Chair
Supervisor Daron McDaniel
Merced County

Vice Chair
Supervisor Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Executive Committee

Friday, November 20, 2026
9:00 a.m.

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

Merced County Association of Governments
369 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Stanislaus Council of Governments
1111 I Street
Modesto, CA 95354

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

Stanislaus Council of Governments
8607 John Fox Rd, Hughson, CA 95326

Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Board of Supervisors
200 W. 4th St., #4
Madera, CA 93637

Tulare County Association of Governments
210 N. Church Street, Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

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 before the meeting to determine which physical locations will be used.

Zoom Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88967630823?pwd=P3rdp8RT6nnZlaRJ9K0cz5439P1kSR.1&from=addon
Meeting ID: 889 6763 0823
Passcode: 594781
One tap mobile +16694449171

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

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.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Executive Committee

Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	
Alternate	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	
Alternate	Waseem	Ahmed	Councilmember	City of Chowchilla	
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	
Alternate	Matthew	Serratto	Mayor	City of Merced	
Alternate	Scott	Silveira	Supervisor, District 5	County of Merced	
Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	
Alternate	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	
Alternate	Buck	Condit	Supervisor, District 1	County of Stanislaus	
Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)					
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	
Alternate	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	
Alternate	Linda	Launer	Councilmember, District 5	City of Dinuba	
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	
Alternate	Mark	Montelongo	Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs	SJVAPCD	

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Agenda Item	Speaker	Enclosure
C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	**Chair**	
1. July 28, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting		☒
D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS		
1. Discussion: Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates		
a. State		
1) Legislative Update	*Gus Khouri*	☐
2) Discuss/Review Preliminary Draft State Platform to the Policy Council	*Gus Khouri*	☒
3) Discuss/Review Preliminary Platform Speaking Assignments	*Gus Khouri*	☐
4) Planning Status: Sacramento Valley Voice Trip – February 23/24 or March 9/10, 2026	*Gus Khouri & Georgiena Vivian*	☐
b. Federal		
1) Legislative Update	*Jen Covino*	☐
2. Discussion: RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues ***a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets*** ***b. Federal Air Quality Conformity*** ***c. SJVAPCD Air Quality and SIP Status and Update*** ***d. ACTION: Approve One-Year Contract Extension - Air Quality/Conformity Consultant - Trinity Consultants***	*Ted Smalley* *Ryan Niblock* *Samir Sheikh* *Ryan Niblock*	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
3. 2027 SJV Regional Policy Conference, April 28-30, 2027 – Status Report	*Patricia Taylor & Georgiena Vivian*	☐
4. **Future Meetings/Agenda Items:** ***a. December 3, 2026 – Directors' Committee Meeting - Introduce Preliminary Draft FY 2027/28 OWP Revisions*** ***b. January 7, 2027 – Directors' Committee Meeting*** ***c. January 22, 2026 – Regional Policy Council Meeting – RPC Elections, Review Draft Sacramento Valley Voice State Platform, Speaking Assignments and Talking Points*** ***d. February 4, 2027 – Directors' Committee Meeting*** ***e. 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*** ***f. February/March 2027 - Regional Policy Council Meeting (Sacramento Valley Voice Pre-Meeting - TBD)*** ***g. February/March 2027 – Sacramento Valley Voice Trip (TBD)*** ***h. 2027 SJV Regional Policy Conference – April 28-30, 2027***	*Georgiena Vivian*	☐
5. Directors' Committee Comments	Patricia Taylor	☐
6. Executive Committee Member Comments	Members	☐

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E. PUBLIC COMMENT	**Chair**	☐
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public comment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.		
F. ADJOURN	**Chair**	☐

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Other Meeting Participants

Attendee	Yes (Y)/No (N)
Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, Vice Chair, Directors' Committee	
Stephan Sanchez, Kern COG	
Robert Phipps, KCAG	
Ted Smalley, TCAG	
Paul Herman, Fresno COG	
Patricia Taylor, MCTC, Chair, Directors' Committee	
Elizabeth Forte, MCAG	
Meg Prince, MCAG	
Amber Collins, StanCOG	
José Luis Caseres, StanCOG	
Monica Streeter, StanCOG	
Diane Nguyen, SJCOG	
Ryan Niblock, SJCOG	
Tim Franquist, SJVAPCD	
Chris Orlando, SJJPA	
Ahdel Ahmad, SJJPA	
Gus Khouri, State Legislative Advocate, Actum	
Jen Covino, Federal Legislative Advocate, Covino, Smith & Simon	
David Gellman, Federal Legislative Advocate, Covino, Smith & Simon	
Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, VRPA Technologies	
Carolina Ilic, VRPA Technologies	
Dena Graham, VRPA Technologies	

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AGENDA ITEM C.1.

July 28, 2026, Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Chair
Supervisor Daron McDaniel
Merced County

Vice Chair
Supervisor Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2026
10:00 a.m.

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Zoom Meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84013249619?pwd=zFGLHX9axkGw5khi0ia7ZbTvWUyTOr.1
Meeting ID: 840 1324 9619
Passcode: 885149

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

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San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Executive Committee

Roll Call

SJVPC	First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Present (Y/N)
Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)					
Member	Robert	Poythress	Supervisor, District 3	County of Madera	Y
Alternate	Jose	Rodriguez	Councilmember, District 2	City of Madera	Y
Alternate	Waseem	Ahmed	Councilmember	City of Chowchilla	N
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)					
Member – Chair	Daron	McDaniel	Supervisor, District 3	County of Merced	Y
Alternate	Matthew	Serratto	Mayor	City of Merced	N
Alternate	Scott	Silveira	Supervisor, District 5	County of Merced	N
Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)					
Member – Vice Chair	Vito	Chiesa	Supervisor, District 2	County of Stanislaus	Y
Alternate	Rosa	Escutia-Braaton	Councilmember, District 1	City of Modesto	N
Alternate	Buck	Condit	Supervisor, District 1	County of Stanislaus	N
Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)					
Member	Rudy	Mendoza	Mayor	City of Woodlake	Y
Alternate	Dennis	Townsend	Supervisor, District 5	County of Tulare	Y
Alternate	Linda	Launer	Councilmember, District 5	City of Dinuba	N
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)					
Member	Samir	Sheikh	Executive Director	SJVAPCD	Y
Alternate	Mark	Montelongo	Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs	SJVAPCD	N

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Agenda Item	Speaker	Enclosure
C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	**Chair**	
1. May 22, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting		☒
The Committee reviewed the minutes of the May 22, 2026, Executive Committee meeting. Member Robert Poythress, MCTC, moved to approve the minutes, and Vice Chair Vito Chiesa, StanCOG, seconded the motion. There were no requested revisions. The motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote of the five members present.		
D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS		
1. Discussion: Budget, Policy, and Legislative Updates		
a. State		
1) Legislative Update	*Gus Khouri*	☒
Gus Khouri, Actum, State Legislative Advocate, provided the State Legislative Update. Mr. Khouri reported that the Legislature was in recess until August 3 and that significant budget and policy issues remained unresolved, particularly the Cap-and-Invest expenditure plan. He described declining program revenues and the potential loss of support for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, and AB 617 activities. He discussed a proposal to redirect available truck weight fee revenues toward restoring transportation and related commitments, rather than relying on the State General Fund. Mr. Khouri also reviewed SB 1087, legislation to modernize SB 375 and Sustainable Communities Strategy requirements, including a proposed change from four-year to eight-year planning cycles and time limits on CARB review. He indicated that removal of proposed CEQA relief and uncertainty over future State funding remained concerns; a support-if-amended position was discussed. Chair McDaniel and members offered to assist with legislative outreach as negotiations progressed.		
b. Federal		
1) Legislative Update	*Jen Covino*	☐
Jen Covino, Covino, Smith & Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, provided the Federal Legislative Update. Ms. Covino reported that meeting requests had been submitted for the September Valley Voice trip and that the congressional schedule would be refined during August and early September. She noted the Federal Transit Administration's newly announced Bus and Bus Facilities/Low or No Emission funding opportunity. Ms. Covino also discussed the potential continuing resolution extending federal government funding through December 4, 2026, and uncertainty over whether surface transportation authorization would be extended beyond October 1. She explained that the emerging House surface transportation reauthorization proposal, the Build America 250 Act, incorporated farm-to-market provisions and emphasized the need to maintain flexibility in the Valley's federal advocacy materials as federal decisions and grant applications evolved.		
*2) **ACTION:** Recommend Approval of the Draft Federal Platform to the Policy Council (to be forwarded by Friday, July 23)*	*Jen Covino*	☒
Jen Covino, Covino, Smith & Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, reviewed the revised 2026 Federal Legislative Platform, including additions received from Valley agencies and the organization of pending grant applications by transportation mode and administering federal agency. Proposed refinements included avoiding a fixed October 1 deadline for surface transportation reauthorization, incorporating recently submitted projects, and presenting Air District projects within the appropriate DOT program sections. She also proposed recognizing local infrastructure supporting military readiness and retaining the ability to update the platform if additional grant applications or federal funding opportunities developed		

before the September trip. Member Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, supported the approach and requested flexibility to include potential EPA and USDA-related priorities and to coordinate the EPA meeting request. The Committee discussed keeping the document current while maintaining a unified regional message. Member Sheikh moved to recommend approval of the draft Federal Platform to the Policy Council, with flexibility to add or update pending funding requests and other developments prior to the trip. Member Robert Poythress, MCTC, seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll-call vote of the participating members; no opposition was recorded.		
3) ***ACTION:*** *Recommend Approval of Platform Speaking Assignments to the Policy Council*	*Jen Covino*	☐
Jen Covino, Covino, Smith & Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, facilitated discussion of proposed speaking assignments for the September 2026 Valley Voice delegation. Members supported a format in which elected officials introduce regional policy priorities and agency executives or technical staff provide project-level detail as needed. Mayor Rudy Mendoza, TCAG, volunteered to lead the Farm-to-Market discussion with Supervisor Dennis Townsend, TCAG; Member Robert Poythress, MCTC, volunteered for the remaining surface transportation reauthorization priorities. Chair Daron McDaniel, MCAG, volunteered to address NEPA streamlining and lead the regional highways/goods movement overview, with project sponsors identifying speakers for individual grant requests. For air quality, Member Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, offered to coordinate with Vice Chair Vito Chiesa, StanCOG, and Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, MCTC. For rail, Vice Chair Chiesa and Supervisor Doug Verboon were identified for rail authority and passenger rail topics, with agency-specific staff addressing Federal Railroad Administration applications. Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, and Chair McDaniel offered to help discuss infrastructure supporting defense installations; KCAG agreed to explore involvement by Kings County representatives. Members also discussed representatives for Safe Streets and Roads for All applications and confirmed that executive directors should identify qualified technical support. Jen Covino will refine the assignments and talking points for the Policy Council and the delegation. The Committee supported forwarding the proposed assignments to the Policy Council; the transcript does not record a separate formal motion or roll-call vote on this item.		
4) *Planning Status: Washington, D.C. Valley Voice Trip – September 15-16, 2026*	*Jen Covino & Georgiena Vivian*	☐
Jen Covino, Covino, Smith & Simon, Federal Legislative Advocate, and Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, reported on preparations for the 2026 Valley Voice trip to Washington, D.C., on September 15–16. Ms. Covino stated that most congressional and federal-agency meeting requests had been submitted, with the EPA request pending further coordination with SJVAPCD. A meeting with Congressman Vince Fong was confirmed for September 16 at 1:00 p.m.; other appointments were expected to be finalized closer to the trip. Ms. Vivian indicated that participant registrations and primary logistical arrangements were in place. Committee members discussed maintaining updated project requests, ensuring speakers were prepared for technical questions, and allowing specific local and regional priorities to be raised in the appropriate congressional and agency meetings.		
2. Discussion: RTP/SCS Updates and Air Quality Issues ***a. SB 375 – 2026 GHG Reduction Targets*** ***b. Federal Air Quality Conformity*** ***c. SJVAPCD Air Quality and SIP Status and Update***	 *Ted Smalley* *Ryan Niblock* *Samir Sheikh*	 ☐ ☐ ☐
a. Ted Smalley, TCAG, provided an update regarding the 2026 RTP/SCS process. He reported that the Valley regional plans were circulating for review and comments and emphasized the coordinated effort among the regional agencies and SJVAPCD to resolve outstanding federal requirements. He encouraged members to consult their respective executive directors regarding local adoption schedules and comments.		

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b. Ryan Niblock, SJCOG, discussed pending federal air quality conformity approvals and thanked SJVAPCD for helping advance matters with EPA. He noted that some Valley MPOs had adjusted their RTP/SCS adoption dates while remaining on track to meet applicable deadlines. He also reported continued discussions between Valley directors and CARB management regarding future SB 375 greenhouse gas reduction targets and the 2030 RTP/SCS cycle. ***c.*** Member Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, reported that CARB had adopted an amendment to the 2015 ozone standard State Implementation Plan (SIP). He explained that certain projected reductions were moved from rules no longer available for reliance into a future-measures provision under Clean Air Act Section 182(e)(5), and that EPA approval would be important to avoid potential sanctions. He described extensive public comments at CARB, including requests for additional agricultural regulation, and stressed the need for stronger representation of San Joaquin Valley transportation and economic interests at future hearings. Vice Chair Chiesa, Chair McDaniel, Member Mendoza, and other participants supported more proactive regional participation, earlier notice, and a coordinated advocacy strategy. Robert Phipps, Fresno COG, noted difficulties obtaining an opportunity to comment during the hearing.		
3. Recap: July 1, 2026, Directors' Committee Retreat Workshop	Georgiena Vivian	☐
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, summarized the July 1, 2026, Directors' Committee Retreat Workshop hosted by SJCOG. The workshop focused on developing a Valleywide process to identify, evaluate, and advocate for shared regional project priorities. Ms. Vivian reported that a project nomination form used by other regional agencies was being adapted for the San Joaquin Valley, with MCTC staff reviewing a draft before distributing it to the directors, SJVAPCD, and SJJPA. Chair McDaniel and Member Mendoza cited the Highway 99 Coalition as a successful example of regional cooperation and shared advocacy that could inform this effort. The proposed approach would allow agencies to submit regional priorities for collective consideration and support.		
4. ***ACTION:*** Recommend Approval to the Policy Council - Amendment #1 to the 2026/27 Overall Work Program to Incorporate the Vision Statement, Goals, and Priorities	Georgiena Vivian	☒
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, presented proposed Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2026/27 Overall Work Program (OWP) to incorporate the vision statement, goals, and priorities developed through the Policy Council/Directors' Committee retreat process. The proposed vision 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." Six priority goal areas were identified: funding strategy and innovation; Valleywide leadership and united advocacy; economic competitiveness through strategic coordination; organizational effectiveness and collaboration; air quality and regulatory coordination; and regional coordination of multimodal systems. Member Robert Poythress, MCTC, asked how progress would be reviewed so that the vision and goals would actively guide the work program. Ms. Vivian agreed that the Council could evaluate accomplishments against the adopted goals before preparing the next annual OWP. Member Poythress moved to recommend approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Policy Council, and Member Samir Sheikh, SJVAPCD, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote of the five members present.		
5. Future Meetings/Agenda Items: ***a. Policy Council – July 31, 2026 – Approve Draft Federal Platform and Speaking Assignments – 2026 Washington D.C. Valley Voice*** ***b. Directors' Committee – August 6, 2026*** ***c. Policy Council – August 21, 2026 – Planning Session – 2026 Washington, D.C. Valley Voice***	*Georgiena Vivian*	☐

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d. Directors' Committee – September 3, 2026 – Final Preparation - 2026 Washington D.C. Valley Voice ***e. Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip – September 15-16, 2026***		
Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, SJV Coordinator, reviewed the upcoming meetings and Valley Voice preparation schedule. The Policy Council was scheduled to consider the Federal Platform and speaking assignments on July 31, 2026; the Directors' Committee was scheduled for August 6; a Policy Council Valley Voice planning and speaker rehearsal session was scheduled for August 21; and the Directors' Committee was scheduled for September 3 for final preparation before the September 15–16 trip. Ms. Vivian stated that speaker notes would be circulated before the August planning session. Patricia Taylor, MCTC, noted a potential scheduling conflict on August 21 with a California Transportation Commission meeting and requested that the conflict be considered.		
6. Directors' Committee Comments	*Patricia Taylor*	☐
Patricia Taylor, MCTC, Chair, Directors' Committee, reported that the directors were developing a Valleywide regional project nomination and fact-sheet process for identifying shared priorities to support in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. She noted that the approach would be developed carefully rather than rushed for the September trip. Ms. Taylor also reported that the directors were establishing a subcommittee, led by Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, to address difficulties with vehicle miles traveled (VMT) mitigation in rural areas. Potential products included a technical white paper and visual presentation materials for legislators, transportation commissioners, and other policy audiences. Further information would be provided as the effort advanced.		
7. Executive Committee Member Comments	*Members*	☐
The Chair invited Executive Committee member comments. No additional comments were offered under this agenda item.		
E. PUBLIC COMMENT	**Chair**	☐
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but NOT on this agenda. Public comment will be allowed during the Discussion Items above.		
Chair McDaniel opened public comment. Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera and MCTC Alternate, thanked the Committee and the legislative advocates for preparing the Valley Voice agenda and suggested tracking progress on each federal platform priority after advocacy trips, including accomplishments that may take multiple legislative cycles. Chair McDaniel supported the suggestion and noted that agencies also review outcomes locally.		
F. ADJOURN	**Chair**	☐
There being no further business, Chair McDaniel thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:24 a.m.		

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Other Meeting Participants

Attendee	Yes (Y)/No (N)
Jay Schlosser, Kern COG, Vice Chair, Directors' Committee	Y
Stephan Sanchez, Kern COG	N
Terri King, KCAG	Y
Ted Smalley, TCAG	Y
Ben Kimball, TCAG	Y
Robert Phipps, Fresno COG	Y
Patricia Taylor, MCTC, Chair, Directors' Committee	Y
Jeff Finley, MCTC	Y
Stacie Guzman, MCAG	Y
Elizabeth Forte, MCAG	Y
Meg Prince, MCAG	Y
Amber Collins, StanCOG	Y
José Luis Caseres, StanCOG	N
Monica Streeter, StanCOG	N
Diane Nguyen, SJCOG	N
Ryan Niblock, SJCOG	Y
Tim Franquist, SJVAPCD	N
Ahdel Ahmad, SJJPA	N
Gus Khouri, State Legislative Advocate, Khouri Consulting/Actum	Y
Jen Covino, Federal Legislative Advocate, Covino, Smith & Simon	Y
David Gellman, Federal Legislative Advocate, Covino, Smith & Simon	Y
Georgiena Vivian, SJV Coordinator, VRPA Technologies	Y
Carolina Ilic, VRPA Technologies	Y
Dena Graham, VRPA Technologies	N

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AGENDA ITEM D.1.a.2

Preliminary Draft State Platform to the Policy Council

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

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

State Legislative Priorities

Revised 11/13/26

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~~ to 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.