San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 5, 2026
10:00 am

Location:

Via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82107578234?pwd=DBAUPcJBeNaamJo5uG6pNLasXkBg9l.1&from=addon
Meeting ID: 821 0757 8234
Passcode: 822967
One tap mobile, Phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Yes	No	Director | Agency	Yes	No	Director | Agency
☐	☐	Patricia Taylor | Chair | MCTC	☐	☐	Paul Herman | Fresno COG
☐	☐	Jay Schlosser | Vice Chair | Kern COG	☐	☐	Ted Smalley | TCAG
☐	☐	Diane Nguyen | SJCOG	☐	☐	Terri King | KCAG
☐	☐	Amber Collins | StanCOG	☐	☐	Samir Sheikh | SJVAPCD
☐	☐	Stacie Guzman | MCAG	☐	☐	Chris Orlando | SJJPA

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Taylor	
B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
1. October 8, 2026, Directors' Meeting	Chair Taylor	Yes
C. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS		
1. RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues	Ted Smalley, Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci	
a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets	*Ryan Niblock*	
b. Federal Air Quality Conformity	*Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci*	
c. ACTION: Recommendation to the Executive Committee - One-Year Contract Extension - Air Quality/Conformity Consultant - Trinity Consultants	*Ryan Niblock*	

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ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
2. SJVAPCD Update	Samir Sheikh/ Mark Montelongo	
a. Air Quality Issues		
b. State Implementation Plan (SIP)		
3. Legislative Updates		
a. State		
1). State Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	
2). Sacramento Valley Voice, March 2027, Review Preliminary Draft State Platform and Discuss Trip Schedule/Logistics	Gus Khouri & Georgiena Vivian	Yes – to be distributed prior to meeting
b. Federal		
1). Federal Legislative Update	*Jen Covino*	
4. Project Delivery Road Map Planning Process – Revised Application Form and Next Steps	Chair Taylor & Georgiena Vivian	Yes – to be distributed prior to meeting
5. SJVCOG/RPC Newsletter Development	Georgiena Vivian	Yes – to be distributed prior to meeting
6. 2027 SJV Regional Policy Conference, April 28-30, 2027 – Status Report	Chair Taylor & Georgiena Vivian	
D. INFORMATION ITEMS		
The following items are for informational purposes and require no action or vote. The individuals listed will provide a brief verbal update at the meeting.		
1. Caltrans Directors' Report	Michael Navarro, D6 Grace Magsayo, D10	
2. California High-Speed Rail Authority	Allison Rodriguez, Augie Blancas, CHSRA	
3. Future Meetings/Agenda Items: *a. November 20, 2026 – Executive Committee Meeting – Review Preliminary Draft Sacramento Valley Voice State Platform, Discuss Speaking Assignments* *b. December 3, 2026 – Directors' Committee Meeting - Introduce Preliminary Draft FY 2027/28 OWP Revisions* *c. January 7, 2027 – Directors' Committee Meeting*	Georgiena Vivian	

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d. *January 22, 2026 – Regional Policy Council Meeting – RPC Elections, Review Draft Sacramento Valley Voice State Platform, Speaking Assignments and Talking Points* e. *February 4, 2027 – Directors' Committee Meeting* f. *February 12, 2026 – Executive Committee Meeting - Recommend Approval of Final Sacramento Valley Voice State Platform, Speaking Assignments and Talking Points, Introduce FY 2027/28 OWP Revisions* g. *February/March 2027 - Regional Policy Council Meeting (Sacramento Valley Voice Pre-Meeting - TBD)* h. *March 2027 – Sacramento Valley Voice Trip (TBD)* i. *2027 SJV Regional Policy Conference – April 28-30, 2027*		
E. DIRECTOR ITEMS	Chair Taylor	
F. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Chair Taylor	
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Unscheduled comments may be limited to three minutes. The public may comment on listed agenda items as they are considered.		
G. ADJOURN MEETING	Chair Taylor	
H. NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING: Thursday, December 3, 2026.		

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OTHER ATTENDEES:

Yes	No	Director | Agency	Yes	No	Director | Agency
☐	☐	Stephan Sanchez| Kern COG	☐	☐	Georgiena Vivian | SJV Coordinator | VRPA
☐	☐	Rob Ball | Kern COG	☐	☐	Carolina Ilic | VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Kayley Clay | KCAG	☐	☐	Dena Graham | VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Ben Kimball | TCAG	☐	☐	Ryan Vivian | VRPA Technologies
☐	☐	Steven Ingoldsby | TCAG	☐	☐	Gus Khouri | Actum
☐	☐	Roberto Brady | TCAG	☐	☐	Jen Covino | Covino, Smith & Simon
☐	☐	Ben Giuliani | TCAG	☐	☐	David Gellman | Covino, Smith & Simon
☐	☐	Aime Kane | TCAG	☐	☐	Aly Hernandez | Covino, Smith & Simon
☐	☐	Kasia Poleszczuk | TCAG	☐	☐	Alex Marcucci | Trinity Consultants
☐	☐	Ofelia Abundez | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Allison Rodriguez | CHSRA
☐	☐	Simran Sangha | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Augie Blancas | CHSRA
☐	☐	Brenda Thomas | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Peter Whippy | CHSRA
☐	☐	Mykia Byrd | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Michael Navarro | Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Erin Haagenson | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Braden Duran | Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Blake Rincon | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Harpreet Binning | Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Santosh Bhattarai | Fresno COG	☐	☐	Shane Gunn | Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Dylan Stone | MCTC	☐	☐	Nabeelah Abi-Rached | Caltrans D6
☐	☐	Jeff Findley | MCTC	☐	☐	Grace Magsayo | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Nav Bagri | MCAG	☐	☐	Caleb Brock | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Elizabeth Forte | MCAG	☐	☐	Eric Mather | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Meg Prince | MCAG	☐	☐	Tom Dumas | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Stephanie Jackson | MCAG	☐	☐	Duper Tong | Caltrans, D10
☐	☐	Karen Dunger | StanCOG	☐	☐	Gurwinder Sekhon | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	José Luis Cáceres | StanCOG	☐	☐	Gregoria Ponce | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Monica Streeter | StanCOG	☐	☐	Gabbie Sefranek | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Nick St. Cook | StanCOG	☐	☐	Natalia Castillo Deleon | Caltrans D10
☐	☐	Shannon Silva | StanCOG	☐	☐	Bill Higgins | CALCOG
☐	☐	Josephine Oshana | StanCOG	☐	☐	Sabrina Bradbury | CALCOG
☐	☐	Jean Foletta | StanCOG	☐	☐	Gregory McAteer | CALCOG
☐	☐	Cindy Malekos | StanCOG	☐	☐	Vincenzo Caporale | CALCOG
☐	☐	Ryan Niblock | SJCOG	☐	☐	Kristine Cai | LSA
☐	☐	Kim Anderson | SJCOG	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Yvette Davis | SJCOG	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Christine Corrales | SJCOG	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Blake Dunford | SJCOG	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Mark Montelongo | SJVAPCD	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Tim Franquist | SJVAPCD	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Ahdel Ahmed | SJJPA	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Rene Gutierrez | ACE Rail	☐	☐	
☐	☐		☐	☐	

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AGENDA ITEM B.1

October 8, 2026 Directors' Committee

Meeting Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2026
10:00 am

Location:

Via Zoom

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Passcode: 476468
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DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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☒	☐	Patricia Taylor | Chair | MCTC	☒	☐	Paul Herman | Fresno COG
☒	☐	Jay Schlosser | Vice Chair | Kern COG	☒	☐	Ted Smalley | TCAG
☒	☐	Diane Nguyen | SJCOG	☒	☐	Terri King | KCAG
☒	☐	Amber Collins | StanCOG	☒	☐	Samir Sheikh | SJVAPCD (M. Montelongo)
☒	☐	Stacie Guzman | MCAG	☐	☒	Ahdel Ahmed | SJJPA

ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Taylor	
Chair Patricia Taylor, MCTC, opened the October 8, 2026, meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Agencies' Directors' Committee via Zoom at approximately 10:00 a.m. She noted the full agenda and the scheduled Directors' Only Session.		
B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
1. October 8, 2026, Directors' Meeting	Chair Taylor	Yes
Ted Smalley, TCAG, moved to approve the October 8, 2026, Directors' Committee meeting minutes, and Stacie Guzman, MCAG, seconded. The Committee approved the minutes without opposition.		

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ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
C. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS		
1. RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues	Ted Smalley, Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci	
a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets	Ryan Niblock	
No separate report on the SB 375 greenhouse gas reduction targets was provided under this item. SB 1087 was referenced during the State Legislative Update, including acknowledgment of continued implementation work and regional coordination.		
b. Federal Air Quality Conformity	Ryan Niblock & Alex Marcucci	
Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, joined later and provided an RTP/SCS adoption-resolution update. Caltrans programming staff remained concerned about the September resolution template that delegated authority to executive directors to finalize adoption after EPA acted on the 2008 ozone plan. Ryan strongly recommended that agencies using the delegated-authority approach take a second, formal board adoption action in October, using the additional template he had distributed, as a precaution against later objections by FHWA and the need for an emergency board meeting. Chair Taylor and Paul Herman, Fresno COG, thanked Ryan for his extensive coordination on the conformity and RTP/SCS process.		
2. SJVAPCD Update	Samir Sheikh / Mark Montelongo	
a. Air Quality Issues	Mark Montelongo	
Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, reported that EPA proposed moving the Valley's attainment deadline for the 2012 annual PM2.5 standard from December 2025 to December 2030; the District continued working with CARB and EPA toward final approval. For the more stringent 2024 annual PM2.5 standard, EPA was under a court order to complete area designations by February 2027. Exceptional-events reviews and monitoring issues continued to create uncertainty. Mark also announced a November 4–5 Air District Governing Board study session at Bass Lake covering CalEnviroScreen 5.0, attainment planning and modeling, wildfire impacts, and fuel reduction.		
b. State Implementation Plan (SIP)	Mark Montelongo	
Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, reported that CARB adopted revisions to the 2026 Extreme Ozone Plan in July and submitted the revisions to EPA in September. The plan addresses shortfalls in mobile-source emission reductions following federal actions affecting CARB measures, and includes a provision allowing additional time to identify needed strategies. EPA action was being sought before January 15, 2027; approval would establish updated motor-vehicle emissions budgets. Regarding the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 standard, EPA determined that the Valley did not attain by the December 2019 deadline following a court ruling involving state mobile-source commitments. A revised plan demonstrating five-percent annual emissions reductions is due in June 2027, and new motor-vehicle emissions budgets may be necessary. The District continues to coordinate with CARB, EPA, and transportation agencies.		
3. Legislative Updates		
a. State		
1). State Legislative Update	Gus Khouri	
Gus Khouri, Actum, State Legislative Advocate, reported that the Legislature adjourned September 1 and the Governor's bill-signing period ended September 30. He thanked the agencies and CALCOG for their legislative work, including efforts on SB 1087, and said additional coordination would be needed in 2027. With turnover expected among the Valley's state delegation, Gus emphasized the importance of identifying regional priorities early and educating incoming legislative staff. Gus will circulate a final bill matrix and a draft based on the 2026 Valley Voice legislative platform to help the Directors identify issues for 2027. He also proposed working with Georgiena Vivian on a survey to select dates for the March Sacramento Valley Voice trip without conflicting with CALCOG events and local board commitments. Gus discussed opportunities to engage the next Governor and possible administration, including transportation infrastructure priorities.		

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Ted Smalley, TCAG, supported seeking an early meeting with the incoming Governor, even if separate from Valley Voice. Chair Taylor identified transportation funding, project delivery, and possible SB 743 reform as relevant advocacy topics.		
2). State Funding Strategy Session/Discussion	Gus Khouri	
Rather than a separate strategy presentation, the funding discussion was incorporated into Gus Khouri's legislative update. Members discussed preparing the 2027 state advocacy platform and selecting regionally important, funding-ready projects in advance of Sacramento Valley Voice. Further details were expected through the project application process under Item C.4.		
b. Federal		
1). Federal Legislative Update	Jen Covino	
Jen Covino, Covino, Smith and Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, reported that Congress was in its district work period ahead of the November elections. She expected FY 2027 appropriations to be a priority upon Congress's return and anticipated possible additional short-term funding extensions. The current continuing resolution runs through December 11, 2026, and maintains most Highway Trust Fund-supported programs; however, the IIJA Division J advance appropriations had expired pending further action. Affected funding includes supplemental amounts for BUILD, Mega, and INFRA and programs such as Safe Streets and Roads for All, Reconnecting Communities, FRA rail programs, and FTA Capital Investment Grants. She cautioned that new FY 2027 discretionary grant notices could be delayed. Jen noted FHWA's INFRA Track 1 selections, including one California award of $25 million for Los Angeles County Metro's State Route 71 project, while Track 2 truck-parking submissions remained under review. She also highlighted proposed FTA Capital Investment Grant guidance and an approximately $26 million grant opportunity for transparent, data-driven project prioritization pilots available to eligible MPOs serving urbanized areas above 200,000 population; awards were up to $2 million with an October 30 deadline and no cost-share requirement.		
2). Recap: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15–16, 2026	Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian	
Jen Covino characterized the September Valley Voice visit as successful, citing substantive meetings with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. DOT, EPA, Senators Padilla and Schiff, and congressional offices. She commended the delegation's preparation and recommended continuing to circulate talking points approximately one month before future visits. She also identified improved coordination between EPA and FHWA on transportation conformity as a topic to pursue. Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, agreed that the earlier preparation schedule worked well and said it would be repeated for Sacramento. Chair Taylor and other Directors thanked Jen and Georgiena for planning, coordination, and logistics. Vice Chair Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, noted the effectiveness of Regional Policy Council (RPC) Chair Daron McDaniel in leading delegation discussions and suggested identifying a similarly effective lead speaker for future trips; Chair Taylor noted RPC Vice Chair Vito Chiesa's potential role. Mark Montelongo, SJVAPCD, expressed the Air District's appreciation for the meetings and coordination.		
4. Project Delivery Road Map Planning Process – Application Form Review and Comment	Chair Taylor & Georgiena Vivian	
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, described the revised Valley Voice project application, adapted from SJCOG's One Voice process after the July regional coordination discussions. The intent is to assemble clear, shared information on each agency's proposed advocacy projects rather than establish a formal comparative ranking. Jay Schlosser reviewed proposed simplifications, especially removal of mandatory city council or COG board resolutions, minutes, and support letters from the nomination stage. Diane Nguyen, SJCOG, explained that SJCOG's original form had been designed for individual cities submitting projects to their COG, whereas the Valley process involves nominations by Policy Council members and should not impose the same approval requirements. She favored projects already identified through RTP planning and sufficiently developed to support		

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ITEM	PRESENTER	ENCLOSURE
credible advocacy. Chair Taylor agreed that prior RTP consideration would generally provide appropriate vetting. Jay said the application should retain tangible information on project schedules, phases, and funding while avoiding subjective judgments among agencies. Jen Covino noted the late arrival of some project requests during recent Valley Voice preparations. She suggested considering federal opportunities beyond U.S. DOT, such as Defense and EPA programs, and asking whether a project had been submitted for a prior state or federal grant, whether the applicant had received a debriefing, and whether evaluation scores could be shared. She observed that some congressional earmark projects are not initially listed in RTPs or TIPs. Paul Herman recommended recognizing the SJJPA business plan and rail-related work programs as potential supporting documentation for passenger rail projects; Stacie Guzman encouraged better coordination to include rail investments in regional plans where appropriate. The discussion supported a streamlined nomination approach focused generally on one or two projects per participating agency, with possible flexibility where another agency does not use its available project opportunities. Georgiena will incorporate the comments, circulate a revised application and instructions, provide a nomination schedule, and distribute submitted projects to Directors so the region can prepare a cohesive Sacramento and Washington, D.C. advocacy program. No formal project ranking or application approval vote was taken.		
5. Status – San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Advocacy Initiative	Jay Schlosser	
Vice Chair Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, reported that a small working group had met to develop the regional transportation advocacy initiative, with SB 743 and related vehicle-miles-traveled issues as its initial focus. His presentation to CALCOG the preceding day generated interest among larger and smaller MPOs in potential reform. The group was continuing to gather information and define its scope after a planned meeting was delayed by a change in Fresno COG leadership. Jay will reconvene the group and welcomed participation from other Directors. Chair Taylor noted the potential for a related discussion at the April 2027 Policy Conference.		
6. SJVCOG/RPC Newsletter Development	Georgiena Vivian	
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, reported that approximately nine articles were being assembled for a 2026 regional newsletter, including Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Valley Voice visits, recognition of Chair Daron McDaniel, Terri King's upcoming retirement, current and former Directors' Committee leadership, and the regional retreat. The newsletter also included a save-the-date for the April 2027 Policy Conference. Chair Taylor had reviewed draft articles, and newsletter design was beginning. The draft will be circulated to Directors for review before publication, targeted for late October or early November. Distribution will include email lists, the SJVCOG website, and member agencies' websites or newsletters.		
D. INFORMATION ITEMS		
The following items were provided for information; no Committee action was requested.		
1. Caltrans Directors' Report	Braden Duran, D6 & Tom Dumas, D10	
Braden Duran, Caltrans District 6, reminded agencies of the October 9 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant deadline, November 2 Highway Safety Improvement Program deadline, and November 20 SB 1 Cycle 5 deadline for TCEP, LPP and SCCP programs. Caltrans hoped to announce planning grant awards by March 2027. Mark Thomas was selected to lead the joint Districts 6 and 10 Managed Lanes System Plan; outreach to MPOs had started, and study completion was scheduled for February 2028. Braden said district transit plans were in internal review, with a 30-day public comment period expected in mid-November and final plans in January–February 2027. A draft 2027 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan was expected in late October or early November for a 45-day comment period. He also noted the upcoming California Transportation Commission meeting and transportation tours in Hanford.		

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Tom Dumas, Caltrans District 10, described efforts to identify fully funded, construction-ready off-system projects addressing high-risk vulnerabilities in anticipation of potential El Niño impacts; agencies were being contacted for a rapid response. He also reported several recent fatalities involving Caltrans highway contractors and emphasized work-zone safety and slowing down in construction areas.		
2. California High-Speed Rail	Allison Rodriguez, CHSRA	
No representative of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was available to provide an update.		
3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Passenger Rail	Ahdel Ahmed	
No representative of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority was available to provide an update.		
4. Future Meetings/Agenda Items	Georgiena Vivian	
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, confirmed that an Executive Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 23, 2026, subject to further discussion in the Directors' Only Session; the next Directors' Committee meeting was scheduled for November 5, 2026. The 2027 SJV Regional Policy Conference is planned for April 28–30, 2027.		
E. DIRECTOR ITEMS	Chair Taylor	
Chair Taylor invited Director items. No additional items were raised.		
F. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA	Chair Taylor	
Chair Taylor requested public comments on matters not listed on the agenda; none were offered. Georgiena Vivian noted that some standing informational subcommittee reports had been omitted from the agenda since substantive updates were not anticipated. She asked presenters to identify significant updates when reviewing future draft agendas so the meeting could focus on actionable information.		
G. ADJOURN MEETING	Chair Taylor	
Chair Taylor adjourned the public meeting after completion of the agenda.		
H. NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING: Thursday, November 5, 2026.		
The next Directors' Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2026.		
I. DIRECTORS' ONLY SESSION – SCHEDULED		

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OTHER ATTENDEES:

Yes	No	Director | Agency	Yes	No	Director | Agency
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☒	☐	Rob Ball | Kern COG	☒	☐	Carolina Ilic | VRPA Technologies
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☒	☐	Ryan Niblock | SJCOG	☐	☐	Kristine Cai | LSA
☒	☐	Kim Anderson | SJCOG	☐	☐	Chris Orlando, CEO | SJJPA
☐	☐	Yvette Davis | SJCOG	☒	☐	Rene Gutierrez | ACE Rail
☐	☐	Christine Corrales | SJCOG	☐	☐	
☐	☐	Blake Dunford | SJCOG	☐	☐	
☒	☐	Mark Montelongo | SJVAPCD	☐	☐	
☒	☐	Tim Franquist | SJVAPCD	☐	☐	

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AGENDA ITEM C.3.a.2

Sacramento Valley Voice, March 2027

Preliminary Draft Platform

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council 2027~~6~~

State Legislative Priorities

Revised 11/03/26

Issue	Goal	Strategy
1. **Pragmatically Address Air Quality, Equity, and Mobility Goals Through Operational Improvements, and without compromising economic activity**	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.	SJVRPC will continue to work collaboratively with San Joaquin Valley MPOs, the California Air ~~Resousrces~~Resources Board, US Environmental protection Agency, and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to ensure that future ~~emmissions~~emissions modeling update and conformity requirements do not unnecessarily delay or jeopardize critical transportation investments. SJVRPC will advocate for timely updates to emissions budgets, consistency between approved emissions models and conformity requirements, and sufficient flexibility to accommodate differences in regional growth, economic activity, and transportation needs. (Kern?, Kings?, Merced?). ~~strongly advocate for the California Air Resources Board to expedite adoption of a State Implementation Plan to conform with the Clean Air Act and protect planned projects from being delayed or restricted.~~ SJVRPC supports a revenue-neutral conversion from the gas tax to a source that ensures equity in revenue collection that does not disadvantage those who must drive further to job centers. Distribution should respect San Joaquin Valley's vital role in maintaining system integrity and providing mobility options. ~~This includes continuing to monitor the Road User Charge Technical Advisory Committee's activities.~~

	Pursue innovative and pragmatic solutions to address climate and mobility ~~gGoals~~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 discussion on amending SB 375 and protect the ability to continue addressing congestion	SJVRPC will collaborate with all stakeholders to implement CAPTI to promote mode-shift where feasible while also working towards completing key highway projects that enhance safety and support goods movement, tourism, disaster response, military operations, and general economic vitality. SJVRPC will work to ensure that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions account for opportunities and limitations within the region due to socioeconomic disadvantages, geographical considerations, the jobs-housing imbalance, the lack of density, and the profile of the regional economy. SJVRPC will oppose efforts to continually develop more stringent ~~revise~~ emissions targets without providing funding to meet those goals. Creating accelerated targets when the region struggles to achieve current standards~~, which~~ undermines previous investments and ~~condition~~ inhibits competitiveness for state funding beyond what is achievable for the region. SJVRPC will also work with organizations such as the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG), California League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, and Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC), Cal Chamber, among others, to comply with the statewide mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and endorse policies that promote equity and regional job creation to reduce vehicle miles traveled with pragmatic solutions that fit the region. This includes ~~supporting legislation to~~ advocating ~~that the CARB allow small to medium-sized metropolitan planning organizations greater flexibility in complying with state air quality standards so that solutions regarding population density, vehicle miles traveled, and housing are emblematic of~~ advocating for CARB to allow small- to medium-sized metropolitan planning organizations greater flexibility in complying with state air quality standards so solutions on population density, vehicle miles traveled, and housing reflect a region's geography, demographics, travel patterns, and availability of alternative modes.

		State requirements should be accompanied by achievable implementation strategies, appropriate regional flexibility, and sufficient funding. (Need to keep to see how regional targets per SB 1087 are devised).

Issue	Goal	Strategy
	management and safety on the state highway system, without compromising economic activity. ~~Restore~~ Augment FARMER funding to accelerate air quality goals.	SJVRPC will also support greater regional and ~~geographic~~ geographically appropriate investments into transit priority projects, operational improvements such as telecommuting, vanpools, shipping more freight via rail, availability of more e-bikes, and promoting opportunities for regions to sell mitigation credits to generate revenue for providing multi-modal options. SJVRPC will work with organizations such as CALCOG and SHCC, among others, to protect transportation funding from being withheld or diverted, while working with stakeholders to find alternatives to address jobs-housing imbalance. This includes monitoring ~~the implementation of SB 743 and AB 285 recommendations and the impact on addressing safety, congestion management, goods movement on the state highway system to ensure that capacity projects are not precluded from being funded~~implementation of SB 743 and AB 285 recommendations and their impact on safety, congestion management, and goods movement on the state highway system to ensure that capacity projects are not precluded from funding. SJVRPC will work with CALCOG to develop additional revenue sources at the state, regional, and local levels to support the planning required by SB 375 to support the construction of affordable housing in the region.

		SJVRPC will also continue to pursue revenue made available through the Cap and Invest, Active Transportation Program, and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, for operations and capital needs for bus, rail, and bicycle and pedestrian programs, and any new funding programs that target improving air quality. This includes advocating for sustainable funding beyond the short-term fix that was provided in SB 193. Pending auction proceeds, SJVRPC will ~~pursueing~~pursue a portion of the $85 million made available in SB 840 of 2025 to support climate-focused technological innovation, related research, and the deployment of climate solutions identified in the California Air Resources Board scoping plan. SJVRPC will advocate for $200 million to be included in this year's budget or from excess Cap and Invest auction revenues for the FARMER Program, and annually over the next five years, to achieve critically needed air quality and GHG emission reductions. The FARMER program's strong demand has resulted in over $700 million in pending applications. If funded, these projects would deliver highly cost-effective ozone and PM2.5-forming NOx, cancer-causing diesel particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions. $10M in SB 193 SJVRPC will support efforts to maintain local control for air districts and oppose efforts to enact redundant, costly oversight to meet air quality goals.
2. Leveraging State Funding to Address Safety, Goods Movement, and Mobility	Aggressively pursue funds through the State Budget, California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocation process or any other state sources to address safety,	SJVRPC will remain diligent in competing for additional state funds to complete gap closures to improve safety, congestion management, and goods movement throughput on State Route 99 and other regional arterials. This includes building out SR 99 to a minimum of six lanes, consistent with the Caltrans-adopted State Route 99 Business Plan. This will also maximize the return on previous state and local investments.

Issue	Goal	Strategy
	congestion management, and goods movement. Advocate for a successor source to the gas tax to ensure ~~stability and predictability of~~stable, predictable funding. Ensure that CSIS allows investments to enhance safety and goods movement on state highway system.	SJVRPC will advocate ~~to protect traditional sources of funding, such as the SHOPP, and ITIP program for their intended purpose to ensure that resources are made~~ protect traditional funding sources, such as the SHOPP and ITIP programs, for their intended purpose to ensure that resources are available to address highway safety, maintenance, preservation, and goods movement needs. Additional resources for mode-shift priorities, such as bicycle and pedestrian projects, or climate resiliency projects, should be pursued through accessing excess Cap and Invest auction revenues, if any, or Proposition 4 grant opportunities. SJVRPC will advocate to ensure that goals expressed in the Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) ~~does~~ do not limit the ability to address safety and goods movement projects on the state highway system, while enhancing the Region's Economic Vitality.
3. Access Transit Funding	Support potential changes to the Transportation Development Act that will assist local public transportation systems with funding eligibility. Stabilize and increase transit funding levels.	SJVRPC will advocate for increased, predictable, ongoing transit operations and capital funding, either through existing programs or longer-term programs, including updates to TDA and a successor to the sales tax on diesel, to provide predictable and stable funding. SJVRPC will advocate ~~to protect~~protecting and acquir~~e~~inge the remaining balance of FY 27-28 SB 125 formula funds provided by the legislature for operations and capital needs. SJVRPC will also advocate for a portion of the new $125 million pot set aside for free transit passes to ~~assist with meeting regional mobility options~~help meet regional mobility needs for Valley residents.

	Protect and augment existing programs to encourage mode-shift.	SJVRPC will also support extending exemptions or revising requirements to meet farebox recovery ratio requirements, which expire on July 1, 2027~~6~~, per S~~A~~B ~~149~~ 169 of 2026~~1~~, to maintain and expand transit service.

Issue	Goal	Strategy
4. Enhance Passenger Rail Infrastructure and Service	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.	SJVRPC will work cooperatively with CalSTA, Caltrans Division of Rail, Amtrak, CTC, ACE, Gold Runner, Valley Link, BNSF, and Union Pacific Railroad to expand passenger rail service and connectivity to accommodate Valley residents. SJVRPC will continue to diligently work on establishing extended commuter/intercity rail and high-speed rail service~~,~~ to provide enhanced mobility options and connectivity, reduce vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impacts of congestion on SR 99, and expand equitable transportation options for San Joaquin Valley residents. SJVRPC supports the sustained restoration of ~~dedication of excess~~ Cap and Invest Program auction revenues and extension of the Public Transportation Account augmentation, which is set to expire on June 30, 2027, for ~~to create a supplemental pot that supports~~ passenger rail service opportunities (capital and operations) along the San Joaquin Valley. SJVRPC will advocate to increase, recalibrate, and acquire funding from CalSTA through the State Rail Assistance (SRA) and TIRCP to help expedite delivery of multimodal options and meet 2030 climate goals.

		SJVRPC supports the Governor's plan for further passenger rail investments, the 2024 California State Rail Plan, and CHSRA's 2024 Business Plan to complete the Early Operating Segment between Merced and Bakersfield between 2030 and 2033. Together, these plans will link high-speed rail with investments for extended ACE commuter service between Stockton, San Jose, Sacramento, and Merced; expanded San Joaquin intercity rail service in the Valley (Gold Runner), Valley Link passenger rail service between Dublin/Pleasanton BART and Mountain House, and future expansion of passenger service north to Chico. These ~~many passenger rail investments are critical for Valley communities and help promote local and regional coordination efforts around station-area planning, station design, and increase~~passenger rail investments are critical for Valley communities and help promote local and regional coordination efforts around station-area planning, station design, and increased connectivity to align with the region's priorities for project delivery and enhanced mobility in the San Joaquin Valley. SJVRPC supports accountability measures, included in AB 377 of 2025~~, and beyond, to ensure that delivery of the Merced to Bakersfield segment is completed on budget and in a timely manner, and considers~~ and beyond, to ensure the Merced to Bakersfield segment is delivered on budget and on time, and to consider impacts to communities along the corridor.