staff level coordination is not adequate to achieve a common position, either member agencyparty has the option of bringing the issue(s) to senior management the attention of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Directors' Committee for resolution.
- <u>Section 8</u>. <u>Indemnification</u>. The <u>pP</u>arties 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.
- <u>Section 9</u>. <u>Severability</u>. 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.
- <u>Section 10</u>. 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.

# <u>Section 11</u>. 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 Pparty 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\*\*\*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the pParties 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 Council of Governments	San Joaquin Council of Governments
By: Its:	By: Its:
By: Its Executive Director	By: Its Executive Director
Kern Council of Governments	Stanislaus Council of Governments
By:	By: Its:
By: Its Executive Director	By: Its Executive Director
Kings County Association of Governments	Tulare County Association of Governments
By:	By: Its:
By: Its Executive Director	By: Its Executive Director

Madera County Transportation Commission	San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Ву:	By:
Its:	
By: Its Executive Director	By: Its Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments	Altamont Corridor Express/San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority
By:	By:
Its:	Its:
By:	By: Its Executive Director
Its Executive Director	Its Executive Director

# **DRAFT**

# 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 (SJJPA), and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (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 <u>June 25, 2021 April</u>, 2025, as may be amended.
- 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 aAnnual Overall 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 make recommendations and take time-sensitive legislative and policy administrative actions on behalf of the Policy Council. -The Executive Committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Policy Council with each member appointed by the Policy Council for a term of as Executive Committee members appointed for two years. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy Council shall serve as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Membership of the Executive Committee shall also include either the Executive Director of the District, or the Executive Director of the SJJPA, or their

respective designees. The District and SJJPA shall and rotate membership on the Executive Committee every two years. The remaining two members of the Executive Committee shall be from two of the following geographic subregions in the San Joaquin Valley not already represented by the Chair and or Vice Chair of the Policy Council: and the 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.

4.1.

- 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 by the Policy Council for a term of 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 establish and adopt the date, time, and place for regular meetings, which shall occur at 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. Such meetings shall be identified during development of the annual Overall Work Program. If no time or location is so prescribed, the Chairman, or his/her 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 <u>a majority of the Policy Council Directors his /her representative</u> at any time. The members shall be notified in writing <u>and via FAX</u> or e-mail of all special and regular meetings; written nature of meetings 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 <a href="Policy">Policy</a> Council.
- 5.5. Items of an emergency nature, which require immediate action by the <u>Policy</u> 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  $\frac{2}{3}$  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 <u>the</u> member <u>regional planning</u> agencies. Their duties shall be as follows:
  - 6.1.1. <u>Chairman</u>: 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. <u>Vice-Chairman</u>: 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 <u>every two years</u> in <u>JanuaryJuly</u>, at the <u>beginning of each fiscal year</u>, or at the first meeting subsequent to <u>JanuaryJuly</u>, and such officers shall serve a <u>onetwo</u>-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 <u>Policy</u> Council.
- 7.2. Proposed amendments may not be finally acted upon unless <u>each</u> representative of the member agencies and their respective Executive Director all of the members have been given written notice thereof at a prior meeting or by <u>electronic</u> 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 <u>Policy Council</u>.

# 8. Executive Directors Committee.

- 8.1. The San Joaquin Valley Regional <u>Planning</u> Agencies' <u>Executive</u> 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 <u>Executive</u> 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 <u>Overall Wwork Pprogram</u> 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 <u>Overall Wwork Pprogram</u> 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/her 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/her 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 <u>six five</u> (<u>56</u>) members present to perform the duties of the <u>Executive</u>-Directors' Committee. Any motion or action of the <u>Executive</u>-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 <u>Policy</u> 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.

# AGENDA ITEM 4.b.

# **Draft Policy Council and Executive Committee Schedule**

# Preliminary Draft - Recommended 2025 Policy Council Schedule

- ✓ Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 4:30 PM Proposed Policy Council Meeting (Before Policy Conference Reception)
- ✓ April 2025 (Date to be determined) Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting
- ✓ Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Regularly Scheduled Policy Council Meeting a Save the Date has already been sent Adopt the OWP and the Draft Washington D.C. Valley Voice Legislative Platform
- ✓ July 2025 (date to be determined) Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting
- ✓ Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Valley Voice Washington D.C. Pre-Trip Planning Policy Council Meeting
- ✓ September 7-11, 2025 Valley Voice D.C. Trip
- ✓ November/December 2025 (date to be determined) Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting\*<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ January 23, 2026 Policy Council Meeting

The PC occurs on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month. SJJPA Board meetings in 2025 are in May (May 16, 2025), July (July 18, 2025), September (September 19, 2025), and November (November 21, 2025).

\*1 Pls note that there is not another PC meeting between September and January on this schedule. In 2024, the PC met in November after the DC trip. We could schedule the PC Executive Committee meeting in October and the PC meeting in November so that there is not such a large gap between PC meetings.