



REGIONAL PRIORITIES

2026



2026 VALLEY VOICE SACRAMENTO DELEGATION

Merced County Representatives

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2025 Sacramento Valley Voice Delegation

2026 VALLEY VOICE SACRAMENTO DELEGATION

Tulare County Representatives

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2025 Sacramento Valley Voice Delegation

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PRAGMATICALLY ADDRESS AIR QUALITY, EQUITY, AND MOBILITY GOALS THROUGH OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AND WITHOUT COMPROMISING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The San Joaquin Valley resides in a nonattainment air district. Our constituents suffer from poor air quality that is predominantly caused by our geographic “bowl” shaped valley, walled off by mountains, weather patterns (winds blowing West to East), vast agricultural farmland, severe goods movement traffic, and the jobs-housing imbalance leading to the daily migration of hundreds of thousands of daily commuters into the Bay Area and Los Angeles Basin.

All eight MPOs in the San Joaquin Valley strongly support California’s climate goals and are deeply committed to improvements to passenger and freight rail systems and improving public transportation, walking, biking, and other modes of transportation, but we need help as follows:

- ✓ Protect transportation funding by reconciling conformity to environmental mandates.
- ✓ Support stable, equitable, and environmentally conscious state funding of alternatives to petroleum fuel sources to expand infrastructure and incentives for conversion to electric vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Prioritize feasible implementation strategies for State and regional climate goals to improve air quality and mobility.
- ✓ Pursue innovative and pragmatic solutions to address climate and mobility goals.
- ✓ Monitor activities on conversations regarding the jobs-housing imbalance and the impact on vehicle miles traveled.
- ✓ Monitor the implementation of SB 743, AB 285, and the discussion on amending SB 375 to protect the ability to continue addressing congestion management and safety on the state highway system, without compromising economic activity.
- ✓ Restore FARMER funding to accelerate air quality goals.



Merced County Campus Parkway Project

LEVERAGE STATE FUNDING TO ADDRESS GOODS MOVEMENT MOBILITY AND SAFETY

The San Joaquin Valley generates over \$35 billion annually and produces 25 percent of the nation's food supply. We must continue accommodating the sustained growth in goods movement and population (a 159% increase in the Valley since 1980) and provide pragmatic solutions that prioritize safety. Heavy truck traffic and our region's population are expected to increase. This necessitates a balanced planning approach, which supports sustainable economic development across California, recognizing the diversity and interconnectedness of all regions, including the San Joaquin Valley.

Solutions include:

- ✓ Aggressively pursue funds through the State Budget, California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocation process, or any other state sources to address safety, congestion management, and goods movement.
- ✓ Advocate for a successor source to the gas tax to ensure stability and predictability of funding.
- ✓ Ensure that CSIS allows investments to enhance safety and goods movement on the state highway system.

ACCESS TRANSIT FUNDING

The Regional Policy Council will monitor the CalSTA Transit Transformative Task Force and, as appropriate, support modifications to the TDA process to ensure that transit operators have the flexibility to continue accessing funding to maintain and expand service.

- ✓ Support potential changes to the Transportation Development Act that will assist local public transportation systems with funding eligibility.
- ✓ Stabilize and increase transit funding levels.
- ✓ Protect and augment existing programs to encourage mode-shift.



Kings Area Regional Transit "Baby Bus"

ENHANCE PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

One of the best ways to compel mode shift, enhance connectivity, and improve air quality is to continue expanding our region's passenger rail system. Our region asks for the following:

- ✓ Provide enhanced passenger rail service to better connect the San Joaquin Valley to Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Southern California.
- ✓ Maintain and increase funding for commuter and intercity passenger rail for ACE, San Joaquins, and Valley Link. Pursue funding opportunities made available through CalSTA.



ACE Train at the Stockton Station



The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

is a partnership that exemplifies the regional transportation planning agencies' commitment to working collaboratively to address regional issues, challenges, and opportunities. The 18-member Policy Council was established to build regional consensus and provide a forum for the Valley to organize, coordinate, and communicate as a region. The Policy Council consists of two elected officials from each of the eight regional planning agencies' policy boards, and the Executive Directors of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority.

Valley Voice is the Policy Council's advocacy program that communicates the region's priorities to policymakers and agency staff in Sacramento and Washington, DC. Each year, a coalition of elected officials and regional agency staff from throughout the region travels to Sacramento and Washington, DC to advocate for the valley with a unified voice.

***The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is led by
Chair Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor.***

CONTACT

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

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