



REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL
 SAN JOAQUIN
Valley Voice
 WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington D.C.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES SUMMARY

September 12 & 13, 2018



BRINGING TOGETHER THE
8 COUNTIES
 OF THE
 San Joaquin Valley



Washington D.C.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES SUMMARY



Table of Contents

About California's San Joaquin Valley	1
Priority Advocacy Items	
Funding for Major Regional San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Projects	2
Transportation Policy	3
Air Quality Funding	4
San Joaquin Passenger Rail	5
2018 Valley Voice Delegation	6





About California’s San Joaquin Valley

California’s San Joaquin Valley is comprised of eight counties (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern) and 62 cities. It lies between the Sierra Nevada mountain range to the east, the Tehachapi mountains to the south, the coastal ranges to the west and the Sacramento Valley to the north. ***The San Joaquin Valley is an agricultural based economy and provides 25 percent of the nation’s food supply.***

State Route 99, also known as the backbone of California—is a major goods movement state highway connecting southern California to northern California through the major cities of the San Joaquin Valley. Due to its location in the center of the state, the Valley contains major transportation corridors for goods movement in California, and throughout the United States. ***Over 500 million tons of commodities are transported in the San Joaquin Valley annually; projected to increase to 800 million tons by 2040.***

The Valley is currently home to more than four million people, which is about 10% of the state’s population. However, by 2050, it is estimated that the region will be home to more than a quarter of all Californians. These growth projections promise to challenge an already stressed regional transportation network, but also provide tremendous opportunity for state and federal investments.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council



The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council was established to provide leadership on important regional issues, and is a partnership that exemplifies the regional transportation planning agencies’ commitment to collaboration. The Policy Council consists of two elected officials from each of the eight regional planning agencies’ policy boards, and the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Valley Voice is the Policy Council’s advocacy program that communicates the region’s priorities to policy makers and agency staff in Sacramento and Washington, DC.



The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is led by Chair Rudy Mendoza, Mayor of the City of Woodlake, Tulare County.



Funding for Major Regional San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Projects

The San Joaquin Valley is a major generator of economic activity within California. Its dominant industries include agriculture, food production, energy and construction, among many others. As a growing and diversified region, the Valley depends on an efficient goods movement system for its long-term economic success and to safely move resources out of the Valley and on to the rest of the nation.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council supports the following major highway projects currently seeking federal funding:

- **State Route 99 in Madera County (Avenues 12-17)**
 - 8 miles of capacity improvements through the City of Madera
 - Seeking \$15 million in 2018 BUILD funding
- **State Route 46 in Kern County**
 - 5.3 miles of capacity improvements near Interstate 5
 - Seeking \$17.5 million in 2018 BUILD funding (rural)
- **Veterans Boulevard in Fresno County**
 - Six lane arterial, interchange at SR 99, and Union Pacific and High Speed Rail grade separations
 - Seeking \$9.1 million in 2018 BUILD funding

San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Facts

- Twenty-five Percent of all food in the United States comes from the San Joaquin Valley.
- Over 500 million tons of commodities are transported in the San Joaquin Valley annually; projected to increase to 800 million tons by 2040.
- Trucks are the dominant mode and account for 92 percent of all freight movement.
- State Route 99 and Interstate 5 serve as the backbone to our goods movement system and have higher than average truck percentage volumes. State Route 99 and Interstate 5 are on the National Primary Freight Network.
- Lack of capacity for both State Route 99 and Interstate 5 results in congestion, fatal accidents and poor air quality.
- Over 44 percent of all employment in the San Joaquin Valley is associated with goods movement-dependent industries. This percentage is higher than goods movement related employment in all other regions of California.

REQUEST SUMMARY

Support major San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement projects currently seeking FAST Act funding including BUILD, INFRA and other federal funding.

CONTACT

Rosa Park
Executive Director
Stanislaus Council of Governments
1111 "I" St, Suite 308
Modesto, CA 95352
rpark@stancog.org
209-525-4600

Transportation Policy



FAST Act, Chairman Shuster's Infrastructure Proposal, the White House Infrastructure Plan, and the next Surface Transportation Bill, innately impact the ability to plan and delivery projects in our region. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council supports the following administrative and legislative federal proposals:

Regional Transportation Plan Pilot Program for Adoption Cycles

We support a pilot program for flexibility in the RTP cycle from every four years to up to ten years. Such a change allows MPOs to more reasonably accommodate the costs associated with a new RTP. The pilot program would ideally be synced with the RTP adoption cycle in California.

Request: Implement a Pilot RTP Adoption Cycle Program

Farm to Market Pilot Program for Road Maintenance

The dairy industry in the San Joaquin Valley transports products off site every day, causing significant strain on frequently traveled roadways and accelerating pavement degradation. Tulare and Merced counties are the top two dairy producing counties in the state, accounting for a combined 43% of California's dairy production.

Request: The SJV transportation planning agencies will work with the Congressional Agriculture Committees and USDA to develop a pilot program concept for inclusion in the next transportation bill.

Buy America Waivers

The Buy American Act requires that steel, iron and manufactured goods used for a federal project are produced domestically within the United States. If the Buy America waivers are not approved in time for FHWA or FTA set deadlines, the grant recipients must forfeit the award and are unable to leverage federal funding toward their projects.

Request: Make timely determinations for SJV Buy America Waiver Requests, and or amend the program to be less onerous.

MPO Flexibility and Decision Making Authority

Regional planning and programming is the cornerstone of an innovative and successful national transportation system.

Request: Support the role of MPO's in the decision-making process, find ways to improve flexibility in how they conduct business, and avoid any legislation that would transfer their powers to the state or federal government.

Infrastructure Plan

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council supports the extension of the FAST Act policy and funding for one year, supports increased funding for BUILD and INFRA, and supports innovative financing and accelerated project delivery as included in the infrastructure proposals by the White House and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster. We support addressing the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council does not support policies that rely solely on new, innovative financing opportunities that are inaccessible to the communities of the Valley or policies that favor greater non-federal cost share/local match requirements for projects of national or regional significance.

REQUEST SUMMARY

Support administrative and legislative policy changes that enhance transportation planning and programming for the San Joaquin Valley. See each request to the right.

CONTACT

Rosa Park
Executive Director
Stanislaus Council of Governments
1111 "I" St, Suite 308
Modesto, CA 95352
rpark@stancog.org
209-525-4600

Air Quality Funding



The San Joaquin Valley faces significant air quality challenges and is designated as an “Extreme” non-attainment area for ozone and is non-attainment for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 fine particulate (PM2.5) standards. The key precursor for both ozone and PM2.5 formation in the Valley is oxides of nitrogen (NOx). Approximately 85% of the Valley’s NOx emissions are generated by mobile sources which fall under state and federal regulatory authority. The San Joaquin Valley has been a leader and pioneer in the utilization of incentive grants to achieve voluntary emissions reductions from mobile sources.

These grants have helped thousands of agriculture, trucking and other businesses in the San Joaquin Valley acquire new, low-emitting trucks, tractors, and other equipment, spurring major local investment in new equipment that would otherwise not be occurring. Much of that equipment is manufactured in the United States, spurring the national economy. Simultaneously, these grants reduce the economic impact of traditional command and control programs used to reduce emissions. However, these grants are only possible by continued local, state, and federal investment and support.

Over the past year, the San Joaquin Valley has been successful at procuring a little over \$300 million in state and local funding for incentive based programs and approximately \$16 million in federal funding.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council supports increasing federal funding for incentive based programs. In particular, the Policy Council supports:

Targeted Airshed Program: Targeted Airshed Grants support local clean air projects in areas, like the San Joaquin Valley, facing the highest levels of ground-level ozone and particulate matter. **For fiscal year 18, \$40 million was appropriated for the Targeted Airshed Program. The Regional Policy Council supports increasing this appropriation to \$55 million for fiscal year 19.** Additionally, since the enactment of the Targeted Airshed Program the number of areas receiving grants has increased. The Regional Policy Council would like to see the program refocused to areas, like the San Joaquin Valley, that face the toughest air quality challenges in the nation.

Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): DERA provides grants to eligible entities for projects that reduce emissions from existing diesel engines. **For fiscal year 18, \$75 million was appropriated for the DERA program. The Regional Policy Council supports increasing this appropriation to \$100 million for fiscal year 19.**

REQUEST SUMMARY

- **Refocus Targeted Airshed Program on extreme non-attainment areas, and increase the funding amount.**
- **Increase funding for Diesel Emission Reduction Act.**

CONTACT

Tom Jordan
Senior Policy Advisor
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E Gettysburg Ave
Fresno, CA 93740
Tom.jordan@valleyair.org
559-230-6000



San Joaquin Passenger Rail

To enhance commuter and intercity rail service and to promote greater transit connectivity between the San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area, SJRRC is proposing to expand ACE service to Ceres and Merced. The ACE Extension contains both Phase I and Phase II improvements:

Phase I (Lathrop to Ceres), constructing and upgrading tracks within the existing Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Fresno Subdivision right-of-way (ROW), approximately 24 miles. New stations and operating facilities would be constructed in the Lathrop area and along the extension alignment.

Phase II (Ceres to Merced), constructing and upgrading tracks within the existing UPRR Fresno Subdivision ROW, a distance of approximately 34 miles. New stations and operating facilities would be constructed along the extension alignment.

To help achieve these improvements, INFRA, BUILD and CRISI federal funds are currently being pursued for the Stockton Diamond project and Austin Road Overcrossing:

- The **“Stockton Diamond”** project (pending \$25M INFRA and \$25M BUILD grant) consists of grade separating the BNSF Stockton Subdivision and UPRR Fresno Subdivision. Both Subdivisions are very active and major connectors of both freight and passenger services between the greater San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley and the Bay Area.
- The **Austin Road Overcrossing** project (pending \$5M CRISI grant) will construct a new overcrossing at Austin Road in Manteca, near State Route (SR) 99, eliminating the existing at-grade railroad crossing. This project is part of the larger SR 99/120 Connector Project and will help to improve safety for motorists, passenger rail, and freight rail.

The San Joaquin Regional Policy Council fully supports extending and increasing passenger rail service throughout the region.

REQUEST SUMMARY

Support funding and expansion of services of ACE to Merced (BUILD, INFRA and CRISI applications pending).

CONTACT

Dan Leavitt
 Manager of Regional Initiatives
 San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
 949 E Channel St
 Stockton, CA 95202
 dan@acerail.com
 209-944-6266

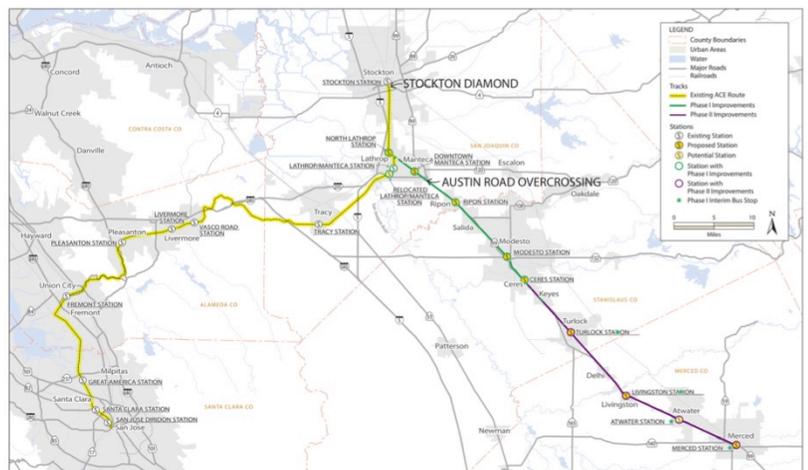


Figure 1
 ACE Extension Lathrop to Ceres/Merced

2018 Valley Voice Delegation

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director, Kern COG
ahakimi@kerncog.org, Phone: 661-635-2901
1401 19th St, Suite 300, Bakersfield CA 93301

Becky Napier, Deputy Director, Kern COG
bnapier@kerncog.org, Phone: 661-635-2901
1401 19th St, Suite 300, Bakersfield CA 93301

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Kuyler Crocker, Supervisor, Tulare County
kcrocker@co.tulare.ca.us, Phone: 559-786-5331
2800 W Burrel Ave, Visalia CA 93291

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor, City of Woodlake
rmendoza@ci.woodlake.ca.us, Phone: 559-303-4860
350 N Valencia Ave, Woodlake, CA 93286

Ted Smalley, Executive Director, TCAG
tsmalley@tularecog.org, Phone: 559-623-0450
210 N Church St, Visalia CA 93291

Ben Kimball, Deputy Executive Director, TCAG
bkimball@tularecog.org, Phone: 559-623-0450
210 N Church St, Visalia CA 93291

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

David Ayers, Mayor, City of Hanford
dayers@cityofhanfordca.com, Phone: 559-585-2500
319 N Douty St, Hanford CA 93230

Terri King, Executive Director, KCAG
terri.king@co.kings.ca.us, Phone: 559-852-2678
339 W.D St, Suite B, Lemoore CA 93245

FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Mayor, City of San Joaquin
amarpreet_2000@yahoo.com, Phone: 559-693-4311
P.O. Box 758, San Joaquin CA 93660

Gary Yep, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Kerman
mreyes@cityofkerman.org, Phone: 559-846-1239
P.O. Box 404, Kerman CA 93630

Tony Boren, Executive Director, Fresno COG
tboren@fresnocog.org, Phone: 559-233-4148, x 204
2035 Tulare St, Suite 201, Fresno CA 93721

Robert Phipps, Deputy Director, Fresno COG
rhipps@fresnocog.org, Phone: 559-233-4148, x 210
2035 Tulare St, Suite 201, Fresno CA 93721

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Andrew Medellin, Mayor, City of Madera
asd3661@yahoo.com, Phone: 559-661-5405
200 W 4th St, Madera CA 93637

Waseem Ahmed, Council Member, City of Chowchilla
wahmed@cityofchowchilla.org, Phone: 559-665-8615
130 S 2nd Street, Chowchilla, CA 93610

Patricia Taylor, Executive Director, Madera CTC
patricia@maderactc.org, Phone: 559-675-0721, x 13
2001 Howard Rd, Suite 201, Madera CA 93637

Sandy Ebersole, Grants Analyst, Madera CTC
sandy@maderactc.org, Phone: 559-675-0721, x 14
2001 Howard Rd, Suite 201, Madera CA 93637

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Daron McDaniel, Supervisor, Merced County
dist3@co.merced.ca.us, Phone: 209-385-7366
2222 M Street Merced, CA 95340

Mike Villalta, Mayor, City of Los Banos
mike.villalta@losbanos.org, Phone: 209-827-7000 x 6
520 J Street Los Banos, CA 93635

Stacie Dabbs, Interim Executive Director, MCAG
stacie.dabbs@mcagov.org, Phone: 209-723-3153
369 W 18th St, Merced CA 95340

STANISLAUS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, Stanislaus County
chiesav@stancounty.com, Phone: 209-525-6440
1010 10th St, Suite 6500, Modesto CA 95354

Bill Zoslocki, Council Member, City of Modesto
bzoslocki@modestogov.com, Phone: 209-571-5169
1010 10th St, Suite 6500, Modesto CA 95354

Rosa Park, Executive Director, StanCOG
rpark@stancog.org, Phone: 209-525-4600
1111 "I" St, Suite 308, Modesto CA 95354

SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chuck Winn, Supervisor, San Joaquin County
cwinn@sjgov.org, Phone: 209-468-3113
44 N San Joaquin St, Suite 627, Stockton CA 95202

Elbert Holman, Vice Mayor, City of Stockton
elbert.holman@stocktongov.com, Phone: 209-937-8244
425 N El Dorado St, Stockton CA 95202

Andy Chesley, Executive Director, SJCOG
chesley@sjcog.org, Phone: 209-235-0600
555 E Weber Ave, Stockton CA 95202

2018 Valley Voice Delegation

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives

dan@acerail.com, Phone: 209-944-6266
949 E Channel St, Stockton CA 95202

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor

tom.jordan@valleyair.org, Phone: 559-230-6000
1990 E Gettysburg Ave, Fresno CA 93740

VALLEYWIDE COORDINATOR

Michael Sigala, Principal, Sigala Inc.

michael@sigalainc.com, Phone: 559-960-6944
2525 Alluvial Ave, Suite 281, Clovis CA 93611

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

Jen Covino, Len Simon and Company

jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com, Phone: 617-869-0193
1660 L Street NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20036



REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

SAN JOAQUIN

Valley Voice

WASHINGTON D.C.