



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of October 22, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 4-E

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Letter to Congressional Delegation on Transportation Conformity

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The recent revocation of California's Clean Air Act waivers results in Metropolitan Planning Organizations unable to demonstrate "transportation conformity" and therefore subject to a freeze on federally funded infrastructure projects, leveraging billions worth of state, local, and private investment.

Included in your package is a letter from the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council urging the Congressional delegation to work with the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to identify solutions and provide regulatory relief, potentially through the issuance of a two-year grace period to avoid risk to more than \$4.6 billion worth of infrastructure projects needed to get hard-working residents to work, families to school and commerce, and agricultural goods and other products to market.

Transportation conformity is required to amend regionally significant projects and plans, and to proceed with certain project-level conformity analyses. Currently, the San Joaquin Valley is unable to demonstrate conformity, which results in costly delays and the potential loss of funding for critical infrastructure projects seeking to proceed over the next three years.

Transportation conformity is also required to adopt Regional Transportation Plans (RTP). In the San Joaquin Valley, RTPs are set to be adopted in the Summer of 2026. Should the "conformity lockdown" continue through 2026, the San Joaquin Valley will be unable to adopt its RTPs. This would create a long-term impact where failure to demonstrate conformity results in an inability to consider any new projects, make changes to existing projects, and lead to further delays and potential loss of funding for regionally significant projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.