

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

2024 State Legislative Priorities

Issue	Goal	Strategy
<p>1. Pragmatically Address Air Quality, Equity, and Mobility Goals Through Operational Improvements</p>	<p>Support stable, equitable, and environmentally conscious state funding of alternatives to petroleum fuel sources to expand infrastructure and incentives for conversion to electric vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Prioritize feasible implementation strategies for State and regional climate goals to improve air quality and mobility.</p> <p>Extend the Cap-and-Trade Program beyond 2030.</p> <p>Pursue Innovative Solutions to Address Climate and Mobility Goals.</p> <p>Monitor activities on conversations regarding the jobs-housing imbalance and the impact on vehicle miles traveled.</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of SB 743, AB 285, and discussion on amending SB 375 and protect the ability to continue addressing congestion</p>	<p>SJVRPC supports a revenue-neutral conversion from the gas tax to a source that ensures equity in revenue collection that does not disadvantage those who must drive further to job centers. Distribution should respect San Joaquin Valley's vital role in maintaining system integrity and providing mobility options. This includes continuing to monitor the Road User Charge Technical Advisory Committee's activities.</p> <p>SJVRPC will collaborate with all stakeholders to implement CAPTI to promote mode-shift where feasible while also working towards completing key highway projects that enhance safety and support goods movement, tourism, disaster response, and military operations.</p> <p>SJVRPC will work to ensure that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions account for opportunities and limitations within the region due to socioeconomic disadvantages, geographical considerations, the jobs-housing imbalance, the lack of density, and the profile of the regional economy.</p> <p>SJVRPC will also work with organizations such as the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG), California League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, and Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC), among others, to extend and pursue funding from Cap-and-Trade revenues beyond 2030 or other means to comply with the statewide mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and endorse policies that promote equity and regional job creation to reduce vehicle miles traveled with pragmatic solutions that fit the region.</p> <p>SJVRPC will also support greater investments into transit priority projects, operational improvements such as telecommuting, vanpools, shipping more freight via rail, availability of more e-bikes, and promoting opportunities for regions to sell mitigation credits to generate revenue for providing multi-modal options.</p> <p>SJVRPC will work with organizations such as CALCOG and SHCC, among others, to protect transportation funding from being withheld or diverted, while working with stakeholders to find alternatives to address jobs-housing imbalance. This includes monitoring the implementation of SB 743 and AB 285 recommendations and the impact on addressing safety, congestion management, goods movement on the state highway system to ensure that capacity projects are not precluded from being funded.</p>

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	<p>management and safety on the state highway system.</p> <p>Restore REAP 2.0 funding to meet affordable housing goals.</p> <p>Restore FARMER funding to accelerate air quality goals.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will work with CALCOG to develop additional revenue sources at the state, regional and local levels to support the planning required by SB 375 to support the construction of affordable housing in the region. This includes advocating for the full restoration of the \$300 million that is proposed to be cut in the Governor’s proposed FY 24-25 State Budget for the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 2.0) planning grants.</p> <p>SJVRPC will also continue to pursue revenue made available through the Cap and Trade, Active Transportation Program, and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, for operations and capital needs for bus, rail and bicycle and pedestrian programs.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate for the restoration of \$150 million in funding for the FARMER program in the FY 24-25 State Budget.</p> <p>SJVRPC will support efforts to maintain local control for air districts and oppose efforts to enact redundant, costly oversight to meet air quality goals.</p>
<p>2. Leveraging State Funding to Address Safety, Goods Movement, and Mobility</p>	<p>Aggressively pursue funds through the State Budget, California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocation process or any other state sources to address safety, congestion management, and goods movement.</p> <p>Advocate for a successor source to the gas tax to ensure stability and predictability of funding.</p> <p>Ensure that CSIS allows investments to enhance safety and goods movement on state highway system.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will remain diligent in competing for additional state funds to complete gap closures to improve safety, congestion management, and goods movement throughput on State Route 99 and other regional arterials. This includes building out SR 99 to a minimum of six lanes, consistent with the Caltrans-adopted State Route 99 Business Plan. This will also maximize the return on previous state and local investments.</p> <p>SJVRPC will monitor Road User Charge Technical Advisory Committee’s activities and consider sponsoring legislation to implement a successor source to the gas tax and advocating for the restoration of truck weight fees to ensure predictable, stable funding, and consider additional resources to expedite project delivery.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate to ensure that goals expressed in the Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) does not limit the ability to address safety and goods movement projects on the state highway system.</p>
<p>3. Access Transit Funding</p>	<p>Support potential changes to the Transportation Development Act that will assist local public</p>	<p>SJVRPC will monitor the CalSTA Transit Transformative Task Force and support modifications to the TDA process as appropriate to ensure that transit operators are provided with flexibility to continue accessing funding to maintain and expand service.</p>

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	<p>transportation systems with funding eligibility.</p> <p>Stabilize and increase transit funding levels.</p> <p>Protect and augment existing programs to encourage mode-shift.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will support efforts to advocate for additional flexibility for TDA, State Transit Assistance Program, and State of Good Repair funding. This includes supporting additional funding for operations.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate for increased, ongoing transit operations and capital funding, either through existing programs or longer-term programs, including updates to TDA and a successor to the sales tax on diesel, to provide predictable and stable funding.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate to protect SB 125 formula funds provided by the legislature for operations and capital needs from being diverted.</p>
<p>4. Enhance Passenger Rail Infrastructure and Service</p>	<p>Provide enhanced passenger rail service to better connect the San Joaquin Valley to Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Southern California.</p> <p>Maintain and increase funding for commuter and intercity passenger rail for Ace, San Joaquins, and Valley Link. Pursue funding opportunities made available through CalSTA.</p>	<p>SJVRPC will work cooperatively with CalSTA, Caltrans Division of Rail, Amtrak, CTC, ACE, San Joaquins, Valley Link, BNSF, and Union Pacific Railroad to expand passenger rail service and connectivity to accommodate Valley residents.</p> <p>SJVRPC will continue to diligently work on establishing extended commuter/intercity rail and high-speed rail service, to provide enhanced mobility options and connectivity, reduce vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impacts of congestion on SR 99, and expand equitable transportation options for San Joaquin Valley residents.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate to preserve SB 125 funding administered regionally and consistent with the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), given the needs for current operations and planned expansions. Preserving this funding and exploring additional future opportunities for capital and operations funding is a critical component for continued passenger rail operations and delivering upon planned service expansions.</p> <p>SJVRPC will advocate to increase, recalibrate, and acquire funding from CalSTA through the State Rail Assistance (SRA) and TIRCP Cycle 7 to help expedite delivery of multimodal options and meet 2030 climate goals. This includes supporting the extension of Cap and Trade to allow for the TIRCP program to continue.</p> <p>SJVRPC supports the Governor’s plan and CHSRA’s 2022 Business Plan to complete the Early Operating Segment between Merced and Bakersfield between 2030 and 2033 and will continue to promote local and regional coordination efforts around station design, station-area planning, and connectivity to align with the region’s priorities for project delivery and enhanced mobility in the San Joaquin Valley.</p>