

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



### Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 8, 2026

10:00 am

Location:

### Join Zoom Meeting

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88912035039?pwd=9qCJskwLIbAVhpBoBUXnULYJIRIGa7.1>

Meeting ID: 889 1203 5039

Passcode: 675213

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"/>	Kate Miller   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"/>	Ahdel Ahmed   SJJPA

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Enclosure

- December 4, 2025, Directors' Meeting

Chair Guzman



### DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues
  - SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets
  - Clean Air Act Waiver Recission – Lockdown/Endangerment Finding Update
- Legislative Updates
  - State**
  - Federal**
- Discussion: Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funding Issues
- Discussion: Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC) Issues

Ryan Niblock



Alex Marcucci



Ted Smalley & Ryan Niblock



Gus Khouri



Jen Covino



Chair Guzman



Chair Guzman



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- |   |                                  |                          |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. Discussion: April/May 2026 Policy Council and Directors' Retreat       | Georgiena Vivian                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a. Venue Availability   |                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Preliminary Draft Retreat Program/Schedule                             |                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Discussion: FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP) – Preliminary Review | Georgiena Vivian                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Committee Updates  |                                  |                          |
| a. <b><i>SJV Swap Meet</i></b>  | Kayley Clay                      |                          |
| b. <b><i>Housing and Land Use</i></b>                                     | Kim Anderson                     |                          |
| c. <b><i>Travel Modelers Group</i></b>                                    | Rob Ball                         |                          |
| 9. SJV REAP Program   | Georgiena Vivian & Robert Phipps |                          |

### 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.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 10. Caltrans Directors' Report                          | Michael Navarro, D6 &<br>Grace Magsayo, D10 |
| 11. California High-Speed Rail                          | Augie Blancas, CHSRA                        |
| 12. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail | Ahdel Ahmed                                 |
| 13. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District   | Mark Montelongo                             |
| 14. Miocar Car Sharing                                  | Michael Sigala                              |

### 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, February 5, 2026.

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**Other Meeting Participants**

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephan Sanchez   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"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci   Trinity Consultants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aime Kane   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alec Kimmel   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached   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"/>	Evelyn Espinosa   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock   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"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natalia Castillo Deleon   Caltrans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale   CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala   Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez   ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yvette Davis   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy   CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Corrales   SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Dunford   SJCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Kai   LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt   SJJPA			
<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			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Vivian   VRPA Technologies			

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AGENDA ITEM 1

***December 4, 2025, Directors' Committee***

***Meeting Minutes***

## San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 4, 2025

10:00 am

Location:

### Join Zoom Meeting

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82214718095?pwd=aZoEYlkFaKkJBD8uxOEdS4uJ7mT2M7.1>

Meeting ID: 822 1471 8095

Passcode: 116113

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   Chair   MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor   MCTC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Phipps   Vice Chair   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kate Miller   StanCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schlosser   Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen   SJCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King   KCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh   SJVAPCD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley   TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmed   SJJPA

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Enclosure

1. November 13, 2025, Directors' Meeting

Chair Guzman



Chair Guzman called for approval of the minutes from November 13, 2025. The motion was made by Member Smalley, TCAG, and seconded by Member Sheikh, JVVAPCD. The motion passed.

### DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

2. RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues

Ryan Niblock



- a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets

Alex Marcucci



- b. Clean Air Act Waiver Recission – Lockdown/Endangerment Finding Update

Ted Smalley & Ryan Niblock



Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, noted that there were no significant updates regarding SB 375. He then transitioned to discussing the conformity issues, highlighting recent progress. He announced that they had successfully cleared two major hurdles in the last few weeks. First, they received an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)-approved set of EMFAC adjustment factors. This approval is significant because it eliminates the need for them to wait for the courts or the EPA to grant permission, giving them direct access to the tools they need for their

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modeling efforts. Secondly, CARB has approved the auto operating cost assumptions, which are critical for their modeling work.

Ryan stressed the importance of this approval, allowing various agencies that possess modeling capabilities to begin testing their models. He encouraged all agencies to circulate the updated files to their modeling staff to ensure everyone has the most current data available, facilitating baseline scenario testing and helping determine their conformity status.

As they proceed, Ryan noted that they are awaiting results from the agencies to assess the level of conformity achieved. If conformity is not met, he emphasized the importance of identifying errors within the models to make necessary adjustments. He pointed out that the ongoing attention required for State Implementation Plan (SIP) adjustments is particularly critical for TCAG and StanCOG, urging participants to keep pushing for an accelerated schedule on those adjustments to ensure compliance.

Ryan urged all participating agencies to conduct their testing and submit the results to Trinity Consultants for quality control. This will determine whether they pass or fail the conformity tests and, in the case of failure, pinpoint the areas needing correction.

Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, posed a question about the timing of the modeling results and what could trigger CARB to make further revisions to the SIPs. Sheikh asked for clarification on the sequence of events leading to their understanding of how their conformity efforts would unfold over the next few months.

In response, Ryan clarified that once testing begins, there would be no further adjustments to EMFAC by CARB based on the test results, indicating that the parameters would be set for their analyses. He elaborated that while the timeframes for modeling staff may vary by agency, he anticipated that more than half of agencies would complete their baseline updates and be ready for testing within a couple of weeks.

The discussion underscored the need for collaboration among regional agencies to navigate the complexities of regulatory compliance. It highlighted the urgency to act promptly in light of upcoming deadlines and potential challenges related to air quality standards.

### 3. Legislative Updates

#### a. **State Legislative Update**

*Gus Khouri*

##### 1. *State Legislative Update*

*Gus Khouri*

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, discussed the fiscal challenges facing the state's budget, as outlined by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in its general fund forecast for fiscal year 2026-2027. The LAO initially projected a \$13 billion structural deficit, which has now increased to \$18 billion. This is despite the state receiving an additional \$11 billion in revenue, due to obligations that must be met, including those for Medi-Cal, corrections, and pensions.

Gus emphasized the strain on education funding, noting that the educational sector operates under a funding model with a guaranteed minimum floor and no cap. This means that even if general fund revenues decline significantly, education funding is mandated to receive its share based on previous funding levels, leading to potential deferrals if the budget cannot accommodate these commitments.

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He pointed out that while transportation funding typically comes from special funds such as the gas tax and vehicle registration fees, there are significant obligations stemming from SB125 that impact the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Approximately \$1 billion is currently outstanding for various programs, including the Zero Emission Transit Capital Program and SB125 formulaic funds, complicating fiscal management.

Additionally, Gus expressed concern about the Cap-and-Trade program, which has underperformed in revenue. He noted that projections for cap-and-trade revenues had suggested stability and increases. Still, recent auctions revealed significant declines, down \$200 million in June and \$150 million in November compared to the previous year.

Gus highlighted that cap-and-trade funding is prioritized for higher-profile projects, leaving lower-priority items like TERSIP (Transformative Climate Communities Program) and LCTOP (Low Carbon Transit Operations Program) vulnerable to funding shortfalls. He stated that for fiscal year 2025-2026, cap-and-trade generated approximately \$4.4 billion, but forecasts for 2026-2027 predict a decline to around \$4.2 billion, further straining the budget.

Moreover, Gus pointed out that while there is a legislative discretionary funding pool of about \$1 billion, only a fraction is available after obligations for items like transit passes and CAL FIRE, which previously relied on general fund allocations, are met.

In conclusion, Gus portrayed a tight financial landscape, cautioning that without improved revenue generation or budget management, fulfilling the state's financial obligations, especially in key areas like transportation and environmental initiatives, may become increasingly challenging.

**2. ACTION: Draft Final State Legislative Platform**

*Gus Khouri*

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, began by noting that the Directors and the Executive Committee had previously reviewed the legislative platform. It was determined that certain modifications were needed based on feedback received. Notably, Director Smalley requested that the Clean Air Act conformity issue be prioritized and moved to the top of the platform.

Gus also highlighted the need for further discussion on the high-speed rail piece, specifically its impact on communities. Directors Guzman, Schlosser, and Taylor expressed interest in exploring this topic more deeply, indicating that additional wording adjustments would be necessary.

A significant point of contention arose over housing. There was noticeable hesitance from the Executive Committee members, including Member Mendoza, Chair McDaniel, and Member Poythress, regarding the inclusion of housing issues in the platform. Their reluctance seems rooted in concerns about the feasibility of potential housing developments, particularly regarding transit-oriented development and recent legislation aimed at streamlining processes like CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) for high-speed rail stations. Given this feedback, Gus suggested that the Executive Committee might prefer to omit housing from the platform entirely.

Gus agreed to provide a cleaner version of the document with the highlighted changes, emphasizing that most adjustments pertain to prioritizing the Clean Air Act conformity issue.

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Stacie Guzman, Chair, MCAG, noted that the expected adoption of the platform by the Executive Committee is set for the following Monday, with subsequent recommendations to the Policy Council in January. Gus cautioned that any final decisions might hinge on what the governor introduces in the January budget, which traditionally influences legislative priorities.

In conclusion, the meeting reflects a collaborative effort to refine the legislative platform while navigating differing opinions on key issues, ensuring that necessary adjustments align with the collective feedback from stakeholders.

Ted Smalley, TCAG, motioned to approve the Platform, and Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. *Preparations for the Sacramento Valley Voice Trip  
(March 3, 2026, Evening Reception/March 4, 2026,  
Legislative Sessions/Lunch)*

*Gus Khouri & Georgiena Vivian*

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, confirmed that the Executive Committee approved the Sacramento Valley Voice trip, which is now scheduled for March 4, 2026. Gus mentioned that he and Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, are collaborating on the logistics for this event to ensure everything goes smoothly.

b. **Federal**

*Jen Covino*

Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon, provided an update on key developments regarding transportation funding and appropriations. She highlighted the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the BUILD Discretionary Grant Program, emphasizing that applications are due by the end of February. Jen noted that the Department plans to issue further details on programmatic requirements and priorities, particularly under the Trump administration. She encouraged those interested in pursuing this funding opportunity to reach out.

Turning to the FY26 appropriations process, Jen mentioned that negotiations are ongoing. She indicated that a minibus package, which was expected to include the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development spending bill, may not be completed before the Christmas holiday recess. This delay is attributed to contentious issues within the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rather than the Department of Transportation (DOT). Senate Majority Leader John Thune stated it is unlikely the minibus will pass before the holidays, setting up a potentially tense January as the current continuing resolution will expire at the end of the month.

Jen noted that there are emerging discussions around earmarks related to the surface transportation reauthorization. She referred to Chairperson Graves of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She indicated that despite delays in drafting the next reauthorization bill, introductions are expected in the first quarter of the year. She also pointed out that these earmarks, referred to as member-designated projects, could be revived if the Chairperson decides to accept them as part of the upcoming legislation, in contrast to the previous process, where the Senate led negotiations for the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Jen encouraged participants to think about potential transportation projects they might submit if opportunities for earmarks arise in the future. She noted that further information about the earmark process will be provided once it becomes available.

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Lastly, she acknowledged the contributions of colleagues providing updates on air quality matters. She offered support to those planning to visit Washington, D.C. in 2026, emphasizing her willingness to assist with coordination and the preparation of talking points for discussions.

4. Discussion: April 2026 Policy Council and Directors' Retreat Georgiena Vivian

Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, discussed plans for the Policy Council and Directors' Committee Retreat scheduled for Spring 2026. She noted that the Executive Committee expressed a preference for the event to take place towards the end of April.

Georgiena compiled a spreadsheet listing potential venues, which include Chukchansi, Tachi Palace, the Pines Resort, and Wonder Valley Ranch Resort. She has reached out to these locations to gather the information needed to meet the event's requirements. Georgiena also pointed out that there are additional venues within the urban areas of Visalia and Fresno that may meet the group's needs. She is in the process of obtaining more details from various venues noted above.

Stacie Guzman, Chair, MCAG, suggested that Georgiena contact the El Capitan Hotel in downtown Merced, which offers attractive meeting spaces at a reasonable cost. She emphasized that many attendees have had positive experiences there.

Georgiena mentions that they are also in the process of creating a preliminary draft program for the retreat, which will be reviewed in an upcoming directors' meeting scheduled for January.

5. Committee Updates

**a. SJV Swap Meet**

*Kayley Clay*

Kayley Clay, KCAG: noted that the group did not meet in November, but we're planning to meet the following week and will have an update for the January meeting.

**b. Housing and Land Use**

*Kim Anderson*

In a recent meeting led by Chair Stacie Guzman, Kim Anderson provided an update on the status of agreements with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). She noted that there were no updates due to the cancellation of the November and December meetings but mentioned that their updated agreement from HCD was received after the last meeting.

Terri King from KCAG shared her challenges with HCD, stating that despite signing and returning a revised agreement, they continued to face difficulties with reimbursement requests. She noted that although they hadn't initially received any requests, they were now encountering HCD issues that required multiple edits to their complete application, which felt overly detailed and time-consuming. King expressed frustration over needing to disburse funds quickly but being hampered by what she considered minor nitpicking from HCD.

Kim Anderson chimed in, echoing Terri's experience with the difficulties of obtaining reimbursements and the need to justify distributions due to the annual nature of HCD's reporting requirements. She mentioned that her team experienced similar delays and complexities when handling HCD for previous agreements and requests, hinting at ongoing challenges in communication and processing.

Terri also highlighted a recent presentation at a city council meeting in Hanford, where the city showcased their updated Geographic Information System (GIS) funded by HCD. She praised the significant improvements made,

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likening the old system to "the dark ages." The new GIS was described as a versatile tool that could enhance housing permits and other municipal functions, and she encouraged the city to present their progress at a statewide GIS meeting.

**c. Travel Modelers Group**

*Rob Ball*

An update was not provided.

**6. SJV REAP Program**

Michael Sigala & Robert Phipps

Robert Phipps, Vice Chair, Fresno COG, discussed the progress of the vision evaluation project, indicating that final scenarios will be executed within the week. A total of approximately 110 model runs will be conducted by RSG to extract, analyze, and visualize the results, which are expected to be ready by early next week. To facilitate this, a remote training session will be scheduled between December 16th and December 19th for modelers on using the project's outcomes. Additionally, a recording of the session will be distributed for those unable to attend.

Robert also noted ongoing efforts related to the Valley-wide REAP expenditures, including the vision evaluation project and CalCOG deliverables, with the latter mostly completed. These deliverables include various educational materials and scenario-planning resources, now enhanced to focus on the Valley region. The funding allocated for this work has been substantial, with about \$146,000 paid out of a total budget of approximately \$187,000, and a reduction in dues noted as a result.

Bill Higgins, CalCOG, mentioned that there would be individual county-based assessments to evaluate local housing elements against regional planning metrics, which would identify general trends for each county. The packaged assessments and resources are expected to be available from early to mid-next week, alongside the final invoice for the project.

Robert reassured that both projects are on track for completion by the December 31st deadline. He addressed a reimbursement inquiry, explaining that his team had initially taken advantage of a 10% advance, so no reimbursement applications were required. There were mentions of delays with the HCD regarding extension agreements that could affect some participants, highlighting that the process often moves slowly.

Overall, the update reflects a collaborative effort to ensure the successful completion of key projects and the distribution of necessary resources, all while navigating the complexities of municipal and regional planning initiatives.

**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.***

**7. Caltrans Directors' Report**

Michael Navarro, D6 &  
Gregoria Ponce, D10

Michael Navarro, Caltrans District 6, announced the appointment of Dave Moore as the acting chief deputy following the retirement of Mike Keaver. Moore, currently the District 2 Director based in Redding, will serve in this role until a permanent successor is appointed.

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Michael stated that John Liu, the Deputy District Director for Maintenance Operations, who has been with Caltrans for 32 years and is regarded as a key leader in District 6, will be leaving at the end of December, resulting in a significant loss for the district's operations.

He also mentioned the upcoming Draft 2026 SHOPP project listing, which is expected to be released shortly. Caltrans will be coordinating meetings with COG directors to discuss the draft and gather feedback.

Michael thanked participants who applied for Caltrans' sustainable transportation planning grants, noting that District 6 received ten applications totaling approximately \$4.2 million, with representation from all five counties. He encouraged those with project ideas to reach out to him or his team and informed them that requests for letters of support from the Caltrans director must be submitted by December 18th.

Gregoria Ponce, Caltrans District 10, shared that Caltrans District 10 is actively preparing for winter by addressing maintenance issues, including lighting, litter, and drainage. The district is also focusing on clearing encampments along major routes such as I-5, Route 4, and State Route 99.

Gregoria echoed Michael's comments regarding the sustainable transportation planning grants, noting that District 10 also received approximately ten similar grants and is currently in the evaluation phase, with award announcements expected from late spring to early summer of the following year.

#### 8. California High-Speed Rail

Augie Blancas, CHSRA

Augie Blancas, CHSRA, provided important updates on the project. He noted that there have been personnel changes within the organization, including the retirement of Garth Fernandez, the Regional Director, and the transition of Tony Tinoco to a new role with the California State Transportation Agency.

Augie highlighted a significant milestone for the project, noting that an RFP (Request for Proposals) was issued to solicit bids from qualified vendors for the tracking systems work essential to the upcoming track installation phase, expected to commence next year. He was pleased to share that the project would be receiving \$1 billion annually through the Cap and Invest program until 2045.

On the construction front, Augie reported that 58 structures have been completed so far, with 31 currently under active construction. He encouraged attendees to check their social media and YouTube channels for a new video showcasing the progress made in the Central Valley between Madera and Kern Counties. He mentioned specific projects in Fresno, such as the Shaw Avenue Grade Separation Project starting soon, and work on Herndon Avenue beginning early next year. Additional structures at Olive and Fresno Streets are also slated to begin in the first quarter of 2026.

In Kings County, he indicated that the last structure, located at Houston Avenue, is expected to be addressed before the end of the year. Several grade separations have already opened, including the recent Hanford-Armona grade separation project. By the end of the year or early January, he anticipates that Road 26 in Madera County and Cesar Chavez in Fresno will also be open to traffic.

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

Ahdel Ahmed

Ahdel Ahmed, SJJPA, provided an update on their ongoing search for a new Chief Operating Officer (COO). He mentioned that they are close to finalizing a candidate, with a board meeting scheduled for the following day.

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that should bring clarity on the selection. Once the new COO is confirmed, he plans to have them join a future call to introduce themselves to everyone involved.

Ahdel also discussed the agency's rebranding to "Gold Runner," highlighting a shift towards a more forward-thinking identity. One of the significant updates he shared is the restoration of a seventh round-trip service, which will bring the agency back to pre-pandemic operational levels. This new trip is expected to be scheduled for midday to accommodate different travel needs. Specifically, the train will depart from Bakersfield at 7 a.m. and arrive in Sacramento around 12:30 or 12:40 p.m. The return trip will leave Sacramento at approximately 5:20 p.m., arriving back in Bakersfield around 10 p.m.

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

Mark Montelongo

Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, shared that the Air District is preparing for the upcoming state budget and legislative session. He highlighted that the region is currently in its residential wood smoke season, which commenced on November 1 and will continue through the end of February. This seasonal initiative is designed to limit residential wood burning in the Valley to mitigate particulate matter (PM) pollution and safeguard public health. He noted that daily air quality forecasts are posted on the District's website, which provides residents with essential information on permissible burning days for each county.

Additionally, to support the transition to cleaner alternatives, the SJVAPCD offers a grant and incentives program. This program assists residents in replacing older wood-burning devices with more efficient options, enhancing air quality in the region. More details regarding these grants and incentives can also be found on the district's website.

#### 11. Miocar Car Sharing

Michael Sigala

Michael Sigala, Sigala Inc., shared updates on operational utilization for October in Stockton and Tulare. He mentioned that their services were recently launched in Watsonville and indicated a willingness to distribute this information as well.

Looking ahead, Michael discussed potential expansion areas, specifically mentioning Fresno and Bakersfield as targeted locations for future growth. He also noted that there is an ongoing expansion effort in Shafter. At the same time, additional vehicles will be deployed to Tulare, with 10 new vehicles expected to arrive during the week of December 15th.

Michael emphasized that several initiatives are currently in progress and many more are in the planning stages, indicating a positive outlook for the organization's development in these areas.

### OTHER ITEMS

#### 12. Director Items

Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, introduced Stefan Sanchez, who is taking over as the Deputy Director of Administration as Becky Napier retires. Stacie Guzman welcomed Stefan and emphasized the positive working environment, encouraging Jay to convey congratulations to Becky for her years of service.

Terri King from KCAG announced the relocation of their offices to a new facility at the Transit Center in Hanford, scheduled for just before Christmas on the 23rd. The new address will be 210 East 7th Street, Suite 202.

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Terri also mentioned that the Transit Center would have a grand opening on the 13th of the month, although attendance is limited due to capacity constraints.

13. 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.*

*There were no public presentations.*

14. Directors' Only Session – ***Scheduled***

The Directors' Only Session was canceled.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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**Other Meeting Participants**

Yes	No	Director   Agency	Yes	No	Director   Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephan Sanchez   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"/>	Kayley Clay   KCAG	<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez   Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci   Trinity Consultants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani   TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aime Kane   TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock   Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti   Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas   Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alec Kimmel   Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached   Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa   MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas   Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong   Caltrans, D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince   MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson   MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce   Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres   StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek   Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala   Sigala, Inc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy   CHSRA
<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 Dunford   SJCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo   SJVAPCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Kai   LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt   SJJPA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt   SJJPA			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian   SJV Coordinator   VRPA Technologies			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic   VRPA Technologies			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham   VRPA Technologies			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Vivian   VRPA Technologies			

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