

Vice Chair Supervisor Vito Chiesa Stanislaus County

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Friday, March 21, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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

Fresno Council of Governments	Kern Council of Governments	Kings County Association of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201	1401 19 th Street, Suite 300	339 W. D Steet, Suite B
Fresno, CA 93721	Bakersfield, CA 93301	Lemoore, CA 93245
Madera County Transportation Commission	Merced County Association of Governments	San Joaquin Council of Governments
2001 Howard Road., Suite 201	369 W. 18 th Street	555 E. Weber Avenue, Suite 400
Madera, CA 93637	Merced, CA 95340	Stockton, CA 95202
Stanislaus Council of Governments	Stanislaus County	Tulare County Association of Governments
1111 I Steet, Suite 308	1010 10 th Street, 6 th Floor Lobby	210 N. Church Street, Suite B
Modesto, CA 95354	Modesto, CA 95354	Visalia, CA 93291
Kern County Administration Building	McFarland Veterans Community Center	Avenal City Hall
1115 Truxtun Ave # 504	103 W. Sherwood Ave.	919 Skyline Blvd
Bakersfield CA 93301	McFarland, CA 93250	Avenal CA, 93204

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

Zoom Meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85860524783?pwd=RHWl5pIMHqnu8eXW66GaQcshcZY7dR.1

Meeting ID: 858 6052 4783 Passcode: 136629 Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

Agenda Item	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
A. CALL TO ORDER	Chair	
B. ROLL CALL	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 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)
Fresno Council of Gove	ernments (Fre	esno COG)			
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember. District 1	City of Kerman	
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	
Kern Council of Govern	nments (Kern	COG)			
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 th District	County of Kern	
Kings County Associati	on of Govern	ments (KCAG)			
Member	Alvaro	Preciado	Mayor	City of Avenal	
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	
Madera County Transp	ortation Con	nmission (MCTC)			
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	
Merced County Associa	ation of Gove	ernments (MCAG)			
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	
Member	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	
San Joaquin Council of	Government	s (SJCOG)			
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	County of San Joaquin	
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	
Stanislaus Council of G	overnments	(StanCOG)			
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	
Member	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	
Tulare County Associat	tion of Gover	nments (TCAG)			
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	
San Joaquin Valley Air	Pollution Cor	ntrol District (SJVAP	CD)		
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	
San Joaquin Powers Au	uthority (SJJP	A)			
Member	Michael	Hanebutt	Senior Planner	SJJPA	



Age	enda	<u>Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
C.	ΑP	PROVAL OF MINUTES – February 21, 2025 Meeting	Chair	\boxtimes
D.	DIS	SCUSSION ITEMS		
	1.	Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update	Jen Covino	
	2.	State Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	
	3.	Valley Voice Sacramento, March 12, 2025 - Recap	Gus Khouri	
	4.	Current Issues – Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) Program, California High-Speed Rail (HSR), Cap-and-Trade Program	Robert Phipps & Gus Khouri	
E.	INFORMATIONAL ITEMS The following items are for informational purposes only and require no action. Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.			
	1.	2025 Policy Conference Update	Stacie Guzman	
	2.	Blueprint Awards Update	Georgiena Vivian	
F.	ОТ	HER ITEMS		
	1.	Executive Directors' Committee Report	Robert Phipps	
	2.	Policy Council Member Comments	Members	
G.	PU	BLIC COMMENT		
	Cou	s portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the uncil on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public nment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.	Chair	
н.	ΑD	JOURN	Chair	



Other Meeting Participants

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

AGENDA ITEM C.

February 21, 2025 Policy Council Meeting Minutes



Vice Chair Supervisor Vito Chiesa Stanislaus County

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Friday, February 21, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 834 2962 5589 Passcode: 089190 Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

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Fresno, CA 93721

Madera County Transportation Commission

2001 Howard Road., Suite 201

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Stanislaus Council of Governments

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Modesto, CA 95354

Kern County Administration Building

1115 Truxtun Ave # 504 Bakersfield CA 93301

Kern Council of Governments

1401 19th Street, Suite 300

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Merced County Association of Governments

369 W. 18th Street Merced, CA 95340

Stanislaus County

1010 10th Street, 6th Floor Lobby

Modesto, CA 95354

McFarland Veterans Community Center

103 W. Sherwood Ave. McFarland, CA 93250

Kings County Association of Governments

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

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Tulare County Association of Governments

210 N. Church Street, Suite B

Visalia, CA 93291

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A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Chair

Georgiena Vivian



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian (559) 259-9257



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San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
Fresno Council of Gove	ernments (Fre	esno COG)			
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember. District 1	City of Kerman	Υ
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	N
Kern Council of Govern	nments (Kern	COG)			
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	Υ
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 th District	County of Kern	Υ
Kings County Associati	on of Govern	ments (KCAG)			
Member	Alvaro	Preciado	Mayor	City of Avenal	Υ
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	Y
Madera County Transp	oortation Con	nmission (MCTC)			
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	Υ
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	Υ
Merced County Associ	ation of Gove	ernments (MCAG)			
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Υ
Member	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	Υ
San Joaquin Council of	Government	s (SJCOG)			
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	San Joaquin County	N
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	N
Stanislaus Council of G	overnments	(StanCOG)			
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	Υ
Member	Rosa	Escutia- Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	Υ
Tulare County Associa	tion of Gover	nments (TCAG)			
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	N
Alt. Member	Linda	Launer	Councilmember	City of Dinuba	Υ
San Joaquin Valley Air	Pollution Co	ntrol District (SJVAP	CD)		
Member	Tom	Jordan	Dir. of Policy & Govt. Affairs	SJVAPCD	Υ
San Joaquin Powers A	uthority (SJJP	A)			
Member	Dan	Leavitt	Manager of Regional Initiatives	SJJPA	Υ



C	FI FCTION	OF CHAIR	AND VICE-CHAIR

Chair	

Election of Chair—Member Poythress motioned to reelect Chair McDaniel for another term, and Member Nagy seconded the motion. The roll was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair—Member Poythress motioned to reelect Vice Chair Chiesa for another term, and Member Nagy seconded the motion. The roll was called and the motion passed unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 24, 2025, Meeting

Chair

 \boxtimes

Member Poythress moved to approve the minutes, which Member Nagy seconded. The roll was called and the motion passed unanimously.

E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Enclosure

- 1. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update \Box
 - Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon provided an update on federal budget policy and legislative developments, including the following:
 - ✓ The Senate approved a budget resolution for 2025 and the House's upcoming bill to advance President Trump's campaign promises.
 - ✓ Potential cuts to federal tax exemptions for state and local bonds.
 - Executive orders impact federal workforce reductions and infrastructure funding, including a pause on some Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding.
 - ✓ New discretionary criteria for infrastructure investments under Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and noted a compliance review of the California High-Speed Rail project.
 - ✓ Background on new appointments to the Intergovernmental Affairs team, including Alex Meyer as director and Christine Glasser as deputy director for Local Government Outreach.
- 2. California Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

Gus Khouri and

Georgiena Vivian

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, provided an update on California politics, mentioning the Governor's budget and the focus on Cap and Trade program funding.

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

Gus Khouri

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Gus Khouri presented the final 2025 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council State Legislative Platform, highlighting key points on air quality, transportation funding, transit operations, and passenger rail enhancements. The platform emphasizes the need for flexibility in air quality mandates, extending Cap and Trade funding, finding sustainable transportation funding sources, and supporting high-speed rail competition in the region.

The discussion focused on the economic challenges small businesses face in the Valley, with many closings due to a lack of policy support. Member Poythress and other members discussed the need for the Policy Council to identify and address specific policies that negatively impact businesses, such as air quality, transportation, and housing. They also highlighted the importance of supporting existing businesses and adapting to new administrations. The conversation ended with a call for the Policy Council to take a more active role in advocating for policies that support the economic vitality of the Valley.

Following discussion, Member Poythress moved to approve the Legislative Platform, which Member Rodriquez seconded. The item passed unanimously.



١.	Vall	ey Voice Sacramento Pre-Trip Planning	Gus Georg	Khouri a iena Vivian	and	
	a.	Potential Meetings with Legislators/Agencies	Gus K	houri		\boxtimes
		Policy Council members discussed arrangements for upcoming legislanoted that the itinerary is still being finalized and will send an update received.		_		
	b.	Valley Voice Sacramento Speaker Assignments – Friday, March 7, 2025, 10:00 AM	Gus K	houri		
		Gus Khouri requested speaking assignments and members of the Policy for various topics including Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable targets and SB 743 issues, gas tax and funding, goods movement, transit talking points to the speakers by Friday, March 7 th for members to review participate in discussions and add their perspectives.	e Com	munities St assenger rai	rategy(I. Gus wil	RTP/SCS) I provide
	c.	Reception – March 11, 2025, and Lunch – March 12, 2025	Gus Georg	Khouri iena Vivian	&	
		Gus Khouri and Georgiena Vivian, SJVCOG Coordinator, noted plans for $11^{\rm th}$ at Ella Dining Room and Bar in the evening to meet legislators the sessions/meetings with legislators and other agencies.		•		•
	d.	Other Logistics				
		See item 4.1.a., b., and c. above.				
5.	Ро	icy Council Purpose and Goals for 2025	Rober	t Phipps		
	a.	Bylaws and Memorandum of Understanding		Guzman ca Streeter	&	
	the	ctor Robert Phipps, Fresno COG and Chair of the Directors' Committee, in Policy Council Bylaws, which had been updated to include the San Joaquin District) and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA).				_

4.

Director Stacie Guzman, MCAG and the vice chair of the Directors' Committee, presented a preliminary review

of proposed changes to the Bylaws. These changes included administrative edits such as updating the title to reflect the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council and expanding the membership to include the Air District and the SJJPA.

Director Guzman also proposed changes to the term of the chair and vice chair from an annual election to a twoyear term and suggested adding representation from the Air District and the SJJPA to the Executive Committee. The discussion also discussed the possibility of additional Policy Council and Executive Committee meetings.

The discussion focused on clarifying the composition of the Executive Committee and potential adjustments to the Bylaws. Director Phipps outlined the current structure, highlighting that five (5) members are appointed for 2-year terms, and the chair serves on the Executive Committee. Current Bylaws require geographic representation from various regions.

Members of the Policy Council agreed to discuss the Bylaws further at a meeting scheduled for March 21st and potentially make changes for the next meeting in June. Monica Streeter, Legal Counsel, suggested providing options for the Policy Council to review before making any changes.



b. Meeting Schedule

Georgiena Vivian

 \boxtimes

1. Policy Council

Georgiena Vivian discussed scheduling future Policy Council meetings and the potential for additional Executive Committee meetings. She proposed two alternatives: either having additional Policy Council meetings or retaining the current schedule and add Executive Committee meetings.

It was agreed that Executive Committee meetings would be more effective for quicker decision-making and engagement. Policy Council members suggested scheduling an Executive Committee meeting in late March or early April and adding additional Policy Council meetings this year. Georgiena will forward a revised calendar.

2. Executive Committee

See Item 5.b.1.

c. Policy Council State and Federal Priorities

Robert Phipps

Members of the Policy Council discussed the Executive Committee structure and process for developing state and federal legislative priorities. Given the dynamic nature of legislation, they agreed to keep the process flexible rather than formalize it in the Bylaws.

Policy Council members directed the Directors to work with advocates to develop a schedule for platform development that incorporates input from the full Policy Council and Executive Committee while allowing for quick responses as needed.

F. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The following items are for informational purposes only and require no action. Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.

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

Robert Phipps and SJJPA/SJRRC

 \boxtimes

Director Phipps presented the letter to the Policy Council, noting that the project listing will likely be removed. The letter will be finalized and sent to Secretary Duffy as soon as possible.

2. 2025 Policy Conference Update

Stacie Guzman

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Director Guzman announced the upcoming Policy Conference in Merced from April 9th to the 11th and noted the following:

- ✓ Those attending should secure rooms at the El Capitan Hotel.
- ✓ The first day will feature a reception, speakers focusing on future demographic projections, a draft of the Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) for State Route 99, and discussions on passenger rail and hydrogen transit in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Attendees can join tours of the UC Merced campus and enjoy food and music at the former Castle Air Force
 Base
- ✓ The conference aims to promote car-free transit solutions.
- ✓ The final day will include speakers and the Blueprint Awards at the historic Merced Theater, with keynote speaker Philip Rosedale, founder of Second Life, encouraging audience questions.
- 3. Blueprint Awards Information

Georgiena Vivian

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Georgiena Vivian noted that the Blueprint Award nomination packet was distributed to over 4,000 individuals throughout the Valley and that the nomination applications are due on February 26th.



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G.	OI	HFR	1111	VI.S

	1.	Executive Directors' Committee Report	Robert Phipps	
		No report.		
	2.	Policy Council Member Comments	Members	
		No comments.		
н.	H. PUBLIC COMMENT		Chair	
	Cha	ir McDaniel asked if there was any comment from the public.		
	No	public comment.		
ı.	AD	JOURN	Chair	
	Cha	air McDaniel then adjourned the meeting at 12:08 pm.		



Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director Agency	Yes	No	Director Agency
\boxtimes		Ahron Hakimi, Kern COG		\boxtimes	Michael Hanebutt, SJJPA
\boxtimes		Becky Napier Kern COG	\boxtimes		Gus Khouri Khouri Consulting
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	\boxtimes	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG		\boxtimes	Aly Hernandez Covino, Smith & Simon
	\boxtimes	Roberto Brady TCAG	\boxtimes		Georgiena Vivian SJV Coordinator VRPA Technologies
\boxtimes		Terri King KCAG			
\boxtimes		Robert Phipps Fresno COG		\boxtimes	Carolina Ilic VRPA Technologies
	\boxtimes	Paul Herman Fresno COG		\boxtimes	Dena Graham, VRPA Technologies
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	\boxtimes	Meg Prince MCAG	\boxtimes		Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
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	\boxtimes	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG		\boxtimes	Bill Higgins CALCOG
\boxtimes		Monica Streeter StanCOG		\boxtimes	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
	\boxtimes	Nick St. Cook StanCOG		\boxtimes	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
\boxtimes		Diane Nguyen SJCOG		\boxtimes	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
\boxtimes		Ryan Niblock SJCOG	\boxtimes		Gregoria Ponce, Caltrans
	\boxtimes	Kim Anderson SJCOG	\boxtimes		Braden Duran, Caltrans, District 6
	\boxtimes	Samir Sheikh SJVAPCD	\boxtimes		Scott Tyrrell, Assistant, Member Rickman
\boxtimes		Tom Jordan SJVAPCD			
\boxtimes		Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD			
	\boxtimes	Stacey Mortensen SJJPA			
\boxtimes		Dan Leavitt SJJPA			