

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL



OVERALL WORK PROGRAM FY 2026-27



San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Members and Staff, July 2026 – June 2027

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: This document uses the terms Regional Planning Agency (RPA), Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Council of Governments (COG) interchangeably.

Valleywide Vision, Goals, and Priorities

The following Vision Statement, Goals, and Priorities were amended on July 31, 2026, by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council to reflect the direction and input provided by the Policy Council, Executive Committee, and the Directors' Committee during the April 30–May 1, 2026, Policy Council Retreat. Together, they establish a shared framework for Valleywide coordination during Fiscal Year 2026–27, emphasizing sustainable transportation funding, unified state and federal advocacy, economic competitiveness, organizational effectiveness, air quality and regulatory coordination, and development of a connected multimodal transportation system. The goals and associated priorities are presented in their agreed-upon order of importance and are intended to guide the coordinated activities, work assignments, and advocacy efforts identified in this OWP.

Prior to approval of the Fiscal Year 2027–28 OWP, the Policy Council will review the activities undertaken during Fiscal Year 2026–27 by the Policy Council, Executive Committee, Directors' Committee, and applicable subcommittees and working groups. The review will evaluate how their meetings, work products, advocacy efforts, funding initiatives, interagency coordination, and other Valleywide activities advanced the adopted Vision Statement, Goals, and Priorities. The findings will identify accomplishments, remaining needs, implementation gaps, and recommended adjustments to the OWP so the FY 2027–28 OWP continues to reflect the Valley's shared direction and highest-priority regional objectives.

VISION STATEMENT

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

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

Goal 1: Funding Strategy and Innovation

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

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

Goal 2: Valleywide Leadership and Unified Advocacy

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

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

Goal 3: Economic Competitiveness Through Strategic Coordination

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

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

Goal 4: Organizational Effectiveness and Collaboration

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

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

Goal 5: Air Quality and Regulatory Coordination

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

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

Goal 6: Regional Coordination of Multimodal Systems

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

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

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) emissions 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, the RPAs solidified funding and regional support for the California Inland Port concepts.

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 federal funding is allocated to transportation activities 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 actions 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 SJV Air Pollution Control District 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 sets regional targets to reduce 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 Councils of Governments (CalCOG), California Self Help Counties Coalition, Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the High-Speed Rail Authority, and Housing and Community Development (HCD). Regional entities include the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the San Joaquin Valley JPA for Passenger Rail, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG), MPOs in the Central Coast, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Other stakeholders include the California Trucking Association, agricultural associations (County Farm Bureaus, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Western Growers Association, County Agricultural Commissioners, Water Management Districts, and others), the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, colleges and universities, environmental groups, the business community (Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, and other business stakeholders), and the public.

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

Activities for FY 2026-2027:

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

- Valley Directors to develop and maintain relationships with the Caltrans Director and Deputy for Planning.
- Valley Directors' Committee meetings should be scheduled periodically at a time of the month when Valley Directors can review and discuss the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG) meetings to develop timely joint strategies on key issues.
- Request sister MPOs (MTC, Central Coast, or SCAG) to come to a Valley Directors' Committee meeting.
- Valley Directors meet annually with CARB management and board members and attend the joint CTC/CARB and joint CTC/CARB/HCD Board meetings.

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 Regional Policy Council updated its government affairs contracts for state and federal representation. Fresno COG was appointed fiscal agent for the state contract, while the MCAG was designated 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, the coordinator writes and circulates position letters on 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:

- 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.
- Advocate for clean air funding to further improve air quality and public health in the Valley.
- Advocate for timely approval action of Valley State Implementation Plan submissions under the Clean Air Act.

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 joined 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 continues to this day.
- **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 Madera region in 2027. 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 28-30, 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, the Council may hold up to four provisional and emergency meetings annually.

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

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, we revised 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 better accommodate the organization's evolving dynamics, 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 reflect proposed work activities and budget estimates, allowing member agencies to incorporate this information into their budgets and OWPs. Present this draft to the Directors' Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Policy Council in January or February each year. The presentation provides an opportunity for collaboration and feedback, ensuring all member agencies are aligned on objectives and strategies.

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 Governments

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 strategies to help the region pursue funding opportunities more effectively while presenting a coordinated, unified "One Voice" approach that supports each county's projects and benefits 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 FY 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.

Valleywide Meeting Calendar

San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

FY 2026-2027

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

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

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

Oct 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

Nov 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					

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
	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						

Mar 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			
						TBD

Apr 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	

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.

SJV Regional Policy Council 2026-2027 Overall Work Program Budget*

Costs by Agency

Last Updated 09/18/2026

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%	67,881	5,250	13,220	43,397	2,000	131,748
Kern COG	927,328	20.84%	60,430	5,250	13,220	38,633	2,000	119,533
KCAG	153,754	3.45%	10,019	5,250	13,220	6,406	2,000	36,895
MCTC	166,407	3.74%	10,844	5,250	13,220	6,933	2,000	38,247
MCAG	294,154	6.61%	19,169	5,250	13,220	12,255	2,000	51,893
SJCOG	820,125	18.43%	53,444	5,250	13,220	34,167	2,000	108,081
StanCOG	557,159	12.52%	36,308	5,250	13,220	23,212	2,000	79,989
TCAG	489,610	11.00%	31,906	5,250	13,220	20,398	2,000	72,773
SJIPA				5,250	13,220		2,000	20,470
SJVAPCD				5,250	13,220		2,000	20,470
Total FY 2026-27:	4,450,213	100.0%	\$ 290,000	\$ 52,500	\$ 132,200	\$ 185,400	\$ 20,000	\$ 680,100

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) SJCOG 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 \$25,000 in October 2025**. An additional \$40,000 was approved by the Directors' Committee on August 6, 2026 to reflect significant efforts including: conformity challenges and RTP/SCS adoption, Valley Voice talking points, work associated with the 2012 PM2.5 plan, and review and preparation of comments on CARB actions through the end of the calendar year.

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

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

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

(6) Other Direct Costs (Valley Voice DC Breakfast and Dinner Costs, Sacramento Reception and Lunch Costs, and Retreat Costs for Meals and Venue - Calculated equally by agency). In reality, the costs will be billed 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.
- SJCOG is the fiscal agent for Air Quality Planning, which is conducted by Trinity Consultants with project management support by SJCOG 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.