

Chair  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel  
Merced County



Vice Chair  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa  
Stanislaus County

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Executive Committee

**Friday, July 25, 2025  
11:00 a.m.**

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

**Madera County Transportation Commission**

2001 Howard Road., Suite 201

Madera, CA 93637

**Stanislaus County**

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

Modesto, CA 95354

**Merced County Association of Governments**

369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street

Merced, CA 95340

**Tulare County Association of Governments**

210 N. Church Street, Suite B

Visalia, CA 93291

**Stanislaus Council of Governments**

1111 I Street, Suite 308

Modesto, CA 95354

**Fresno Council of Governments**

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201

Fresno, CA 93721

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

**Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82838322354?pwd=ISJIBeTu4iBRHUEDPH81HVszfok3jt.1>

Meeting ID: 828 3832 2354

Passcode: 371282

Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

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



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiana Vivian  
(559) 259-9257



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



Fresno Council of  
Governments  
Fax (559) 233-9645

## San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Executive Committee

### Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
<b>Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)</b>					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	
Alternate	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	
Alternate	Waseem	Ahmed	Councilmember	City of Chowchilla	
<b>Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)</b>					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	
Alternate	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	
Alternate	Scott	Silveira	Supervisor, District 5	County of Merced	
<b>Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)</b>					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	
Alternate	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	
Alternate	Buck	Condit	Supervisor, District 1	County of Stanislaus	
<b>Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)</b>					
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	
Alternate	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	
Alternate	Linda	Launer	Councilmember, District 5	City of Dinuba	
<b>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)</b>					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	
Alternate	Mark	Montelongo	Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs	SJVAPCD	

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

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
<b>C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Chair	
1. May 5, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. July 7, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>CI. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS</b>		
1. <b>ACTION:</b> Review and Approve the Draft 2025 Federal Platform	Jen Covino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. <b>ACTION:</b> Recommend Approval of the Draft Final 2025/26 San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies Overall Work Program, Budget, and Meeting Schedule to the SJV Policy Council	Stacie Guzman & Georgiena Vivian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. <b>ACTION:</b> 2026 San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference - Postpone to 2027	Stacie Guzman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CII. OTHER ITEMS</b>		
1. Executive Committee Member Comments	Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CIII. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>		
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public comment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CIV. ADJOURN</b>	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CV. CLOSED SESSION – Not Scheduled</b>	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

### Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schlosser, Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmad   SJPPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt   SJPPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King   KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Vice Chair, Directors' Committee   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone   MCTC			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman   Chair Directors' Committee   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Morgan Lambert   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen   SJPPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJPPA			

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

AGENDA ITEM C.1

*May 5, 2025, Executive Committee*

*Meeting Minutes*

Chair  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel  
Merced County



Vice Chair  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa  
Stanislaus County

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Executive Committee

**Monday, May 5, 2025**  
**3:30 p.m.**

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

**Madera County Transportation Commission**

2001 Howard Road., Suite 201  
Madera, CA 93637

**Stanislaus County**

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

**Merced County Association of Governments**

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

**Tulare County Association of Governments**

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

**Stanislaus Council of Governments**

1111 I Street, Suite 308  
Modesto, CA 95354

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**

1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

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

### Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513344451?pwd=rixNSM2tdPbLMJGDNsYFradHmlUAra.1>

Meeting ID: 825 1334 4451

Passcode: 492833

Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order.

### B. ROLL CALL

Georgiena Vivian

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



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

## San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Executive Committee

### Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
<b>Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)</b>					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	Y
Alternate	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	N
Alternate	Waseem	Ahmed	Councilmember	City of Chowchilla	N
<b>Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)</b>					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Y
Alternate	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	N
Alternate	Scott	Silveira	Supervisor, District 5	County of Merced	N
<b>Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)</b>					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	Y
Alternate	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	N
Alternate	Buck	Condit	Supervisor, District 1	County of Stanislaus	N
<b>Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)</b>					
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	N
Alternate	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	N
Alternate	Linda	Launer	Councilmember, District 5	City of Dinuba	Y
<b>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)</b>					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	Y
Alternate	Mark	Montelongo	Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs	SJVAPCD	Y

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

## C. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Enclosure

### 1. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

David Gellman

David Gellman, Cavino, Smith, and Simon discussed the following:

- ✓ The status of fiscal year 2026 earmark requests, noting that agencies have submitted earmark requests to their Congressional delegation and that lawmakers will disclose their selected requests in the coming weeks.
- ✓ The reconciliation legislation under development by Congressional Republicans, which includes provisions to strengthen the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and modernize the air traffic control system. He noted that the bill is still in the committee stage and that the goal is for Congress to finalize it by Independence Day.
- ✓ The Trump Administration's budget proposal, which includes significant cuts to non-defense discretionary programs and a 6% increase in defense and defense-related spending for the Department of Transportation. Samir expressed concern about potential deep cuts in the President's budget, which could impact operational funds and other projects.
- ✓ Proposals to create a state rail system that would complement the high-speed rail project and improve connectivity across California.

### 2. State Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

Gus Khouri

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, discussed the following:

- ✓ The upcoming release of the Governor's May revision to his January budget and the potential for a 2 billion deficit.
- ✓ The uncertainty surrounding the cap and trade program and the potential for a draft letter to factor in East-West improvements.
- ✓ The ongoing monitoring of legislation and advocacy for certain positions.
- ✓ The dissatisfaction of the Central Coast Executive Directors with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the need for the Policy Council to consider legislation.

Gus will draft a letter regarding high-speed rail and Cap-and-Trade, keep the committee updated on Senate Bill 375, and coordinate testimony for priority bills in early June.

### 3. Executive Committee Goals and Priorities

Chair

- ✓ Member Poythress expressed his concerns about the potential codification of CAPTI and the need for discussion regarding completing roadways. Gus mentioned the presentation of CALSTA on CAPTI 2.0 and the desire to codify the document based on two executive orders.
- ✓ The Executive Committee discussed strategies for effective advocacy at the state level.
- ✓ Gus reported on a recent meeting where their comments were well received.
- ✓ Members agreed on the importance of maintaining a presence at CTC meetings, particularly the upcoming June meeting in Sacramento, where SB1 competitive programs will be decided.
- ✓ Members discussed coordinating attendance, building relationships with commissioners, and ensuring diverse representation from different counties.
- ✓ Members also emphasized the need for quick responses to legislative developments, potentially using the Executive Committee for rapid mobilization.
- ✓ Members also considered ways to stay informed about bill status and hearings, and discussed the value of testifying at committee hearings, even if briefly, to demonstrate widespread opposition or support.

## D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Chair

The following items are for informational purposes only and require no action.

Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.

No informational items were discussed.

## E. OTHER ITEMS

### 1. Executive Directors' Committee Report

Robert Phipps



Robert Phipps, Chair, Directors Committee, Fresno COG, reported on recent meetings with CARB about greenhouse gas targets and with the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., about maintaining funding for the high-speed rail project in the Valley. The Directors' Committee also discussed delegating authority to the Executive Committee and reviewing full board meeting agendas in advance.

### 2. Policy Council Member Comments

Members



Members inquired about the meeting schedule. Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, proposed three dates for the next Policy Council meeting: June 20, June 23, and June 30. The group decided to move the meeting to June 23rd, as Tuesdays are not suitable for board members. Georgiena also mentioned that she will prepare a calendar with the overall work program to be discussed at a future meeting.

Member Sheikh expressed concerns about the complexities at the Federal level and the need for time to develop a meaningful set of asks for their trip to Washington, D.C. Georgiena confirmed that Jen will start pulling together the platform for the Valley Voice D.C. trip for presentation and consideration at a future meeting.

## F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair

No public comment was presented.

## G. ADJOURN

Chair

Chair McDaniel adjourned the meeting at 4:36 pm.

## Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ahron Hakimi   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt, SJPPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier   Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball   Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball   TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King   KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Illic   VRPA Technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Tyrrell   San Joaquin County
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Troy McNeil   MCTC			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman   Vice Chair   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rosa De León Park   Stan COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen   SJPPA			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJPPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmad   SJPPA			

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

AGENDA ITEM C.2

*July 7, 2025, Executive Committee*

*Meeting Minutes*

Chair  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel  
Merced County



Vice Chair  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa  
Stanislaus County

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Executive Committee

**Monday, July 7, 2025**  
**8:00 a.m.**

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

**Madera County Transportation Commission**

2001 Howard Road., Suite 201  
Madera, CA 93637  
**Stanislaus County**  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby  
Modesto, CA 95354

**Merced County Association of Governments**

369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
**Tulare County Association of Governments**  
210 N. Church Street, Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291

**Stanislaus Council of Governments**

1111 I Street, Suite 308  
Modesto, CA 95354  
**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**  
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

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

### Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86068270368?pwd=td6Xye02Q6Qx6sc7ZVviTMJ0C73rMb.1>

Meeting ID: 860 6827 0368

Passcode: 989747

Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

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



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiana Vivian  
(559) 259-9257



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



Fresno Council of  
Governments  
Fax (559) 233-9645

## San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Executive Committee

### Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
<b>Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)</b>					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	Y
Alternate	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	N
Alternate	Waseem	Ahmed	Councilmember	City of Chowchilla	N
<b>Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)</b>					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Y
Alternate	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	N
Alternate	Scott	Silveira	Supervisor, District 5	County of Merced	N
<b>Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)</b>					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	Y
Alternate	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	N
Alternate	Buck	Condit	Supervisor, District 1	County of Stanislaus	N
<b>Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)</b>					
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	Y
Alternate	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	N
Alternate	Linda	Launer	Councilmember, District 5	City of Dinuba	Y
<b>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)</b>					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	Y
Alternate	Mark	Montelongo	Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs	SJVAPCD	N

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

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
<b>C. ACTION ITEMS</b>		
1. Approve: CHSRA Request for Statement in Support of Funding Agreements to Deliver the HSR Program	<b>Stacie Guzman, Chair, Directors' Committee</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stacie Guzman, Chair of the Directors' Committee, MCAG, discussed a request from the California High-Speed Rail Authority to include a statement of support for federal funding agreements. Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, highlighted key statements from a previous letter to Secretary Duffy, emphasizing the Council's support for a completed high-speed rail segment integrated with conventional passenger rail and bus service. The Council agreed to use this existing language to expedite their response, with a target submission date of July 9. Members agreed to include an added reference to air quality improvements in the San Joaquin Valley, which Georgiena will incorporate.		
Member Mendoza made a motion to approve the request as discussed. Member Poythress seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.		
<b>D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The following items are for informational purposes only and require no action. Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.		
There were no informational items.		
<b>E. OTHER ITEMS</b>		
1. Executive Committee Member Comments	<b>Members</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There were no comments from Executive Committee members.		
<b>F. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public comment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.		
There was no public comment.		
<b>G. ADJOURN</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 A.M.		
<b>H. CLOSED SESSION</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

### Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schlosser   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmad   SJPPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King   KCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic   VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham, VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Troy McNeil   MCTC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman   Vice Chair   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte   MCAG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince   MCAG			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta   Stan COG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen   SJPPA			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJPPA			

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

AGENDA ITEM D.1

*Draft 2025 Federal Platform*

**San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council**  
**Valley Voice 2025**  
**DRAFT Platform**

## **Federal Funding**

- Prioritize distributing federal funding through key formula programs
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program
  - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
  - Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP)
- Implement or increase mandatory suballocations of funds directly to MPOs
- Shift the share of federal dollars formula funding streams that are more predictable and accessible to our agencies than competitive programs.
- Increase funding for oversubscribed bridge programs, including the Bridge Formula Program (BFP) and Bridge Investment Program (BIP)
- Direct federal funding to strengthen local roads subject to heavy-duty trucks and equipment supporting agricultural production and goods movement
- Maintain funding for programs designed to address air quality challenges in the region with eligibility for more efficient, innovative vehicles and equipment, and clean air technologies, with priority for U.S. EPA 103 and 105 grants, Targeted AirShed grants, and Diesel Emission Reduction grants
- Maintain investments in intercity passenger rail, including **eligibility for high-speed rail projects that are effectively managed**
- Support the *Farm-to-Market Road Improvement Act* that would provide a ten percent set-aside within the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) Grant Program

## **Federal Policy Priorities**

- Support solutions to streamline project permitting efforts and reduce administrative burdens and project delays associated with *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* reviews
- Require federal interagency coordination to be fulfilled on reasonable, established timelines
- Reconsider the utility of National Performance Management Measures (NPMMS)
- Simplify federal grant application process for competitive programs and enhance access for small and rural agencies

- Support collaboration in reviewing State Implementation Plan (SIP) submissions to ensure approval as necessary to avoid devastating sanctions and penalties (e.g. loss of billions of dollars in transportation funding) are not imposed on the San Joaquin Valley due to air quality challenges outside of the Valley's jurisdiction

## Regional Projects

### Grant Applications

---

#### Federal Agency

- [Insert list of projects with pending grant applications – to be added in real time and revised in accordance with any announcements by the Administration up until the trip]

#### Earmarks

---

United States House of Representatives  
Community Project Funding

*Agency: Department of Transportation  
Account: Highway Infrastructure Programs*

*Recipient: CA*

*Project: I-205 Managed Lanes*

*House Amount: 250,000*

*House Requester: Harder*

*Agency: Department of Transportation  
Account: Highway Infrastructure Programs*

*Recipient: CA*

*Project: SR 43/7<sup>th</sup> Standard Rd Roundabout – Last-Mile Truck-Rail Access Safety Project*

*House Amount: 2,500,000*

*House Requester: Valadao*

*Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Account: Economic Development Initiatives  
Recipient: Kern Council of Governments  
Project: Centennial Corridor SB 99 to WB 58 Connector*

*House Amount: 3,000,000*

*House Requester: Fong*

*Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development*

*Account: Economic Development Initiatives*

*Recipient: City of Visalia*

*Project: Riggin Avenue Widening and Streetscaping*

*House Amount: 250,000*

*House Requester: Costa*

**United States Senate**

**Congressionally Directed Spending**

**TBD**

**DRAFT**

AGENDA ITEM D.2

*Draft Final 2025/26 San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies'  
Overall Work Program, Budget, and Meeting Schedule*

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
REGIONAL AGENCIES**



# OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

**FY 2025-26**



**Kern Council  
of Governments**



Kings County Association of Governments



**StanCOG**  
Stanislaus Council of Governments



Madera County Transportation Commission



**San Joaquin Valley  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**



Tulare County Association of Governments



**Fresno Council  
of Governments**



MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



**San Joaquin  
Joint Powers Authority**

## ***Revisions in Yellow Highlight***

### ***San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council Members and Staff, July 2025***

#### **Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)**

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County - **CHAIR, POLICY COUNCIL**

Mayor Pat Nagy, City of Gustine

Alternate: Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County

**STAFF: Stacie Guzman, Executive Director.**

***Chair, Directors' Committee***



#### **Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)**

**Supervisor David Couch, Kern County**

**Mayor Saul Ayon, City of McFarland**

Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Cathy Prout, City of Shafter

**STAFF: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director**



#### **Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)**

Mayor Alvaro Preciado, City of Avenal

Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County

Alternate: Supervisor Joe Neves, Kings County

**STAFF: Terri King, Executive Director**



#### **Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)**

Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County

Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera

Alternate: Councilmember Waseem Ahmed, City of Chowchilla

**STAFF: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director**



#### **San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJ COG)**

Mayor Gary Singh, City of Manteca

**Supervisor Rick Rickman, San Joaquin County**

Alternate:

**STAFF: Diane Nguyen, Executive Director**



### **Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)**

Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County - **VICE CHAIR, POLICY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton, City of Modesto

Alternate: Supervisor Buck Condit, County of Stanislaus

**STAFF: Elisabeth Hahn, Acting Executive Director**



### **Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)**

Mayor Rudy Mendoza, City of Woodlake

Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County

Alternate: Councilmember Linda Launer, City of Dinuba

**STAFF: Ted Smalley, Executive Director.**



### **Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)**

Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier

Councilmember Gary Yep, City of Kerman

Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Bill Nijjer, City of Kerman

**STAFF: Robert Phipps, Executive Director, Vice Chair, Directors' Committee**



### **San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)**

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director

Alternate: Mark Montelongo, Director, Policy and Government Affairs



### **San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA)**

Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director

Alternate: Ahdel Ahmed, Public Relations Manager



## ***Introduction***

The San Joaquin Valley covers over 27,000 square miles and encompasses the eight-county region of Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties. Since 1992, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) have coordinated planning activities involving interregional issues, including air quality conformity, goods movement, funding for regional transportation projects, legislative advocacy, and Sustainable Communities Strategies.

Planning efforts of Valleywide importance are conducted among the eight RPAs through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee (Directors' Committee) and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies Policy Council (Policy Council), a governing board including elected officials from each Valley RPA and the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District), and the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJPPA). In **Fiscal Year (FY)** 2021-22, government affairs contracts for state and federal representation were implemented for the Policy Council.

The **FY 2025-2026** Valleywide Overall Work Program (OWP) is a summary document that details major coordinated activities in which all eight regional planning agencies, along with the Air District and SJPPA, are actively engaged. The Valleywide OWP does not replace the need or requirements of each RPA to conduct its own OWP; instead, it is a planning and budgeting tool for shared Valleywide activities.

*Note: The terms Regional Planning Agency (RPA), Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Council of Governments (COG) are used interchangeably throughout this document.*

## Current Valleywide Major Activities

### 1. MAJOR HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES

*Objective: To develop and foster regional coordination and prioritization for improving State Route 99 (SR 99), Interstate 5 (I-5), and other regionally significant corridors.*

Lead: Kern COG, MCAG, TCAG, MCTC

The RPAs work closely with Caltrans and other stakeholders to prioritize funding for SR 99 and other major highways and interstates. The 99 Business Plan helped the Valley achieve dedicated funding for SR 99 through Proposition 1B in 2006, the only transportation earmark in the bond placed before the voters. Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 have updated the 99 Business Plan and Master Plan and worked with the RPAs on project selection and funding alternatives. The Directors, working in close consultation with Caltrans District 6 and 10 staff, routinely meet and discuss continued project planning and funding utilizing SB1 funding, RAISE, and other funding strategies.

In recent years, multiple funding requests related to SR 99 improvements have been made, including State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and SB1, as well as federal grant funding awards for the Tulare, Merced, and Madera segments.

Additionally, Caltrans initiated the **State Route 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP)** to identify a broad range of multimodal opportunities for improving and enhancing the SR 99 corridor and for developing a stakeholder-shared vision and implementation plan for the corridor that aligns with state goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and passenger vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and increase freight reliability and throughput for inclusive economic development. The CMCP is a prerequisite for additional state funding for SR 99 capital projects. The CMCP planning process is being coordinated between Caltrans' district offices and the RPAs and is an ongoing planning effort. A draft CMCP is expected in May/June 2025 and is currently under review. A final CMCP is expected in summer 2025.

#### Activities for FY 2025-2026:

- Continue to advocate for completing the SR 99 system, with at least six lanes of travel throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including non-SOV and truck lanes, which the CMCP is considering.
- Continue to monitor and participate in the planning process for the State Route 99 CMCP.
- Participate in and lead discussions with the Regional Policy Council, the California Transportation Commission, legislators, and others on the importance of identifying and prioritizing state and federal funding for all significant Valley projects.
- Seek federal and state funding for major highway and interstate projects and coordinate pre-construction activities when feasible to ensure project readiness. Federal infrastructure funding

programs, including the State Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), and the STIP, are major SB1 funding sources to be targeted.

- Work closely with Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 to identify the most congested highway segments for eligibility in the TCEP and the SCCP or SB 1 funding. Continue to refine and prioritize regionally significant projects through a methodical and mutually agreed-upon evaluation process.
- Outline policies for converting temporary lanes to permanent lanes when feasible. Kern COG will coordinate with Caltrans District 6, and MCAG will coordinate with District 10 on opportunities for additional programming.
- Combine SHOPP and ITIP funding to address rehabilitation and expansion of the SR 99 segments that need to be widened.
- Consider funding for truck-only and HOV lanes along SR 99.
- Continue to review findings of the 2025 Rural Induced Demand Study, funded by Caltrans (<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/RCTF-Rural-Induced-Demand-Study/index.html>), which was conducted to determine impacts in predominantly rural areas.

## 2. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY INTERREGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT

***Objective: To prioritize, coordinate, and implement goods movement planning and capital projects to improve the Valley's economic competitiveness.***

Lead: Fresno COG, TCAG and Kern COG

The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) has long been California's geographic and agricultural production center, generating more than **\$50 billion** annually in agricultural commodities. It also plays a significant role in the national and international distribution of processed foods and energy products, with a burgeoning logistics and distribution industry.

The RPAs have a strong history of planning for regional goods movement. The San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan (2015), San Joaquin Valley I-5/SR 99 Goods Movement Corridor Plan (2017), the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan (2017), and the I-5 Freight ZERO Pilot Study (2019) are examples of regional coordination to enhance freight movement in the Valley. In 2020, funding and regional support for the California Inland Port concepts were solidified among the RPAs.

### **Activities for FY 2025-26:**

- Continue to coordinate project prioritization for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), SB1, and other federal and state funding for goods movement, particularly for State Route 99.
- Participate and provide input to California's Freight Mobility Plan and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).
- Continue to collaborate with regional partners on logistics and economic development initiatives, enhancing goods movement planning and implementation efforts.
- Continue to identify multimodal strategies to complement and support the movement of goods in the Valley.
- Continue to fund and participate in inland port concepts for the Valley, including the now TradePort California and the Castle Commerce Center.
- Continue to explore alternative fuels and technology strategies for meeting California's Sustainable Freight mandates.

### 3. AIR QUALITY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION

***Objective: To continue the successful coordination of Valleywide air quality planning, minimizing potential impacts on project delivery.***

Lead: San Joaquin COG, TCAG, Kern COG, SJV Air Pollution Control District

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires transportation conformity, ensuring that federal funding is allocated to transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals. The CAA strengthened conformity requirements for transportation projects, necessitating a more enhanced level of technical analysis of plans, programs, and projects than in the past. Conformity determinations must be conducted at least every four years or as amendments are made to plans or projects. The federal transportation conformity rule requires interagency consultation on issues that would affect the conformity analysis, such as the underlying assumptions and methodologies used to prepare the analysis. Consultation is generally conducted through the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Coordinating Committee (IAC). The IAC has been established to provide a coordinated approach to addressing air quality, conformity, and transportation modeling issues in the Valley.

Coordination among the Valley RPAs, the Air District, and other air quality and transportation agencies is proving to be very effective. The RPA Directors have budgeted to continue joint funding for a Valley-wide Air Quality Coordinator, who will be responsible to the Directors, to ensure that air quality conformity and related modeling within the Valley are accomplished on a consistent and timely basis.

In FY 2023-24, the ***SJV Swap Meet Committee*** was reinstated at the staff level. The SJV Swap Meet Group comprises transportation programming staff from each of the San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The group meets virtually approximately every other month. Meetings provide a forum for staff to discuss various programming topics, including Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) best practices, apportionment exchange opportunities, new programming rules and regulations, air quality conformity, and other vital issues. The forum also offers an excellent opportunity for entry-level programmers to learn about the complexities of programming from more experienced staff members. In the coming months, meetings will focus on topics related to preparing the 2026 FTIP and Air Quality Conformity documentation.

In FY 2023-24, the ***Valley Transportation Modelers Group (TMG)*** was created on the staff level to coordinate with the Valleywide air quality modeling consultant and RPA transportation modeling consultants. The Valley TMG offers the COG Directors group a staff perspective on technical modeling issues, such as induced demand, and coordinates resource-saving collaborations, including travel model updates, training, data collection, software licensing, and best practices.

**Activities for FY 2025-26:**

- Monitor state and federal guidance related to air quality transportation planning requirements.
- Conduct conformity determinations to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and subsequent amendments conform to the State Implementation Plans (SIPs), as required by federal laws and regulations.
- Submit future-year travel forecasts to the SJVAPCD and the California Air Resources Board as requested.
- Continue to utilize the Interagency Coordinating Committee (IAC) for routine communication and coordination.
- Coordinate with California Air Resources Board staff related to future Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) review templates.
- Assist Valley staff in demonstrating conformity; provide EMFAC emissions modeling support.
- Assist Valley staff **in target setting** and SCS review performed by the California Air Resources Board.

#### 4. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

**Objective: To develop and coordinate SB 375-compliant Sustainable Communities Strategies for the Valley**

Lead: San Joaquin COG and Fresno COG

California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) requires each RPA to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). An SCS outlines a plan for reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions by integrating transportation and land use elements.

Under the Sustainable Communities Act, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) establishes regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger vehicle use. The RPAs will work independently and collectively to meet the 2022 and 2026 targets, having invested considerable resources in technical staff, modeling, and scenario development. Furthermore, SB 743 (2014) introduced the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric, which is separate from SB 375 but shares similar goals with reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips.

In addition, the RPAs will continue to work with ARB on new protocols for the updated SCS review guidelines and establish regular and ongoing communication with ARB staff to better implement the SCS planning process for future plan cycles.

In FY 2023-24, a **Housing and Land Use Committee** on the staff level was formed to further evaluate and monitor land use policy and funding decisions at the state level that impact the RTP/SCS planning process.

##### Activities for FY 2025-26:

- Work with and encourage ARB staff to finalize the 2022 RTP/SCS reviews as quickly as possible.
- Establish regular and ongoing communication between ARB staff and Valley MPOs to enhance transparency and ensure consistency in SCS planning and review processes in future cycles.
- As needed, assist ARB and other state entities with SB 375 progress reporting and other guidance or policy documents.
- Continue implementing transportation and land use strategies developed in the RTP/SCS.
- Continue to evaluate and monitor the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), **CSIS**, and other climate change and social equity policies for implementation into Valley RTPs where appropriate.
- **Monitor RPAs' preparation of RTP/SCS documents.**

## 5. RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

***Objective: To develop and foster greater communication and coordination between Valley Regional Planning Agencies and other related agencies and stakeholders.***

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Government Affairs Consultants

To maintain ongoing communication and cooperation with other external agencies, the RPAs have incorporated a relationship development component to foster routine, two-way communication with related state and federal transportation and associated agencies.

Federal entities include the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). State entities include the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), California Transportation Commission (CTC), California Air Resources Board (ARB), Caltrans Districts 6 and 10, Caltrans Headquarters, California Association of Council of Governments (CalCOG), California Self Help Counties Coalition, Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the High-Speed Rail Authority, and Housing and Community Development (HCD). Regional entities include the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the San Joaquin Valley JPA for Passenger Rail, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG), MPOs in the Central Coast, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Other stakeholders include the California Trucking Association, agricultural associations, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, colleges and universities, environmental groups, and the public.

### Activities for **FY 2025-2026:**

- Directors will coordinate and attend one-third of CTC meetings and meet yearly with our CTC Commissioner representative.
- Directors to meet annually with the CalSTA Secretary or pertinent staff.
- CTC staff will be invited to the Directors' Committee meeting once a year; Directors will meet with at least two CTC Board Members they don't know.
- RPA staff should be encouraged to take leadership positions on Valleywide matters.
- Valley Directors to develop and maintain relationships with the Caltrans Director and Deputy for Planning.
- Valley Directors' Committee meetings should be scheduled periodically at a time of the month when Valley Directors can review and discuss the CalCOG meetings to develop timely joint strategies on key issues.
- Request sister MPOs (MTC, Central Coast or SCAG) to come to a Valley Directors' Committee meeting.

- Valley Directors to meet annually with ARB management and board members and attend the joint CTC/ARB and joint CTC/ARB/HCD Board meetings.

## 6. VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

***Objective: To engage in a unified process that allows the eight-county region to discuss and comment on legislative affairs and build consensus on issues of Valleywide importance.***

Lead: Government Affairs Consultants, Valleywide Coordinator, VLAC

In FY 2021-22, government affairs contracts for state and federal representation for the Regional Policy Council were implemented with StanCOG as the fiscal agent. The federal and state government affairs staff routinely update the Directors and Policy Council when legislative advocacy is needed for the Valley. Several times a year, position letters are written and circulated regarding legislation to support or oppose, as well as funding opportunities to pursue and support. Working closely with the Directors and government affairs personnel, the coordinator will plan and coordinate the annual Valley Voice advocacy visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

In FY 2023-24, the ***Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)*** was reinstated as a subcommittee of the Directors' Committee. In conjunction with government affairs personnel, the VLAC provides a staff perspective to the COG Directors' Committee and the SJV Regional Policy Council on legislative priorities and potential bills to sponsor, as well as helping to direct logistics for the annual "Valley Voice" trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

### Activities for **FY 2025-26:**

- Track legislation and regulations, develop a unified Valley-wide position, communicate those positions to federal and state officials, and participate in advocacy campaigns and other coalition-building activities as appropriate.
- Share information regarding grant opportunities and other financial resources available at the state or federal level.
- Develop the Valleywide Legislative Platform (state and federal).
- Continue to meet regularly with state and federal officials, including regional elected representatives, to discuss legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that interest or concern the Valley.
- Plan and execute the "Valley Voice" Washington D.C. visit scheduled for **September 2025**.
- Plan and execute the "Valley Voice" Sacramento visit scheduled for **Spring 2026**.
- **Advocate for additional PL funding to address inflation and increased transportation planning funding needs.**

## 7. OTHER VALLEYWIDE ACTIVITIES

- **Housing Planning Funds, REAP.** \$59 million in REAP 2.0 funding was slated to come to Valley MPOs starting in FY 2022-23. Valley RPAs have completed initial applications for funding and are starting the implementation process. The Governor's budget for FY 2024-25 included significant proposed cuts to the REAP 2.0 program. The Valley is advocating for REAP 3.0.
- **Passenger Rail.** The valley regional planning agencies coordinate and implement regional passenger transportation planning and capital efforts with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJ JPA). The SJ JPA was added as a member of the Policy Council at the beginning of FY 2021-22. The SJ JPA advises the Policy Council on passenger rail matters that require a coordinated and unified position, and passenger rail remains a significant component of the annual state and federal legislative platforms. The Policy Council fully supports passenger rail activities and frequently provides letters of support for funding applications. Creation of the Passenger Rail, Transit, and Land Use Working Group occurred in FY 2024-25 and is an ongoing work activity.
- **San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference.** The Valleywide conference is held in the spring at a different location each year and is coordinated by the host agency. The 2025 conference was held in Merced County. Discussion will continue regarding the 2026 and 2027 conferences. The Central California American Planning Association also contributes to the conference and helps manage the Blueprint Awards.

### Past Conferences

Stockton (SJ COG), Fall 2013  
Visalia (TCAG), Fall 2014  
Tenaya (MCAG), Fall 2015  
Fresno (Fresno COG), Spring 2017  
Modesto (StanCOG), Spring 2018  
Lemoore (KCAG), Spring 2019  
Fresno (Fresno COG), Spring 2022  
Manteca (SJ COG), Spring 2023  
Visalia (TCAG), Spring 2024  
Merced County (MCAG), 2025

### Future Conferences

Under discussion, 2026  
Under discussion, 2027  
Kings County (KCAG), 2028  
Fresno County (Fresno COG), 2029  
San Joaquin County (SJ COG), 2030  
Tulare County (TCAG), 2031  
Kern County (Kern COG) – may be available to host at some time.

- **Policy Council, Executive Committee, and Directors' Committee Meetings.** The Valleywide Coordinator will continue to schedule monthly meetings for the Directors' Committee, the Policy Council, and its Executive Committee.

The Regional Policy Council typically meets three to four times a year, and it is anticipated that the Executive Committee will also meet at least three to four times a year, before the Policy

**Council meetings.** Additionally, up to four provisional and emergency meetings may be held annually.

The Policy Council Chair is elected for a two-year term at the first meeting of the fiscal year (usually in January). Activities for the Valley's coordinated efforts are maintained at [www.sjvcogs.org](http://www.sjvcogs.org).

In the fiscal year 2024-25, revisions were made to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Bylaws to ensure clarity and alignment with current operational needs. These updates included essential administrative edits that streamlined various processes and adjustments to reflect recent changes in the organization's name and the name of the Directors' Committee. Additionally, the frequency of meetings was modified to accommodate the evolving dynamics of the organization better, allowing for improved collaboration and communication.

Recognizing the critical role of the Overall Work Program (OWP) in coordinating efforts among member agencies, the annual Draft San Joaquin Valley Council of Governments (SJVCOG) OWP must be prepared to reflect proposed work activity and budget estimates, allowing the member agencies to accommodate such information in their budgets and OWPs. This draft should be presented to the Directors' Committee, Executive Committee, and Policy Council during January or February each year. The presentation serves as an opportunity for collaboration and feedback, ensuring that all member agencies are aligned in their objectives and strategies. Final adoption of the OWP is expected by June of each year.

**Directors' Chair** Merced County Association of Governments, 2025-26

**Rotation Schedule** Stanislaus Council of Governments, 2026-27

Madera County Transportation Commission, 2027-28

Kings County Association of Governments, 2028-29

Kern Council of Government, 2029-30

San Joaquin Council of Governments, 2030-31

Tulare County Association of Governments, 2031-32

**Policy Council Chairs** Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2025

Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2024

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2023

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2022

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2021

Charles "Chuck" Winn, San Joaquin County Supervisor, 2020

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2019

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2018  
Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2017  
Amarpreet "Ruby" Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin, 2016  
Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, 2015  
Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, 2014  
Allen Ishida, Tulare County Supervisor, 2013  
Allen Ishida, Tulare County Supervisor, 2012  
Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, 2011  
Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, 2010  
Michael Rubio, Kern County Supervisor, 2009  
Michael Rubio, Kern County Supervisor, 2008

- **San Joaquin Valley Policy Council and Directors' Retreat**

Major topics include the following:

- ✓ **Plan and Facilitate the Annual Retreat:** Organize a thoughtful and engaging retreat where participants can collaboratively explore and discuss critical elements of the organization.
- ✓ **Develop Organization Vision, Goals, and Objectives:** Collaboratively refine the organization's vision and goals, setting measurable objectives that align with the mission, ensuring that all members are aligned and motivated toward a common purpose.
- ✓ **Review and Improve the Organization and Structure:** Examine the current organizational framework, identifying strengths and areas for improvement to ensure clarity and efficiency in roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ **Establish Meeting Protocols:** Review and establish effective meeting procedures that promote inclusivity, efficiency, and productive discussions, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.
- ✓ **Establish Communication Protocols:** Develop clear internal and external communication guidelines to foster transparency, consistency, and cohesion among all members.
- ✓ **Invest in Comprehensive Training and Development Programs:** Focus on empowering Directors, staff, and Policy Council Members by enhancing their skills through targeted workshops and learning opportunities.

*This retreat aims to enhance operational effectiveness, strengthen team dynamics, and foster a shared commitment to the organization's future.*

## ***Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget***

The budget for the shared Valleywide activities noted in this document is detailed below. Budget amounts by agency represent the total direct cost for this activity. Budget amounts by activity are apportioned by population share for all items, except for legislative advocacy and Valley Voice trips, which are apportioned equally.

SJ COG serves as the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning, a project conducted by Trinity Consultants with project management support from SJ COG staff.

Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for the Valleywide Coordinator contract with VRPA Technologies.

StanCOG is the fiscal agent for state and federal government affairs contracts with Khouri Consulting (State) and Covino, Smith, and Simon (Federal).

The total budget for shared valleywide activities for the fiscal year 2025-2026 is detailed below.

## ***Fiscal Year 2025-26 Meeting Schedule***

The FY meeting schedule of the Policy Council, Executive Committee, Directors' Committee, Valley Voice Trips, and other valleywide activities is provided below.

## SJV Regional Planning Agencies 2025-2026 Overall Work Program Budget

### With Contract Adjustments and Additional Valley Voice Direct Costs

#### Costs by Agency

Last Updated 07/18/25

Agency	Population <sup>(1)</sup>	% of Population	Air Quality Planning <sup>(2)</sup>	Legislative Advocacy, Valley Voice DC <sup>(3)</sup>	Legislative Advocacy, California <sup>(4)</sup>	Valleywide Coordinator <sup>(5)</sup>	Legal Counsel <sup>(6)</sup>	Valley Voice Misc. Costs <sup>(7)</sup>	Total FY 2025-26	Total FY 2025-26 Without Adjustments
Fresno COG	1,037,053	23.47%	58,663	5,250	12,600	42,237	1,200	1,400	121,350	109,030
Kern COG	923,961	20.91%	52,266	5,250	12,600	37,631	1,200	1,400	110,347	99,218
KCAG	154,015	3.48%	8,712	5,250	12,600	6,273	1,200	1,400	35,435	32,413
MCTC	162,599	3.68%	9,198	5,250	12,600	6,622	1,200	1,400	36,270	33,158
MCAG	293,080	6.63%	16,579	5,250	12,600	11,937	1,200	1,400	48,965	44,479
SJCOG	805,856	18.23%	45,585	5,250	12,600	32,821	1,200	1,400	98,856	88,970
StanCOG	555,765	12.58%	31,438	5,250	12,600	22,635	1,200	1,400	74,523	67,271
TCAG	487,209	11.02%	27,560	5,250	12,600	19,843	1,200	1,400	67,853	61,323
SJJPA				5,250	12,600		1,200	1,400	20,450	19,050
SJVAPCD				5,250	12,600		1,200	1,400	20,450	19,050
<b>Total FY 2025-26</b>	<b>4,419,538</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 52,500</b>	<b>\$ 126,000</b>	<b>\$ 180,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>	<b>\$ 14,000</b>	<b>\$ 634,500</b>	<b>\$ 573,963</b>

**Notes:**

(1) State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2024 and 2025. Sacramento, California, May 2025.

(2) SJCOG Staff (\$50,000). Air Quality Consultant, Trinity (\$200,000 or \$175,000 with \$25,000 contingency, if needed). Contractor cost approved to \$170,000 as of July 11, 2024.

(3) No Federal Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds; cost for Valley Voice DC is apportioned equally (not by population). Legislative advocacy costs are November 2024 approved contract costs.

(4) No PL Funds; cost for Valley Voice Sacramento is apportioned equally (not by population). Legislative advocacy costs are November 2024 approved contract costs of \$120,000, plus a 5% Cost of Living (COL) increase for each contract year.

(5) VRPA Technologies, Inc. A 3% COL increase was applied consistent with the approved contract. A contract adjustment of \$46,537 was applied (see justification memorandum).

(6) No PL Funds; cost for Legal Counsel is apportioned equally (not by population).

(7) Other Direct Costs (Valley Voice DC Breakfast and Dinner Costs and Sacramento Reception and Lunch Costs - Calculated equally by agency). In reality, the costs will be billed considering the number of attendees by agency as a percentage of total costs paid.

**\* Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget:**

- Budget amounts by activity are apportioned by population share for all items, except as otherwise noted.

- SJCOG is the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning, which is conducted by Trinity Consultants with project management support by SJCOG staff.

- Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for the Valleywide Coordinator contract with VRPA Technologies.

- Fresno COG and MCAG are the fiscal agents for the state and federal government affairs contracts and legal support.

# Valleywide Meeting Calendar

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies

FY 2025-2026

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sep 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Oct 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Nov 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dec 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Feb 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Mar 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						TBD

Apr 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						TBD

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jun 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### Important dates:

- Directors' Committee Meetings
- Annual Policy Conference (April or May 2026, Dates TBD)
- Washington DC Valley Voice [September 9-10, 2025 (session/meeting dates)]
- Sacramento Valley Voice (March 2026, Dated TBD)
- Regional Policy Council Regular Meetings
- Policy Council Executive Committee Meetings
- Pre Valley Voice Planning Meetings

All scheduled meeting dates may be altered due to conflicts with other planned conferences or meetings with partner agencies.