



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Meeting

August 21, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Members of the Policy Council may participate via video teleconference at the following locations:

Fresno Council of Governments

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Madera County Transportation Commission

2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637

Tulare County Association of Governments

210 N. Church Street, Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

McFarland Veterans Community Center

103 W. Sherwood Ave.
McFarland, CA 93250

Kern Council of Governments

1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

San Joaquin Council of Governments

555 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202

Kern County Administration Building

1115 Truxtun Ave # 504
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Merced County Association of Governments

At the Transit Joint Powers Authority for
Merced County
357 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Kings County Association of Governments

210 E. 7th Street, Ste. 202
Hanford, CA 93230

Stanislaus Council of Governments

1111 I Street, Suite 308
Modesto, CA 95354

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

1201 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Madera County

200 W. 4th St., Ste. 4006
Madera, CA 93637

Public members may participate at any of the above locations or remotely via Zoom. Please contact Georgiena Vivian at (559) 259-9257 or gvivian@vrpatech.com prior to the meeting to determine which physical locations will be utilized.

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82438763710?pwd=oiuHPCFeIKMCSZpFCUTmlmB0NMvY6k.1>

Meeting ID: 824 3876 3710

Passcode: 795614

One tap mobile

+16694449171

Agenda Item	Speaker	Enclosure
A. CALL TO ORDER	Chair	☐
B. ROLL CALL	Georgiena Vivian	☐



Valleywide Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian
(559) 259-9257



Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721



Fresno Council of
Governments
Fax (559) 233-9645



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)					
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember, District 1	City of Kerman	
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	
Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)					
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 th District	County of Kern	
Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)					
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	
Member	Patricia	Matthews	Mayor	City of Lemoore	
Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	
Member	Matthew	Serratto	Mayor	City of Merced	
San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)					
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	County of San Joaquin	
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	
Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	
Member	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	
Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)					
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	
San Joaquin Powers Authority (SJIPA)					
Member	Ahdel	Ahmed	Public Relations Manager	SJIPA	

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<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 31, 2026, Meeting	Chair	Yes
D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS		
1. Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates		
a. State		
1) <i>Legislative Update</i>	Gus Khouri	Yes
b. Federal		
1) <i>Legislative Update</i>	Jen Covino	No
2) <i>Review of the Approved Federal Platform</i>	Jen Covino	Yes
3) <i>Review and Discussion of the Approved Federal Platform Speaking Assignments and Draft Talking Points</i>	Jen Covino	Yes
4) <i>Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026</i>	Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian	No
2. Discussion - RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues		
a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets Update	Ted Smalley	No
b. Federal Air Quality Conformity	Ryan Niblock	
c. SJV Air Quality and State Implementation Plan Update	Alex Marcucci	
	Samir Sheikh	
	Chair	
E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS		
The following items are for informational purposes only and require no action. Individuals noted will be present to provide a verbal update.		
1. Future Meetings/Agenda Items:		
a. Directors' Committee – September 3, 2026 – Final Preparation - 2026 Washington, D.C. Valley Voice	Georgiena Vivian	No
b. Valley Voice Washington, D.C. Trip – September 15-16, 2026		
F. OTHER ITEMS		
1. Directors' Committee Report	Patricia Taylor	

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2. Policy Council Member Comments

Members

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public comment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.

Chair

H. ADJOURN

Chair

I. CLOSED SESSION – *Not Scheduled*

Chair

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Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director Agency	Yes	No	Director Agency
☐	☐	Jay Schlosser Kern COG Vice Chair, Directors' Committee	☐	☐	Gus Khouri Khouri Consulting/Actum
☐	☐	Stephan Sanchez Kern COG	☐	☐	Jen Covino Covino, Smith & Simon
☐	☐	Rob Ball Kern COG	☐	☐	David Gellman Covino, Smith & Simon
☐	☐	Ted Smalley TCAG	☐	☐	Aly Hernandez Covino, Smith & Simon
☐	☐	Ben Giuliani TCAG	☐	☐	Georgiena Vivian SJV Coordinator VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Ben Kimball TCAG	☐	☐	Carolina Ilic VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG	☐	☐	Dena Graham VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Roberto Brady TCAG	☐	☐	Ryan Vivian VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Terri King KCAG	☐	☐	Samer Shaath CHSRA
☐	☐	Robert Phipps Fresno COG	☐	☐	Allison Rodriguez CHSRA
☐	☐	Paul Herman Fresno COG	☐	☐	Augie Blancas CHSRA
☐	☐	Simran Jhutti Fresno COG	☐	☐	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	☐	☐	Nabeelah Abi-Rached Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Patricia Taylor MCTC Chair, Directors' Committee	☐	☐	Braden Duran Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Jeff Findley MCTC	☐	☐	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Stacie Guzman MCAG	☐	☐	Eric Mather Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	☐	☐	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Meg Prince MCAG	☐	☐	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
☐	☐	Amber Collins StanCOG	☐	☐	Gurwinder Sekhon Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	☐	☐	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Monica Streeter StanCOG	☐	☐	Bill Higgins CALCOG
☐	☐	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	☐	☐	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
☐	☐	Diane Nguyen SJCOG	☐	☐	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
☐	☐	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	☐	☐	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
☐	☐	Kim Anderson SJCOG	☐	☐	Alex Marcucci Trinity Consultants
☐	☐	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Tim Franquist SJVAPCD	☐	☐	
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AGENDA ITEM C

July 31, 2026, Regional Policy Council

Meeting Minutes



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2026
10:00 a.m.

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Stanislaus County

1010 10th Street, 6th Floor Lobby
Modesto, CA 95354

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Zoom Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83168655037?pwd=RiA5PPNHCVsmbjEbz9N5DFZPaCcjQ.1>

Meeting ID: 831 6865 5037

Passcode: 150508

Meeting Item	Lead	Outcome
A. CALL TO ORDER	Chair	Called to order
Chair Daron McDaniel, MCAG, called the July 31, 2026, meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council to order. The initial roll call did not establish a quorum, so the Council proceeded with discussion and informational items only until a quorum was confirmed later in the meeting.		
B. ROLL CALL	Georgiena Vivian	Quorum confirmed later

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Georgiana Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, conducted roll call. Eight eligible members were present initially. After Matthew Serratto and Samir Sheikh joined, a second roll call confirmed 10 eligible voting members and a quorum. Ahdel Ahmed was connected remotely but was not at a disclosed location and was not counted toward the quorum or action votes.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)					
Member	Gary	Yep	Councilmember, District 1	City of Kerman	Y
Member	Alma	Beltran	Mayor	City of Parlier	N
Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)					
Member	Saul	Ayon	Mayor	City of McFarland	N
Member	David	Couch	Supervisor, 4 th District	County of Kern	N
Kings County Association of Governments (KCAAG)					
Member	Doug	Verboon	Supervisor, District 3	County of Kings	Y
Member	Patricia	Matthews	Mayor	City of Lemoore	Y
Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	N
Member	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	Y
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Y
Member	Matthew	Serratto	Mayor	City of Merced	Y
San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)					
Member	Robert	Rickman	Supervisor, District 5	County of San Joaquin	N
Member	Gary	Singh	Mayor, At-Large	City of Manteca	N
Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	Y
Member	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	N
Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)					
Member	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	Y
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	Y
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	Y
San Joaquin Powers Authority (SJPA)					
Member	Ahdel	Ahmed	Public Relations Manager	SJPA	Y



C. Approval of Minutes - June 26, 2026, Meeting

After a quorum was established, Vice Chair Vito Chiesa, StanCOG, moved to approve the June 26, 2026, meeting minutes. Member Jose Rodriguez, MCTC, seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote without opposition.

D. Discussion and Action Items

D.1. Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates

D.1.a. State Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

D.1.a.1. State Legislative Update

Gus Khouri, Khouri Consulting/Actum, State Legislative Advocate, reported that the Legislature had been in recess since July 3 and would reconvene August 3 for a compressed final month of session. He identified the Cap-and-Invest program as a major issue. Khouri said the available funding pool had fallen from approximately \$4.4 billion to just over \$3 billion as regulated industries reduced allowance purchases amid changes intended to address energy leakage. He said proposed incentives for industry and larger utility-ratepayer rebates could further reduce funds available for transit operations and capital, affordable housing, SB 125 commitments, and air-quality programs.

Gus reviewed the Valley's outstanding SB 125 funding and said the eight Valley COGs were expected to receive about \$510 million, with about \$68 million still not appropriated and additional transit-capital balances not yet fully received. As a possible solution, he again raised restoration or temporary use of truck weight-fee revenues that have been redirected since 2011 to debt service. He said that approach could help preserve transit, air-quality, and other infrastructure commitments while also accommodating the State's industry incentives and utility rebates.

In response to a question from TCAG about whether the proposal could gain legislative traction, Gus said the Senate President pro Tempore had been vocal that previously negotiated commitments should be honored and noted that a broad coalition of local governments, transit agencies, and environmental-justice organizations had opposed reductions to the existing expenditure plan. He said discussions with Valley legislators and state leadership would resume after recess and that the Council would be updated as those conversations progressed.

Gus also highlighted ACA 22, a proposed constitutional amendment for the November ballot that would establish a two-thirds approval threshold for local sales-tax measures beginning January 1, 2027, while grandfathering existing measures. He concluded with an update on SB 1087, noting provisions that would require faster CARB action on regional plans and allow an eight-year planning cycle rather than four years. Although the bill did not include the CEQA relief previously sought, he said the Valley continued working to ensure agencies would not be penalized for missing targets when state funding needed to implement those plans is reduced or unavailable.

D.1.b. Federal Budget, Policy, and Legislative Update

D.1.b.1. Federal Legislative Update

Jen Covino, Covino, Smith & Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, reported that the Senate was approaching its August recess and was expected to consider a continuing resolution to keep the federal government operating beyond the end of September. A key question was whether the expiring surface transportation authorizations would be extended with the stopgap measure, potentially through early December, while Congress continued work on a longer-term reauthorization.

Ms. Covino also flagged a White House Office of Management and Budget proposal to revise the uniform guidance governing federal financial assistance. She said approximately 500,000 public comments had been submitted and explained that the proposal could give future political appointees greater discretion to terminate awards that do not align with an administration's policy priorities. She emphasized the uncertainty this could create for local governments and regional

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agencies pursuing multi-year infrastructure grants and noted that Senate appropriators were considering language that could delay implementation of the rule.

On surface transportation reauthorization, Covino summarized recommendations submitted by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The recommendations included new grant concepts for unfinished interstate corridors and lane expansions, major freight bottlenecks, transportation technology, and digital infrastructure. They also proposed consolidating several rail, bridge, multimodal, transit, and local competitive programs; converting Safe Streets and Roads for All into a formula program; and eliminating several programs associated with charging infrastructure, carbon reduction, active transportation, and smart transportation grants. Covino noted that many of these recommendations were not reflected in the House Build America 250 Act and could become an important topic for the Valley's September advocacy meetings. She also noted a newly released FTA funding opportunity for bus facilities and low/no-emission vehicle projects.

Member Doug Verboon, KCAG, recommended adding Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren to the Valley's Washington outreach in anticipation of redistricting changes that could affect Valley representation. Jen agreed that early outreach would be beneficial and said her team would add the office to the meeting-request list.

D.1.b.2. ACTION: Approval of the Draft Federal Platform

Ms. Covino presented the draft federal platform and thanked the Policy Council, Executive Directors, and agency staff for submitting project and grant information. She said the platform was organized first around the Valley's surface transportation reauthorization priorities and then by project mode, including highways, local infrastructure, rail, defense-related investments, NEPA streamlining, and Air District priorities. She reported that the U.S. Department of Transportation had already confirmed a meeting for September 15 at 10:00 a.m., with anticipated participation from multiple modal and grant-program offices.

Jen explained that the platform could continue to be updated before the Washington trip as agencies submitted additional pending grant applications. During the discussion, Member Verboon requested that the City of Lemoore's North Lemoore Sewer Project application under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program and the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency's anticipated Section 5339 maintenance-facility request be added when supporting information became available.

Member Rudy Mendoza, TCAG, moved to approve the Draft Federal Platform and the Platform Speaking Assignments as presented, with the understanding that additional project and grant information could be incorporated before the trip. Member Gary Yep, Fresno COG, seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote without opposition.

D.1.b.3. ACTION: Approval of Platform Speaking Assignments

Ms. Covino reviewed the preliminary speaking assignments for the Washington meetings. The assignments identified lead and supporting speakers for the Valley's surface transportation policy priorities, NEPA streamlining, Air District priorities, Highway 99 and other highway projects, local infrastructure, rail investments, defense-related projects, and congressional earmark requests. Several project-specific assignments remained open, and sponsoring agencies were asked to identify speakers for those items.

Jen said her team would prepare suggested talking points for each project, including the project purpose, public benefit, amount requested, and the case for federal support. The speaking assignments were approved as part of the combined action described above.

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D.1.b.4. Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip - September 15-16, 2026

Jen Covino reported that meeting requests had been submitted to nearly all targeted agencies and offices. The team had confirmed the U.S. Department of Transportation meeting and several congressional meetings, would add Congresswoman Lofgren to the outreach list, and was still coordinating with Air District staff on the approach for a meeting with EPA. A first draft of the Washington agenda was expected the following week, and draft talking points were expected before the August Policy Council meeting.

Georgiana Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, reported that hotel, meal, security, and other trip logistics were underway and that participant information needed for White House access had largely been collected. She thanked Jen and her team for the pace of the planning effort and stated that every participating Valley organization was expected to be represented.

D.2. RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues

D.2.a. SB 375 - 2026 GHG Reduction Targets Update

Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, reported that Valley COG directors and CARB management continued discussions regarding the Valley's greenhouse-gas reduction targets as the 2026 RTP/SCS documents move through review and the State begins looking toward the 2030 target-update process. He said staff continued providing technical information and analysis to the Directors as those discussions progressed.

D.2.b. Federal Air Quality Conformity

Niblock reported that the Valley was still waiting for EPA's final action related to the 2008 ozone standard and associated conformity requirements. The current expectation was for federal action in mid-September, which had led several Valley MPOs to move RTP/SCS adoption from August into September. For agencies that could not delay adoption, he described a possible approach in which a board resolution would identify an effective date tied to EPA's final action, subject to review by agency legal counsel. Valley staff would continue monitoring the federal schedule and coordinating with EPA and the Air District.

D.2.c. San Joaquin Valley Air Quality and State Implementation Plan Update

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, reported that CARB had adopted the ozone plan the previous week, completing an important step before EPA could act. The Air District was coordinating with the COG directors and expected the status of the federal action to remain an important item to monitor leading into the September Washington trip.

Samir characterized the CARB hearing as contentious and said it reinforced the importance of using regulatory hearings to explain the Valley's circumstances, the importance of timely plan approvals, and the potential transportation-funding consequences of delay. He also noted that several other recent Clean Air Act approvals had moved in a positive direction and helped avoid sanctions while the Valley continued working through the remaining air-quality issues.

D.3. Recap: July 1, 2026, Directors' Committee Retreat Workshop

Georgiana Vivian, SJV Coordinator, reported that the Valley Directors held a follow-up workshop on July 1, hosted by Diane Nguyen at the San Joaquin Council of Governments, to begin implementing the major ideas from the spring retreat. The principal discussion focused on creating a process through which each Valley agency could identify one high-priority transportation project that has regional significance, is sufficiently advanced, and could benefit from coordinated Valleywide advocacy.

The Directors discussed an approach similar to the successful State Route 99 Coalition so that the Valley could eventually present a limited set of priority projects with one unified message in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Nguyen shared a

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project-nomination form used in similar work with CALCOG and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Ms. Vivian said the form was being finalized with Patricia Taylor and would be distributed to the agencies with detailed instructions.

The workshop also addressed vehicle-miles-traveled mitigation. Directors agreed that rural and agricultural areas face circumstances that differ from the State's larger metropolitan regions and formed a subcommittee to develop the Valley's approach. Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, was identified as the subcommittee lead.

D.4. ACTION: Approval of Amendment #1 to the 2026/27 Overall Work Program to Incorporate the Vision Statement, Goals, and Priorities

Ms. Vivian presented Amendment #1 to the FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program, explaining that it would incorporate the vision statement, goals, and priorities developed through the Policy Council retreat and subsequent Directors' Committee review. The proposed vision statement was: "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 six goals, listed in priority order, were: Funding Strategy and Innovation; Valleywide Leadership and Unified Advocacy; Economic Competitiveness through Strategic Coordination; Organizational Effectiveness and Collaboration; Air Quality and Regulatory Coordination; and Regional Coordination of Multimodal Systems. Vivian noted that the Overall Work Program had not previously included an adopted vision statement and priority framework. Staff would use the new framework to evaluate work activities throughout the fiscal year and report at year-end on how the work program advanced the adopted priorities.

Member Dennis Townsend, TCAG, moved to approve Amendment #1 to the FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program. Member Gary Yep, Fresno COG, seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote without opposition.

E. Informational Items

The Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. Ms. Vivian noted that the August 21 Policy Council meeting coincided with a California Transportation Commission meeting in San Diego and asked whether the conflict would prevent many members from attending. After no broader scheduling conflict was identified, the Chair agreed to leave the August 21 meeting date unchanged. The following meetings and milestones were noted:

- ✓ Directors' Committee - August 6, 2026.
- ✓ Policy Council - August 21, 2026 - Federal Platform/Planning Session for the 2026 Washington, D.C. Valley Voice.
- ✓ Directors' Committee - September 3, 2026 - Final preparation for the 2026 Washington, D.C. Valley Voice.
- ✓ Valley Voice Washington, D.C. Trip - September 15-16, 2026.

F. Other Items

F.1. Executive Committee Report

Chair McDaniel reported that the day's discussion, particularly the federal platform and speaking assignments, reflected the work and recommendations of the recent Executive Committee meeting. No additional Executive Committee items were reported.

F.2. Directors' Committee Report

Patricia Taylor, MCTC, Chair of the Directors' Committee, reported that the Directors were continuing work on a Valleywide priority-project process. The current concept is for each participating agency to nominate one project, producing approximately 10 projects for future coordinated advocacy. Nomination forms were expected to be circulated shortly, with the goal of giving the Valley a unified set of projects to discuss in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

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Taylor also reported on the VMT-mitigation workgroup formed after the retreat. She said the Valley's rural and agricultural conditions create unique VMT challenges that should be explained more clearly to state decision-makers. The subcommittee was considering developing a technical paper and a simplified public-outreach component to support future advocacy and meetings with California Transportation Commission members and legislators.

F.3. Policy Council Member Comments

No additional Policy Council member comments were offered.

G. Public Comment

Chair McDaniel opened the public comment period for matters within the Council's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. No public comments were received.

H. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus.

I. Closed Session

A closed session was not scheduled or held.

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Other Meeting Participants

Yes	No	Director Agency	Yes	No	Director Agency
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☒	☐	Stephan Sanchez Kern COG	☒	☐	Jen Covino Covino, Smith & Simon
☒	☐	Rob Ball Kern COG	☒	☐	David Gellman Covino, Smith & Simon
☒	☐	Ted Smalley TCAG	☒	☐	Aly Hernandez Covino, Smith & Simon
☒	☐	Ben Giuliani TCAG	☒	☐	Georgiena Vivian SJV Coordinator VRPA Technologies
☒	☐	Amie Kane TCAG	☐	☒	Carolina Ilic VRPA Technologies
☐	☒	Steven Ingoldsby TCAG	☐	☒	Dena Graham VRPA Technologies
☒	☐	Ben Kimball TCAG	☐	☒	Ryan Vivian VRPA Technologies
☒	☐	Terri King KCAG	☐	☒	Samer Shaath CHSRA
☒	☐	Robert Phipps Fresno COG	☒	☐	Allison Rodriguez CHSRA
☐	☒	Paul Herman Fresno COG	☐	☒	Augie Blancas CHSRA
☒	☐	Blake Rincon Fresno COG	☒	☐	Michael Navarro Caltrans D6
☐	☒	Brenda Thomas Fresno COG	☒	☐	Caleb Brock Caltrans D6
☒	☐	Patricia Taylor MCTC Chair, Directors' Committee	☒	☐	Phillip Vallejo Caltrans D6
☒	☐	Nav Bagri MCAG	☒	☐	Grace Magsayo Caltrans D10
☒	☐	Stacie Guzman MCAG	☒	☐	Corey Casey Caltrans D10
☒	☐	Elizabeth Forte MCAG	☐	☒	Tom Dumas Caltrans D10
☒	☐	Meg Prince MCAG	☐	☒	Duper Tong Caltrans, D10
☐	☒	Amber Collins StanCOG	☐	☒	Gurwinder Sekhon Caltrans D10
☐	☒	Jose Luis Caceres StanCOG	☒	☐	Caleb Brock Caltrans D10
☐	☒	Monica Streeter StanCOG	☐	☒	Bill Higgins CALCOG
☐	☒	Nick St. Cook StanCOG	☒	☐	Sabrina Bradbury CALCOG
☒	☐	Diane Nguyen SJCOG	☐	☒	Gregory McAteer CALCOG
☒	☐	Ryan Niblock SJCOG	☐	☒	Vincenzo Caporale CALCOG
☒	☐	Blake Dunford SJCOG	☐	☒	Alex Marcucci Trinity Consultants
☐	☒	Mark Montelongo SJVAPCD	☒	☐	Kristine Cai
☐	☒	Tim Franquist SJVAPCD	☐	☐	
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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations – The public meeting room and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact the SJV Regional Agencies Coordinator, Georgiena Vivian, at (559) 259-9257, at least three days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM D.1.b.2.

Federal Platform

DRAFT
Valley Voice
Federal Legislative Platform
07/30/26

Our Policy Priorities: Principles for the Surface Transportation Reauthorization

The Policy Council is grateful that Members of Congress are working on a bipartisan basis to develop a multiyear surface transportation reauthorization measure to succeed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58). Our member agencies support a number of policy provisions included in the *Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act* (BUILD America 250 or BA250, H.R. 8870) within the House of Representatives, which are intended to enhance local and regional access to consistent federal funding streams and improve our ability to implement infrastructure projects that serve urban, suburban, and rural communities across the San Joaquin Valley. We appreciate that the bill contemplates new revenue solutions, such as a national registration fee for EVs and hybrids, to ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) with a mindfulness that the vehicle miles traveled model may disparately impact rural communities.

Our member agencies agree with the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee's emphasis on directing federal dollars through key formula programs that provide reliable and predictable resources to the Valley on an annual basis. These programs are more accessible to smaller agencies that struggle with the capacity to apply for competitive or discretionary programs. The Policy Council strongly supports funding increases and expanded eligibility authorized for the following programs:

- ✓ Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program
- ✓ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- ✓ Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP, or PL)

We applaud provisions in the House reauthorization measure that would empower Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to better administer federal funds at the local level. This includes allowing for additional uses of PL dollars, such as fiscal administration of local projects, preliminary design, local technical assistance, transportation studies, and data procurement. We are also supportive of pathways established by the bill that would allow MPOs to qualify as direct recipients of PL funding.

Our regional planning agencies are thankful for policy provisions in the House legislation that would serve to enhance rural and agricultural goods movement. We are particularly supportive of the bill's inclusion of the *Farm-to-Market Road Improvement Act* sponsored by Representatives David Valadao, Vince Fong, and Jim Costa and supported by Representatives Adam Gray and Josh Harder. The new Surface Transportation Accelerator Grant (STAG) Program that would be authorized by the *BUILD America 250 Act* would provide for a set-aside for projects that prioritize agricultural goods movement in rural areas. We are sincerely thankful that the bill incorporates this critical legislation. Direct eligibility for regional transportation planning organizations and local governments under the STAG Program would help channel these resources directly to entities that understand the needs of our residents the most. be expanded to better emphasize its significance. Our Valley agencies have spent more than a decade advocating for these resources, and we urge lawmakers to preserve this important provision from BA250 in any forthcoming

agreement to ensure federal investment in agricultural freight corridors and farm-to-market transportation infrastructure, particularly in counties with substantial agricultural economies.

The Policy Council endorses the BA250 Act's inclusion of guaranteed funding to address the immense demand for federal bridge programs that remain oversubscribed year after year. A set-aside within the proposed Grants for Rebuilding America's Vital Engineering Structures Program would allow states to run competitive processes to fund locally-owned bridge projects.

Commented [JS1]: Question to the group; how significant is this element for your agency?

We ask lawmakers engaged in the reauthorization effort to maintain investments in rail infrastructure at levels authorized by the IJA. We are concerned that the *BUILD America 250 Act* would result in a 37 percent decrease in funding for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Amtrak, with resources for many discretionary programs predicated on the approval of appropriations by Congress. Maintaining IJA levels of investment for rail at a minimum will ensure our region can continue making progress on our Valley Rail Program.

Enhancing the Administration's Deregulatory Agenda

Further Streamlining NEPA

As the Administration continues to enhance its regulatory approach, the Policy Council supports legislative and regulatory solutions that streamline project permitting efforts and reduce administrative burdens and project delays while maintaining environmental protections associated with *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* reviews. For example, we appreciate provisions in the *BUILD America 250 Act* that would provide parity in property acquisition policies for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); increase cost thresholds for categorical exclusions (CEs) for projects of limited financial assistance; and update CEs for public transportation projects. We also encourage federal policymakers to ensure that interagency coordination is completed within reasonable and predictable timelines.

Advancing Clean Air Priorities Through Federal Partnership

The San Joaquin Valley continues to make significant progress toward cleaner air through strong local, state, and federal partnerships. These collaborative efforts are essential to developing and implementing effective air quality plans and regulations that achieve measurable emissions reductions while supporting economic growth, infrastructure investment, and the long-term health of Valley communities.

Several significant State Implementation Plan (SIP) and rule submissions are pending before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including the Valley's State Implementation Plan for the 2015 ozone standard and several permitting rules. As additional SIP revisions and regulatory actions are developed and submitted, the Policy Council supports continued collaboration with EPA to ensure timely review and approval of these actions. Prompt federal review and action are essential to maintaining regulatory certainty, supporting continued economic investment, and advancing clean air and public health objectives, while avoiding *Clean Air Act (CAA)* sanctions (permitting sanctions, the loss of billions in transportation funding, and potential loss of local regulatory authority) resulting from delayed federal action. This partnership is particularly important given that many of the Valley's air quality challenges are due to its natural geography and meteorology, and emissions sources beyond the region's regulatory jurisdiction (i.e. mobile sources).

Additionally, the Policy Council remains concerned that recent legislative and regulatory actions particularly related to mobile source emission reductions could affect the region's ability to demonstrate transportation conformity and deliver critical transportation projects on schedule and within budget. We encourage our federal partners to consider the broader impacts of these policy decisions on regional transportation planning, infrastructure investment, project delivery and local economic growth.

Finally, continued federal investment through competitive grant programs is critical to advancing locally driven emission reduction projects that improve air quality, protect public health, strengthen freight infrastructure, and support the Valley's economy.

Our Regional Projects: Improving Safety, Facilitating Goods Movement, & Promoting Economic Growth

Highways

Because of its central location in the state, the San Joaquin Valley serves as a vital transportation hub for moving people and goods across California and the United States. State Route (SR) 99 is the backbone of this transportation network. It is the main north-south artery spanning the state and plays a primary role in transporting goods from Southern California to Northern California through the major cities of the San Joaquin Valley.

Our planning agencies have worked for decades to finish SR 99 by expanding the entire facility to six lanes. These highway projects will enhance safety outcomes, reduce traffic congestion and conflicts between trucks and vehicles, and improve public safety and air quality throughout this critical goods movement corridor. To date, a few gaps remain. The Policy Council is grateful for previous federal investments in the SR 99 Corridor and welcomes continued investment as the planning agencies tackle those few remaining segments in the years ahead.

FHWA FY 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (INFRA)

- ✓ The **Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)** is seeking \$115 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (INFRA) program in support of the **State Route (SR) 132/99 Interchange Project**. The project proposes to construct a new direct freeway-to-freeway connection between SR 99 and SR 132 in the City of Modesto. It serves to eliminate a major freight bottleneck along one of California's most important agricultural goods movement corridors. Upon completion, the project will improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and passenger travel by eliminating indirect routing, reducing congestion, and restoring uninterrupted regional and interregional connectivity.
- ✓ The **San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)** is seeking \$91.3 million through the INFRA program in support of the **SR99/120 Interchange Improvement Project Phase 1B**. The project will implement a series of improvements to address congestion, freight bottlenecks, operational deficiencies, and safety issues at the interchange of State Route 99 and State Route 120, one of California's most important freight gateways. Once completed, the interchange will experience fewer fatalities and serious injuries and more efficient goods movement on a critical corridor within the National Highway System, National Highway Freight Network, Strategic Highway Network, and Primary Highway Freight System.

FHWA Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities (RTEPF) Competitive Grant Program

- ✓ The **San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District** is pursuing \$25 million worth of federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities (RTEPF) Competitive Grant Program for the **Sustainable Heavy-Duty Incentives for Freight Transition (SHIFT) project** to accelerate the deployment of cleaner heavy-duty trucks serving the Port of Stockton, Port of Oakland, and the San Joaquin Valley intermodal freight facilities. The project would provide financial incentives for fleets to either replace older diesel trucks with near-zero or zero-emission vehicles or purchase new clean trucks, reducing emissions along one of California's most critical freight corridors. By improving air quality while supporting the movement of agricultural and commercial goods, SHIFT advances freight transportation, strengthens supply chain efficiency, and delivers long-term public health benefits for San Joaquin Valley communities.

FHWA FY 2025–2026 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation Grant Program

- ✓ The **San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRR)** is seeking \$12 million through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) FY 2025–2026 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Competitive Grant Program to advance the **Digital Passenger Experience Program**. The program would establish a common technology platform for current and future passenger rail operations, improving the customer experience from trip planning through onboard travel. Key investments include satellite Wi-Fi on ACE trains, real-time passenger information displays at Gold Runner stations, an enhanced digital trip-planning and service-alert platform, a modern onboard point-of-sale system, and technical integration and cybersecurity to support these improvements.

Local Infrastructure

In alignment with Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's priorities of improving safety and the travel experience for American families, several member agencies have submitted applications seeking funding through discretionary grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). We ask for your support for the projects outlined below.

FHWA Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

- ✓ The **City of Chowchilla** is seeking \$12.5 million for the **State Route 99/233 Multimodal Interchange Improvement Project**. The project will construct two multi-lane roundabouts at the SR 99 northbound and southbound on-ramp and off-ramp terminals to lower vehicle speeds and reduce conflict points. To further improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, the roundabouts will be installed with enhanced lighting, crosswalk visibility enhancements, and median crossing islands. Wider edge lines and enhanced Intelligent Transportation Systems elements will also be implemented. The project components work together to enhance safety, accessibility, and connectivity in a central component of the City's roadway network.
- ✓ **Kern Council of Governments** is seeking federal funding through the SS4A Grant Program to support [a local project].

Rail

Significant rail investments are underway throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including the expansion of Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) and Gold Runner services, as well as the construction of the first segment of the California High-Speed Rail project. Passenger rail service, both today and for the future, requires ongoing coordination and investment in our capital projects, equipment, and operations. In many instances, these facility improvements will also benefit freight rail and goods movement. We ask the Administration to consider the following proposals submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) intended to enhance safety and the movement of people and goods:

FRA FY 2024–2025 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program

- ✓ The **San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA)** is seeking \$217.9 million through the FRA FY 2024–2025 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program to advance the **Modernizing Operations and Rail Enhancements (MORE) Project**. The project is a key component of Valley Rail, a regional program that expands passenger rail service through new stations, increased service frequency, and rail infrastructure improvements connecting the Central Valley, Sacramento, and Bay Area. The MORE Project would deliver the Natomas Station and Layover Facility, extend the Del Paso Siding, and construct the San Joaquin Street Layover Track in Stockton, supporting new passenger rail service to the Sacramento region while improving safety, operational flexibility, capacity, and reliability for both passenger and freight rail.

FRA FY 2025–2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program

- ✓ The **San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC)** is seeking \$259.4 million through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) FY 2025–2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program to advance the **Safe High-Impact Investments for Future Train Service (SHIFTS) Project**. The project is a critical component of Valley Rail, a regional program that expands passenger rail service across Northern California through new stations, increased service frequency, and rail infrastructure improvements connecting the Central Valley, Sacramento, and the Bay Area. The SHIFTS Project would deliver the Cabral Station Track Extension and a new Lodi Station with 4.5 miles of double track, improving safety, reliability, operational efficiency, and regional connectivity, while supporting an additional daily Gold Runner round trip, increasing service to eight round trips.
- ✓ The **San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District** is pursuing \$11.9 million in federal funding under the FRA CRISI Program to **replace six aging diesel locomotives with new, more efficient clean locomotives** that meet the Tier 4 emission standards. The project will significantly reduce diesel fuel consumption, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter emissions while improving the efficiency and reliability of freight rail operations that serve the San Joaquin Valley's agricultural economy. Operating at the Port of Stockton and key facilities in Hanford and Pixley, the project will support cleaner movement of agricultural commodities and other freight, strengthen regional supply chains, and deliver lasting air quality and public health benefits to the San Joaquin Valley.
- ✓ **Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG)** is seeking \$43 million through the FRA CRISI Program to support the **Cherry Avenue Grade Separation Project**, which seeks to grade separate an at-grade crossing that experiences safety incidents and vehicle delays by constructing an overpass that will carry Cherry Avenue over the rail corridor and Santa Fe Way. The project will improve the safety and reliability of passenger and freight rail operations and will also deliver safer, more efficient,

and more reliable vehicle travel. The crossing is in the City of Shafter California at its boundary with unincorporated Kern County. Amtrak operates its Gold Runner passenger rail service route through this crossing on the BNSF rail corridor through the Valley. Kern COG will provide \$10.8 in nonfederal match toward this \$53.8 million project.

FRA FY 2025-2026 Crossing Safety Program / Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program

- ✓ The **City of Madera** is seeking \$2.4 million through the FY 2025-2026 Crossing Safety Program / Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program to advance the **Olive Avenue Rail Crossing Safety Enhancement Project**. The Olive Avenue crossing serves as an important component of the local transportation network and provides connectivity for residents, businesses, schools, parks, and community destinations. The proposed improvements will enhance safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists while improving the overall operation of the transportation corridor.
- ✓ **Merced County** is seeking \$56 million through the FRA FY 2025-2026 RCE Program to complete the **Atwater-Merced Railroad Crossing Separation Project**. The requested grant would leverage \$73 million of nonfederal funds to undertake a crossing closure and construct a grade separation on the corridor that supports freight movement along the BNSF Railway and intercity passenger rail (Amtrak Gold Runner). This is a critical component of the Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME), which, when completed, will connect State Route (SR) 99 to Santa Fe Drive, providing direct access to intermodal freight operations at nearby 1,912-acre Castle Commerce Center with its air, ground, and rail connections. Several accidents have occurred at the current crossing, including one resulting in multiple fatalities.
- ✓ **Kern Council of Governments** (Kern COG) is seeking \$135.8 million through the FRA FY 2025-2026 RCE Program to support the **Cherry Avenue, Kratzmeyer Road, and Renfro Road Grade Separations Project**. Kern COG seeks to grade separate three at-grade crossings that experience safety incidents and vehicle delays by constructing three overpasses that will carry Cherry Avenue, Kratzmeyer Road, and Renfro Road over the rail corridor and Santa Fe Way. When implemented and operational, the new facility will improve the safety and reliability of passenger and freight rail operations and will also deliver safer, more efficient, and more reliable vehicle travel. The crossings are in the Cities of Shafter and Bakersfield, two at the boundary with unincorporated Kern County, in California. Amtrak operates its Gold Runner intercity passenger rail service route through these crossings on the BNSF rail corridor through the Valley. Kern COG will provide \$34 million of nonfederal match toward the \$169.8 million project.

FTA FY 2026 Competitive Grants for Rail Vehicle Replacement Program

- ✓ The **San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRR)** is seeking \$18 million through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Competitive Grants for Rail Vehicle Replacement Program to advance the **Transit Reliability through Upgraded Sustainable Transportation (TRUST) Program**. The project would fund the acquisition of four new bi-level passenger rail cars, including vehicle specification development, procurement, manufacturing oversight, quality assurance and quality control, testing, acceptance, and deployment. These investments would help preserve safe and reliable ACE service, reduce maintenance risks, improve passenger experience, support accessibility and future technology upgrades, and protect the long-term availability of this service used by 3,500 passengers each weekday.

Defense Communities

The San Joaquin Valley is proud to be the home of American servicemembers and their families stationed at several military installations throughout the region. Our regional and local governments affirm their support for the military by making targeted infrastructure investments that support base operations, logistics, and workforce commutes. These facility enhancements improve quality of life for servicemembers and their families and ensure the force readiness of our military.

DOD FY 2026 Defense Community Infrastructure Program

- ✓ The **Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)** is seeking \$7.4 million through the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) FY 2026 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) to support the **Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) North Gate SR 58/California City Boulevard and Access Improvement Project**. The project will pave two miles of county dirt road along Lorraine Avenue, connecting California City Boulevard to North Gate Boulevard and 140th Street and eliminating a dangerous-at grade expressway intersection at California City Boulevard and SR 58. Removing this safety hazard will enhance safety and reduce delays for commuting Base personnel, military families driving children to school, and retirees receiving services.
- ✓ **Kern County** is seeking approximately \$8.5 million through DCIP to support the **Kern County Rosamond Sheriff Community Support Facility for Edwards Air Force Base 93560-7897**. The project proposes to construct a 5,300-square-foot sheriff substation in the unincorporated community of Rosamond to address public safety infrastructure deficiencies in the defense community immediately adjacent to Edwards Air Force Base. By establishing a permanent law enforcement and emergency response facility closer to installation personnel, civilian employees, contractors, military families, visitors, and transportation corridors that support the installation, the facility will result in improved response times and a permanent and scalable law enforcement presence to support force protection, emergency response, interagency coordination, public contact, incident stabilization, and mutual air coordination with military and civilian partners.

Securing FY 2027 Appropriations for Regional Projects

The Policy Council recognizes that Congress continues to support important local and regional projects by accepting Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the House of Representatives and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests in the Senate. We thank members of the Congressional delegation who advocated for these proposed federal investments in supporting critical transportation and infrastructure projects throughout the Valley. As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations process progresses, we urge lawmakers to maintain these CPF or CDS requests in any emerging budget agreement. Project sponsors cannot afford additional delays and uncertainty. The Policy Council appreciates your continued advocacy for ultimately delivering these projects.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
CA	Highway 152 Pacheco Boulevard Regional Multi-Use Path Project	\$850,000	Gray	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	Interstate 5/Sperry Avenue Interchange Phase I	\$850,000	Gray	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	Corral Hollow Bridge Replacement Project	\$500,000	Gray	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	State Route 99 / State Route 120 Phase 1B Right of Way Project	\$250,000	Harder	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	California City Boulevard Extension Project	\$3,000,000	Obernolte	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	City of Fowler Tuolumne Street Underpass Project	\$500,000	Costa	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	County of Tulare – Traver Community Corridor Improvement Project	\$500,000	Costa	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	Bethel Ave Road Widening Project	\$250,000	Costa	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	Avenue 56 Farm to Market Corridor Completion Project	\$3,212,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	Monitor Street Corridor Safe Route to Schools Phase II Project	\$5,000,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	North Shafter Street Improvement Phase I Project	\$1,000,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	Panama Road Rehabilitation Project	\$4,900,000	Valadao	Highway Infrastructure Programs
CA	TRIP Hageman Flyover Project	\$1,000,000	Fong	Highway Infrastructure Programs
City of Porterville	Airfield Electrical Improvements and Runway Rehabilitation Design, Porterville Municipal Airport (PTV)	\$750,000	Fong	Grants-in-Aid for Airports
City of Tehachapi	Southwest Diagonal Taxiway Project Phase II Construction, Tehachapi Municipal Airport (TSP)	\$850,000	Fong	Grants-in-Aid for Airports
City of Fresno	Runway 11L-29R Reconstruction FAT	\$1,800,000	Costa	Grants-in-Aid for Airports

City of Parlier	Manning Avenue HAWK Pedestrian Crossing	\$250,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Fresno	Easton Complete Streets	\$850,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Fresno	Community HUB Roof Replacement and Exterior Rehabilitation	\$401,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Fresno	Poverello House Campus Extension	\$850,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Fresno	Zimmerman Community Center Safety Infrastructure Improvements	\$250,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
Fresno County Fire Protection District	Mid Valley Regional Fire Training Center Critical Infrastructure Modernization	\$850,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
State Center Community College District	FCC West Fresno Center Campus – Full Service Student Run Credit Union	\$1,000,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
California State University, Fresno	Fresno State – Empowering Californian Agriculture with Autonomous Weeding Technologies	\$250,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Reedley	Community Center Backup Generator Project	\$310,100	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Visalia	TCOE Doe Complex Employment Resources Center Project	\$850,000	Costa	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Merced	Merced Veterans Memorial Building Repairs and Improvements	\$1,100,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Merced	Santa Nella Park	\$850,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Merced	Bear Creek Multiuse Path Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements Project – Phase II	\$2,250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Merced	Community Facility Renovation	\$250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Madera	City of Madera Sunset Avenue Storm Drainage Project	\$250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Madera	City of Madera School Traffic Safety Improvements	\$250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
University of California, Merced	UC Merced Experimental Smart Farm – Phase 1	\$1,000,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Firebaugh	Firebaugh Multi-Benefit Flood Management Project	\$850,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives

San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority	Del Puerto Canyon Road	\$250,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Mendota	Mendota Airport Park Project	\$500,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Newman	Newman Downtown Mixed-Use Project – Phase 1	\$500,000	Gray	Economic Development Initiatives
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	Arvin-Edison Water District DiGiorgio Unit Pipeline Project	\$5,000,000	Valadao	Economic Development Initiatives
City of McFarland	McFarland Severe Flooding Prevention Project – Phase 1	\$4,348,000	Valadao	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Arvin	Arvin Meyer Street Rehabilitation Project	\$3,000,000	Valadao	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Delano	Delano Water Plant No. 2 Blending Tank Project	\$1,000,000	Valadao	Economic Development Initiatives
County of Kings	Kings Community Action Centralized Kitchen Project	\$1,000,000	Valadao	Economic Development Initiatives
County of San Joaquin	San Joaquin County BeWell Tiny Homes	\$850,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Stockton	Stockton Fire Department Regional Fire Training Center Expansion Project	\$250,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Manteca, California	City of Manteca Daniels Street Community Center Project	\$850,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
City of Tracy	Tracy Animal Shelter Enhancements Project	\$500,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
California State University, Stanislaus	California State University, Stanislaus Stockton Campus - STEM Science Laboratory Expansion and Innovation Center Phase III Project	\$1,250,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
San Joaquin Delta Community College District	Delta College Manteca Bio Economy Training Hub	\$1,000,000	Harder	Economic Development Initiatives
West Side Recreation and Park District	West Kern Community Workforce & Recreation Infrastructure Expansion	\$500,000	Fong	Economic Development Initiatives
Mojave Air and Space Port	ACCEL Center – Aerospace Workforce Training and Small Business Support Center	\$2,500,000	Fong	Economic Development Initiatives

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member	Account
City of Dinuba	Advanced Water Metering	\$746,868	Costa	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Woodlake	Water Supply Resiliency Project	\$746,868	Costa	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Firebaugh Canal Water District	Brackish Water Recovery Project	\$746,868	Gray	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Patterson	Del Puerto Creek Recharge and Recovery Project	\$746,868	Gray	STAG-Clean Water State Revolving Fund
County of Kings	New Well Project, Phase II	\$3,000,000	Valadao	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Lindsay	New Water Well Project	\$1,500,000	Valadao	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Hanford	Water Transmission Project	\$2,500,000	Valadao	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company	Water Supply Project	\$1,500,000	Valadao	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of California City	Water Line Replacement Project	\$1,500,000	Obernolte	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Lemoore	New Well Project	\$1,100,000	Fong	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Kern County Water Agency	Drinking Water Laboratory Project	\$850,000	Fong	STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
City of Tulare	Sewer System Improvements	\$850,000	Fong	STAG-Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Tejon Indian Tribe	Water Systems Feasibility Study	\$700,000	Fong	STAG-Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Congressionally Directed Spending

Note: Senate projects and amounts may change pending Senate Appropriations Committee decisions this summer.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member
Merced County Association of Governments	Funding will be used to construct a multi-use path.	\$2,296,000	Schiff
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Funding will be used to purchase and replace switcher locomotives.	\$2,000,000	Schiff
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Replacement of aging switcher locomotives.	\$2,000,000	Padilla
Madera County	Funding will be used to support the construction of a modern roundabout.	\$5,000,000	Schiff
City of Ceres	Funding will be used to renovate the American Legion Hall into a resiliency and veteran center.	\$2,454,000	Schiff
City of Coalinga	Funding will be used to support the rehabilitation of Coalinga Airport's main runway.	\$1,350,000	Schiff
San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services	Funding will be used to reduce homelessness and improve access to resources.	\$1,311,000	Schiff
City of Fresno	Funding will be used for the reconstruction of a runway at Fresno Airport.	\$7,000,000	Schiff
County of Kern	Funding will be used to support construction of a boulevard extension project.	\$4,000,000	Schiff
City of Lemoore	Funding will be used to rehabilitate the City's recreation center.	\$2,800,000	Schiff
City of Modesto	Funding will be used to increase affordable housing stock.	\$3,000,000	Schiff
City of Modesto	Funding will be used to purchase a courthouse to redevelop the site for community use.	\$2,800,000	Schiff
Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority	Funding will be used to develop affordable housing units.	\$587,000	Schiff

City of Dinuba	Construction of pedestrian safety improvements around Dinuba Middle School.	\$2,400,000	Padilla
Stockton Fire Regional Training Center	Construction of a permanent fire support facility.	\$2,000,000	Padilla
Housing Authority of Fresno County	To develop an affordable housing property.	\$1,000,000	Padilla
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County	To support infrastructure renovation at the property.	\$785,000	Padilla
California Department of Transportation	Improvements to the Corral Hollow Road bridge.	\$2,000,000	Padilla
Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority	Construction of a new operations and maintenance facility.	\$1,000,000	Padilla

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Recipient	Project	Funding Level	Requesting Member
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Funding will be used to support alternative practices for the disposition of agricultural woody waste.	\$1,000,000	Schiff
Sierra Resource Conservation District	Funding will be used to remove hazardous fuels.	\$3,000,000	Schiff
City of Madera	Funding will be used to improve sewer main quality and reliability.	\$2,000,000	Schiff
City of California City	Funding to replace aging water main, valves, and hydrants to improve drinking water reliability.	\$1,300,000	Padilla
City of McFarland	Water system improvements for reliability.	\$13,936,000	Padilla
County of Kings	Drinking and construction of a new groundwater well to improve drinking water reliability.	\$1,000,000	Padilla
County of San Joaquin	Pipeline and service connection improvements.	\$2,000,000	Padilla
Tulare Lake Resource Conservation District	Funding to support the development of a nitrate management plan, performing domestic well testing and survey, and identifying long-term solutions for removing nitrates from groundwater and surface water throughout the Central Valley.	\$1,000,000	Padilla
County of Tulare	Completion of a community well.	\$1,300,000	Padilla

County of Tulare	Funding to replace a drinking water storage tank.	\$1,500,000	Padilla
City of Farmersville	Funding to acquire a fire bulldozer, transport vehicle, and trailer for emergency response.	\$950,000	Padilla

AGENDA ITEM D.1.b.3.

Federal Platform Speaking Assignments

Valley Voice
Federal Legislative Platform
SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS

07/30/26

Our Policy Priorities: Principles for the Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Introduction and Overview

Primary Speaker: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County

Farm-to-Market Road Improvement Act

Primary Speaker: Mayor Rudy Mendoza, City of Woodlake

Secondary Speaker: Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County

Enhancing the Administration's Deregulatory Agenda

Further Streamlining NEPA

Primary Speaker: Chair Daron McDaniel, Supervisor, Merced County

Secondary Speaker: Supervisor Robert Rickman, San Joaquin County

Advancing Clean Air Priorities Through Federal Partnership

Primary Speaker: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Secondary Speaker: Ryan Niblock, Deputy Director of Programming and Project Delivery, San Joaquin Council of Governments

Our Regional Projects: Improving Safety, Facilitating Goods Movement, and Promoting Economic Growth

Highways

Introduction

Primary Speaker: Chair Daron McDaniel, Supervisor, Merced County

State Route 132/99 Interchange Project, City of Modesto, Stanislaus County

Speaker TBD by sponsoring agency

State Route 99/120 Interchange Improvement Project Phase 1B, SJCOG, San Joaquin County

Speaker TBD by sponsoring agency

Sustainable Heavy-Duty Incentives for Freight Transition Project, SJVAPCD

Speakers: Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, Vito Chiesa, StanCOG, and Jose Rodriguez, MCTC

Digital Passenger Experience Program, SJRRC

Primary Speaker: Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County

Local Infrastructure

State Route 99/233 Multimodal Interchange Improvement Project, Chowchilla, Madera County

Speaker Robert Poythress and Patricia Taylor

Kern COG Safe Streets and Roads for All Application(s) (PENDING)

Speaker TBD by sponsoring agency

Rail

Introduction

Primary Speaker: Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County

Secondary Speaker: Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County

Modernizing Operations and Rail Enhancements Project, SJJPA

Primary Speaker: Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County

Safe High-Impact Investments for Future Train Service Project, SJRRC

Primary Speaker: Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County

Diesel Locomotive Replacement, SJVAPCD

Speakers: Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, Vito Chiesa, StanCOG, and Jose Rodriguez, MCTC

Cherry Avenue Grade Separation Project, Kern COG

Speaker TBD by sponsoring agency

Olive Avenue Rail Crossing Safety Enhancement Project, City of Madera, Madera County

Speaker Jose Rodriguez

Atwater-Merced Railroad Crossing Separation Project, Merced County

Speaker TBD by sponsoring agency

Cherry Avenue, Kratzmeyer Road, and Renfro Road Grade Separations Project, Kern COG

Speaker TBD by sponsoring agency

Transit Reliability through Upgraded Sustainable Transportation Program, SJRRC

Primary Speaker: Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County

Defense Communities

Edwards Air Force Base North Gate State Route 58/California City Boulevard and Access Improvement Project, Kern COG

Primary Speaker: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director, Kern Council of Governments

Kern County Rosamond Sheriff Community Support Facility for Edwards Air Force Base 93560-7897, Kern County

Primary Speaker: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director, Kern Council of Governments

Securing FY 2027 Appropriations for Regional Projects

Primary Speaker: Chair Daron McDaniel, Supervisor, Merced County