

Chair
Supervisor Daron McDaniel
Merced County



Vice Chair
Supervisor Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Friday, August 22, 2025
10:00 a.m.

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

Fresno Council of Governments

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Madera County Transportation Commission

2001 Howard Road., Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637

Stanislaus Council of Governments

1111 I Steet, Suite 308
Modesto, CA 95354

Kern County Administration Building

1115 Truxtun Ave # 504
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Madera County

200 W. 4th St., Ste. 4006
Madera, CA 93637

Kern Council of Governments

1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Merced County Association of Governments

369 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Stanislaus County

1010 10th Street, 6th Floor Lobby
Modesto, CA 95354

McFarland Veterans Community Center

103 W. Sherwood Ave.
McFarland, CA 93250

Kings County Association of Governments

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

San Joaquin Council of Governments

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

Tulare County Association of Governments

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

Avenal City Hall

919 Skyline Blvd
Avenal, CA 93204

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

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84662342467?pwd=nyDzfCtsgSNq8Ctwya4SjRdavKOmiX.1>

Meeting ID: 846 6234 2467

Passcode: 710536

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



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian
(559) 259-9257



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



Fresno Council of
Governments
Fax (559) 233-9645

Fresno Council
of Governments

Kern Council of
Governments

Kings County
Association of
Governments

Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

Tulare County
Association of
Governments

San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

San Joaquin
Joint Powers
Authority



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Roll Call

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

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>
C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 23, 2025, Meeting	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS		
1. State Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update		
a. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update	Jen Covino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. ACTION: 2025 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Federal Legislative Platform	Jen Covino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Policy Council Speaker Assignments – 2025 Valley Voice, Washington, D.C., Federal Legislative and Department Sessions	Jen Covino	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. ACTION: Approve the Final 2025/26 San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies Overall Work Program, Budget, and Meeting Schedule	Georgiena Vivian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS	Chair	<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.		
1. 2025 Valley Voice Washington, D.C. Trip - Planning Status	Georgiena Vivian	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. OTHER ITEMS		
1. Executive Committee Report	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Executive Directors' Committee Report	Stacie Guzman	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Policy Council Member Comments	Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. PUBLIC COMMENT		
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public comment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.		
	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. ADJOURN	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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"/>	Gus Khouri Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian SJV Coordinator VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps Fresno COG Vice Chair, Directors' Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman Chair, Directors' Committee MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda Launer City of Dinuba TCAG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Morgan Lambert SJVAPCD			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt SJJPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmed SJJPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt SJJPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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AGENDA ITEM 1

June 23, 2025, Regional Policy Council

Meeting Minutes



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Monday, June 23, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83590156788?pwd=DkPieyRjMhIjJ3YWRTmbC47rhzDgwr.1>

Meeting ID: 835 9015 6788

Passcode: 623229

Phone only: 1 (669) 444-9171

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West Beach Inn

306 W Cabrillo Boulevard
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A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order.

Chair

B. ROLL CALL

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

Georgiena Vivian



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian
(559) 259-9257



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



Fresno Council of Governments
Fax (559) 233-9645



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)					
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember, District 1	City of Kerman	Y
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	N
Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)					
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	Y
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 th District	County of Kern	N
Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)					
Member	Alvaro	Preciado	Mayor	City of Avenal	Y
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	Y
Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	Y
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	Y
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Y
Member	Pat	Nagy	Mayor	City of Gustine	Y
San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)					
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	San Joaquin County	Y
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	N
Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	N
Member	Rosa	Escutia- Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	Y
Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)					
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	Y
Alt. Member	Linda	Launer	Councilperson	City of Dinuba	Y
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)					
Member	Daniel	Martinez	Attending for Samil Sheikh	SJVAPCD	Y
San Joaquin Powers Authority (SJIPA)					
Member	Ahdel	Ahmed	Public Relations Manager	SJIPA	Y

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C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 23, 2025, Meeting

Chair



Member Escutia-Braaton inquired whether the issue raised at the April 9, 2025, meeting regarding the language in Section 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning alternates had been addressed by staff. Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, responded that the issue had been researched and that no revisions were necessary. She also mentioned that Section 6 could be further clarified if needed. Monica Streeter, SJV Legal Counsel, indicated that there were no legal concerns with the MOU Section as it is currently written.

Member Rodriguez pointed out that Member Rudy Mendoza was mistakenly listed twice in the Executive Committee. Georgiena Vivian, the SJV Coordinator, stated that Member Mendoza should be replaced by Member Poythress.

The resultant list of Executive Committee Members is as follows:

- ✓ Policy Council Chair – Daron McDaniel, MCAG
- ✓ Policy Council Vice Chair – Vito Chiesa, StanCOG
- ✓ Policy Council Member representing the Central Subregion – Robert Poythress, MCTC
- ✓ Policy Council Member representing the Southern Subregion – Rudy Mendoza, TCAG
- ✓ Policy Council Member representing the SJVAPCD – Samil Sheikh, SJVAPCD

Member Poythress made a motion to approve the minutes, which Member Rodriguez seconded. The minutes were approved with the two corrections noted above by roll call vote.

D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Enclosure

1. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

Jen Covino



a. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

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

- ✓ ***Surface Transportation Bill:***
 - Noted a strong bipartisan approach and a focus on increasing formula funding to MPOs and reducing reliance on competitive grants.
 - Highlighted an emphasis on bridge funding, local roads used for goods movement, and air quality programs.
- ✓ ***Budget Reconciliation (“OBA” Bill):***
 - The bill preserves municipal bonds’ tax-exempt status.
 - Noted the differences between House & Senate on Medicaid cuts, SALT cap (House: \$40k; Senate: \$10k), and clean energy tax credits.
 - Noted that transportation programs are largely unaffected, and the possible EV/hybrid registration fee.
- ✓ ***FY 2026 Appropriations / Earmarks:***
 - Reviewed pending earmark requests from Valley jurisdictions (e.g., Kern COG roundabout project, SJCOG safety project, SR-132 in Stanislaus, Visalia hydrogen plant, Merced bus operations).
 - A House announcement was expected July 14; the Senate to follow later in July.
- ✓ ***High-Speed Rail:***
 - FRA corrective actions are due and noted that funding agreements may be terminated before September.
 - The Platform is to maintain eligibility for effectively managed high-speed rail projects.

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b. Preliminary Draft 2025 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Federal Legislative Platform **Jen Covino** ☒

Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon discussed the following. Highlights are noted:

- ✓ Support NEPA streamlining/reciprocity with CEQA.
- ✓ Maintain Clean Air Act funding.
- ✓ Simplify competitive grant processes for smaller agencies.

Council comments included the following:

- ✓ Chair McDaniel, MCAG, and several members expressed frustration with duplicative NEPA and CEQA reviews causing delays and cost increases.
- ✓ Noted broad support was needed to elevate this issue during Valley Voice advocacy.
- ✓ SJCOG and other agencies noted bipartisan interest in Congress for NEPA waivers or early project federalization.

b. State Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update **Gus Khouri** ☐

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, discussed the following:

- ✓ **State Budget:**
 - The legislature rejected the Governor's proposed cuts to SB 125 transit funding (\$240M at risk for the Valley).
 - CalFire funding was partially shifted to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, resulting in potential future implications for transit/transportation funds.
- ✓ **Legislation:**
 - ✓ Over two dozen bills have been monitored, noting that some priority air quality bills stopped in appropriations.
- ✓ **Appointments:**
 - ✓ The new Caltrans Director is Dina El Tawan Sani, former District 4 Director. She was described as collaborative and multimodal-focused.
 - ✓ James Hacker was appointed Undersecretary at CalSTA.

Members emphasized the need for early engagement with the new Caltrans Director to discuss Valley highway priorities (e.g., SR-99 freight movement).

E. 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.

1. Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip Planning Status **Georgiena Vivian** ☐

Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, discussed the following:

- ✓ Trip dates are as follows: September 9–11, 2025.
- ✓ Noted that the Federal Platform was under development as discussed earlier and will include earmark requests and relevant grant applications.

OTHER ITEMS

1. Executive Directors' Committee Report **Robert Phipps** ☐

Robert Phipps, FCOG, Chair, Directors' Committee, discussed the following:

- ✓ **Chair Transition**
 - Robert announced that this was his last meeting in the role of Chair of the Directors' Committee, and thanked members for their support over the past year.
 - Robert noted that Stacie Guzman, MCAG Executive Director, will assume the Chair position going forward.

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✓ **Federal Legislative Platform**

- Robert noted that the draft Federal Legislative Platform was presented and will go to the Executive Committee in July for revisions. The Full Policy Council will review and ratify the Platform at the August meeting, ahead of the September Valley Voice D.C. trip.

✓ **Air Quality Conformity Update**

- Robert noted that the entire state is currently in a lockdown regarding certain project amendments (Types 4 and 5) that increase capacity, and that this will prevent approval of capacity-increasing projects until it is resolved. He stated that the issue is technical and occurs periodically. Policy Council members will be updated regularly.
- Finally, Robert noted that discussions on SB 375 reform are ongoing.

2. Policy Council Member Comments

Members



Policy Council members noted the following:

- ✓ Member Rodriguez acknowledged Mayor Alvaro Preciado for his service on the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District Board (two terms) and also announced he is now part of that executive board.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair

No public comment was noted.

G. ADJOURN

Chair

Chair McDaniel adjourned the meeting at 10:37 am.

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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"/>	Michael Hanebutt, SJJPA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman Covino, Smith & Simon
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<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Illic VRPA Technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps Chair, Directors Committee 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor MCTC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman Vice Chair, Directors' Committee MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rosa De León Park Stan COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce Caltrans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick Salinas Madera County
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh SJVAPCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Kai LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C Prout
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen SJJPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone Attendee
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmad SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 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 D.2.a.

Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update



Covino Smith & Simon
1155 15th Street NW Suite 405
Washington, DC 20005

To: San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee
From: Jen Covino, President
David Gellman, Senior Advisor
Date: August 1, 2025
Subject: Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees recently announced Community Project Funding (CPF) and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests selected for inclusion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 spending bills. We have provided the Committees' selected project lists below as well as a review of projects from the Central Valley that were requested by members of the Congressional delegation. Projects sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies or their partners are highlighted in bold for your consideration. Please note that, for the projects to be funded, lawmakers will need to include the allocations in any eventual deal on the spending bill in which they are housed, and that bill must then be passed by both chambers and signed into law. Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide further information on these selections or the legislative process moving forward.

House of Representatives

- [Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](#)

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
Kern Council of Governments	State Route 43/7 th Standard Rd Roundabout – Last-Mile Truck-Rail Access Safety Project	\$2,500,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
Kern Council of Governments	Centennial Corridor SB 99 to WB 58 Connector	\$3,000,000	Fong	Economic Development Initiatives
San Joaquin Council of Governments	I-205 Managed Lanes	\$250,000	Harder	Highway Infrastructure Programs



City of Visalia	Riggin Avenue Widening and Streetscaping	\$250,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Fresno	Fresno Airport Improvements	\$3,150,000	Costa	Grants-in-Aid for Airports
City of Fresno	San Joaquin River Parkway Project	\$2,000,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Fresno	Fresno Area Business Development Incubator	\$250,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Fresno	Clean Air Mobility Network	\$850,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Modesto	City of Modesto Fire Station #1 Rehabilitation	\$850,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
San Joaquin County	County Service Area 44 – Sewer Treatment Consolidation and Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,000,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
San Joaquin County	San Joaquin County Food Security Hub Facility Expansion	\$1,150,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
San Joaquin County	San Joaquin County's Be Well Campus	\$250,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
Housing Authority of San Joaquin County	French Camp Crossings	\$500,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
South San Joaquin County Fire Authority	South San Joaquin Fire Authority (SSJCFA) Regional Fire Training Facility	\$2,000,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Stockton	Pershing Avenue Road Safety Improvement and Enhancement Project	\$250,000	Harder	Highway Infrastructure Programs

City of Exeter	Exeter Street Improvement Project	\$500,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
Tulare County	Neighborhood Village Salt and Light Phase II Project	\$1,200,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Arvin	4 th Street Development Project-Arvin	\$1,250,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
Housing Authority of the County of Kern	Bakersfield Senior Center Affordable Housing & Facility Construction	\$7,575,900	Valadao	Economic Development Initiatives
Tulare County Resource Management Agency	Road 192 Farm to Market Corridor Improvements	\$2,500,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
City of Wasco	Wasco Downtown Revitalization	\$5,000,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
City of Mendota	Mendota Community Center Project	\$2,000,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
Fresno County	Caruthers Complete Streets	\$250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
Fresno County	Biola Community Sidewalk and Lighting Upgrades	\$230,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Huron	Huron Avenue Improvements	\$850,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
Madera County	Courthouse Park Renovation Phase 3 Project	\$250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Merced	Childs Avenue and Canal Street Roadway and Active Transportation Safety Improvements in	\$850,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives

	South Merced, California			
City of Merced	Bear Creek Infrastructure and Flood Protection	\$3,150,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Madera	City of Madera Avenue 13 Sewer Rehabilitation, Phase III	\$2,000,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Manteca	Animal Shelter Enhancement Project	\$850,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
Bryon Bethany Irrigation District	Wicklund Cut Water Supply Reliability Improvements	\$3,000,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives

Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
City of Woodlake	Storm Drain Enhancement Project	\$1,092,000	Costa	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
City of Avenal	Water Storage Tank Project	\$4,000,000	Valadao	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Corcoran	Stormwater Enhancements Project	\$2,000,000	Valadao	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
City of McFarland	Well Replacement	\$2,000,000	Valadao	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	Water Supply Expansion Project	\$2,000,000	Valadao	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District	Groundwater Recharge Project	\$2,000,000	Valadao	STAG – Clean Water State

				Revolving Fund
City of Escalon	SSJID Surface Water Connection Project	\$1,092,000	Harder	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Coalinga	Sodium Hydroxide Storage and Injection Facility Project	\$1,092,000	Gray	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Lemoore	Water Meter Project	\$1,000,000	Fong	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Ridgecrest	Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$1,000,000	Fong	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
City of Visalia	Groundwater Recharge Basin Project	\$2,000,000	Fong	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Tule River Indian Tribe of California	Water Transmission Improvement Project	\$1,250,000	Fong	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of California City	Water System Replacement Project Phase II	\$1,000,000	Obernolte	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
Chowchilla Water District	Water System Intertie	\$1,000,000	Gray	NRCS-Conservation Operations
Fresno Irrigation District	Upper Kings Community	\$2,000,000	Fong	Rural Housing Service-Rural

	Water Resiliency Project			Community Facilities Program
Tulare Irrigation District	Kaweah River Siphon Resiliency Project	\$3,500,000	Valadao, Costa	NRCS-Conservation Operations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
City of Tulare	Police Dispatch Expansion Project	\$579,150	Fong	COPS Tech

Senate

- [Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies](#)
- [Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies](#)

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission	Modesto & Empire Terminal Railroad Positive Train Control Installation	\$1,934,000	Padilla	Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
California Department of Transportation	Grangeville Boulevard Grade Separation Project	\$2,000,000	Padilla	Highway Infrastructure Programs
Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County	Life & Workforce Readiness Center	\$1,000,000	Schiff	Community Development Fund
Fresno Housing	Downtown Fresno Affordable Housing Development	\$1,000,000	Schiff	Community Development Fund
Central California Food Bank	Construction of Central California Food Bank's Volunteer Center	\$1,000,000	Schiff	Community Development Fund
Merced Community College District	Project FIRE (First-Responder Instruction and Regional	\$1,500,000	Schiff	Community Development Fund

	Education Training Facility)			
Yosemite Community College District	Construction of a Regional Fire Training Center	\$1,000,000	Schiff	Community Development Fund

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
City of Bakersfield	South MLK Sewer Project	\$1,500,000	Padilla	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Madera County	North Fork Water System Project	\$1,200,000	Padilla	STAG – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Tulare County	Goshen Sewer Study	\$750,000	Padilla	STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund

AGENDA ITEM D.2.b.

**2025 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Federal Legislative
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 (NPMs)
- 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 43/7th 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: Riggan Avenue Widening and Streetscaping

House Amount: 250,000

House Requester: Costa

United States Senate

Congressionally Directed Spending

TBD

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM D.3

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

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL



OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

FY 2025-26



Revisions in Yellow Highlight

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Members and Staff, August 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 (SJPA)

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 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 (SJJA). 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 SJJA, 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 Valleywide 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 (County Farm Bureaus, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Western Growers Association, County Agricultural Commissioners, Water Management Districts, and others), the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, colleges and universities, environmental groups, the business community (Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, and other business stakeholders), and the public.

It is also very important that there is a high level of Policy Council participation in key planning and coordination efforts including participation and collaboration by and between the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG), the Kern County Council of Governments (Kern COG), the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA), and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD).

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. **The next scheduled conference will be in 2027.** 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, 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.

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 Policy Council 2025-2026 Overall Work Program Budget

Costs by Agency
Last Updated 07/18/25

Agency	Population ⁽¹⁾	% of Population	Air Quality Planning ⁽²⁾	Legislative Advocacy, Valley Voice DC ⁽³⁾	Legislative Advocacy, California ⁽⁴⁾	Valleywide Coordinator ⁽⁵⁾	Legal Counsel ⁽⁶⁾	Valley Voice Misc. Costs ⁽⁷⁾	Total FY 2025-26
Fresno COG	1,037,053	23.47%	58,663	5,250	12,600	42,237	1,200	1,400	121,350
Kern COG	923,961	20.91%	52,266	5,250	12,600	37,631	1,200	1,400	110,347
KCAG	154,015	3.48%	8,712	5,250	12,600	6,273	1,200	1,400	35,435
MCTC	162,599	3.68%	9,198	5,250	12,600	6,622	1,200	1,400	36,270
MCAG	293,080	6.63%	16,579	5,250	12,600	11,937	1,200	1,400	48,965
SJCOG	805,856	18.23%	45,585	5,250	12,600	32,821	1,200	1,400	98,856
StanCOG	555,765	12.58%	31,438	5,250	12,600	22,635	1,200	1,400	74,523
TCAG	487,209	11.02%	27,560	5,250	12,600	19,843	1,200	1,400	67,853
SJJPA				5,250	12,600		1,200	1,400	20,450
SJVAPCD				5,250	12,600		1,200	1,400	20,450
Total FY 2025-26	4,419,538	100.0%	\$ 250,000	\$ 52,500	\$ 126,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 634,500

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 D.C. 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 Policy Council

FY 2025-2026

July 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		

Aug 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sep 2025						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Oct 2025						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Nov 2026						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dec 2026						
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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
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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
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28








Mar 2026						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						TBD

Apr 2026						
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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
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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	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				

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.