

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 2, 2026 10:00 am

Location:

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89924726259?pwd=b52bkvPb3FOCarVk2bmTIB2pBPxkGM.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 899 2472 6259

Passcode: 878765

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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"/>	Amber Collins 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

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Guzman	
B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
1. March 5, 2026, Directors' Meeting	Chair Guzman	Yes
C. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS		
1. RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues	<i>Ted Smalley, Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci</i>	
<i>a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets</i>	<i>Ryan Niblock</i>	
<i>b. Federal Air Quality Conformity</i>	<i>Ryan Niblock</i>	
2. EPA Approval of Pending Time-sensitive San Joaquin Valley State Implementation Plan (SIP) Actions	<i>Samir Sheikh</i>	Yes

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
3. Legislative Updates		
<i>a. State</i>		
1). State Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	
<i>b. Federal</i>		
1). Federal Legislative Update	Jen Covino	
2). "BASICS" ACT – H.R. 7537	Jen Covino	
3). Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026	Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian	
4. April 2026 Policy Council and Directors' Retreat	Georgiena Vivian	
5. April 9 Joint CTC/CARB/HCD meeting	Vice Chair Phipps	
6. Committee Updates		
<i>a. VLAC</i>	<i>Chair Guzman Meg Prince</i>	
<i>b. SJV Swap Meet</i>	<i>Kayley Clay</i>	
<i>c. Housing and Land Use</i>	<i>Kim Anderson</i>	
<i>d. Travel Modelers Group</i>	<i>Rob Ball</i>	
D. INFORMATION ITEMS		
<i>The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. The individuals listed will provide a <u>brief</u> verbal update at the meeting.</i>		
1. Caltrans Directors' Report	Michael Navarro, D6 Grace Magsayo, D10	
2. California High-Speed Rail	Augie Blancas, CHSRA	
3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail	Ahdel Ahmed	
4. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Mark Montelongo	
5. Miocar Car Sharing	Michael Sigala	
6. Future Meetings/Agenda Items:		
<i>a. Policy Council – April 24, 2026</i>		
<i>b. SJV Retreat – April 30 - May 1, 2026 (Merced)</i>		
<i>c. Directors' Committee – May 7, 2026 – Approve 2026/27 OWP</i>		
<i>d. Executive Committee – May 22, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i>		
<i>e. Directors' Committee – June 4, 2026</i>		
<i>f. Policy Council – June 26, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i>		
<i>g. Valley Voice Washington D.C. – September 15-16, 2026</i>		
	Georgiena Vivian	
ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

E. DIRECTOR ITEMS	Chair Guzman	
F. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Chair Guzman	
<i>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.</i>		
G. ADJOURN MEETING	Chair Guzman	
H. NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING: Thursday, May 7, 2026.		
I. DIRECTORS' ONLY SESSION – <i>Scheduled</i>		

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Yes	No	Director Agency	Yes	No	Director Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephan Sanchez Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian SJV Coordinator VRPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kayley Clay KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Vivian VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aime Kane TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kasia Poleszczuk TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci Trinity Consultants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mykia Byrd Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Haagenson Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Rincon Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Santosh Bhattarai Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Corrales SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Dunford SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

AGENDA ITEM 1

March 5, 2026 Directors' Committee

Meeting Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2026
10:00 am

Location:

Join Zoom Meeting

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81718960608?pwd=hwkVeJS2NUV2ffwy0dSQWx9TiFrLWz.1>

Meeting ID: 817 1896 0608

Passcode: 676282

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh SJVAPCD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmed SJJPA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Enclosure

- 1. February 5, 2026, Directors' Meeting

Chair Guzman

Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Member Ted Smalley, TCAG. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- 2. RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues

Ted Smalley, Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci

- a. **SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets**

Ryan Niblock

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

Ryan Niblock

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

The discussion focused on the San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations' (MPOs') ongoing efforts to address transportation conformity and greenhouse gas modeling challenges related to upcoming State Implementation Plan (SIP) updates and SB 375 requirements.

Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, explained that several Valley agencies are actively adjusting their transportation and emissions models to improve their chances of meeting federal transportation conformity requirements. While two or three regions have made sufficient modeling adjustments showing progress, approximately five MPOs are still struggling to meet the required targets. To address this, modeling staff across the Valley plan to hold a technical coordination meeting to share successful strategies and determine whether additional adjustments could help agencies reach compliance. If it becomes clear that conformity cannot be achieved through modeling changes alone, the group intends to communicate that situation directly to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, reported on outreach to state legislators, noting that discussions with Senator Shannon Grove focused primarily on SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) requirements. The Valley's request is for CARB to place less emphasis on narrow technical modeling thresholds for greenhouse gas reduction targets and instead consider broader qualitative factors such as economic development impacts, investment levels, and regional realities. The conversation with the Senator was described as positive, and a follow-up response is expected.

Ted Smalley, TCAG, emphasized the importance of communication and coordination among MPO directors and technical staff, encouraging agencies to closely monitor their modeling progress and ensure timely information sharing with the regional technical team. Jay Schlosser expressed concern that his region may fall significantly short of its GHG reduction targets, by about 10 percent, due to limited housing growth and rising demand for goods movement, making it difficult to achieve emissions reductions with current planning tools.

Elizabeth Forte, MCAG, clarified an important distinction between SB 375 greenhouse gas targets and federal transportation conformity requirements, noting that meeting SCS targets does not necessarily mean an MPO will satisfy federal conformity standards. She urged agencies to confirm both metrics separately, as conformity remains the primary regulatory requirement affecting transportation plan approvals.

The conversation concluded with recognition of the extensive work undertaken by Valley staff and consultants in preparing regional messaging for legislative outreach and technical discussions. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining a unified Valley approach when addressing complex regulatory challenges related to air quality, modeling requirements, and transportation planning.

c. State Implementation Plan Update

Samir Sheikh



An update was not provided.

3. Legislative Updates

a. State

1. State Legislative Update

Gus Khouri



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting and State Legislative Advocate, noted that there had been little new legislative activity since the Valley Voice Sacramento trip, as the bill introduction deadline had just passed and policy committees were about to begin reviewing legislation. He indicated that moving forward, the group would be more deliberate in recommending specific bills for the Valley to support or take positions on.

Several follow-up items emerged from the meetings with state officials. One was a commitment from California Transportation Secretary Toms Omishakin to provide a briefing to Valley leaders to improve coordination and dialogue regarding high-speed rail and broader transportation issues. Gus also highlighted strong engagement from Senator Shannon Grove, who expressed interest in helping address some of the Valley's concerns.

Gus indicated he would prepare additional materials outlining the Valley's priorities related to SB 375 and other policy matters, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a constructive tone with state agencies and policymakers.

The conversation also addressed several transportation funding issues. Legislators such as Assemblymember Lori Wilson expressed interest in exploring gas tax reform, while the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) circulated a letter on air quality issues seeking potential support from the regional delegation.

A significant concern raised during the discussion involved SB 125 transit funding, particularly uncertainty about the remaining funds that had not yet been programmed by the legislature. Gus suggested a possible solution involving the use of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRSP) Cycle 8 funding capacity, although timing constraints could require legislative action, such as a trailer bill, to extend program deadlines.

Diane Nguyen, SJCOG, and Chair Stacie Guzman, MCOG, emphasized the risks associated with delays in SB 125 funding. Several transit agencies have already begun implementing projects based on expected funding allocations, including hydrogen bus purchases and facility upgrades. If the remaining funds are not released, agencies could face significant financial and operational challenges after having already committed resources to these projects.

Overall, the discussion highlighted the importance of continued Valley coordination on legislative advocacy, transportation funding stability, and communication with state leaders to ensure regional priorities are addressed.

2. Valley Voice Sacramento

a) Event Recap

*Gus Khouri &
Georgiana Vivian*



Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting and State Legislative Advocate, provided a legislative update and recap of the recent Valley Voice advocacy trip, noting that the visit was productive despite a tight schedule. He thanked participants for their preparation and engagement and specifically acknowledged the work of regional leaders and staff who helped organize the meetings and materials. The trip was viewed as successful in reinforcing the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

San Joaquin Valley's coordinated messaging on transportation issues and strengthening relationships with state officials.

Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, provided feedback on the recent Valley Voice advocacy meetings, sharing comments from SJV Policy Council Vice Chair Chiesa, StanCOG, regarding how the group's policy "asks" were communicated to legislators. Chiesa had asked whether the key requests outlined in the talking points were clearly reflected in the materials distributed to policymakers. While the requests were included in the materials, they were not presented as explicitly as the talking points themselves. To address this during the meetings, Georgienna Vivian distributed printed copies of the talking points directly to the officials being met with.

Stacie suggested that, for future advocacy efforts, the group consider making the specific policy asks more explicit in printed materials or brochures, potentially by clearly labeling them as "asks" or highlighting them in the documents. This would ensure that legislators and staff can easily identify the Valley's priorities during meetings.

Overall, Stacie reported that the trip was successful and well-organized. She noted that the meetings were productive, the group of participants was strong, and the lunch gathering with invited guests facilitated valuable discussions with the appropriate stakeholders. The session concluded with appreciation expressed to Gus Khouri and Georgienna Vivian for their work organizing the event.

b. Federal

1. Federal Legislative Update

Jen Covino



Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, provided a federal legislative update focused on upcoming congressional deadlines and emerging transportation policy discussions in Washington, D.C. She informed the group that the House appropriations process is nearing completion and reminded agencies that deadlines for submitting earmark requests to members of Congress were rapidly approaching. Several California delegation deadlines had already passed or were imminent, emphasizing the need for agencies to finalize project submissions quickly.

Jen noted that although congressional offices increased the number of allowable earmark requests per member from 15 to 20, the total earmark funding cap remains unchanged. As a result, the same funding pool will now be divided among more projects. Based on discussions with congressional offices, she advised that requests in the \$1 to 2 million range per project are most likely to be competitive. Larger regional requests may still be considered but will require strong justification and the ability to scale projects as needed. She also encouraged agencies to clearly describe project benefits, particularly emphasizing service to disadvantaged communities, environmental justice priorities, and support for seniors, which are priorities for California's Senate offices.

2. "BASICS" ACT – H.R. 7537

Jen Covino



Jen Covino, Federal Legislative Advocate at Covino, Smith, and Simon, also discussed the BASICS Act (Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success Act), a bipartisan proposal being considered as part of the upcoming federal surface transportation reauthorization. The bill aims to shift more transportation funding to the local level by strengthening programs such as the Bridge Formula Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, increasing planning (PL) funds for MPOs, and improving highway safety investments. The

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

legislation has strong support from national organizations representing local governments and regional agencies. However, Jen indicated that the proposal has begun facing opposition from state departments of transportation, represented by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which views the bill as shifting authority and funding away from state agencies. Despite this, she noted that local government coalitions are actively advocating for the bill and may influence the upcoming reauthorization debate.

Participants discussed whether the San Joaquin Valley group should formally support the BASICS Act. Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, suggested circulating a summary of the bill to regional directors for review and potentially drafting a letter of support from the Policy Council and Executive Committee. The group agreed that a quick review process would allow them to identify key provisions they support and potentially provide coordinated input to Congress.

Additional discussion addressed a request from Congressman Valadao's office for priority transportation projects within Valley counties, which may relate to potential project solicitations for future federal legislation or member-designated project opportunities. Jen explained that Congress may be exploring ways to incorporate project lists into the next surface transportation authorization.

Overall, the discussion emphasized the importance of early engagement with federal lawmakers, coordinated regional messaging, and careful monitoring of the upcoming federal transportation reauthorization process, which could significantly influence funding opportunities for local transportation projects.

4. MCAG, Discussion: April 2026 Policy Council and Directors' Retreat

Georgiena Vivian



Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies and SJV Coordinator, provided an update on the planning for the upcoming regional retreat, noting that the draft program had already been circulated to directors and staff for review. She explained that two new topics had been added to the agenda in response to prior requests: high-speed rail and gas tax issues. The next step will be to organize the retreat planning process by forming a small subcommittee and identifying panelists for each session. Georgiena indicated that she and Carolina Ilic would facilitate the sessions and would begin compiling supporting materials and information for each discussion topic.

Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, suggested opening participation in the planning subcommittee to any directors interested in volunteering. Georgiena also noted that the goal would be for each member agency, including the Air District and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, to lead or contribute to one of the retreat sessions.

Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, recommended creating a spreadsheet outlining each session topic, the desired format, and available panel positions so directors could more easily volunteer and understand the structure of the discussions. He also suggested clarifying whether sessions would be presentations, moderated panels, or other formats to help guide participation.

Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, raised the possibility that the retreat sessions might be structured primarily for elected officials to lead the discussions, with directors participating from the audience rather than managing each session directly. Georgiena responded that the planning committee would evaluate how best to structure the sessions and determine appropriate roles for both directors and elected officials.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

The group agreed to form an initial planning subcommittee consisting of Stacie Guzman, MCAG; Robert Phipps, Fresno COG; and Ted Smalley, TCAG, with potential additional participation from other agencies, such as the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA). Stacie emphasized the importance of defining the purpose and expected outcomes of each session so that the retreat encourages meaningful dialogue among elected officials rather than simply delivering presentations. Georgiena concluded by noting that outcomes had already been identified at a preliminary level and would be refined through upcoming planning meetings. She will circulate a scheduling poll to begin organizing the committee's first meeting and continue developing the retreat agenda.

5. April 9 Joint CTC/CARB/HCD meeting

Vice Chair Phipps



Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, requested approval from the directors to represent the San Joaquin Valley at an upcoming joint meeting involving the California Transportation Commission (CTC), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) scheduled for April 9 in San Francisco. The meeting is intended to highlight the approximately twenty-year impact of SB 375, with presentations from several regions across California, including the major metropolitan areas, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and a rural region.

Robert explained that each region will have about seven minutes to present and that the Valley's presentation will likely focus on how SB 375 has influenced transportation investments over time. The approach would include a thematic overview comparing earlier regional transportation plans, such as those from 2006, with more recent plans, and highlight specific projects from each county. The presentation would also discuss the role of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding, particularly REAP 1, and how it helped Valley jurisdictions address housing and planning requirements related to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and housing element updates.

Robert indicated that the presentation would likely include one slide per county, along with brief introductory and closing slides, and would combine broader regional themes with project examples. He has already begun coordinating with regional staff through the modeling and programming staff group to gather information and develop the presentation. Draft bullet points are due the following week, and the final presentation must be submitted by March 27.

Directors confirmed that they supported Robert representing the Valley at the meeting. Staff from each county will provide bullet points and supporting materials, including project information and graphics, which Fresno COG will compile into a consistent presentation format before submission.

6. Committee Updates

a. **VLAC** – No update – First meeting set for March 12, 2026

Chair Guzman

Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, provided a brief update regarding the Valley Legislative Advisory Committee (VLAC). She noted that the committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting soon, likely on March 12, and that additional details would be confirmed by staff. The purpose of the upcoming meeting is to evaluate whether VLAC continues to serve a meaningful role and whether the committee is still needed within the current regional structure.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

Stacie explained that the discussion will focus on determining the potential value VLAC could provide moving forward, including whether it can contribute to the work of the broader committee and regional policy efforts. She indicated that the group would receive a more detailed report following the meeting to help guide future decisions regarding the committee's role and relevance.

b. SJV Swap Meet

Kayley Clay

Kayley Clay, KCAG, reported on the most recent programmers' meeting held in February. The primary focus of the meeting was discussing the toll credit issue and exploring strategies for how regional agencies will address the issue over the next three fiscal years. Because the discussion concluded quickly, the group also used the remaining time to review progress on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan and updates to the SCS, and emphasized the importance of providing modeling information to Alex Marcucci, Trinity Consultants, and the SJV Air Quality Contractor, in a timely manner.

Kayley noted that the next programmers' meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 24th of the month. She also indicated that she would send an email to gather the information needed for the upcoming joint meeting of the CTC, CARB, and State HCD, which will be compiled and provided to Robert Phipps for the regional presentation.

c. Housing and Land Use

Kim Anderson

Kim Anderson, SJCOG, reported no significant updates from the February 10 committee meeting. The committee continues to monitor RHNA, related matters, and relevant legislation, which have also been discussed in other forums. She noted that the next committee meeting is scheduled for March 10.

Kim also informed the group that the REAP 2 annual reporting requirements have resurfaced. Staff will be working to complete the REAP 2 annual progress reports, and the Department of Housing and Community Development is encouraging agencies to actively spend down their REAP 2 funding. She emphasized that it will be important for agencies to demonstrate through reporting that funds are being used and that they expect to fully expend the allocations by the end of the year.

Terri King, KCAG, described ongoing challenges with the REAP 2.0 program, explaining that KCAG has been experiencing repeated back-and-forth discussions with Department of Housing and Community Development staff regarding approval of its suballocation projects. Because the available funding is relatively small and must be divided among four jurisdictions, most projects focus on planning activities that support future housing development rather than on direct construction. One jurisdiction remains uncertain about proceeding with its project due to concerns that the funding could later be deemed ineligible and withdrawn. As a result, KCAG has not yet received any funds because approval of all suballocation projects is required before any funds are released.

Terri noted that the situation has created frustration and uncertainty, particularly as agencies fear their projects may not meet eligibility requirements despite earlier indications that they were acceptable. She explained that discussions have been held with legislative offices and HCD staff, who indicated they are concerned about potential scrutiny from the Department of Finance (DOF) regarding whether funds are being used appropriately.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

Kim responded that similar challenges have been experienced by other agencies working with REAP 2.0 and offered to speak with Terri offline to share lessons learned and strategies that have helped advance projects. She noted that productive progress has sometimes required meeting with the appropriate staff within HCD and emphasized that other regions have also had to navigate similar back-and-forth discussions.

Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, added that the difficulties may stem from increased scrutiny of how REAP funds are used, particularly with greater emphasis on projects that directly implement housing rather than on planning activities. He suggested elevating the issue to Paul McDougall at HCD, who has previously shown flexibility in addressing program challenges. Robert offered to help initiate that conversation to explore possible solutions and move the projects forward.

d. Travel Modelers Group

Rob Ball

Rob Ball, Kern COG, reported that an invitation had been sent out for the upcoming Travel Modelers Group meeting scheduled for the following Monday at 1:00 p.m., along with the meeting agenda. The meeting will include a roundtable discussion on the status of each region's technical methodologies and whether they have been submitted to CARB. He noted that these methodologies generally must be submitted to and approved by CARB before agencies release their RTPs for public review.

Rob also indicated that the meeting would include updates on the VisionEval and VTransform projects. The Travel Modelers Group will use the session to coordinate progress on these modeling efforts and share updates among participating agencies.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Caltrans Directors' Report

Michael Navarro, D6 &
Grace Magsayo, D10

Michael Navarro, Caltrans District 6 Director, provided a Caltrans District 6 update. He announced that District Director Danelle Twanzi is scheduled to appear before the California State Senate Rules Committee for a confirmation hearing on March 18 and invited partners to submit letters of support if interested. Michael also noted that Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant applications are still under review at Caltrans headquarters, with award announcements expected in May or, more likely, June.

Michael also reported that staff recommendations for the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) were recently released and will be presented at the upcoming CTC meeting. Key items include the State Route 99 North Carryover Project in Madera County and a carve-out in the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) to advance environmental work for a potential managed lane project along SR 99 through Kern and Madera counties. Because managed lane implementation locations have not yet been finalized and are not currently identified in RTPs, Caltrans will continue discussions with regional partners.

He also highlighted that District 6 received strong results from the Clean California Employment Pathway (CCEP) grant program, securing ten grants totaling approximately \$3.2 million. Michael provided updates on the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Cycle 8 call for projects, noting that applications are due May 18, and

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

awards are expected in mid-September. In addition, Caltrans is reviewing obligation plans submitted by MPOs by April 1 and offering support from local assistance staff for agencies coordinating with local partners.

He concluded with an update on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, explaining that Caltrans is currently conducting reevaluations under new federal standards following a recent ruling. Reevaluation notices have been sent to firms, and technical assistance is being provided, but Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal setting and counting toward contract goals have not yet resumed as the program transition continues.

During the discussion, Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, asked about the status of the SR 99 project in the STIP process. Michael responded that he had not heard significant concerns beyond questions about the project's benefit-cost analysis and offered to follow up with headquarters staff for additional information.

Grace Magsayo, Caltrans District 10 Director, then provided a Caltrans District 10 update. She announced that Caltrans has created a new Deputy Director for Transit and Rail Programs and has restored the Division of Mass Transportation to strengthen statewide focus on transit and rail services. She also noted that the department will soon release its first comprehensive director's policy on transit. Finally, she congratulated the cities of Modesto and Stockton for receiving Clean California Employment Pathway grants totaling approximately \$1.3 million.

8. California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)

Augie Blancas, CHSRA

Augie Blancas, CHSRA, provided a brief update on high-speed rail activities. He announced that the Draft 2026 Business Plan has been released and is currently available for public review during a 60-day comment period. The draft plan can be accessed on the agency's website. Augie also reported that construction of the Cedar-Travis grade separation project in downtown Fresno is nearing completion and is expected to open to traffic soon. Following this milestone, additional construction activities will require closures along Herndon Avenue and Fresno Street in Fresno.

Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, noted that high-speed rail was discussed during several meetings in Sacramento as part of the Valley Voice advocacy effort. She emphasized that Valley leaders expressed support for ensuring that the CHSRA maintains strong communication and responsiveness with all San Joaquin Valley counties. Stacie acknowledged that communication with the Authority has improved in Merced, but noted that other areas, particularly Kern County and portions of the southern Valley, have not experienced the same level of engagement. She encouraged Augie to share this feedback internally so that improved communication and coordination can occur consistently across the entire Valley.

9. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail

Ahdel Ahmed

An update was not provided.

10. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Mark Montelongo

An update was not provided.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

11. Miocar Car Sharing

Michael Sigala

An update was not provided.

OTHER ITEMS

12. Future Agendas / Items:

Georgiena Vivian

- a. ***Executive Committee – March 27, 2026***
- b. ***Directors' Committee – April 2, 2026***
- c. ***Policy Council – April 24, 2026***
- d. ***Directors' Committee – May 7, 2026 – Approve OWP***
- e. ***Executive Committee – May 22, 2026 – Approve OWP***
- f. ***Directors' Committee – June 4, 2026***
- g. ***Policy Council – June 26, 2026 – Approve OWP***

Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies and SJV Coordinator, reviewed upcoming meeting dates and summarized items planned for the Executive Committee agenda. Members were invited to suggest any additional items before the agenda was finalized and distributed.

13. Director Items

Chair

Kate Miller, StanCOG, informed the group that the policy board will appoint a new executive director at its March 18 meeting. Amber Collins will assume the role, and Kate indicated that most group members are likely already familiar with her. Kate explained that she will remain with the organization for a transitional period, helping support the agency in the absence of several senior technical staff members. During this time, she expects to assist with finance and planning responsibilities.

Kate thanked the group for their support during her tenure and noted that, while she had limited opportunities to engage fully with the committee due to time constraints, she appreciated the collaboration and assistance. She also mentioned that she would share her contact information and indicated she may still be available to help agencies with temporary staffing needs.

Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, thanked Kate for her contributions and acknowledged the work she has done to help stabilize StanCOG. Stacie also noted that many members of the group are familiar with Amber Collins and expressed optimism about working with her moving forward.

Kate also mentioned that she had shared a link in the meeting chat to a one-page summary of the BASICS Act, prepared by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), for anyone interested in reviewing it.

14. Public presentations for items not on the agenda.

No public comment was provided.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

15. Directors' Only Session – *Scheduled*

A Directors' Only Session was conducted.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director Agency	Yes	No	Director Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephan Sanchez Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgiena Vivian SJV Coordinator VRPA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Ball Kern COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carolina Ilic VRPA Technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kayley Clay KCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dena Graham VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Vivian VRPA Technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri Khouri Consulting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Weiss Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Giuliani TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jen Covino Covino, Smith & Simon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aime Kane TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Gellman Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kasia Poleszczuk TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aly Hernandez Covino, Smith & Simon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Herman Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci Trinity Consultants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<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"/>	Mykia Byrd Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Rincon Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Santosh Bhattarai Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alec Kimmel Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa MCTC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rui Ma MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natalia Castillo Deleon Caltrans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala Sigala, Inc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yvette Davis SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Corrales SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blake Dunford SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt SJJPA			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt SJJPA			

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Planning Agencies 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.

AGENDA ITEM C.2.

***EPA Approval of Pending Time-sensitive San Joaquin Valley State
Implementation Plan (SIP) Actions***

Summary

The San Joaquin Valley (Valley) has submitted numerous State Implementation Plans (SIPs) under the Clean Air Act to address ozone and PM2.5 standards. Valley emissions under District jurisdiction have been reduced by over 90%, and the region continues to work towards continued air quality progress. EPA has not yet taken action on several key, time-sensitive SIP submissions further complicated by recent litigation against EPA and recent state and federal actions concerning CARB mobile source measures. The Valley faces impending permitting sanctions, transportation funding sanctions, and potential loss of local control in the absence of timely action by EPA of Valley SIP submissions.

Background – 2024 PM2.5 Plan

- SJV (District/CARB) submitted a PM2.5 plan for 2012 PM2.5 standard with an extension request in 2024 (extended attainment date from 2025 to 2030).
- EPA has not acted on the plan or the 5-year extension within required 18-month.
- The five-year extension was and is still needed, Valley meets extension criteria under Clean Air Act.
- Pending lawsuit to require EPA to make attainment finding and trigger 189(d) 5% Plan.
- If extension not approved: 1) 5% plan would be required within very short timeframe, and 2) 5% plan would require an annual 5% reduction of PM2.5 or precursors (NOx) until attainment. This plan would be extremely difficult to impossible to develop.
- *Action: Granting extension provides regulatory certainty to Valley stakeholders while allowing time to implement local/state/federal strategies. Avoids devastating sanctions and consequences under CAA.*

Background – 2022 Ozone Plan

- SJV (District/CARB) submitted ozone plan in 2022 for the 2015 ozone standard.
- EPA has not acted on the plan within the required 18-months.
- CARB to update ozone plan to address mobile source measures (CRA actions, withdrawn measures).
- Law suit requires EPA to take final action on current or revised plan by 7/17/2026.
- CARB is currently developing a 182(e)(5) Plan (“black box” plan) for SJV and South Coast to reflect mobile source measure actions and defer emission reductions to later date (allowed under CAA).
- Conformity/Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget issues still need to be addressed.
- *Action: Approving plan revision provides regulatory certainty to Valley stakeholders while allowing time to implement local/state/federal strategies. Avoids devastating consequences under CAA.*

Background – Rules Pending EPA Action

- Locally-developed and adopted District rules have been with the EPA pending action for 3 to 4 years.
- Pending rules are important components of Valley’s PM2.5 and ozone plans.
- *Action: Approving District rules is critical to providing regulatory certainty and ensure emissions reductions are achieved for Valley residents. Avoids devastating consequences under CAA.*

Consequences of Inaction or Disapproval by EPA

- Regulatory uncertainty and extremely difficult (potentially impossible) planning requirements given maturity of existing programs
- Disapproval results in transportation conformity freeze (no new projects with some exceptions).
- CAA section 179 sanctions:
 - 18 months – Significant permitting impacts through 2:1 offsets for major sources
 - 24 months – Loss of up to \$4.6 billion in federal highway funding
 - Loss of local control through EPA-developed “Federal Implementation Plan”

Recommendations for San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

- Support EPA approval of the 5-Year Extension Request for the 2024 PM2.5 Plan.
- Support EPA approval of revised plan for the 2015 Ozone Standard.
- Support EPA approval of pending District rules.