



September 7, 2021

The Honorable Jim Costa  
United States Representative  
2081 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Josh Harder  
United States Representative  
209 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ro Khanna  
United States Representative  
306 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
United States Representative  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Valadao  
United States Representative  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Member Designated Projects Benefitting the San Joaquin Valley**

Dear Members,

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council (Policy Council) would like to thank you for your hard work this year on legislation that will help our region to address critical infrastructure needs. We support ongoing bipartisan, bicameral efforts to pass a comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization and provide new, additional investments. Our local officials also welcomed the restoration of Congressionally directed spending measures that enabled Members of the House of Representatives to pursue funding for local projects. The Policy Council appreciated your advocacy of several Member Designated Projects that were included in the *INVEST in America Act* (H.R. 2), and we now ask for your continued support ensuring these investments are included in any emerging legislative agreement this September.

The Policy Council feels fortunate that our federal representatives who innately understand the Valley were able to target these infrastructure investments to our communities in the legislation passed by the House. The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (H.R. 3684) as passed by the Senate does not currently include Member Designated Projects. We understand that this legislation will likely be considered by the House without further amendment.

Our member agencies are nevertheless encouraged that Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio has expressed a commitment to find an alternative path forward for Member Designated Projects as part of the forthcoming reconciliation bill. The T&I Committee received instructions to develop a title with \$60 billion worth of investment in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget resolution. Moving forward, the Policy Council would appreciate your help advocating for the inclusion of the following Member Designated Projects in the FY 2022 budget resolution, if allowed by the Senate Parliamentarian:

☎ (559) 266-6222

📠 (559) 314-6015

📍 1401 19th Street, Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

🌐 <http://sjvcogs.org/>

**Chair**  
Supervisor Robert Poythress  
Madera County

**Vice-Chair**  
Mayor Rudy Mendoza  
City of Woodlake

San Joaquin  
Council of  
Governments

Tulare County  
Association of  
Governments

Fresno  
Council of  
Governments

Kern  
Council of  
Governments

Kings County  
Association of  
Governments

Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission

Merced County  
Association of  
Governments

Stanislaus  
Council of  
Governments

- 1) City of Fresno seeking \$3.75 million for the Elm Avenue Road Diet Reconstruction and Class IV-Ventura/California to North Avenue project;
- 2) Madera County Transportation Commission seeking \$10 million for the State Route 99 Madera South-Operational Improvement Project;
- 3) Merced County Association of Governments seeking \$2.25 million for the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Fleet Expansion Project;
- 4) Merced County seeking \$2 million for the Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) Phase 1B project;
- 5) Stanislaus Council of Governments seeking \$12 million for the State Route 132 West Project;
- 6) Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority seeking \$6.61 million for the Agnew Siding Track Infrastructure Project.
- 7) Port of Stockton seeking \$1.2 million for the Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) – Washington Street Widening Project;
- 8) San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission seeking \$6.715 million for the Stockton Rail Maintenance Facility Expansion;
- 9) San Joaquin Regional Transit District seeking \$5.3 million for the Solar Energy Project (Phase 2); and
- 10) Fresno County seeking \$20 million for the State Route 41 Excelsior Corridor Project.

We are grateful for your efforts to date to try to secure Congressionally directed spending for these important local projects. In the critical weeks ahead, the Policy Council asks for your continued advocacy to ensure our member agencies' requests are ultimately funded. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful as discussions continue.

Thank you for championing these Member Designated Projects. The proposed investments will help us to improve our regional transportation systems and advance our unified vision for the San Joaquin Valley. We appreciate your continued partnership and advocacy on behalf of our shared constituents and communities.

Sincerely,



Robert Poythress

Chair of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council  
Madera County Supervisor