

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 4, 2026
10:00 am

Location:

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89035209063?pwd=cGVZY4GcRbyq0A4ppKmWSIHsXnRUUnG.1>

Meeting ID: 890 3520 9063

Passcode: 033580

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. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - FY 2026/27 – Effective 7/1/2026	Chair Guzman	
C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
1. May 7, 2026, Directors' Meeting	Chair Guzman	Yes
D. 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>	

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

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
3. Legislative Updates		
<i>a. State</i>		
1). State Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	
<i>b. Federal</i>		
1). Federal Legislative Update	Jen Covino	
2). Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026	Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian	
4. ACTION: SJVCOG Draft FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP) - Recommend Approval to Regional Policy Council	Georgiena Vivian	Yes
5. 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>	
E. 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	Allison Rodriguez, CHSRA	
3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail	Ahdel Ahmed	
4. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Mark Montelongo	
5. Miocar Car Sharing	Michael Sigala	
6. Future Meetings/Agenda Items:		
<i>a. Policy Council – June 26, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i>		
<i>b. July 2, 2026 – Directors' Committee Meeting – Review Preliminary Federal Platform</i>		
<i>c. July 17, 2026 – Executive Committee Meeting (Tentative)</i>		
<i>d. July 31, 2026 – Policy Council Meeting – Pre Valley Voice Meeting (Tentative)</i>		
<i>e. August 6, 2026 – Directors' Committee Meeting</i>		
<i>f. August 21, 2026 - Policy Council Meeting – Pre Valley Voice Meeting (Tentative)</i>		
<i>g. September 3, 2026 - Directors' Committee Meeting</i>		
<i>h. Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip – September 15-16, 2026</i>		
	Georgiena Vivian	

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ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
F. DIRECTOR ITEMS	Chair Guzman	
G. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Chair Guzman	
<i>This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes. The public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.</i>		
H. ADJOURN MEETING	Chair Guzman	
I. NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING: Thursday, July 2, 2026.		
J. DIRECTORS' ONLY SESSION – <i>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 KACAG	<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 Streeeter 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

May 7, 2026 Directors' Committee

Meeting Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2026
10:00 am

Location:

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83198616003?pwd=UEJhPIZcwrrp4EBbnn65MAI3Kup6jQS.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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacie Guzman Chair MCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Taylor MCTC
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Nguyen SJCOG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terri King KCAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Sheikh SJVAPCD (Mark Montelongo)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Smalley TCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ahdel Ahmed SJJPA

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Guzman	
<p>Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, called the May 7, 2026, Directors' Committee meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum was present. Participants were welcomed, and introductions were conducted.</p> <p>Special recognition was given to Allison Rodriguez, who attended as the new representative from the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). Members expressed appreciation for CHSRA's continued participation and emphasized the importance of maintaining direct communication between Valley agencies and the Authority as high-speed rail implementation advances. Participants were encouraged to identify themselves and their agencies in Zoom to facilitate discussion and collaboration among regional partners.</p>		

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B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
1. April 2, 2026, Directors' Meeting	Chair Guzman	Yes
Paul Herman, Fresno COG, moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Member Amber Collins, StanCOG. The motion passed.		
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>	
<p>The Committee discussed CARB's ongoing development of the 2026 SB 375 greenhouse gas reduction targets for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Members noted that CARB's methodology continues to rely heavily on statewide assumptions and averages that do not accurately reflect the San Joaquin Valley's demographic and economic conditions.</p> <p>Discussion focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Population growth rates are lower than statewide averages and, in some cases, declining. ✓ Limited market demand and growth patterns compared to coastal metropolitan regions. ✓ Concerns that Valley regions are disproportionately burdened by state-mandated targets despite having fewer tools available to achieve reductions. ✓ The importance of recognizing the Valley's unique transportation, economic, and air quality challenges. <p>The Committee agreed that a coordinated "One Valley" response to CARB would be more effective than separate regional submissions. Directors authorized the preparation of a draft comment letter expressing appreciation for CARB's current lack of more stringent targets while also encouraging consideration of lower targets that better reflect current Valley conditions. Gus Khouri and Ryan Niblock were directed to prepare the draft letter for circulation and review by all Valley agencies prior to submission.</p> <p>Committee members emphasized that future target-setting efforts should be grounded in realistic assumptions and measurable outcomes, rather than in statewide averages that do not accurately reflect the San Joaquin Valley's circumstances.</p>		
<i>b. Federal Air Quality Conformity</i>	<i>Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci</i>	
<p>Alex Marcucci, Trinity Consultants, SJV Air Quality Specialist, provided an extensive update on federal transportation conformity activities for the upcoming 2026 Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and 2027 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).</p> <p>Key updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EPA approval of critical heavy-duty inspection and maintenance off-model adjustment factors. ✓ Completion of draft conformity documentation using a Valleywide boilerplate approach. ✓ Ongoing RTP scenario testing by several MPOs. ✓ Continued coordination with federal and state interagency consultation partners. ✓ Planning for a regional Interagency Consultation (IC) meeting scheduled for May 27. 		

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Mr. Marcucci reported that current analyses indicate the Valley is cautiously optimistic that conformity can be demonstrated using a Valleywide emissions budget approach. He stressed, however, that success remains dependent upon final scenario testing and EPA approval of updated ozone budgets.

Directors acknowledged the extensive coordination required among MPOs, the Air District, consultants, FHWA, FTA, EPA, CARB, and Caltrans. Committee members expressed appreciation for the collaborative effort and noted that achieving conformity remains one of the Valley’s highest transportation planning priorities.

The Committee emphasized that timely approval of conformity findings is essential to avoid interruptions to project delivery, RTP adoption schedules, TIP amendments, and federal transportation funding eligibility.

2. SJV Air Quality and State Implementation Plan (SIP) Update	<i>Samir Sheikh</i>	
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Mark Montelongo, on behalf of Air District Executive Director Samir Sheikh, provided an update regarding the Valley’s State Implementation Plan (SIP) efforts and recent federal outreach activities.

Mr. Montelongo reported that Air District staff recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with:

- ✓ Members of the San Joaquin Valley Congressional Delegation.
- ✓ EPA representatives.
- ✓ USDA and NRCS officials.
- ✓ Other federal agency partners.

Discussion focused on the Valley’s pending SIP approvals and the importance of securing federal support for air quality planning efforts. The Air District emphasized that its strategy is to continue constructive engagement with federal agencies while, when necessary, leveraging support from Valley congressional representatives.

Congressmen David Valadao and Vince Fong were specifically noted as willing to assist with letters and federal outreach efforts. The Air District continues to monitor developments closely and will provide updates as discussions evolve.

Committee members recognized the importance of maintaining a coordinated Valleywide advocacy effort and reaffirmed support for the Air District’s ongoing work.

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
3. Legislative Updates		
<i>a. State</i>		
1). State Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting, State Legislative Advocate, provided a detailed update on state legislative and budget developments affecting transportation, transit, air quality, and climate funding programs.

The majority of the discussion focused on CARB's proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest Program and the resulting impacts on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) revenues.

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Major concerns discussed included:

- ✓ Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
 - Program revenues are declining significantly.
 - CARB is proposing regulatory changes that could further reduce available funding.
 - Future auction revenues are uncertain.
 - Funding available for transportation and air quality programs may be substantially lower than previously projected.

- ✓ SB 125 Funding

Members expressed concern regarding the status of SB 125 transit funding.

Discussion highlighted:

 - Approximately \$690 million remains unappropriated statewide.
 - There is no commitment in the Governor's January Budget Proposal to fund remaining allocations.
 - Transit agencies may never receive the full amount originally anticipated.
 - Agencies are already beginning to adjust operating and capital plans accordingly.

- ✓ Transit Operations Concerns

Directors discussed growing concerns regarding:

 - Rising fuel costs.
 - Transit operating deficits.
 - Potential service reductions.
 - Increasing demand for transit services during the summer months.

Several members noted that the combination of reduced state funding and increasing operational costs presents significant challenges for transit agencies throughout the Valley.

- ✓ TIRCP and LCTOP Funding

Additional discussion focused on potential reductions to:

 - TIRCP Cycle 8.
 - Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP).
 - Other multimodal transportation programs funded through GGRF.

Members expressed concern that future competitive grant opportunities could be significantly reduced or eliminated.

- ✓ Farebox Recovery Requirements

Discussion also addressed the expiration of temporary farebox recovery relief provisions.

Key points included:

 - Traditional farebox recovery requirements are expected to be returned.
 - Transit operators may face additional financial penalties if recovery ratios are not achieved.
 - The Legislature may consider future trailer bill relief, but no action has yet been proposed.

The Committee agreed that continued advocacy will be necessary to protect transportation and transit funding programs that are critical to the San Joaquin Valley.

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<i>b. Federal</i>		
1). Federal Legislative Update	Jen Covino	
<p>Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, highlighted Federal legislative advocacy efforts, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Transportation reauthorization. ✓ Air quality conformity issues. ✓ Federal funding opportunities. ✓ Protection of discretionary transportation grant programs. ✓ Support for Valley transportation priorities. <p>Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining regular communication with federal representatives and continuing coordinated advocacy efforts through Valley Voice and other regional initiatives.</p>		
2). Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026	Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian	
<p>Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, and Jen Covino, Covino, Smith, and Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, provided a status update regarding planning for the 2026 Valley Voice trip to Washington, D.C. Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Preliminary scheduling and logistics. ✓ Coordination with congressional offices. ✓ Development of advocacy materials. ✓ Identification of regional transportation, air quality, water, and economic development priorities. <p>Members emphasized the importance of presenting a unified Valley message and continuing the successful "One Valley" approach that has characterized previous Valley Voice efforts.</p>		
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	
<p>Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, reviewed outcomes from the recent Policy Council and Directors’ Retreat.</p> <p>Participants noted that the retreat successfully:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened regional relationships. ✓ Encouraged collaboration among counties. ✓ Identified shared priorities. ✓ Advanced discussions on transportation funding, air quality, high-speed rail, and regional advocacy. <p>Participants also noted that the following activities were highlights of the Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interactive exercises. ✓ Facilitated discussions. 		

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- ✓ Cross-county networking opportunities.
- ✓ Strategic planning sessions.

Members agreed that retreat outcomes should directly inform future activities and policy priorities of the Overall Work Program (OWP).

Discussion also covered lessons learned and suggestions for future retreats, such as maintaining the interactive format and ensuring adequate time for strategic discussions.

5. Caltrans Request for Signatories to Revised Final Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Principles Documents	Patricia Taylor	Yes
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Member Patricia Taylor, MCTC, presented information regarding revised federal transportation reauthorization principles being circulated by Caltrans and statewide partners.

Discussion focused on:

- ✓ Whether Valley agencies should formally support the document.
- ✓ The extent to which the principles reflect Valley transportation needs.
- ✓ Opportunities to influence future federal transportation policy.

Directors agreed that additional review was appropriate before final commitments are made.

6. ACTION: SJVCOG Draft FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP) - Recommend Approval to Executive Committee	Georgiena Vivian	Yes
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Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, presented updates to the FY 2026/27 OWP.

Key revisions reflected:

- ✓ Retreat recommendations.
- ✓ Emerging air quality and conformity issues.
- ✓ Valley Voice advocacy priorities.
- ✓ Enhanced regional coordination activities.
- ✓ Strategic implementation initiatives.

Directors generally supported continued review of the revised OWP to ensure that it appropriately reflects current regional priorities.

Discussion also focused on ensuring that retreat outcomes, federal advocacy efforts, and air quality initiatives are reflected.

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7. Committee Updates		
a. SJV Swap Meet	Kayley Clay	
<p>Kayley Clay, KCAG, provided a brief update regarding the regional peer exchange initiative. Activities are expected to resume with future meetings focused on sharing best practices among Valley agencies.</p>		
b. Housing and Land Use	Kim Anderson	
<p>An update was not provided.</p>		
c. Travel Modelers Group	Rob Ball	
<p>Rob Ball provided an update, noting that the Travel Modelers Group continues coordination on modeling assumptions, RTP development, conformity analyses, and technical planning activities supporting Valley MPOs.</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>		
1. Caltrans Directors' Report	Michael Navarro, D6 Grace Magsayo, D10	
<p>Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 provided updates on agency activities and offered assistance in facilitating discussions with Caltrans Headquarters and CalSTA regarding regional concerns. Staff highlighted ongoing coordination with regional partners and state transportation initiatives.</p>		
2. California High-Speed Rail	Augie Blancas, CHSRA	
<p>High-Speed Rail representatives Allison Rodriguez and Augie Blancas provided project updates and reaffirmed their commitment to continued engagement with Valley agencies on project development and coordination efforts.</p> <p>Following the discussion, CHSRA staff were asked to provide an update at the next board/group meeting (June 4, 2026) on CHSRA's legislative requests, particularly those that may affect local agency projects and utility coordination. Specifically, provide an overview of any CHSRA legislative requests, such as bills, budget proposals, or policy changes, that the CHSRA is pursuing with the State Legislature. In particular, those that may impact local agency projects and utility coordination, with a focus on anything that could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Change how local projects are planned or delivered ✓ Affect coordination with utilities (relocations, timing, costs, responsibilities) ✓ Shift authority, funding, or decision-making that impacts cities/counties/COGs <p>In addition, it was noted that the Directors' Committee needs additional input on how CHSRA legislation can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Override or streamline local processes 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Affect who pays for or manages utility relocations ✓ Influence project timelines and approvals ✓ Impact local control vs. state authority 		
3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail	Ahdel Ahmed	
An update was not provided.		
4. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Mark Montelongo	
The Air District provided supplemental updates on air quality planning, federal coordination, and ongoing efforts in SIP development and conformity.		
5. Miocar Car Sharing	Michael Sigala	
An update was not provided.		
6. Future Meetings/Agenda Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Executive Committee – May 22, 2026 – Recommend Approval of FY 2026/27 OWP</i> b. <i>Directors’ Committee – June 4, 2026</i> c. <i>Policy Council – June 26, 2026 - Approve 2026/27 OWP</i> d. <i>July 2, 2026 – Directors’ Committee Meeting</i> e. <i>July 17, 2026 – Executive Committee Meeting (Tentative)</i> f. <i>July 31, 2026 – Policy Council Meeting – Pre Valley Voice Meeting (Tentative)</i> g. <i>August 6, 2026 – Directors’ Committee Meeting</i> h. <i>August 21, 2026 - Policy Council Meeting – Pre Valley Voice Meeting (Tentative)</i> i. <i>September 3, 2026 - Directors’ Committee Meeting</i> j. <i>Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip – September 15-16, 2026</i> 	Georgiena Vivian	
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, reviewed upcoming meeting dates, including Executive Committee, Directors’ Committee, Policy Council, and Valley Voice meetings scheduled throughout summer and fall 2026.		
ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
E. DIRECTOR ITEMS	Chair Guzman	

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Chair Stacie Guzman, MCAG, highlighted growing concerns about the financial challenges facing transit agencies across the San Joaquin Valley, including uncertainty around SB 125 funding, the potential loss of LCTOP funding, rising fuel costs, and increasing operating expenses. Members noted that these pressures could impact service levels and efforts to transition to zero-emission fleets.

Discussion also focused on new fees affecting Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) riders. For the first time, passengers will be required to pay an additional National Park Service transit access fee to enter Yosemite National Park, increasing the overall cost of transit travel and potentially discouraging transit use.

Members further discussed fuel-related challenges, noting that while many agencies are transitioning to cleaner technologies, natural gas and diesel remain essential for some transit operations. Staff was asked to monitor proposed legislation that could increase fuel costs and evaluate whether a coordinated Valleywide advocacy response may be warranted.

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>		
<p>No public presentations were provided.</p>		
G. ADJOURN MEETING	Chair Guzman	
<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.</p>		
<p>H. NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING: Thursday, June 4, 2026.</p>		
<p>I. DIRECTORS' ONLY SESSION – <i>Not 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 KACAG	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Marcucci Trinity Consultants
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ofelia Abundez Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allison Rodriguez, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Augie Blancas, CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mykia Byrd Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Haagenson Fresno COG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philip Vallejo Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blake Rincon Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Gunn Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Santosh Bhattarai Fresno COG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nabeelah Abi-Rached Caltrans D6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evelyn Espinosa MCTC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nav Bagri MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meg Prince MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gurwinder Sekhon Caltrans D10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Jackson MCAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregoria Ponce Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gabbie Sefranek Caltrans D10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monica Streeter StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natalia Castillo Deleon Caltrans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Higgins CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Silva StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josephine Oshana StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jean Foletta StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Malekos StanCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sigala Sigala, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rene Gutierrez ACE Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kim Anderson SJCOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Whippy CHSRA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yvette Davis SJCOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Cai LSA
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 D.4.

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

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL



DRAFT

OVERALL WORK PROGRAM FY 2026-27



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)

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 (SJJA). 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 SJJA, 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.

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

Current Valleywide Major Activities

1. MAJOR HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES

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

Lead: Kern COG, MCAG, TCAG, MCTC

The RPAs work closely with Caltrans and other stakeholders to prioritize funding for SR 99 and other major highways and interstates. The 99 Business Plan helped the Valley achieve dedicated funding for SR 99 through Proposition 1B in 2006, the only transportation earmark in the bond placed before the voters. Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 have updated the 99 Business Plan and Master Plan and worked with the RPAs on project selection and funding alternatives. The Directors, working in close consultation with Caltrans 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 submitted, including State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and SB1 funding, as well as federal grant 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. Caltrans published the final CMCP in October 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 identified.
- 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 help refine 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.

2. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY INTERREGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT

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

Lead: Fresno COG, TCAG, and Kern COG

The San Joaquin Valley 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 federal grants, SB1, and other federal and state funding for goods movement, particularly for State Route 99.
- Participate and provide input to California's Freight Mobility Plan and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).
- Continue to collaborate with regional partners on logistics and economic development initiatives, enhancing goods movement planning and implementation efforts.
- Continue to identify multimodal strategies to complement and support the movement of goods in the Valley.
- Continue to fund and participate in inland port concepts for the Valley, including the now TradePort California and the Castle Commerce Center.
- Continue to explore alternative fuels and technology strategies for meeting California's Sustainable Freight mandates.

3. AIR QUALITY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION

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

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

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires transportation conformity, ensuring that federal funding is allocated to transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals. The CAA strengthened conformity requirements for transportation projects, necessitating a more enhanced level of technical analysis of plans, programs, and projects than in the past. Conformity determinations must be conducted at least every four years or as amendments are made to plans or projects. The federal transportation conformity rule requires interagency consultation on issues that 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 Organization (MPO). 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 2027 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.

4. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIES / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

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

Lead: San Joaquin COG and Fresno COG

California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) requires each RPA to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). An SCS outlines a plan 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, ongoing communication with CARB staff to better implement the SCS planning process for future plan 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.

5. RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

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

Lead: Valleywide Coordinator, Government Affairs Consultants

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

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

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 Council 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.

6. VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Lead: Government Affairs Consultants, Valleywide Coordinator, VLAC

In 2025, the government affairs contracts for state and federal representation for the Regional Policy Council were updated. Fresno COG was appointed as the fiscal agent for the state contract, while the MCAG was designated as the fiscal agent for the federal contract. The federal and state government affairs staff routinely update the Directors and Policy Council when legislative advocacy is needed for the Valley. Several times a year, position letters are written and circulated regarding legislation to support or oppose, as well as funding opportunities to pursue and support. Working closely with the Directors and government affairs personnel, the coordinator will plan and coordinate the annual Valley Voice advocacy visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

In FY 2023-24, the ***Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC)*** was reinstated as a subcommittee of the Directors' Committee. In conjunction with government affairs personnel, the VLAC provides a staff perspective to the COG Directors' Committee and the SJV Regional Policy Council on legislative priorities and potential bills to sponsor, and helps direct logistics for the annual "Valley Voice" trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Activities for FY 2026-27: *Under discussion – will be updated at a later date*

- 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.

7. 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 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 by June of each year.

Directors’ Chair	FY 25-26 - Merced County Association of Governments
Rotation Schedule	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 30 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.
- ✓ Major tasks/topics include the following:
 - Plan and Facilitate the Annual Retreat: Organize a thoughtful and engaging retreat where participants can collaboratively explore and discuss critical elements of the organization.
 - Develop Organization Vision, Goals, and 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.

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 05/07/2026

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 2026-27
Fresno COG	1,041,676	23.41%	58,518	5,250	13,220	43,397	2,000	122,386
Kern COG	927,328	20.84%	52,095	5,250	13,220	38,633	2,000	111,198
KCAG	153,754	3.45%	8,637	5,250	13,220	6,406	2,000	35,513
MCTC	166,407	3.74%	9,348	5,250	13,220	6,933	2,000	36,751
MCAG	294,154	6.61%	16,525	5,250	13,220	12,255	2,000	49,249
SICOG	820,125	18.43%	46,072	5,250	13,220	34,167	2,000	100,709
StanCOG	557,159	12.52%	31,300	5,250	13,220	23,212	2,000	74,981
TCAG	489,610	11.00%	27,505	5,250	13,220	20,398	2,000	68,372
SJIPA				5,250	13,220		2,000	20,470
SIVAPCD				5,250	13,220		2,000	20,470
Total FY 2026-27:	4,450,213	100.0%	\$ 250,000	\$ 52,500	\$ 132,200	\$ 185,400	\$ 20,000	\$ 640,100

Notes:

(1) State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change — 2020-2026. May 2026.

(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** will be billed based on the number of attendees per agency, as a percentage of the total costs paid. Retreat costs will be billed in FY 2026/27 for costs paid by VRPA in April/May 2026, invoiced in June/July 2026 depending on statements, and reimbursed in July/August/September 2026.

(3) 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.

(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 based on the number of attendees per agency, as a percentage of the total costs paid. Retreat costs will be billed in FY 2026/27 for costs paid by VRPA in April/May 2026, invoiced in June/July 2026 depending on statements, and reimbursed in July/August/September 2026.

* 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
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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
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Oct 2026						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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

Jan 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Feb 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						








Mar 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						TBD

Apr 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Jun 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Important dates:

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

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