

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 7, 2026
10:00 am

Location:

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83198616003?pwd=UEJhPIZcwrp4EBbnn65MAI3Kup6jQS.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 831 9861 6003

Passcode: 351440

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. April 2, 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 & Alex Marcucci</i>	
2. SJV Air Quality and State Implementation Plan (SIP) Update	<i>Samir Sheikh</i>	

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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). Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026	Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian	
4. Discussion: Recap – April 30/May 1, 2026, Policy Council and Directors' Retreat - What worked? What can we do differently? Follow-up Items	Georgiena Vivian	
5. Caltrans Request for Signatories to Revised Final Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles Documents	Patricia Taylor	Yes
6. ACTION: SJVCOG Draft FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP) - Recommend Approval to Executive Committee	Georgiena Vivian	Yes
7. Committee Updates		
<i>a. SJV Swap Meet</i>	<i>Kayley Clay</i>	
<i>b. Housing and Land Use</i>	<i>Kim Anderson</i>	
<i>c. 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. Executive Committee – May 22, 2026 – Recommend Approval of FY 2026/27 OWP</i>		
<i>b. Directors' Committee – June 4, 2026</i>		
<i>c. Policy Council – June 26, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i>		
<i>d. July 2, 2026 – Directors' Committee Meeting</i>		
<i>e. July 17, 2026 – Executive Committee Meeting (Tentative)</i>		
	Georgiena Vivian	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. July 31, 2026 – Policy Council Meeting – Pre Valley Voice Meeting (Tentative) g. August 6, 2026 – Directors’ Committee Meeting h. August 21, 2026 - Policy Council Meeting – Pre Valley Voice Meeting (Tentative) i. September 3, 2026 - Directors’ Committee Meeting j. Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip – September 15-16, 2026 		
ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
E. DIRECTOR ITEMS	Chair Guzman	
F. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Chair Guzman	
<p><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></p>		
G. ADJOURN MEETING	Chair Guzman	
H. NEXT DIRECTORS’ MEETING: Thursday, June 4, 2026.		
I. DIRECTORS’ ONLY SESSION – <i>Not Scheduled</i>		

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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 KACG	<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"/>	Samer Shaath, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mykia Byrd Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Haagenson Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Rincon Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Santosh Bhattarai Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natalia Castillo Deleon Caltrans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yvette Davis SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai LSA
<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"/>	

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AGENDA ITEM 1

April 2, 2026 Directors' Committee

Meeting Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



Meeting Minutes

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman Chair MCAG	<input 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"/>	Amber Collins StanCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schlosser Kern COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen SJCOG (K. Anderson)
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmed SJJPA

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Guzman	
Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, welcomed and introduced Amber Collins, the new Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG). Stacie provided Amber context on the group's structure, including the Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian; the Regional Policy Council; and federal and state legislative advocates Jen Covino with Covino, Smith and Simon, and Gus Khouri with Khouri Consulting. The meeting provided Amber with an opportunity to meet her fellow directors and understand the group's role across the Valley.		
B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
1. March 5, 2026, Directors' Meeting	Chair Guzman	Yes
Director Ted Smalley, TCAG, made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Member Jay Schlosser, Kern COG. The motion passed.		

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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>	
<p>Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, reported on ongoing discussions with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding SB 375 challenges, including a request for a more qualitative review process and concerns about vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and induced demand calculations. The group discussed conformity issues, with Ryan explaining that while most Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are passing, two have significant gaps. The team is compiling current modeling data to determine whether a valley-wide pooled ozone budget solution is needed. The group confirmed that adoption timelines remain targeted for August-September, with May as the deadline for CARB to finalize budget adjustments for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval. Stacie emphasized the critical importance of promptly responding to all conformity-related communications.</p>		
2. EPA Approval of Pending Time-sensitive San Joaquin Valley State Implementation Plan (SIP) Actions	<i>Samir Sheikh</i>	Yes
The Air District representatives were absent during the meeting, so the item was postponed until a later date.		
3. Legislative Updates		
<i>a. State</i>		
1). State Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	
<p>Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, State Legislative Advocate, provided updates on the state budget and legislative activities. He noted that while there was initially an \$18 billion deficit, recent projections suggest a potential surplus due to higher-than-expected capital gains revenues. Gus highlighted concerns about declining revenues from Cap-and-Trade auctions affecting programs like the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Competitive, which saw a 40% drop in funding. He also mentioned the governor's proposal to redirect the diesel excise tax toward cleaner aviation fuels, which opponents argue could negatively affect other infrastructure projects. Gus concluded by mentioning ongoing monitoring of several bills, including Assemblymember Buffy Wicks' proposal to prioritize active transportation projects, which he recommended opposing due to concerns about reduced funding for other essential projects.</p> <p>Mitch Weiss, Khouri Consulting, provided a summary of the bill shifts, including the transfer of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) approval from CARB to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), the change from a 4-year to an 8-year cycle, and the definition of a public process for setting targets. Gus expressed concerns about the bill's impact on planning efforts and funding, particularly regarding the inclusion of all on-road transportation sectors and the potential undermining of previous qualifications for programs like the congested corridors program. Mitch mentioned that the bill would be discussed the following week and that he would revise his draft letter to address the newly amended legislation.</p> <p>Bill Higgins of CalCOG explained his position on the Big Four's language proposal, noting that while he supports some aspects, such as the 8-year SCS and combining the Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) into an SCS, he has concerns that warrant attention. He plans to recommend to his board a supportive position for the first house, with the possibility of revisiting it if changes are not made. Bill also mentioned that the Big Four are working on a proposal for a more permanent funding source, with all fourteen entities receiving population-share allocations. The group discussed opposition to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Active Transportation Plan (ATP) issue, with Bill indicating they would likely take a similar position.</p>		

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<p>The group discussed a legislative bill that would transfer certain responsibilities from CARB to CTC, including the public process for goal setting and the 8-year SES requirements. While concerns were raised about corridor plans and funding implications, the participants agreed to take a supportive position and continue reviewing details. Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, Ted Smalley, TCAG, and Gus were tasked with further analyzing the bill's details and reporting back to the group, with plans to potentially provide testimony at an upcoming hearing.</p>		
<p><i>b. Federal</i></p>		
<p>1). Federal Legislative Update</p>	<p>Jen Covino</p>	
<p>Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, provided updates on congressional activities during the spring recess, noting that House members are publishing project selections while Senate members are still preparing theirs. Jen also mentioned that House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (TNI) Chairman Sam Graves plans to retire but remains committed to passing a surface transportation reauthorization bill by the end of the year, and she highlighted upcoming grant opportunities from DOT, including the Safe Streets and Roads for All program and the Port Infrastructure Development Program.</p> <p>At the federal level, uncertainty remains regarding the timing and structure of the next transportation authorization. While the current Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is set to expire at the end of the federal fiscal year, Congress is expected to pass a short-term extension, with the potential for a full reauthorization either during the post-election “lame duck” session or in the next Congress. Leadership dynamics, particularly the planned retirement of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves, may accelerate efforts to finalize a bill within the current calendar year.</p> <p>A key policy focus is increasing funding through mandatory suballocations to local and regional agencies to address concerns that state-level funding is currently constrained. There is growing bipartisan receptiveness to this approach; however, a central challenge will be developing a financial framework that maintains state funding levels while expanding local allocations. Discussions also emphasized the importance of achieving a higher overall funding level (potentially exceeding \$550 billion) and indexing funding to inflation.</p> <p>The session also identified near-term federal funding opportunities, including programs such as Safe Streets and Roads for All, the Port Infrastructure Development Program, and upcoming rail-related grants [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) and Railroad Crossing Elimination]. These opportunities reinforce the need for the Valley to maintain strong project readiness and coordinated regional positioning.</p>		
<p>2). “BASICS” ACT – H.R. 7437</p>	<p>Jen Covino</p>	
<p>Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, outlined current efforts to advance the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act (H.R. 7437), which seeks to increase direct formula funding to local governments, including cities, counties, and MPOs. The Valley’s collective support and rapid response in securing signatures for a joint advocacy letter were noted as critical to strengthening its influence in Washington, D.C. Jen noted the need for digital signatures by April 10th, with plans to distribute the letter when Congress returns on April 13th.</p>		
<p>3). Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026</p>	<p>Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian</p>	
<p>Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, provided a brief update on planning progress for the upcoming event. She noted that restaurant reservations have been secured, and a hotel booking link has been distributed to attendees, with a recommendation that they reserve rooms as soon as possible. A calendar</p>		

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invitation for the event has also been circulated. Next steps include compiling attendee information and forwarding it to the appropriate contact to finalize coordination.

4. April 2026 Policy Council and Directors' Retreat	Georgiena Vivian	
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Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, provided an update on the logistics and program development for the upcoming retreat. The event will be held at the El Capitan Hotel on April 30 and May 1, with sessions scheduled across both days. Program development is ongoing, with continued coordination between Georgiena and the Retreat Subcommittee to ensure alignment with the retreat's goals. Input from Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, and others is being incorporated, and a finalized program is expected to be distributed within the next week to allow presenters adequate time to prepare.

Attendees were reminded that hotel reservation links have been sent and were encouraged to book accommodations promptly due to limited capacity. The retreat is intentionally constrained to a maximum of 32 participants across approximately 10 agencies, requiring careful coordination of attendance.

5. April 9 Joint CTC/CARB/HCD meeting	Vice Chair Phipps	
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Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, provided an update on preparations for the upcoming joint meeting with the CTC, CARB, and California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Valley agencies have contributed slides to a consolidated PowerPoint presentation, which will be delivered under a tight timeline and limited to approximately seven minutes. The presentation is intended to highlight regional accomplishments tied to SB 375 and the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program.

Due to timing constraints, not all submitted materials could be incorporated; however, examples from each agency were included where possible. The presentation will emphasize key achievements, including progress toward meeting sixth-cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) housing requirements and a continued shift toward transit and ATP investments, as reflected in recent programming decisions.

Following the update, Bill Higgins, CalCOG, requested that agencies share additional REAP success stories, including those related to housing, homelessness, senior housing, and related initiatives, to support ongoing and future funding opportunities. He noted the importance of having strong examples ready, particularly given potential state budget conditions and a proposed funding bill that could expand REAP resources. Robert confirmed he would follow up on the requested materials.

6. Committee Updates		
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a. VLAC	Chair Guzman Meg Prince	
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Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, provided a brief update on a recent committee discussion about the future role and structure of the Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC). Meg Prince provided a summary of the meeting, noting that participants generally agreed there is value in enhancing legislative support functions—particularly to help staff stay informed and reduce the burden on directors of tracking and analyzing legislation.

The discussion explored potential directions for VLAC, including returning to a more traditional, proactive role focused on legislative engagement and considering a more targeted, issue-specific approach, such as existing models for air quality coordination. Overall, the conversation surfaced with a range of possible structures and functions, indicating the need for further evaluation. Given time constraints and the complexity of the topic, Stacie recommended deferring a more in-depth discussion to a future directors-only session. There was general agreement with this approach, and no concerns were raised.

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<i>b. SJV Swap Meet</i>	<i>Kayley Clay</i>	
<p>Kayley Clay, KCAG, provided a brief update on a recent interagency coordination meeting regarding ongoing activities under the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Federal Transportation Improvements Program (FTIP). The discussion focused on sharing status updates on each agency's RTP and 2027 FTIP processes, as well as a high-level review of previously raised common concerns and challenges.</p> <p>The group also addressed technical questions about how agencies are approaching the 2027 FTIP and continued discussions on the use and implications of toll credits, building on prior Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA)-level conversations. The meeting was relatively brief and primarily informational. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.</p>		
<i>c. Housing and Land Use</i>	<i>Kim Anderson</i>	
<p>Kim Anderson, SJCOG, provided a brief update following the Committee's recent meeting, highlighting key items related to the REAP program. She noted that HCD has issued two separate requests to agencies: one seeking updates on current and anticipated REAP expenditures, and another tied to required annual reporting, which was due the previous day.</p> <p>HCD is actively monitoring both spending progress and project reporting, and agencies may receive follow-up inquiries for additional information. These efforts reflect a broader push to ensure all REAP-funded activities are completed and properly documented by year's end.</p> <p>The Committee meeting itself was relatively brief, and the next meeting is anticipated to occur later in the month, with the exact date to be confirmed and shared.</p>		
<i>d. Travel Modelers Group</i>	<i>Rob Ball</i>	
<p>Rob Ball, Kern COG, provided an update on upcoming coordination efforts related to regional modeling activities. While the next formal meeting remains scheduled for June 8, an interim "huddle" meeting has been organized for April 13 at 1:30 p.m. This session will bring together modelers and consultants across agencies to share approaches, tools, and strategies for demonstrating transportation conformity and meeting SCS targets. Agencies were encouraged to ensure their modeling teams participate.</p> <p>Additionally, feedback is being sought on the VTransform project's methodologies for distributing projects across the region. One leading approach under consideration is to allocate projects proportionally by lane miles within each jurisdiction or county. Agencies are encouraged to provide input on this methodology.</p>		
<p>D. INFORMATION ITEMS</p>		
<p><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></p>		
<p>1. Caltrans Directors' Report</p>	<p>Michael Navarro, D6 Grace Magsayo, D10</p>	
<p>The District 10 Director was not in attendance.</p> <p>Braden Duran, Caltrans, District 6, provided a brief update on behalf of District 6 Director Michael Navarro, beginning with the introduction of Philip Vallejo, who has recently assumed the role of Planning Deputy.</p>		

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Key updates included the opening of several state funding program cycles, including Senate Bill (SB) 1 programs, the ATP, and TIRCP, all of which are currently in or entering application periods. Agencies were encouraged to coordinate with Caltrans staff for assistance with these programs.

Braden also noted the CTC's recent adoption of the 2026 STIP, expressing appreciation for regional partnerships and collaboration that contributed to the successful programming of both regional and interregional projects.

Additionally, an organizational update was shared regarding the establishment of a new Division of Mass Transit within Caltrans Planning Headquarters. This new division will focus on advancing transit initiatives, implementing statewide transit policies, and guiding development of the statewide transit plan. Further updates will be provided as the division becomes more established.

2. California High-Speed Rail	Augie Blancas, CHSRA	
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Augie Blancas, CHSRA, provided an update on the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) Draft 2026 Business Plan, noting that it remains available for public comment through April 29. Agencies and stakeholders were encouraged to review the document and provide input. Opportunities for briefings to walk through the plan in more detail have also been offered, with invitations previously distributed via email.

Vice Chair Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, added that supporting technical documents have also been released, emphasizing their importance as the analytical foundation of the Business Plan and encouraging agencies to review them for additional insights.

3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail	Ahdel Ahmed	
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Ahdel Ahmed, SJJPA, provided a brief update on Valley Rail activities. The project rephasing effort has been completed and is currently being presented to agency boards, with an additional update scheduled for the stations committee later in the week.

The new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has begun outreach to MPOs, with plans to expand engagement across the region to discuss timelines and next steps. Near-term implementation efforts will be focused primarily north of Stockton, specifically in the Natomas, Sacramento, and Elk Grove areas, due to funding availability and project timing.

Ahdel noted that additional updates and coordination opportunities will be provided both in group settings and individually in the coming weeks. It was also mentioned that participation is planned in the upcoming One Voice advocacy trip in early May.

4. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Mark Montelongo	
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No discussion. Air District representatives were not present.

5. Miocar Car Sharing	Michael Sigala	
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No discussion. The item representative was not present.

<p>6. Future Meetings/Agenda Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Policy Council – April 24, 2026</i> b. <i>SJV Retreat – April 30 - May 1, 2026 (Merced)</i> c. <i>Directors' Committee – May 7, 2026 – Approve 2026/27 OWP</i> d. <i>Executive Committee – May 22, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i> 	Georgiena Vivian	
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<p>e. <i>Directors' Committee – June 4, 2026</i> f. <i>Policy Council – June 26, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i> g. <i>Valley Voice Washington D.C. – September 15-16, 2026</i></p>		
<p>Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, briefly referred to the list of upcoming meetings.</p>		
ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
<p>E. DIRECTOR ITEMS</p>	<p>Chair Guzman</p>	
<p>No comments were provided.</p>		
<p>F. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA</p>	<p>Chair Guzman</p>	
<p><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></p>		
<p>No one from the public provided any comment.</p>		
<p>G. ADJOURN MEETING</p>	<p>Chair Guzman</p>	
<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.</p>		
<p>H. NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING: Thursday, May 7, 2026.</p>		
<p>I. DIRECTORS' ONLY SESSION – <i>Scheduled</i></p>		

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OTHER ATTENDEES:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Kimball TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Vivian VRPA Technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gus Khouri Khouri Consulting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roberto Brady TCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mykia Byrd Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harpreet Binning Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Haagenson Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Rincon Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Santosh Bhattarai Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phillip Vallejo Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylan Stone MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Findley MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa MCTC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	Gregoria Ponce Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sylvia Dayak, Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva StanCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana StanCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta StanCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai LSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Corrales SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blake Dunford SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan Leavitt SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hanebutt SJJPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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AGENDA ITEM C.5.

***Caltrans Request for Signatories to Revised Final Federal Surface
Transportation Reauthorization Principles Documents***

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-49 | SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
(916) 654-6130 | FAX (916) 653-5776 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



May 5, 2026

NICOLE LONGORIA
FEDERAL LIAISON
1120 N STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Dear Valued Transportation Stakeholder:

On November 15, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law, providing historic investments in our nation's core infrastructure priorities—including roads and bridges, rail, transit, safety, ports and waterways, airports, clean energy and power, resiliency, and broadband. The IIJA expires on September 30, 2026, and California's transportation agencies have been working hard to prepare for the next surface transportation bill. **We are requesting your organization's support to sign the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA's) consensus principles for surface transportation reauthorization by July 31, 2026. The final Consensus Principles Document and signatory portal are located [here](#).**

In January 2025, Caltrans and CalSTA convened the California Federal Affairs Working Group and held more than ten sub-working group meetings with over 1,000 participants, ensuring broad and diverse representation from state and local stakeholders. At the conclusion of these meetings in December 2025, Caltrans and CalSTA developed a set of consensus-based principles, entitled the "California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles," based on ongoing federal advocacy, feedback from the surveys, discussions held by the working group, and conversations from Congressional and stakeholder meetings held throughout 2024 and 2025.

The California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles document outlines California's key federal transportation priorities, informed by extensive stakeholder input, emphasizing safety, stable funding, innovation, and alignment with national economic and mobility goals. This document is intended to serve as the foundation of a broad coalition of transportation stakeholders, advance values-based policy priorities, and clearly communicate the need to enact those priorities to federal policymakers and the public.

Congress has historically enacted legislation that authorizes multi-year federal surface transportation programs—typically for a 5- to 6- year period. Core funding for these programs comes from the federal Highway Trust Fund, which is supported by federal gas taxes and other similar revenue streams, and this funding is usually held outside of other annual federal spending negotiations.

Valued Transportation Stakeholder

May 5, 2026

Page 2

It is essential that Congress pass timely legislation to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs that sustain California's role as a national and global economic leader. Sustainable federal funding—when combined with State and Local funds—provides the long-term certainty necessary to carry out projects that modernize transportation infrastructure, strengthen supply chains, support workforce growth, and advance innovation.

Continued federal investments ensure California can move people and goods efficiently, while keeping the State competitive in global markets and driving economic growth that benefits the entire nation. We appreciate your support and involvement in these critical discussions and hope that you will partner with us to support the state's vision for transportation—whoever you are, wherever you live, every person has access to a safe, sustainable and convenient transportation system throughout California.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue and Caltrans appreciates your continued support of the state-based surface transportation program. For more information on the reauthorization process and background on the working group, please visit the Building California website at <https://build.ca.gov/caltrans>. If you would like to coordinate further with Caltrans and CalSTA on federal surface transportation advocacy efforts, please contact Caltrans' Office of the Federal Liaison at federal-liaison@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicole Longoria

NICOLE LONGORIA

Caltrans

Federal Liaison

ENCLOSURE:

*California Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles (April 2026,
Revised Final)*

AGENDA ITEM C.6.

SJVCOG Draft FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP)

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL



DRAFT

OVERALL WORK PROGRAM FY 2026-27



Kern Council
of Governments



Kings County Association of Governments



StanCOG
Stanislaus Council of Governments



MCTC
Madera County Transportation Commission



TCAG
Tulare County Association of Governments



Fresno Council
of Governments



MCAG
MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



San Joaquin
Joint Powers Authority

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Members and Staff, July 2026

Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

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

Mayor, Matthew Serratto, City of Merced

Alternate: Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County

***STAFF: Stacie Guzman, Executive Director,
Chair, Directors' Committee***



Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)

Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier

Councilmember Gary Yep, City of Kerman

Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Bill Nijjer, City of Kerman

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



Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)

Supervisor David Couch, Kern County

Mayor Saul Ayon, City of McFarland

Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Cathy Prout, City of Shafter

STAFF: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director



Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)

Mayor Alvaro Preciado, City of Avenal

Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County

Alternate: Mayor Patricia Matthews, City of Lemoore

STAFF: Terri King, Executive Director



Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)

Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County
Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera
Alternate: Councilmember Waseem Ahmed, City of Chowchilla
STAFF: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director



San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJ COG)

Mayor Gary Singh, City of Manteca
Supervisor Robert Rickman, San Joaquin County
STAFF: Diane Nguyen, Executive Director



San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJPA)

Ahdel Ahmed, Public Relations Manager



San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
Alternate: Mark Montelongo, Director, Policy, and Government Affairs



Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)

Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County - **VICE CHAIR, POLICY COUNCIL**
Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton, City of Modesto
Alternate: Supervisor Buck Condit, County of Stanislaus
STAFF: Amber Collins, Executive Director



Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)

Mayor Rudy Mendoza, City of Woodlake
Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County
Alternate: Councilmember Linda Launer, City of Dinuba
STAFF: Ted Smalley, Executive Director



Introduction

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

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

The FY 2026-2027 Valleywide Overall Work Program (OWP) is a summary document that details major coordinated activities in which all eight regional planning agencies, along with the Air District and SJJPA, are actively engaged. The Valleywide OWP does not replace the need for each RPA to conduct its own OWP; instead, it is a planning and budgeting tool for shared Valleywide activities.

This updated Overall Work Program (OWP) incorporates outcomes of the Regional Policy Council and Directors' Committee Retreat held on April 30-May 1, 2026. The Retreat addressed several critical challenges facing the San Joaquin Valley, and these important topics have now been included in this OWP. This addition aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the ongoing issues and needs that the Regional Policy Council (RPC) and the Directors' Committee will need to evaluate, discuss, and address in the forthcoming year and beyond. The revisions ensure that the OWP remains relevant and responsive to the region's evolving priorities and challenges.

The detailed lists of activities outlined for each issue are extensive and cover a broad range of tasks. It will be essential to carefully review these activities and assign responsibilities accordingly, taking into account the available budget. This process will ensure that each task is effectively managed and adequately funded.

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

Valleywide Vision, Goals, and Priorities

VISION STATEMENT

Successfully advocate to secure sustainable funding and reduce regulatory barriers to deliver a connected, resilient transportation system that improves mobility, strengthens the economy, and enhances quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley.

The following supportive goals and priorities are in order of priority based on review and input from the Regional Policy Council and Directors at the 2026 Retreat.

Goal 1: Funding Strategy and Innovation

Position the Valley to compete for and secure sustainable funding through coordinated strategies, shared priorities, and innovative approaches.

- **Priorities**
 - Create a Valleywide funding strategy roadmap
 - Coordinate multi-agency grant pursuits
 - Explore innovative funding mechanisms
 - Share best practices and funding intelligence

Goal 2: Regional Coordination of Multimodal Systems

Facilitate alignment across member agencies to advance a connected and efficient multimodal transportation system.

- **Priorities**
 - Develop a shared multimodal system vision (SR 99 and beyond)
 - Align priority corridor strategies
 - Coordinate passenger rail and transit integration
 - Promote complete system connectivity messaging

Goal 3: Valleywide Leadership and Unified Advocacy

Establish and advance a coordinated “One Voice” approach to influence state and federal policy, secure funding, and elevate Valley priorities.

- **Priorities**
 - Adopt a Valleywide Legislative Platform
 - Align Valley Voice messaging and priorities
 - Establish rapid response advocacy capability
 - Coordinate agency positions before major decisions
 - Position the Valley as a statewide/national leader

Goal 4: Economic Competitiveness Through Strategic Coordination

Support regional goods movement and infrastructure priorities by aligning planning, funding strategies, and advocacy efforts.

- **Priorities**

- Advance freight and logistics strategies
- Support inland port and goods movement initiatives
- Align transportation and economic development priorities
- Advocate for the Valley's share of statewide/national funding

Goal 5: Organizational Effectiveness and Collaboration

Strengthen coordination, communication, and decision-making across member agencies to improve regional effectiveness and outcomes.

- **Priorities**

- Define “what we do together vs individually”
- Improve meeting structure and outcomes
- Strengthen Director and RPC alignment
- Enhance internal and external communication

Goal 6: Air Quality and Regulatory Coordination

Provide Valleywide leadership on air quality planning, conformity, and regulatory strategy to minimize risks to project delivery.

- **Priorities**

- Maintain Valleywide conformity strategy
- Coordinate CARB/SJVAPCD engagement
- Develop regulatory risk mitigation strategies
- Align SCS and air quality planning approaches

Current Valleywide Major Activities

1. VALLEYWIDE PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING STRATEGY

Objective: To establish a clear, coordinated, and outcome-driven framework for identifying, prioritizing, and advancing regionally significant transportation projects for state and federal funding.

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Directors' Committee

Building on successful regional collaboration efforts, the Valley RPAs will implement a structured approach to project prioritization and funding advocacy that emphasizes project readiness, regional benefit, and unified messaging. This effort will ensure that the San Joaquin Valley presents a focused and competitive set of priorities in an increasingly constrained and competitive funding environment.

Activities for FY 2026–27:

- Develop, maintain, and publicize a Valleywide Priority Project List consisting of a limited number of high-impact, regionally significant projects.
- The project prioritization criteria should include factors such as project readiness, funding competitiveness, and timing, as well as the regional economic benefits, goods movement, and improvements in air quality.
- Maintain the priority list as a “living document,” updated regularly as projects advance or new opportunities emerge.
- Promote a “Valley Voice” advocacy approach, where Valley agencies collectively support a focused set of priority projects for each funding cycle.
- Encourage cross-county ownership of projects, reinforcing that regionally significant projects benefit the entire Valley regardless of location.
- Align project advocacy with specific state and federal funding program requirements and timelines.
- Develop clear and consistent messaging that communicates the regional benefits of priority projects, including economic development, goods movement efficiency, safety, and air quality improvements.
- Coordinate closely with Caltrans, CTC, and federal agencies to position Valley projects for success.

2. MAJOR HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES

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

Lead: Kern COG, MCAG, TCAG, MCTC

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

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

Additionally, Caltrans initiated the State Route 99 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) to identify a broad range of multimodal opportunities for improving and enhancing the SR 99 corridor and for developing a stakeholder-shared vision and implementation plan for the corridor that aligns with state goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and passenger vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and increase freight reliability and throughput for inclusive economic development. The CMCP is a prerequisite for additional state funding for SR 99 capital projects. The final CMCP was published by Caltrans in November 2025.

Activities for FY 2026-2027:

- Continue to advocate for completing the SR 99 system, with at least six lanes of travel throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including non-single occupant vehicle (SOV) and truck lanes, which the CMCP is considering.
- The regional agencies, Caltrans, and other affected agencies will continue to improve, develop, and implement the initiatives and programs suggested in the SR 99 CMCP. Caltrans will maintain communication with stakeholders, including representatives from regional and local agencies, industry, tribal organizations, and corridor residents, to assist in refining recommended strategies as they move from planning to implementation. Participate in and lead discussions with the Regional Policy Council, the California Transportation Commission, legislators, and others on the importance of identifying and prioritizing state and federal funding for all significant Valley projects.
- Continue to seek federal and state funding for major highway and interstate projects and coordinate pre-construction activities when feasible to ensure project readiness. Federal infrastructure funding programs, including the State Trade Corridor Enhancement Program

(TCEP), the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), and the STIP, are major SB1 funding sources to be targeted.

- Work closely with Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 to identify the most congested highway segments for eligibility in the TCEP and the SCCP or SB 1 funding. Continue to refine and prioritize regionally significant projects through a methodical and mutually agreed-upon evaluation process.
- Outline policies for converting temporary lanes to permanent lanes when feasible. Kern COG will coordinate with Caltrans District 6, and MCAG will coordinate with District 10 on opportunities for additional programming.
- Combine State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funding to address rehabilitation and expansion of the SR 99 segments that need to be widened.
- Consider funding for truck-only and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes along SR 99.
- Continue to review findings of the 2025 Rural Induced Demand Study, funded by Caltrans (<https://www.nctc.ca.gov/Reports/RCTF-Rural-Induced-Demand-Study/index.html>), which was conducted to determine impacts in predominantly rural areas.
- Coordinate with the Directors' Committee to ensure SR 99 and other major corridor projects are incorporated into the Valleywide Priority Project List and aligned with the regional prioritization framework.
- Emphasize project readiness and phased delivery strategies to position corridor projects for near-term funding opportunities.
- Support a focused set of priority corridor investments rather than broad lists of projects to improve competitiveness for discretionary funding programs.

3. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY INTERREGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT

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

Lead: Fresno COG, TCAG, and Kern COG

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

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

Activities for FY 2026-27:

- Continue to coordinate project prioritization for RAISE, SB1, and other federal and state funding for goods movement, particularly for State Route 99.
- Participate and provide input to California's Freight Mobility Plan and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).
- Continue to collaborate with regional partners on logistics and economic development initiatives, enhancing goods movement planning and implementation efforts.
- Continue to identify multimodal strategies to complement and support the movement of goods in the Valley.
- Continue to fund and participate in inland port concepts for the Valley, including the now TradePort California and the Castle Commerce Center.
- Continue to explore alternative fuels and technology strategies for meeting California's Sustainable Freight mandates.
- Align goods movement projects with the Valleywide Priority Project List and regional funding themes, including economic development and freight efficiency.
- Develop and promote a unified regional goods movement narrative to strengthen competitiveness for state and federal freight funding programs.
- Prioritize projects that demonstrate multi-county benefits and system-level improvements.

4. AIR QUALITY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activities for FY 2026-27:

- Monitor state and federal guidance related to air quality transportation planning requirements.
- Conduct conformity determinations to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and subsequent amendments conform to the State Implementation Plans (SIPs), as required by federal laws and regulations.

- Submit future-year travel forecasts to the SJVAPCD and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as requested.
- Continue to utilize the Interagency Coordinating Committee (IAC) for routine communication and coordination.
- Coordinate with CARB staff related to future Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) review templates.
- Assist Valley staff in demonstrating conformity; provide EMFAC emissions modeling support.
- Assist Valley staff in target setting and SCS review performed by CARB.

5. AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY, REGULATORY COORDINATION, AND SYSTEM RISK MANAGEMENT

Objective: To ensure the San Joaquin Valley maintains compliance with federal and state air quality requirements, protects access to transportation funding, and proactively manages regulatory risk through coordinated, Valleywide technical, policy, and advocacy efforts.

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Directors' Committee, Air District Coordination

The San Joaquin Valley operates as a single air basin under the Clean Air Act, meaning all eight counties are interdependent in meeting air quality conformity requirements. Failure in one area has regionwide consequences, including potential loss of federal transportation funding.

In response to increasing regulatory complexity, shifting federal and state policies, and loss of key emissions-reduction tools, the Valley will implement a coordinated, regionwide approach to conformity, modeling, and advocacy to ensure continued project delivery and regulatory compliance.

Activities For FY 2026–27

- Develop a one-time Valleywide Conformity Coordination Strategy by implementing a regional approach that combines modeling data from all eight counties as needed for compliance. Ensure consistency in assumptions, modeling inputs, and timelines through close coordination among MPOs, and maintain regular technical meetings with MPOs, air districts, and consultants. Return to individual MPO conformity processes as soon as possible.
- Implement Conformity Risk Management and Contingency Planning by identifying at-risk counties, evaluating impacts of policy changes, and developing strategies to prevent funding shutdowns, project delays, and conformity lapses.
- Enhance regional modeling with coordinated emissions models and adaptive strategies to address changing regulations and uncertainties.
- Engage with federal and state agencies to address policy misalignments by advocating for emissions-reduction tool restoration, flexibility in conformity requirements, and recognition of regional conditions while coordinating unified messaging in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento.
- The strategy for SB 375 focuses on coordinating the Valley's response to greenhouse gas reduction by advocating realistic goals, streamlined review timelines, and rural considerations, while identifying cost-effective regional strategies.
- To align investment strategy with emissions outcomes, prioritize measurable reductions through operational improvements, vehicle upgrades, and efficiency, while supporting safety and multimodal projects, recognizing limited emissions impact in rural areas, and ensuring funding aligns with compliance and community benefits.
- Advocate for a partnership with the Air District to enhance coordination on conformity strategies, align funding and policies, and pursue joint initiatives in transportation, agriculture, and energy.
- Develop tools and briefings to assist elected officials in understanding complex technical issues, making timely decisions under tight deadlines, receiving real-time updates as conditions evolve, and building capacity for informed policy engagement.

- Develop tools and briefings to educate elected officials on complex technical issues, enabling them to make timely decisions under tight deadlines, while providing real-time updates and building capacity for informed policy engagement as conditions evolve.
- Expand advocacy to include agriculture, energy, and federal program partners while engaging new stakeholders to raise awareness of Valley issues and support solutions, leveraging connections to programs like the Farm Bill and air quality funding.

6. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

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

Lead: San Joaquin COG and Fresno COG

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

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

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

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

Activities for FY 2026-27:

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

7. RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

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

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Government Affairs Consultants

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

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

A high level of participation by Policy Council members is critical to successful relationship-building with external agencies and entities. Policy Council members will partner with Directors in activities noted below for 2026 to 2027.

Activities for FY 2026-2027:

- Directors will coordinate and attend one-third of CTC meetings and meet yearly with our CTC Commissioner representative.
- Directors to meet annually with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary or pertinent staff.
- CTC staff will be invited to the Directors' Committee meeting once a year; Directors will meet with at least two CTC Board Members they do not know.
- RPA staff should be encouraged to take leadership positions on Valleywide matters.
- Valley Directors to develop and maintain relationships with the Caltrans Director and Deputy for Planning.

- Valley Directors' Committee meetings should be scheduled periodically at a time of the month when Valley Directors can review and discuss the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG) meetings to develop timely joint strategies on key issues.
- Request sister MPOs (MTC, Central Coast, or SCAG) to come to a Valley Directors' Committee meeting.
- Valley Directors meet annually with CARB management and board members and attend the joint CTC/CARB and joint CTC/CARB/HCD Board meetings.
- Coordinate targeted advocacy meetings with state and federal agencies focused on advancing the Valleywide Priority Project List.
- Present a consistent, unified regional message ("Valley Voice") when engaging with decision-makers.
- Increase efforts to educate policymakers on the regional significance and readiness of priority projects through briefings, tours, and materials.
- Prioritize engagement with key staff-level decision-makers (not just leadership).
- Develop an ongoing education strategy for new policymakers and appointees.
- Coordinate messaging that emphasizes regional inequities and funding challenges.

8. VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Lead: Government Affairs Consultants, Valleywide Coordinator, VLAC

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

The *Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)* is under consideration as a subcommittee of the Directors' Committee. In conjunction with government affairs personnel, the VLAC can provide a staff perspective to the COG Directors' Committee and the SJV Regional Policy Council on legislative priorities and potential bills to sponsor, and help direct logistics for the annual "Valley Voice" trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Activities for FY 2026-27:

- Track legislation and regulations, develop a unified Valley-wide position, communicate those positions to federal and state officials, and participate in advocacy campaigns and other coalition-building activities as appropriate.
- Share information regarding grant opportunities and other financial resources available at the state or federal level.
- Develop the Valleywide Legislative Platform (state and federal).
- Continue to meet regularly with state and federal officials, including regional elected representatives, to discuss legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities that interest or concern the Valley.
- Plan and execute the "Valley Voice" Washington D.C. visit scheduled for September 2026.
- Plan and execute the "Valley Voice" Sacramento visit scheduled for Spring 2027.
- Advocate for additional PL funding to address inflation and increased transportation planning funding needs.
- Develop and adopt a Valleywide Legislative and Funding Platform aligned with the Priority Project List.
- Coordinate targeted advocacy campaigns in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., focused on advancing priority projects and funding strategies.
- Organize Valley Voice trips with clear objectives tied to specific projects and funding opportunities.
- Prepare project-specific advocacy materials, including fact sheets, maps, and economic impact summaries.

- Strengthen coordination between elected officials and staff to ensure consistent messaging and strategic alignment.
- Identify opportunities to “grow the funding pie” through engagement in broader policy discussions (e.g., climate funding, goods movement, resilience).
- Track outcomes of advocacy efforts, including funding awards, policy changes, and agency commitments.
- Focus Valley Voice efforts on educating policymakers on funding challenges and regional conditions.
- Incorporate project tours and firsthand experiences into advocacy strategy.
- Expand advocacy beyond transportation to include multi-sector funding opportunities.
- Focus advocacy on conformity risks and funding implications.
- Communicate the urgency of federal/state policy misalignment.
- Highlight the Valley as a single air basin requiring coordinated solutions.
- Emphasize the need for federal partnership in HSR delivery.
- Highlight risks of incomplete Central Valley HSR segments.
- Advocate for balanced funding across transportation modes.
- Identify transportation funding reform as a top priority issue.
- Address declining revenues and the backlog in infrastructure maintenance.
- Advocate for sustainable funding replacement and equity for regions like the Valley.

9. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING STRATEGY AND ADVOCACY (STATE & FEDERAL)

Objective: To proactively position the San Joaquin Valley to compete in an increasingly constrained, uncertain, and discretionary transportation funding environment through strategic alignment, diversified funding approaches, and coordinated advocacy.

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Directors' Committee

Given the structural decline in traditional transportation revenues and the increasing competition for state and federal funding, the Valley RPAs will implement a coordinated strategy focused on program alignment, policy engagement, coalition building, and funding diversification. This effort recognizes that long-term success requires not only strong projects but also active participation in shaping funding programs and policies.

Activities For FY 2026–27

- It is essential to actively promote and seek increased formula funding to ensure adequate resources are allocated for essential programs and services. Enhanced formula funding can provide a more stable financial foundation, allowing for better planning and implementation of initiatives that support community needs and development. By advocating for a larger allocation of formula funding, we can help ensure that all areas receive fair and effective support, ultimately contributing to improved outcomes for the populations we serve.
- Align Valley projects with state and federal funding goals to enhance competitiveness by demonstrating multi-benefit outcomes and developing effective project-to-program matching strategies.
- Actively participate in early state and federal guideline development, ensuring Valley input reflects regional needs while forming policy positions for key funding programs and legislative proposals.
- Form alliances with similar regions and statewide organizations to enhance advocacy and unify positions on funding and program design.
- Conduct targeted outreach and organize site visits to educate policymakers about Valley conditions while incorporating storytelling to resonate with decision-makers.
- Expand funding strategies for transportation by incorporating economic development, resilience, workforce, and rural programs, while pursuing multi-agency partnerships and integrating projects with housing, environment, and economic objectives.
- Pursue diverse federal funding opportunities from agencies like USDA, EDA, FEMA, and the Department of Labor while coordinating regional efforts for non-traditional funding to enhance transportation outcomes.
- The advocacy strategy focuses on aligning Valley efforts with federal reauthorization and state funding changes while promoting equitable funding distribution for non-urban regions and addressing gas tax sustainability, Highway Trust Fund solvency, and alternative funding mechanisms.

10. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND GAS TAX REFORM STRATEGY

Objective: To address the long-term decline in transportation revenues by advocating for a coordinated statewide strategy to support sustainable, equitable, and politically viable funding mechanisms that replace the declining gas tax and ensure continued investment in local and regional transportation systems in the San Joaquin Valley and beyond.

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Directors' Committee, Policy Committee, State Policy Partners

California's transportation funding system is facing a structural and accelerating decline, driven by increased fuel efficiency, the transition to electric vehicles, and changing travel behavior. While infrastructure needs continue to grow, particularly for maintenance and system preservation, revenues generated through the gas tax are no longer sufficient or sustainable. In addition, the gas tax disproportionately affects lower-income individuals because they tend to drive longer distances. As a result, drivers in the San Joaquin Valley and other rural areas are subsidizing drivers in urban areas. The state's inaction is costing drivers in the San Joaquin Valley more money over time.

Even with the passage of SB 1, which increased and indexed the gas tax, the underlying structural issue remains unresolved. The State, regions, and local governments are experiencing a widening gap between revenues and transportation needs, with forecasts indicating continued declines in real purchasing power.

Lack of coordinated action creates a critical need for San Joaquin Valley regional leadership to influence statewide action, yielding fair solutions for rural and underserved communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Activities For FY 2026–27

- The lack of completion of the SR-99 corridor in the Central Valley segment poses significant risks, including potential disruptions to transportation systems and increased exposure to environmental hazards.
- Produce educational materials clearly explaining and graphically illustrating the importance of this topic.
- Develop a proposed solution for instituting an updated Vehicle Registration Fee on a sliding scale based upon car value ranges.
- Work with CALCOG, CSAC, the CTC, the League of California Cities, and others to build a coalition to address this issue.
- Organize an advocacy trip to present the San Joaquin Valley's proposed solutions to Governor Newsom before the next administration is sworn in.

11. HIGH-SPEED RAIL (HSR) COORDINATION, REGIONAL POSITIONING, AND MEGA-PROJECT STRATEGY

Objective: To establish a coordinated San Joaquin Valley position on High-Speed Rail (HSR), ensure regional priorities are reflected in project delivery, and maximize economic, mobility, and air quality benefits while managing financial, governance, and implementation risks.

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Directors' Committee, Policy Committee, Regional Rail Partners

The High-Speed Rail program represents one of the most significant infrastructure investments in the San Joaquin Valley, with the initial operating segment planned between Merced and Bakersfield. The most recently released California High-Speed Rail Authority Business Plan states that the initial operating segment (IOS) for the Merced–Bakersfield route will be operational by 2033. It also evaluates potential challenges, such as reduced service levels and a predominantly single-track system, and outlines improvements to ensure operational viability and future expandability. While the project offers substantial long-term benefits, it is also characterized by cost overruns; funding uncertainty; miscommunication and/or a lack of communication between the High-Speed Rail Authority, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, and local cities and counties; evolving station locations and design assumptions; and varying regional perspectives.

The incomplete Central Valley segment poses serious risks, including potential disruptions to vital transportation routes and an increased likelihood of environmental harm to the surrounding area.

Activities For FY 2026–27

- Develop a "Complete the System" advocacy strategy to unify messaging around avoiding stranded infrastructure by prioritizing the completion of existing projects with phased but functional delivery and realistic timelines, regardless of whether the service consists of high-speed rail, while effectively coordinating communication with state leadership, federal partners, and public stakeholders.
- Schedule quarterly (or similar) standalone meetings between the CHSRA's key staff, the Policy Council, and the Directors to improve routine communications and rebuild working relationships.
- To effectively address the impacts on local communities from overpasses and infrastructure disruptions, establish a coordinated regional approach that includes agreements with the HSR Authority, clear documentation, and accountability for maintenance responsibilities and construction impacts.
- Advocate for improved transparency in planning, meaningful local engagement, and clear communication regarding decision timelines and data sharing.

12. OTHER VALLEYWIDE ACTIVITIES

- **Passenger Rail.** The Valley regional planning agencies coordinate and implement regional passenger transportation planning and capital efforts with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA). The SJJPA was added as a member of the Policy Council at the beginning of FY 2021-22. The SJJPA advises the Policy Council on passenger rail matters that require a coordinated and unified position, and passenger rail remains a significant component of the annual state and federal legislative platforms. The Policy Council fully supports passenger rail activities and frequently provides letters of support for funding applications. The Passenger Rail, Transit, and Land Use Working Group was created in FY 2024-25 and is ongoing.
- **San Joaquin Valley Policy Conference.** The Valleywide conference is held in the spring at a different location each year and is coordinated by the host agency. The 2025 conference was held in Merced County. The next scheduled conference will be in 2027 in Madera County. The Central California American Planning Association (APA) also contributes to the conference and helps manage the Blueprint Awards.

Past Conferences

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

Future Conferences

Madera County, April 7-9, 2027
Kings County (KCAG), 2028
Fresno County (Fresno COG), 2029
San Joaquin County (SJ COG), 2030
Tulare County (TCAG), 2031
Kern County (Kern COG) – may be available to host at some time.

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

The Regional Policy Council typically meets four to five times a year, and the Executive Committee is expected to meet six to seven times a year before the Policy Council meetings. Additionally, up to four provisional and emergency meetings may be held annually.

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

In the fiscal year 2024-25, revisions were made to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Bylaws to ensure clarity and alignment with current operational needs. These updates included essential administrative edits that streamlined various processes, as well as adjustments to reflect recent changes in the organization's name and the name of the Directors'

Committee. Additionally, the frequency of meetings was adjusted to accommodate the organization's evolving dynamics better, enabling improved collaboration and communication.

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

Directors' Chair

Rotation Schedule

FY 25-26 - Merced County Association of Governments

FY 26-27 - Madera County Transportation Commission

FY 27-28 - Kern Council of Government

FY 28-29 - Stanislaus Council of Governments

FY 29-30 - Kings County Association of Governments

FY 30-31 - San Joaquin Council of Governments

FY 31-32 - Tulare County Association of Governments

FY 32-33 - Fresno Council of Governments

FY 33-34 - Merced County Association of Governments

Policy Council Chairs

Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2026

Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2025

Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, 2024

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2023

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2022

Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor, 2021

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

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2019

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2018

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake, 2017

Amarpreet "Ruby" Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin, 2016

Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, 2015

Robert Poythress, Mayor, City of Madera, 2014

Allen Ishida, Tulare County Supervisor, 2013

Allen Ishida, Tulare County Supervisor, 2012

Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, 2011

Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced, 2010

Michael Rubio, Kern County Supervisor, 2009

Michael Rubio, Kern County Supervisor, 2008

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

- The **Regional** Policy Council and Directors' Retreat **was** held on April 30th and May 1, 2026, in Merced. The Retreat **was** a two-day event aimed at defining the Policy Council's vision and goals, strengthening Valleywide coordination, aligning policy priorities, building stronger relationships among RPAs and external partners, and ensuring the Valley speaks with a unified regional voice on transportation, air quality, legislative policy, and funding.
- **Retreat events will take place every two to three years following the Annual Policy Conference, serving as a crucial opportunity for discussion and planning, when needed. This event will be scheduled before the finalization of next fiscal year's OWP, ensuring that insights and decisions made during the Retreat can inform the development of the work plan.**

Major Retreat **tasks** include the following:

- ✓ Plan and Facilitate the Annual Retreat: Organize a thoughtful and engaging retreat where participants can collaboratively explore and discuss critical elements of the organization.
- ✓ Develop Organization Vision, Goals, and Priorities: Collaboratively refine the organization's vision and goals, setting priorities that align with the mission, ensuring that all members are aligned and motivated toward a common purpose.
- ✓ Collaboratively refine or further identify Valleywide priorities, including goods movement, SR 99 multimodal planning and implementation, air quality conformity and meeting SB 375 requirements, transportation funding, High-Speed Rail planning and implementation, grant development, RTP/SCS coordination, legislative efforts, and/or others.
- ✓ Stress the importance of unified regional coordination.
- ✓ Explore how the San Joaquin Valley can strengthen its competitiveness for federal, state, and regional transportation grant funding by aligning regional priorities, improving project readiness, and enhancing collaboration among Valley agencies. The discussion will focus on identifying strategies to enable the region to pursue funding opportunities more effectively while presenting a coordinated, unified "One Voice" approach in support of each county's projects that benefit the Valley as a whole.
- ✓ Evaluate how the San Joaquin Valley can strengthen its ability to secure federal, state, and regional transportation funding through coordinated regional strategies, shared priorities, and a strong "Valley Voice" approach.
- ✓ Develop a shared regional strategy for addressing air quality challenges and federal conformity requirements in 2026 while maintaining transportation project delivery and economic vitality in the San Joaquin Valley.

- ✓ Establish a shared understanding of the status of high-speed rail, to clarify the Valley's common interests, identify priorities that must be protected, and openly acknowledge areas where differences remain. Ultimately, the session is intended to help Valley leaders define how they will engage with high-speed rail going forward, strengthen regional coordination, and outline actionable next steps that support the Valley's broader transportation and economic goals.
- ✓ Develop a clear list of recommended next steps and follow-up actions related to the State Gas Tax issue, which will support future statewide, regional, and local engagement on transportation funding reform.
- ✓ Confirm the key outputs that will follow the retreat, including an updated valley-wide vision and goals framework, draft regional priorities for 2026–27 integrated with this regional Overall Work Program, and a documented list of next steps developed during the retreat sessions. Also, ensure that the retreat outcomes will translate into actionable regional initiatives and coordinated efforts across the Valley.

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

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

Notes:

- SJ COG serves as the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning, a project conducted by Trinity Consultants with project management support from SJ COG staff.
- Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for the Valleywide Coordinator contract with VRPA Technologies.
- MCAG is the fiscal agent for the federal government affairs contract with Covino, Smith, and Simon.
- Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for the state government affairs contract with Khouri Consulting.
- The total budget for shared valleywide activities for the fiscal year 2026-2027 is detailed below.

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Meeting Schedule

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

SJV Regional Policy Council 2026-2027 Overall Work Program Budget

Costs by Agency

Last Updated 02/06/2026

Agency	Population ⁽¹⁾	% of Population	Air Quality Planning ⁽²⁾	Legislative Advocacy, Valley Voice DC ⁽³⁾	Legislative Advocacy, California ⁽⁴⁾	Valleywide Coordinator ⁽⁵⁾	Valley Voice / Retreat Misc. Costs ⁽⁶⁾	Total FY 2025-26
Fresno COG	1,037,053	23.47%	58,663	5,250	13,220	43,504	2,000	122,637
Kern COG	923,961	20.91%	52,266	5,250	13,220	38,760	2,000	111,496
KCAG	154,015	3.48%	8,712	5,250	13,220	6,461	2,000	35,643
MCTC	162,599	3.68%	9,198	5,250	13,220	6,821	2,000	36,489
MCAG	293,080	6.63%	16,579	5,250	13,220	12,295	2,000	49,343
SICOG	805,856	18.23%	45,585	5,250	13,220	33,806	2,000	99,861
StanCOG	555,765	12.58%	31,438	5,250	13,220	23,314	2,000	75,222
TCAG	487,209	11.02%	27,560	5,250	13,220	20,438	2,000	68,468
SJIPA				5,250	13,220		2,000	20,470
SIVAPCD				5,250	13,220		2,000	20,470
Total FY 2026-27:	4,419,538	100.0%	\$ 250,000	\$ 52,500	\$ 132,200	\$ 185,400	\$ 20,000	\$ 640,100

Notes:

(1) State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2024 and 2025. Sacramento, California, May 2025. Note: Will update when May 2026 estimates are available.

(2) SICOG Staff (\$50,000). Air Quality Consultant, Trinity (\$200,000 or \$175,000 with \$25,000 contingency, if needed). Contractor cost approved to \$170,000 as of July 11, 2024 and an additional \$30,000.

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

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

(5) VRPA Technologies, Inc. A 3% COL increase was applied consistent with the approved contract.

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

* Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget:

- Budget amounts by activity are apportioned by population share for all items, except as otherwise noted.
- SICOG is the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning, which is conducted by Trinity Consultants with project management support by SICOG staff.
- Fresno COG is the fiscal agent for the Valleywide Coordinator contract with VRPA Technologies.
- Fresno COG and MCAG are the fiscal agents for the state and federal government affairs contracts.

Valleywide Meeting Calendar San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

FY 2026-2027

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

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

Sep 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30			

Oct 2026						
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Nov 2026						
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Dec 2026						
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27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 2027						
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31						

Feb 2027						
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Mar 2027						
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28	29	30	31			
						TBD

Apr 2027						
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May 2027						
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Jun 2027						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Important dates:

- Directors' Committee Meetings
- Washington DC Valley Voice [September 15-16, 2026 (session/meeting dates)]
- Regional Policy Council Regular Meetings
- Pre Valley Voice Planning Meetings
- Annual Policy Conference (April 7-9, 2027)
- Sacramento Valley Voice (March 2027, Dated TBD)
- Policy Council Executive Committee Meetings

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