

## **PRESS RELEASE**

San Joaquin Council of Governments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act offers opportunities for San Joaquin County**

*Funding will go to repairing, rebuilding local roads, highways, bridges,  
mitigating climate change, boosting broadband internet and more*

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed today by President Joe Biden will allow local, regional and state agencies throughout the state the opportunity to fund vital transportation improvements, reduce the impacts of climate change, and expand broadband internet so that more state residents have a better chance for the success that comes from being connected.

“There are so many proposed projects that we know will greatly improve safety and elevate the quality of life for people living in San Joaquin County,” said San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) Chair Leo Zuber, a Ripon City Council member. “There’s just not enough local, state and federal funding to get them completed in a reasonable time. Now we have a fighting chance to deliver on even more promises to improve the lives of San Joaquin County residents.”

SJCOG is the planning, financing and coordinating agency for the San Joaquin region overseeing such areas as transportation, housing and habitat conservation. SJCOG partners with a network of local governments, private organizations and community groups to deliver a variety of local, state and federal programs that support the streets, roads, highways, public transit, and other transportation resources that help San Joaquin County residents get where they need to be.

Zuber also singled out the region’s congressional representatives for their ongoing help in funding vital regional projects.

“Reps. Jerry McNerney and Josh Harder have been excellent partners in finding ways to fund regional projects that ultimately raise the quality of life for the people living and working in their districts and beyond,” said Zuber. “We thank them for their continuing help.”

This was an important win for San Joaquin Valley residents.

“Decade after decade, we’ve watched our San Joaquin Valley gets passed over, while billions flowed into San Francisco and LA,” said Harder. “This bill is the investment our community needs, and I’m proud to have helped get it done. Folks in the valley sent me to Congress to work with Republicans and Democrats alike to deliver new jobs and more funding to our community. That’s exactly what we’ve accomplished today.”

McNerney agreed.

Placeholder quote

For San Joaquin County, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act could help fund a variety of vital programs and projects.

“The funding that will come from the act signed today provides us with a very exciting opportunity to repair, rebuild and expand the infrastructure in California,” said SJCOG Executive Director Diane Nguyen. “San Joaquin County is a major transportation hub with interconnecting highways, an inland port, passenger and freight rail services, multimodal centers, and an airport, all dependent on an efficient, smoothly operating infrastructure. Having that will elevate the region, provide equality for so many people, and prepare us for the future.”

Nguyen will be a panelist for “The Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: A Conversation on Potential Future Investment in Central California” at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 18. Register for the WTS Central Valley event at <https://bit.ly/3BQaZ50>.

While it is still too early to tell how much money will make its way to local and regional jurisdictions, the White House has suggested what California will receive. The [White House’s California fact sheet](#) for the roughly \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has more details, but generally it will:

- Repair and rebuild roads and bridges focusing on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. California should expect \$25.3 billion for highway improvements and \$4.2 billion for bridge replacement and repairs over five years, with a portion of that going to local and regional agencies.
- California should expect \$9.45 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the state. Local and regional agencies should receive a portion of that to help public transit operators.

- Another \$384 million over five years would go to the state to support expanding the charging network for electric vehicles (EV). That would likely reduce barriers to EV ownership, reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality.
- More people will be connected. The state will receive a minimum of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including access to the half million or more Californians who lack it now. Some 10.6 million Californians will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access. More internet connectivity promotes equality and opens work-from-home and e-commerce opportunities to many more people.
- The act will also help Californians become more resilient against climate change, cyberattacks, and extreme weather events, such as droughts, wildfires, flooding and severe storms. The state can expect \$84 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$40 million to protect against cyberattacks. Californians will also benefit from the bill's historic \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization, which will reduce energy costs for families.
- California can expect \$3.5 billion over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.
- Airports in California would receive about \$1.5 billion over five years for infrastructure improvements. Nationwide, the bill over five years will invest \$17 billion in port infrastructure and waterways and \$25 billion in airports to address repair and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports, drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies, and likely prevent supply chain delays such as those being experienced recently.

SJCOG staff is studying the details of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to best help partner jurisdictions — San Joaquin County and the cities of Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, Ripon, Escalon and Lathrop — to take advantage of this opportunity to fund a range of projects to improve the lives of their residents.

Next, federal agencies such as the Department of Transportation will begin implementing the law, developing new programs, and finding ways to get the money to the states. Local and regional agencies, which own and operate most of the infrastructure, must then design and build new facilities, hire more workers, and mobilize their own financial resources.

### **About San Joaquin Council of Governments**

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is the planning, financing and coordinating agency for the San Joaquin region overseeing transportation, housing and habitat conservation. SJCOG is a joint-powers authority comprised of representatives from San Joaquin County and the cities of Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, Ripon, Escalon and Lathrop. SJCOG's broad range of responsibilities include managing the Measure K transportation sales tax program, collecting county demographic and economic data, airport land use planning, and regional air quality.

SJCOG partners with a network of local governments, private organizations and community groups to deliver a variety of local, state and federal programs that support the streets, roads, highways, public transit, and other transportation resources that help our residents get where they need to be. It is also responsible for assigning each city and the county its fair share of affordable housing. Visit the [SJCOG website](#) for more information.

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