



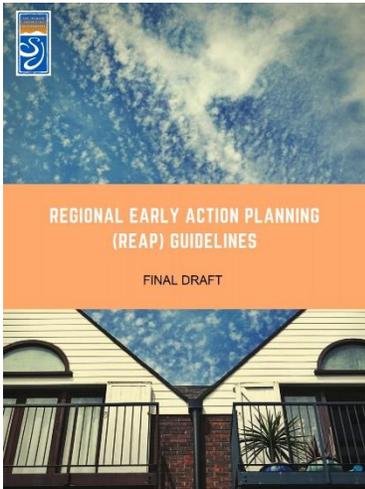
PRESS RELEASE

**San Joaquin Council of Governments
For Immediate Release**

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SAN JOAQUIN RECEIVES \$2.3 MILLION FOR REGIONAL & LOCAL HOUSING PLANNING ACTIVITIES



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CA – At its February 25, 2021 meeting, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOC) Board approved the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program.

This historic program will be the first-ever regional funding for planning activities related to housing. SJCOC will receive an initial allocation of \$845,097 in funds, which will be used by SJCOC and local agencies for housing planning purposes. A second REAP allocation of \$1.5M is expected soonafter, by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

“In a time when many face housing uncertainties, I’m excited to be receiving these funds in our region,” SJCOC Board Chair and Stockton City Councilmember Sol Jobrack, said. “We are grateful and any funds we receive from the State go a long way in helping us meet our community needs.”

REAP funds will help advance Regional Housing Priorities adopted by the SJCOC Board in September of 2020, which include establishing a regional housing trust fund, streamlining the development process, improving regional planning and coordination, and supporting local jurisdictions that may have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

“The need for housing in San Joaquin County is great, as more and more people migrate to the Central Valley in search of affordable housing,” SJCOC Board member and Stockton City Councilmember Dan Wright said. Wright also represents SJCOC as a member of the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council that worked on the REAP development. “Our need for low-income housing is even greater, as prices in the region continue to rise. This grant will allow us to plan accordingly for the housing needs of this decade and beyond. It’s my hope that follow-up funding to this grant will be more flexible and allow us to establish an affordable housing trust fund.”

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) established the REAP program to provide one-time grant funding to regional governments and regional entities for planning activities that will accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance in implementing the sixth cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

Diane Nguyen, SJCOG Executive Director said, “SJCOG is administering this program. We will work closely with the city and county planning departments in allocating these dollars and making them available immediately.”

View the final REAP guidelines [HERE](#).

The San Joaquin Council of Governments is a regional planning agency responsible for transportation planning, habitat conservation planning, and a range of other responsibilities that include managing the Measure K transportation program as well as housing, air quality and airport land use planning. The operating budget for the agency is over \$13 million and SJCOG programs and apportions out approximately \$150 million in transportation investments annually.

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