

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

REGIONAL  
PLANNING AGENCIES

*Policy Council*



20 22



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

---

**VALLEY VOICE**

WASHINGTON D.C.

# VALLEY VOICE 2022 DELEGATION

---

**Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County District 3 (Chair)**

robert.poythress@co.madera.ca.gov

**Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman**

gyep93630@gmail.com

**Vice-Mayor Dan Wright, City of Stockton**

dan.wright@stocktonca.gov

**Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County District 2**

chiesav@stancounty.com

**Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County District 5**

dtownsend@co.tulare.ca.us

**Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County District 3**

doug.verboon@co.kings.ca.us

**Supervisor Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County**

cwinn@sjgov.org

**Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County District 3**

dmcdaniel@co.merced.ca.us

**Council Member John Cale, City of Atwater District 1**

jcale@atwater.org

**Executive Director Rosa Park, Stanislaus Council of Governments**

rpark@stancog.org

**Executive Director Patricia Taylor, Madera County Transportation Commission**

patricia@maderactc.org

**Executive Director Terri King, Kings County Association of Governments**

terri.king@co.kings.ca.us

**Executive Director Ahron Hakimi, Kern Council of Governments**

ahakimi@kerncog.org

**Executive Director Stacie Guzman, Merced County Association of Governments**

stacie.guzman@mcagov.org

**Deputy Director Elizabeth Forte, Merced County Association of Governments**

elizabeth.forte@mcagov.org

**Deputy Director Ben Kimball, Tulare County Association of Governments**

bkimball@tularecog.org

**Deputy Director Kristine Cai, Fresno Council of Governments**

kcai@fresnocog.org

**Executive Director Samir Sheikh, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**

samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

**Senior Policy Advisor Tom Jordan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**

tom.jordan@valleyair.org

# REGIONAL / LOCAL PROJECTS

---

The Valley Voice delegation urges Congress and the Administration's support for the following surface transportation projects under consideration for grant assistance through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program, under consideration for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) spending bill, and others of critical importance in the Central Valley:

## **Pending Federal Grant Applications**

- Madera High-Speed Rail Station, California Department of Transportation and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, \$87.6 million (Costa – CA-16)
- Madera 41 Expressway, Madera County, \$39 million (Costa – CA-16)

## **Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

- Rail Academy of Central California – Rail/Transit Workforce Development Program, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, \$1.5 million (McNerney – CA-09)
- State Route 99/120 Connector Project Phase 1B, San Joaquin Council of Governments, \$7 million (McNerney – CA-09 / Harder – CA-10)
- State Route 132 West Project Phase 2, Stanislaus Council of Governments, \$7 million (Harder – CA-10)
- YARTS Fleet Replacement Project, Merced County Association of Governments, \$3.86 million (Costa – CA-16)
- State Route 41 Expressway, Madera County, \$1.95 million (Rep. Costa – CA-16)
- FAT Runway 11L-29R Reconstruction Project, City of Fresno – Airports Division, \$4.4 million (Costa – CA-16)
- Kings County Regional Multi-Modal Transit Center, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency, \$5 million (Valadao – CA-21)
- Amtrak Hanford Station, San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, \$2.1 million (Padilla)

## **Other Key Projects**

- Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, \$133.4 million (Harder – CA-10)
- North Lathrop Transfer Station and Lathrop Wye Project, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (McNerney – CA-09)
- Southwest U.S. Goods Movement Freeway Connector through Bakersfield on State Routes 58 & 99, Kern Council of Governments (McCarthy – CA-23)
- California Inland Port Project, Fresno Council of Governments, \$15.7 billion



# STATE ROUTE 99 CORRIDOR PRIORITY PROJECTS

---

The Valley Voice delegation requests robust assistance from our federal partners to strengthen the State Route (SR) 99 corridor in the Central Valley. We ask for support for the following key segments and connections to SR 99 that have been identified as priorities for the Policy Council in the year ahead:

- Tulare County, Tulare City SR 99 Safety and Goods Movement and Paige Ave Interchange and Multi-modal Improvements, \$137 million (Conway - CA-22)
- Kern County, SR 99/58 Southwest U.S. Goods Movement Freeway Connector through Bakersfield, \$80 million (McCarthy - CA-23)
- Fresno County, South Fresno SR 99 Corridor Project Interchange, \$80 million (Costa - CA-16 / Valadao - CA-21)

## PASSENGER RAIL

---

The Valley Voice delegation supports new federal investments that will enhance passenger rail service in the Central Valley. We encourage lawmakers and the Administration to support the following projects seeking federal grant assistance through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program, seeking Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the FY 2023 T-HUD spending bill, and others of critical importance in the Central Valley:

### **Pending Federal Grant Applications**

- Madera High-Speed Rail Station, California Department of Transportation and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, \$87.6 million (Costa – CA-16)

### **Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

- Rail Academy of Central California – Rail/Transit Workforce Development Program, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, \$1.5 million (McNerney - CA-09)
- Amtrak Hanford Station, San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, \$2.1 million (Sen. Padilla)

### **Other Key Projects**

- Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, \$133.4 million (Harder – CA-10)
- North Lathrop Transfer Station and Lathrop Wye Project, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (McNerney – CA-09)



# BUY AMERICA

---

The San Joaquin Valley recommends that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are consistent in the implementation of agency waivers to the **Build America, Buy America Act**. We encourage FHWA and FTA to expedite the review and approval of Buy America waiver requests from the Central Valley and that those determinations be published for notice and comment in the Federal Register as soon as possible.

# WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

---

Local governments within the Central Valley are considering various federal funding streams for projects to enhance the safety, reliable, and consistency of our regional water supply. We urge lawmakers to ensure that the following water infrastructure projects are ultimately funded in any final Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bill:

- Crows Landing Water Wells, Stanislaus County, \$3.5 million (Harder – CA10)
- SSJID Surface Water Connection Project, City of Ripon, \$3.5 million (Harder – CA-10)
- Buhach Road and Gurr Road Utility Expansion, City of Atwater, \$3 million (Costa – CA-16)
- McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project, City of McFarland, \$5 million (Valadao – CA-21)
- Fowler New Well and System Interconnection for Drought Resiliency Project, City of Fowler, \$3 million (Valadao – CA-21)
- Allensworth Well Solar Array, Allensworth Community Services District, \$150,000 (Feinstein/Padilla)
- Grayson Well and Tank Replacement, City of Modesto, \$1.75 million (Feinstein/Padilla)
- Water Delivery System, City of Tulare, \$500,000 (Feinstein/Padilla)
- Drinking Water Kiosks, Tulare County, \$200,000 (Feinstein/Padilla)
- Woodville PUD Well No. 4 Replacement, Woodville Public Utility District, \$1.15 million (Feinstein/Padilla)
- Well 21 Construction, City of Dinuba, \$1.5 million (Padilla)

The Valley Voice delegation is concerned about the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) review of the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOps) for water deliveries from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP). It has caused significant uncertainty about the future water supply for local governments and our residents, businesses, and farmers.

# AIR QUALITY

---

The Valley Voice delegation is deeply concerned about the project-level air quality conformity process. A more collaborative process is needed to determine when projects are of air quality concern, and technical improvements for measuring air quality emissions are vital.

Project co-benefits, such as economic development and safety improvements, should be considered throughout this process. If needed, reasonable, meaningful mitigation measures should be identified when assessing local project area impacts. These actions will help ensure that both air quality and economic benefits are achieved when implementing transportation projects in the San Joaquin Valley.



# San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is a partnership that exemplifies the regional transportation planning agencies' commitment to working collaboratively to address regional issues, challenges and opportunities. The 18 member Policy Council was established to build regional consensus and provide a forum for the Valley to organize, coordinate and communicate as a region. The Policy Council consists of two elected officials from each of the eight regional planning agencies' policy boards, and the Executive Directors of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority.

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. Each year, a coalition of elected officials and COG staff from throughout the region travel to Sacramento and Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of the valley with a unified voice.

*The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is led by Chair Robert Poythress, Supervisor of District 3, Madera County.*

---

## CONTACT

### San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

C/O San Joaquin Council of Governments  
555 E. Weber Ave., Suite 400  
Stockton, CA 95202  
Phone (559) 266-6222

[www.sjvcogs.org](http://www.sjvcogs.org)

