

# San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

# **Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:00 am

Via Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89963711976?pwd=aM4xiCaqKzSMRuOUobr8ZtdJ73kvol.1 Meeting ID: 899 6371 1976, Passcode: 359785 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 (phone)	
		Patricia Taylor   MCTC			Stacey Mortensen   SJJPA	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES <u>Enclosure</u>						
1.	Apr	il 3, 2025, Directors' Meeting			Stacie Guzman	$\boxtimes$
DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS						
2.		/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Qu Update and discussion	ality		Ryan Niblock	
3.		get, Policy, and Legislative Updates				
	-	State			Gus Khouri	
	b.	Federal			Jen Covino	
4.		cy Council Discussion and Action Items  Discuss Potential Revisions to the 2025/26  Program	Overa	II Wor	Georgiena Vivian <b>k</b>	

Fresno Council of Governments Robert Phipps - Chair

Merced County Association of Governments Stacie Guzman – Vice Chair Kern Council of Governments Aaron Hakimi

Kings County Association of Governments Terri King Madera County Transportation Commission Patricia Taylor San Joaquin Council of Governments

Diane Nguyen

Stanislaus Council of Governments Rosa De León Park Tulare County Association of Governments Ted Smalley

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



5.	Committee Updates		
	a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)	Stacie Guzman	
	b. SJV Swap Meet	Ofelia Abundez	
	c. Housing and Land Use	Kim Anderson	
	d. Travel Modelers Group	Rob Ball	
6.	SJV REAP Program  Receive update	Michael Sigala	
7.	San Joaquin Valley Annual Policy Conference Recap	Stacie Guzman	

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

8. Caltrans Directors' Report Michael Navarro, D6/

Grace Magsayo, D10

9. California High-Speed Rail Toni Tinoco

10. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail Dan Leavitt

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 Stacie Guzman

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, June 5, 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.
П		Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD			

# AGENDA ITEM 1 April 3, 2025, Directors' Committee Meeting Minutes



# San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

# **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, 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, 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	$\boxtimes$		Ted Smalley   TCAG
$\boxtimes$		Terri King   KCAG	$\boxtimes$		Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD (M. Montelongo)
$\boxtimes$		Patricia Taylor   MCTC	$\boxtimes$		Stacey Mortensen  SJJPA (D. Leavitt)

#### APPROVAL OF MINUNUTES

March 5, 2025, Directors' Meeting
 Ahron Hakimi, Kern COG, 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

Ryna Niblock, SJCOG

Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, provided the following status report:

- ✓ The EMFAC model results show high ROG emissions levels and hinder conformity. A letter was sent to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in early March, and a response is expected.
- ✓ The Ozone SIP budget revisions were adopted and will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review.
- The Hotspot Analysis level for the Atwater Merced Expressway project in Merced County received Interagency Consultation (IAC) concurrence on quantitative particulate matter modeling.
- Highlighted the 2026 RTP planning process and ongoing work on the 2022 SCS evaluations and 2026 quantitative methodologies.

Bill Higgins, CALCOG, noted that most metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in the state are struggling to maintain current targets due to electrification trends and are considering alternative plans.

Fresno Council of Governments Robert Phipps - Chair

Merced County Association of Governments Stacie Guzman – Vice Chair Kern Council of Governments Aaron Hakimi

Kings County Association of Governments Terri King Madera County Transportation Commission Patricia Taylor San Joaquin Council of

Governments

Diane Nguven

Stanislaus Council of Governments Rosa De León Park Tulare County Association of Governments

Ted Smallev

Valleywide Coordinator Georgiena Vivian (559) 259-9257 Fresno Council of Governments



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#### 3. Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates

a. State Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting

1. CAPTI, Cap and Trade, and State Budget Update

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, noted the following:

- CALSTA appreciates the collaborative spirit, but the revenue neutrality component is a non-starter for advancing safety projects.
- The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is looking at the mechanics of the Cap-and-Trade credit system to ensure real mitigation. There's concern about the pass-through to the end-user, particularly the low-carbon fuel standard fee. The main course is high-speed rail, which is still a high priority for labor.
- The state budget is uncertain due to economic conditions and the potential for a deficit.
- The CTC is trying to protect against clawbacks, including high-profile ones like high-speed rail. The state budget will be finalized after the May revise is released.
- 2. ACTION: Approve Positions on State Legislation

Gus provided an overview of the status and positions on pending state bills. Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, noted the District's opposition to two additional bills (SB 318 and AB 1305) related to permitting requirements and mapping permit information. Dan Leavitt, SJJPA, asked for clarification on AB 314, which would include high-speed rail stations as major transit stops.

Ted Smalley, TCAG, moved, seconded by Diane Nguyen, SJCOG, to approve the bill matrix.

b. Federal Jen Covino, Covino, Smith and Simon

Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon discussed the following:

- The high-speed rail project's \$7 billion shortfall, breaking down the funding sources and costs.
- Potential changes in Federal funding for high-speed rail projects, noting there may be a larger funding gap than previously estimated. Secretary Duffy's recent appearance before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee was mentioned, where he addressed the backlog of infrastructure projects and emphasized a shift towards more formula funding in future transportation reauthorization.
- ✓ Earmark deadlines for various Congressional offices, advising members to check with their representatives for specific submission requirements.
- Recommended prioritizing "nice to have" projects over "need to have" ones when submitting earmark requests, given the uncertainty of the appropriations process.
- Policy Council Discussion and Action Items
  - a. Motion to Recommend the Policy Council Approve Amendments to the **Robert Phipps MOU** and Bylaws

Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, presented the amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Bylaws. The noted changes were to accommodate the addition of the SJVAPCD and the SJJPA and to clean up language. The intention is to reinstate the Executive Committee.

Ahron Hakimi, Kern COG, moved, seconded by Ted Smalley, TCAG, to approve the amended MOU and Bylaws.

#### b. Draft Policy Council and Executive Committee Schedule

#### Georgiena Vivian

Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, VRPA Technologies, noted that the Policy Council will need to adopt a new schedule. In the short term, the proposed schedule includes a Policy Council meeting in April, an Executive Committee meeting in May, and another Policy Council meeting in June.

#### 5. Committee Updates

#### a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)

Robert Phipps

Chair Phipps noted the upcoming road charge subcommittee meeting (April 18th). It was also noted that the request for SB 125 was for capital improvements. Gus Khouri highlighted the need for more predictable and stable operations funding for transit.

b. SJV Swap Meet Robert Phipps

Chair Phipps noted that there will be an SJV Swap Meet meeting in April.

#### c. Housing and Land Use

Kim Anderson

Kim Anderson, SJCOG, provided updates on housing and land use, noting that the review of proposals for the new land use modeling project is nearly complete.

#### d. Travel Modelers Group

**Rob Ball** 

**Robert Phipps** 

Rob Ball, Kern COG, noted that the group's next meeting will be on May 12th at 2:00 p.m.

#### 6. SJV REAP Program

#### a. Receive update

The following update was provided:

- Chair Phipps discussed the project's potential impact on various programs, including the project-by-project review, the potential for litigation by grant recipients, and the implications for different grant programs. The conversation ended with a discussion on the Reap situation and the potential expenditures for the surplus.
- ✓ Robert presented a proposal to address the issue of unused funds from a previous project. The proposal involved using a portion of the remaining funds to cover overages in technical assistance costs related to the project, and the rest for model improvements. The group discussed the proposal, with some members suggesting alternative solutions such as a dues swap or using the funds for a new land use model. The group agreed to explore the proposed solution further, with the aim of finding a solution within the next few weeks.
- ✓ Bill Higgins to provide a number for potential dues relief in exchange for a portion of the remaining REAP funds. Robert will work with Bill Higgins to negotiate the amount and duration of potential dues relief for COGs.
- Robert will pursue licensing for the V-EVAL tool for each COG with the remaining REAP funds after the dues swap.
- Robert will schedule a full presentation on the V-EVAL tool for interested COGs.
- Michael Sigala, Sagala Inc., will follow up with HCD regarding the proposed plan to spend the remaining REAP funds.

#### 7. San Joaquin Valley Annual Policy Conference 2025

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

Stacie Guzman

Elizabeth Forte, MCAG, provided an update on the Policy Conference, reporting that the final conference program is nearly complete and will be posted soon and that the conference is at capacity. Elizabeth asked to be notified of any attendee changes.

#### 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.

8. Caltrans Directors' Report

Grace Magsayo, Caltrans D10 | Michael Navarro, D6

Grace Magsayo, Caltrans Director, District 10, provided the following update:

- She thanked a select group of folks we met with from Stanislaus and Madera County the day prior to discuss SB 960, related to maintenance agreements.
- She also noted that she met with Michael Navarro, District 6, with headquarters counterparts for maintenance, and there was an agreement that SB 960 will be brought up at the next maintenance and operations meeting.
- She also shared that on April 17th, Caltrans will hold its annual Caltrans Workers Memorial. It is a public event and will be held in Sacramento for those interested in attending.

Michael Navarro, Caltrans Director, District 6, provided the following update:

- Introduced Shane Gunn, who recently accepted an interim position as the Deputy District Director. Shane has been with the organization for 17 years, primarily in environmental roles, and has served as the Local Assistant Environmental Branch for the last 8 years.
- Mentioned an upcoming ribbon-cutting event for a segment of State Route 9, aimed at improving safety along the corridor. The event will occur on April 4th at 10 AM at 99 J. Street, featuring several guest speakers, including Executive Director Ted Smalley, U.S. Congress members Valadao and Costa, and California State Senator Hurtado.
- At the Policy Conference, Caltrans will present the State Route 99 CMCP, with Keanu Valentine moderating, Grace Magsayo (District 10 Director), and Executive Director Taylor from MCTC on the panel. The study focuses on alternatives like HOV and truck lanes and is on track for completion by June. The goal is to send a draft for stakeholder review by the end of April.
- Thanked Executive Director Taylor and Madera County for collaborating with the Federal Highway Administration. Recently, Caltrans received a discretionary grant for SR 41 and had just a week to complete materials to preserve those funds. The funds were obligated.
- There was a similar situation with the high-speed rail grant for the Wasco SR 46 and SR 43 project. We secured the agreement with the railroad quickly and were able to obligate the funding.
- The deadline for safety program support letters is June 26. Braden Duran sent an email blast for those who need letters; don't hesitate to get in touch with him or fill out the Smart Sheets form.
- The District 6 Workers' Memorial will be held at the Fresno district office on April 26 at 10:30 AM to honor the 194 Caltrans employees who lost their lives in the line of duty.

#### 9. California High-Speed Rail

Toni Tinoco

Toni Tinoco, CHSRA, reported the following:

At the recent Senate hearing, the CHSRA released its 2025 project update report and stated that a supplemental report with more information on cost, schedule, and ridership will be available this summer. The hearing highlighted the program's federal and state funding details, noting \$7 billion in federal funding already secured and a funding gap for the Merced and Bakersfield extensions. The CHSRA will seek additional federal funding for these areas as planned in our 2023 and 2024 business Plans. A complete program review is underway, and the supplemental report will be shared with the Legislature soon.

- ✓ On a positive note, the CHSRA has reached 15,000 construction job placements in the program, with over 70% going to Central Valley residents. The CHSRA will make a larger announcement about this soon. Additionally, the CHSRA will celebrate the completion of our pre-apprenticeship program in Selma, which has trained about 250 students since 2020, many of whom have pursued careers in construction.
- CHSRA staff would like to discuss specific talking points for the Fresno region's upcoming trip to Washington.

#### 10. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail

Michael Hanebutt

Michael Hanebutt, SJRRC/SJJPA, noted the following:

- ✓ The SJRRC/SJJPA is on track with its projects and is excited to have received the notice to proceed for its Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant, focusing on network integration in the Valley. This will support the rail transit and working group established over a year ago. The consultant procurement process will take a few months before this formally begins.
- ✓ The SJRRC/SJJPA has also received approval for the first four of five county-level handouts related to rail and transit, including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, and Fresno counties, with Madera's approval coming soon.
- Regarding environmental updates, the SJRRC/SJJPA expects to seek approval for the Final EIR later this year, likely in July.
- ✓ The Madera High-Speed Rail Phase 3 draft report will be released on April 14th, with a community meeting scheduled for April 30th.
- ✓ The draft business plan is available for review on the SJRRC/SJJPA website, and the SJRRC/SJJPA welcomes comments or questions.

#### 11. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Tom Jordan

Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, reported that:

- The District held an Air Quality 101 briefing for the Legislature, as 30% are new. Samir participated in a panel with representatives from the South Coast and the Bay Area, and about 25 staff attended.
- ✓ There is a new EPA Region 9 administrator, Josh Cook, and Samir is working to engage him in District resources and needs in the Valley.

#### 12. Miocar Car Sharing

Michael Sigala

Michael Sigala shared the January and February Miocar utilization rates. Stockton remains high, while other areas are improving. Expansion efforts continue in Kern, Tulare, and Watsonville.

13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

An update was not provided.

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

14. Director Items

**Robert Phipps, Chair** 

No items.

15. Public Presentations for Items not on the Agenda

**Robert Phipps, Chair** 

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No public comment.

6

16. Closed Session

**Robert Phipps, Chair** 

A closed session was not held.

#### **ADJOURN MEETING**

**Robert Phipps, Chair** 

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

## **Other Meeting Participants**

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