



## San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee

### Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 7, 2025  
10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89109302697?pwd=odORrh9fOU7yAKgFAboQoreb25qHAe.1>

Meeting ID: 891 0930 2697, Passcode: 173448

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

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman   Chair   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Vice Chair   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Hahn   StanCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schlosser   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King   KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen   SJJPA

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Enclosure

- July 3, 2025, Directors' Meeting

Chair Guzman



#### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

Ryan Niblock

**a. Update and discussion**



**b. Air Quality Issues (Conformity and SCS targets)**



**c. EPA Proposed Rule "Reconsideration of 2009  
Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle  
Standards"**

Ryan Niblock, Alex  
Marcucci, Samir  
Sheikh



- Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates

**a. State**

Gus Khouri



**b. Federal**

- Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update
- Report from the Policy Council Executive  
Committee - Retracted Federal High-Speed Rail  
Funding

Jen Covino



Chair Guzman &  
Georgiana Vivian



**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations** – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Policy Council at (559) 259-9257, at least three days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the meeting. At this time, most meetings are conducted via Zoom.

- |   |                                 |                                     |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. <b>ACTION:</b> Recommend Approval of the Revised 2025 Federal Platform   | Jen Covino                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4. Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip – Logistics and Draft Itinerary  | Georgiena Vivian & Jen Covino   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5. Future In-Person Directors' Committee Meeting  | Georgiena Vivian                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 6. <b>ACTION:</b> Approve Draft 2025/26 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Overall Work Program, Budget, and Meeting Schedule | Chair Guzman & Georgiena Vivian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Committee Updates  |                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| a. <b>Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)</b>   | Robert Phipps                   |                                     |
| b. <b>SJV Swap Meet</b>   | Kayley Clay                     |                                     |
| c. <b>Housing and Land Use</b>  | Kim Anderson                    |                                     |
| d. <b>Travel Modelers Group</b>   | Rob Ball                        |                                     |
| 8. SJV REAP Program   | Michael Sigala & Robert Phipps  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 9. Caltrans Directors' Report                           | Michael Navarro, D6, and Grace Magsayo, D10 |
| 10. California High-Speed Rail                          | Toni Tinoco                                 |
| 11. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail | Ahdel Ahmed                                 |
| 12. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District   | Mark Montelongo                             |
| 13. Miocar Car Sharing                                  | Michael Sigala                              |
| 14. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley   |   |

#### OTHER ITEMS

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

#### ADJOURN MEETING

**Next Directors' Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2025**

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**Other Meeting Participants**

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kayley Clay   KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci   Trinity Consultants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aime Kane   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock   Caltrans D6
<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"/>	Dylan Stone   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alec Kimmel   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri   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"/>	Stephanie Jackson   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natalia Castillo Deleon   Caltrans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala   Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez   ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai   LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yvette Davis   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Corrales   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Dumford   SJCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco   CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt   SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy   CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic   VRPA Technologies			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham   VRPA Technologies			

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AGENDA ITEM 1

***July 3, 2025, Directors' Committee***

***Meeting Minutes***

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 3, 2025

10:00 am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86384410020?pwd=E1ZfaUsBy0AbXpbBuq7xiybgIot6D5.1>

Meeting ID: 863 8441 0020, Passcode: 023529

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

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman   Vice Chair   MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC (Jeff Findley)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Chair   Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   Stan COG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schlosser   Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG (Kim Anderson)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King   KCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD (Mark Montelongo)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Mortensen   SJPA (Ahdel Ahmad)

Chair Stacie Guzman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. A round of introductions followed, including a special welcome to **Jay Schlosser**, the new Executive Director of Kern COG.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 5, 2025, Directors' Meeting  
Director Ted Smalley, TCAG, moved to approve the minutes, which Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, seconded. The motion passed.

**Stacie Guzman,  
Chair**

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategies/Air Quality

##### *a. Update and discussion*

**Alex Marcucci, Trinity  
Consulting**

Alex Marcucci, Trinity Consultants, SJCOG, provided the following status report:

- ✓ Federal Rescission of California Waivers:
  - President Trump's June 12th order, supported by the Senate and House, rescinded California's Clean Air Act waivers that set stringent vehicle emission standards.
  - This action affects Advanced Clean Cars and Advanced Clean Fleets regulations, which are embedded in EMFAC 2021, California's emissions modeling tool.
- ✓ Impact on Conformity Determinations:
  - The rescission has placed California in a "conformity lockdown", halting new conformity determinations for transportation projects, TIPs, and RTPs.
  - Without an approved emissions model, MPOs cannot advance regionally significant projects requiring conformity analysis.
  - The current RTPs will expire in December 2026, creating pressure to resolve these issues quickly.

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- ✓ Coordination with Agencies:
  - Ongoing collaboration with CARB (California Air Resources Board), Caltrans, EPA, and the SJVAPCD to develop “adjustment factors” for EMFAC 2021, similar to past remedies.
  - Monthly standing calls and data collection on affected projects are underway.
- ✓ Broader Statewide and Federal Implications:
  - This issue affects all California MPOs, not just the San Joaquin Valley.
  - SIPs (State Implementation Plans) developed with EMFAC 2021 are also stalled pending EPA approval.
- ✓ Valley Voice D.C. 2025 Preparation:
  - The group discussed preparing educational materials (e.g., briefs or visuals) to explain the practical impacts of the federal decision during their advocacy trip to Washington, D.C.
  - Jen Covino (Federal Advocate) emphasized engaging EPA and USDOT to seek clarity on implementation guidance.
- ✓ Fresno COG's Modeling Challenges:
  - Robert Phipps and Paul Herman (Fresno COG) reported significant shortfalls in meeting GHG reduction targets due to demographic forecast changes and auto operating cost assumptions.
  - Fresno anticipates the need for an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) despite ongoing EIR processes.
  - A joint legislative solution is being considered, with potential collaboration among Valley MPOs.
- ✓ Legislative Strategy:
  - Discussion about using the Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC) as a platform for unified advocacy.
  - Exploration of long-term benefits from federal actions that might simplify regulatory burdens.

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

#### a. State

***Mitch Weiss, Khouri Consulting***

Mitch Weiss, Khouri Consulting, provided the following status report:

- ✓ Legislative Calendar Overview:
  - Bills had until early June to pass out of their house of origin.
  - Policy committees are reviewing bills from the other house through July 18, after which the legislature begins summer recess.
- ✓ Council Bill Positions:
  - Opposed Bills: The Council opposed four bills, all of which failed to advance.
  - Supported Bills: About eight bills were supported; most are progressing, though a few have stalled, including:
    - AB 314 – Related to affordable housing and sustainable community project eligibility.
    - SB 239 – Open meetings.
    - SB 752 – Sales tax exemption for zero-emission buses.
- ✓ State Budget and Cap-and-Trade Funding:
  - The Governor's signed budget did not include proposed transit cuts.
  - It allocated significantly less to CalFire from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund than originally proposed.
  - Proposal: \$1.5B–\$1.9B/year.
  - Approved: \$500M/year for two years.
  - Cap-and-trade revenue allocation discussions are ongoing and complex.

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- ✓ CEQA Trailer Bills Signed:
  - AB 30 and SB 31 include:
    - Exemptions for infill housing and agricultural worker housing.
    - Expedited review (30-day deadline) for qualified projects.
    - Exemptions for broadband deployment on local roads and for high-speed rail station facilities.
    - Creation of a statewide VMT Mitigation Bank, tied to the HCD Transit-Oriented Development Program.
    - Guidelines for this new program will be developed by July 1 of the following year.
- ✓ Discussion – RTP/SCS Legislative Fix:
  - Mitch argued for legislative reform to avoid requiring agencies to complete the full Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) process when it is clear they cannot meet GHG targets.
  - Suggested allowing MPOs to directly choose an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) under such conditions, saving time and costs.
- ✓ High-Speed Rail Talking Points:
  - Ted Smalley and Stacie Guzman emphasized the need for updated talking points to defend and promote the high-speed rail project in light of political backlash.
  - Mitch agreed to reach out to the High-Speed Rail Authority for materials more focused on the project's benefits rather than just employment numbers.
  - Peter Whippy, Chief of External Affairs at the High-Speed Rail Authority, joined the conversation and committed to providing necessary communications support.

**b. Federal**

*Jen Covino, Covino,  
Smith, and Simon*

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

- ✓ Federal Concerns Regarding California High-Speed Rail:
  - Referenced a letter from Secretary Duffy that outlined nine significant deficiencies in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) operations.
  - The letter gave CHSRA 37 days to respond with corrective actions to avoid potential revocation of two significant federal grants—totaling nearly \$4 billion.
  - The issue centers around the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) threat to terminate funding due to concerns over delays, financial gaps, and compliance failures.
- ✓ Key Concerns:
  - Whether CHSRA will issue a satisfactory response.
  - Concerns that the Authority will not address the \$7 billion funding shortfall.
  - The implications of losing FRA grants and the need for transparency with California MPOs.
- ✓ Response by Peter Whippy (Chief of External Affairs, CHSRA):
  - Disputed FRA's claims, calling them misleading and not reflective of actual project progress.
  - Stated that:
    - The Authority has already issued a preliminary response on June 11.
    - A detailed response will be submitted by July 7, as required.
    - Cooperative agreement dollars funded none of the change orders cited.
    - Delays (e.g., in rolling stock procurement) do not constitute formal noncompliance.
    - The cited funding gap ignores stable cap-and-trade revenues, which have averaged \$1 billion annually over four years.
    - The Governor's May Revise proposes extending cap-and-invest through 2045 (though not yet adopted).

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- Jen expressed concern that federal reviewers may consider the lack of final budget adoption and unresolved funding as justification for pulling support.
- Jen emphasized that until California's legislature formally adopts the cap-and-trade extension, funding remains uncertain in the eyes of the FRA.
- ✓ "One Big, Beautiful Bill" (Federal Legislative Package):
  - The U.S. House is expected to vote on a sweeping bill already amended by the Senate.
  - Key Provisions Affecting Transportation and Environment:
    - Rescinds unobligated Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding from several EPA and DOT grant programs, such as:
      - Clean heavy-duty vehicles
      - Greenhouse gas reduction fund
      - Neighborhood access & equity grants
      - Methane emissions reduction
      - Indoor air quality in schools
      - Low-carbon building and transportation material grants
    - EV tax credits (new/used/commercial) and charging infrastructure credits are being eliminated or sunset by 2026. Clean energy production credits (solar, wind, hydrogen, geothermal) are phased out, though some sectors have a longer runway.
- ✓ Senate Action and Transportation Policy:
  - A proposed EV and hybrid vehicle registration fee was struck by the Senate Parliamentarian but may return in upcoming surface transportation reauthorization discussions.
- ✓ FY 2026 Appropriations Outlook:
  - DOT programs are mostly unaffected due to Highway Trust Fund protections.
  - Transit fared better than expected, with a proposed 6% increase to the DOT operating budget.
  - The House T-HUD markup begins July 14, when earmark project status will become clearer.
- ✓ Safe Roads Initiative:
  - New DOT initiative asks State DOTs to coordinate with MPOs to identify arterial roads with high crash rates.
  - These designations could become competitive advantages for future discretionary grant funding.
  - Jen strongly encouraged early participation and coordination with Caltrans.
- ✓ Local Agency Concerns and Feedback:
  - Stacie Guzman (MCAG):
    - Raised concern over the elimination of clean energy tax credits, especially as it affects local projects like methane recovery at landfills.
    - Flagged a serious funding issue with FTA Section 5311(f) funds for YARTS (Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System), causing cash flow issues.
    - Described Park Service policy shifts jeopardizing transit into Yosemite, putting YARTS at risk of shutting down this year.
    - Voiced concern over a non-MCAG-led \$500 million Sisk Dam seismic retrofit project, which requires elevation of State Route 152; potentially pulling from the state transportation budget.
  - Jen's Response:
    - Suggested possible remedies via the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
    - Encouraged stakeholders to alert her of any delayed or frozen grant agreements so she can coordinate with congressional offices.
    - Emphasized that congressional intervention often unsticks stalled grants.
  - Kim Anderson:
    - Highlighted a \$15 million EV charging infrastructure grant that remains unobligated due to Caltrans' delay.
    - Discussed potential litigation as a remedy.

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- Jen noted a recent Supreme Court decision may improve the odds of relief through litigation and encouraged considering it more seriously now.
- ✓ Preparation for Valley Voice 2025:
  - Jen asked MPOs to send:
    - Pending earmark projects.
    - Federal grant proposals.
    - Any previously awarded grants that remain unobligated or unexecuted.
    - These items will be incorporated into federal advocacy messaging.
- 4. CHSRA Request for Statement in Support of Funding Agreements to Deliver the HSR Program **Georgiena Vivian**

Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, introduced a request from Tony Tinoco and Peter Whippy (California High-Speed Rail Authority) asking the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council for a quote supporting continued federal funding. The quote would be included in a press release responding to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which is considering terminating \$4 billion in grants (FY10 and FSP).

Peter Whippy (Chief of External Affairs, CHSRA):

  - ✓ Expressed gratitude for the Policy Council's prior support letter (March 6).
  - ✓ Emphasized the urgency and importance of a short supportive statement to be included in their July 7 formal response to the FRA.
  - ✓ Highlighted their disagreement with the FRA's findings and their intent to provide documentary evidence of compliance.
  - ✓ Stressed the importance of stable funding and the Governor's budget proposal to provide \$1B/year through 2045 as a solution to the funding gap.
  - ✓ Discussed strategies to accelerate project delivery:
    - Legislative actions (e.g., CEQA exemptions, utility relocation authority)
    - Procurement of track components to streamline construction
    - Starting track laying by 2026 on key segments

Stacie Guzman and Ted Smalley:

  - ✓ Agreed that the request must go to the Executive Committee, not decided on by staff alone.
  - ✓ Suggested using existing supportive language from the March 6 letter if possible.
  - ✓ Proposed emailing the Executive Committee urgently to gather consensus.

Jay Schlosser (Kern COG):

  - ✓ Agreed with the project's benefits but critiqued outdated messaging (e.g., job creation narrative).
  - ✓ Urged CHSRA to shift focus toward economic benefits and regional connectivity, which would resonate more with federal audiences.
  - ✓ Warned that only a "perfect" response might preserve federal support due to political tensions.

Peter Whippy:

  - ✓ Acknowledged the need for updated messaging and affirmed a focus on housing, affordability, and connectivity.
  - ✓ Highlighted efforts to shift the narrative from employment metrics to real delivery milestones and future economic benefits.

Stacie Guzman suggested scheduling a dedicated Valley-wide meeting with CHSRA post-July 7 to discuss:

  - ✓ Project schedule.
  - ✓ Budget status:
    - Talking points and transparency for regional directors.

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## 5. 2026 San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference

**Stacie Guzman,  
Chair**

Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, noted the following:

- ✓ Main Issue:
  - There is currently no host for the 2026 Valley Policy Conference.
  - Madera (the expected next host) has declined the opportunity.
- ✓ Potential Next Steps:
  - StanCOG might be next in the unofficial rotation, but hosting responsibility is unclear, as some regions haven't hosted recently or ever.
  - Stacie emphasized the need for a larger discussion about how to handle hosting responsibilities in the future to avoid similar issues.
- ✓ Immediate Outcome:
  - Stacie asked if any agency was willing to volunteer to host 2026—no one stepped forward.
  - For now, the assumption is that there will not be a conference in 2026.

## 6. Committee Updates

**Robert Phipps, Vice  
Chair****a. Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)**

Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, provided the following summary:

- ✓ State Budget Update:
  - A brief update was received from Gus.
  - Phipps acknowledged ongoing developments that Mitch further explained.
- ✓ Federal Platform Approval:
  - The Federal platform was reviewed and approved before Policy Council review.
  - Air Pollution Control District (APCD) suggested minor changes.
  - The document had already passed through VLAC and Policy Council, but not yet formally through the Communications Directors group.
- ✓ Chairmanship of VLAC:
  - Phipps, serving as VLAC Chair for several years, expressed a desire to step down due to increased personal workload.
  - He invited volunteers to take over the chair role.
  - If no one steps forward, meetings might shift to a bi-monthly schedule.
- ✓ Process Clarification:
  - Georgiena Vivian clarified that the Federal platform would go to the Executive Committee (July 25), then return to the Directors Group in August, and finally to the Policy Council on August 22.
  - The Policy Council review was informational only, not for approval.
- ✓ Support for Leadership Change:
  - Stacie Guzman supported relieving Phipps from chair duty.
  - She noted the role is more suited for deputies rather than directors and encouraged attendees to consider internal candidates.

**b. SJV Swap Meet****Ofelia Abundez**

Ofelia Abundez, Fresno COG, provided the following update:

- ✓ The group met on June 12 to discuss:
  - SB 125 experiences, particularly regarding notifications and funding distributions.
  - Possible changes to SHOPP (State Highway Operation and Protection Program) project programming.
- ✓ Leadership Changes:
  - New SJ Valley Programmers' Swap Meet Chair and Vice Chair were elected:

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- Kaylee Clay (KCAG) – Chair.
- Blake Dunford (SJCOG) – Vice Chair.

- Kaylee will be present at the next meeting, expected in late July or early August.
- Ofelia expressed appreciation for her time as chair and voiced confidence in the new leadership team.

**c. Housing and Land Use**

Kim Anderson, SJCOG, provided the following update:

**Kim Anderson**

- ✓ Committee Leadership and Meeting:
  - The committee is led by Christine Corrales (Planning Manager at SJCOG).
  - They met on June 6.
- ✓ REAP 2.0 Funding:
  - The meeting occurred before the REAP 2.0 extension announcement.
  - Most agencies now have agreements in place and are awaiting another updated agreement from HCD.
  - Project activities have begun, which is positive for spending down funds.
- ✓ Legislation & Planning:
  - No new legislative updates: the team is still monitoring developments.
  - Land use modelers have been discussing SCS (Sustainable Communities Strategies) and RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) integration, with the tone described humorously as "therapy sessions."
- ✓ Next Meetings:
  - No meeting in July; the next is scheduled for August.

**Rob Ball**

**d. Travel Modelers Group**

Rob Ball, Kern COG, noted the following:

- ✓ TCAG awarded the V Transform contract to LSA, and the kickoff meeting will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 pm.
- ✓ The next Valley Modelers Group is scheduled for August 11th at 1:30 pm.

**7. SJV REAP Program**

**a. Receive update**

**Robert Phipps, Vice Chair**

Robert Phipps, Vice Chair, Fresno COG, provided the following summary:

- ✓ VisionEval Model Contract:
  - Fresno COG has entered a contract with RSG for the VisionEval model, valued at just over \$510,000.
- ✓ REAP 1 Funding:
  - After settling a late invoice from the Objective Design Standards project, \$187,000 in REAP 1 funds remain.
  - These funds will go toward CALCOG overages as previously discussed.
  - A scope and deliverables are being developed by Bill, with a contract expected by September.
- ✓ Billing Details:
  - The upcoming CALCOG-related contract is less time-sensitive and likely to be billed as a single expense, unlike the RSG contract.
- ✓ REAP 2:
  - Phipps reiterated the positive news related to REAP 2 funding.

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

## 8. Caltrans Directors' Report

Tom Dumas, Caltrans  
D10 | Michael  
Navarro, D6

An update was not provided by District 10.

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

- ✓ Personnel Announcements:
  - Dean El-Tawansi was sworn in as the new Caltrans District 4 Director on July 1.
  - Braden Duran named Acting Office Chief, filling in for Caleb Brock.
  - Recognition:
    - Two Caltrans maintenance workers received the Governor's Medal of Valor for rescuing 35 children from a fuel-truck/school-bus collision on Highway 41 in Fresno County.
- ✓ Upcoming Events:
  - July 16: Ribbon cutting for Clean California downtown revitalization project in Kerman.
  - August 11 (tentative): Groundbreaking for State Route 99 project from Delano to Pixley.
- ✓ Project and Plan Updates:
  - Multimodal Corridor Plan delayed due to modeling issues. A new release for partner review is expected later in July.
  - Trade Corridor Enhancement Program:
    - \$40M awarded for final phase of SR-99/SR-58 in Bakersfield.
    - \$63M awarded for SR-99 Page Avenue project in Tulare (now fully funded with USDOT support).
- ✓ Planning Grants:
  - \$2.5 million awarded to District 6 agencies through Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants (FY 2025–26).
  - Recipients include:
    - City of Corcoran
    - City of Parlier
    - Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
    - MPOs: MCTC, FCOG, TCAG

## 9. California High-Speed Rail

Toni Tinoco

- ✓ An update was not provided.

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

Ahdel Ahmad

- ✓ Introduction & Transition:
  - Ahdel Ahmed is the new Public and Government Relations Manager for both the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJPA) and the Rail Commission.
  - He is stepping in for Michael Hanebutt, who is temporarily offline due to a skiing accident.
- ✓ Key Staffing Announcements:
  - Christine Anyanwu is the new Director of Capital Programs for the Valley Rail Project. She will lead project phasing and timeline resets.
  - Terry Hayes is the new Connecting Services Manager, improving coordination for bus services across regions and resolving issues.
- ✓ Outreach and Coordination:

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- Ahdel and Christine will be reaching out to local partners across the Valley to discuss project updates and timelines.
- Terry is available for local coordination and meetings about bus connection services.
- ✓ Event Highlight:
  - Upcoming event in late July in partnership with the City of Stockton and SJCOG: a groundbreaking for street improvements.

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

Mark Montelongo

Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, provided the following summary:

- ✓ Advocacy Trip to Washington, D.C.:
  - The SJVAPCD team recently visited D.C. to advocate against proposed cuts in the federal “skinny budget” released by former President Trump, which included significant reductions to EPA funding (notably EPA 103 and 105 grants).
  - These grants are essential for the district’s air quality monitoring and planning processes.
- ✓ Additional Advocacy:
  - The team also promoted support for DERA (Diesel Emissions Reduction Act) and TAG (Targeted Airshed Grants) funding.
  - They emphasized the district’s successful emission reductions through the use of these funds.
- ✓ Ongoing Efforts:
  - Continued engagement with the federal administration on SIP (State Implementation Plan) approvals, advocating for a cooperative approach under federalism principles.
  - Further advocacy efforts are planned during the upcoming Valley Voice event in September.

#### 12. Miocar Car Sharing

An update was not provided.

#### 13. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

An update was not provided.

### OTHER ITEMS

#### 14. Director Items

**Stacie Guzman,  
Chair**

Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, suggested an “In-Person Meeting” of the Directors’ Committee.

- ✓ Proposed the idea of holding an in-person meeting of the Directors’ Committee before the end of the year.
- ✓ He expressed interest in meeting colleagues face-to-face, as most meetings have shifted online.
- ✓ Stacie Guzman responded supportively, noting the group used to meet in person annually, typically during the policy conference. She mentioned TCAG volunteered to host (via Ted) and praised the hospitality provided in past meetings.
- ✓ Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, will work with TCAG to organize an in-person meeting.

#### 15. Public Presentations for Items not on the Agenda

**Stacie Guzman,  
Chair**

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

No public comment.

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**16. Closed Session****Stacie Guzman,  
Chair**

A closed session was held.

**ADJOURN MEETING****Stacie Guzman,  
Chair**

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

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**Other Meeting Participants**

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Napier   Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri   Khouri Consulting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball   Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss   Khouri Consulting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kayley Clay   KCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sommer Sison   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani   TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci   Trinity Consultants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aime Kane   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco, CHSRA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alec Kimmel   Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri   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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon   Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elisabeth Hahn   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek   Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natalia Castillo Deleon   Caltrans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala   Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez   ACE Rail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai   LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yvette Davis   SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Corrales   SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Dumford   SJCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Tinoco   CHSRA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJJPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt   SJJPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy   CHSRA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic   VRPA Technologies			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham   VRPA Technologies			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Vivian   VRPA Technologies			

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AGENDA ITEM 2.c.

***EPA Proposed Rule “Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding  
and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards”***

**Email From:** David Gellman <David@covinosmithsimon.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 12:27 PM  
**Cc:** Jennifer Covino  
**Subject:** EPA Issues Proposed Rule Entitled "Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards"

Good afternoon,

Yesterday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule to repeal all greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines and rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding that had served as a legal foundation for those standards. The Endangerment Finding was published during the Obama Administration and affirms that six GHGs taken in combination endanger public health and the public welfare of current and future generations. It also concludes that, under section 202(a) of the *Clean Air Act (CAA)*, GHG emissions from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines contribute to air pollution that endangers public health and welfare.

In the new proposed rule, EPA argues that in establishing the Finding the agency had “unreasonably analyzed the scientific record.” The proposal adds that “developments cast significant doubt on the reliability of the findings,” citing updated scientific data from a new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Climate Work Group study that is concurrently being released for public comment. It also notes that “no requisite technology for vehicle and engine emission control can address the global climate change concerns identified in the findings without risking greater harms to public health and welfare.”

An EPA press release states that, if finalized, the proposal would remove vehicle emissions standards “starting with EPA’s first greenhouse gas set in 2010 for light-duty vehicles and those set in 2011 for medium-duty vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles and engines - which includes off-cycle credits like the much hated start-stop feature on most new cars.” The agency will accept public comments on the proposal through September 21, 2025. It will also hold public hearings on August 19, 2025 and August 20, 2025 to receive additional feedback from stakeholders. Please let us know if you have any questions or interest in drafting and submitting a public comment through the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

Best,

David Gellman, Senior Advisor  
Covino Smith & Simon  
1155 15th Street NW Suite 405  
Washington, DC 20005  
Direct: 1-305-582-4744

AGENDA ITEM 3.b.1.

**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 <sup>th</sup> 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	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 <sup>th</sup> 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	\$2,00,000	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 6

**Draft 2025/26 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council  
Overall Work Program, Budget, and Meeting Schedule**

# SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

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# OVERALL WORK PROGRAM

## FY 2025-26



Kern Council  
of Governments



Kings County Association of Governments



StanCOG  
Stanislaus Council of Governments



Tulare County Association of Governments



Fresno Council  
of Governments



Madera County Transportation Commission



MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



San Joaquin Valley  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



San Joaquin  
Joint Powers Authority

## **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 (SJIPA)**

**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](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.

<b>Directors' Chair</b>	Merced County Association of Governments, 2025-26
<b>Rotation Schedule</b>	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
<b>Policy Council Chairs</b>	<b>Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2025</b>
	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 <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
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
					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	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				

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	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			

Jan 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

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

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