

Council of Fresno County Governments Board Development Workshop



Agenda

August 26, 2010

5:30 p.m.

**COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721**

1. Welcome and Overview – Tony Boren
2. Review and discuss Fresno COG JPA and By Laws (Enclosure) – Janelle Kelley
3. Review and discuss Board motion from the June 2010 meeting (Enclosure) – Tony Boren
 - a) Formation of subcommittee to set the framework for what Fresno COG gets involved in
 - b) Input received from member agencies (Enclosure)
4. Relationship of Fresno COG Policy Board and Regional Policy Council (Enclosure) – Tony Boren/Barbara Steck
5. Criteria for project selection for 'One Voice' and 'Valley Voice' trips (Enclosure) - Barbara Steck
6. Legislative Platform One Voice/Valley Voice (Enclosure) – Melissa Garza
7. Ethics Training for Recertification (Enclosure) – Barbara Steck
8. Develop possible issues for September Board meeting action items – Tony Boren
9. Other Items
10. Adjourn

Please RSVP to Marla Day at mday@fresnocog.org by Tuesday, August 24.

COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 25th day of March, 1976, by and between the County of Fresno, a political subdivision of the State of California, and the Cities of Fresno, Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Huron, Sanger, San Joaquin, and Selma all being municipal corporations of the State of California; WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, through Executive Order 12372 (FR 30959, July 14, 1982), under the authority vested in him by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including Section 401 (a) of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4231 (a), Section 301 of Title 3 of the United States Code, and Section 204 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3334) has ordered that Federal agencies shall provide opportunities for consultation by elected officials of those state and local governments that would provide non-Federal funds for, or that would be directly affected by, proposed Federal financial assistance or direct Federal development; and

WHEREAS, the President has ordered that, to the extent permitted by law, Federal agencies shall utilize the State process to determine official views of State and local elected officials and, further, to make efforts to accommodate State and local elected officials' concerns with proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development that are communicated through the designated State process; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has established clearinghouse procedures pursuant to Executive Order 12372 providing for review of and comment on Federally-assisted programs by local elected officials through the Office of Planning and Research (gubernatorial Executive Order D-24-83);

WHEREAS, the Governor has designated the Council of Fresno County Governments as the areawide clearinghouse for Fresno County, California; and

WHEREAS, planning concerns in the County of Fresno, and the solution to such concerns often transcend municipal boundaries, making it desirable to regularly bring together representatives of the various governments to discuss common problems, develop consensus of policy questions of mutual interest in order to pursue a coordinated course of action without infringing on the political traditions and powers of the individual governments; and

WHEREAS, Section 6500, et. Seq. of the California Government Code (Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5, Article 1) provide for agreements between two or more public agencies to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno by virtue of its charter, and the County of Fresno, and other incorporated cities, parties hereto, by virtue of Sections 65600 and 65604, inclusive, of the California Government Code have the joint and mutual power to create an areawide planning organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of these premises, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

CHAPTER 1

ORGANIZATION

1.1 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: In addition to the named parties to this agreement, any city not now a member and any other city which may be hereafter incorporated within the boundaries of the County of Fresno, may become a member of the Council of Fresno County Governments by executing this agreement without prior approval or ratification of the named parties, and shall thereafter be bound by all of the terms and provisions of the agreement as of the date of execution.

1.2 COUNCIL; QUORUM; VOTING:

1.2.1 Council: The Council shall be the governing body of the Council of Fresno County Governments. The Council shall be composed of the Chairman of the County of Fresno Board of Supervisors, or in his absence such supervisor as may be present, and the mayors of the member cities, or in a mayor's absence such councilman as may be present.

1.2.2 Quorum: A majority of the members in good standing of the Organization, which members represent no less than 40% of the total population of the member agencies in good standing, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

1.2.3 Vote of Council: Any motion or action of the Council in order to be deemed carried or approved must receive an affirmative vote of a majority of the member agencies in good standing, which vote must represent no less than 40% of the total population of the member agencies in good standing.

1.3 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: There shall be established a Policy Advisory Committee which shall be composed of the Chief Administrative Officer of each member agency, or his duly authorized representative, or if no such, or similar position exists, the Committee member shall be designated by the member agency's Council representative to serve at his pleasure, and shall be a full-time employee of the member agency. All matters upon which the Council is to act must first be considered by the Policy Advisory Committee and such matters when considered by the Council must be accompanied by the Policy Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations, if any, and voting record except that the Council may at its discretion consider urgent matters other than adoption of the annual budget or work program without prior consideration by the Policy Advisory Committee.

1.4 STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES: The Council may establish such technical advisory committees as may be necessary to assist in carrying out the duties as herein set forth in Chapter 2.

1.5 COOPERATING MEMBERS: Subject to the approval of the Council, any governmental entity or public agency or nonprofit organization not eligible for membership under paragraph 1.1 of this Agreement may elect to join the Council of Fresno County Governments as a cooperating member.

1.5.1 Cooperating members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Council but shall not be entitled to vote or participate in debate.

1.5.2 Cooperating members shall be entitled to receive data, studies, planning documents, special services, technical assistance, and other written materials and services of the Council of Fresno County Governments, subject to policies adopted by the Council.

CHAPTER 2

POWERS AND DUTIES

2.1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION: The Council of Fresno County Governments shall perform clearinghouse review under Section 204 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, Title IV of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, and Executive Order 12372 (FR 30959, July 14, 1982). The Council of Fresno County Governments may establish committees and execute memoranda of understanding with local, regional, state and federal agencies to facilitate coordination and cooperation. The Council of Fresno County Governments shall be the forum for cooperative decision making by principal elected officials of the member agencies.

2.2 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING: The Council of Fresno County Governments shall carry out an ongoing areawide comprehensive planning process as hereinafter set forth and may cause to be developed areawide plans and elements with respect to:

- | | | | |
|-------|------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 2.2.1 | Land Use | 2.2.4 | Transportation |
| 2.2.2 | Housing | 2.2.5 | Water Quality Management |
| 2.2.3 | Open Space | 2.2.6 | Air Quality Management |

The Council of Fresno County Governments may from time to time develop or coordinate other plans when authorized to do so by the Council.

2.3 PLANNING PROCESS: All plans and plan elements and other projects which the Council of Fresno County Governments shall prepare or cause to be prepared shall be done to the greatest extent by member agencies. Consulting services may, when authorized by the Council, be utilized to carry out all or portions of the Work Program. Such consulting services contract may be performed by any member agency and no consulting service contract may be tendered to other than a member agency unless such member agency has been provided with a reasonable opportunity to exercise the right of refusal. In the event of any controversy between member agencies regarding the assignment of consulting services, the Council shall make the final determination.

All consulting services performed shall be conducted under the authority of the Council of Fresno County Governments and in accordance with the approved work program.

All plans upon which the Council is to act must first be submitted to the Policy Advisory Committee and such matters when considered by the Council must be accompanied by the Policy Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations, if any, and voting record

2.4 CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT: The Council of Fresno County Governments shall carry out a process for citizen involvement in major decisions. Such process may include committees, legal notices and public hearings.

2.5 LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY: The Council of Fresno County Governments shall carry out the duties of a local transportation planning agency as provided by State Law including administration of the local transportation fund and assisting local governments in claiming, obtaining, and utilizing funds as required by the Transportation Development Act of 1973.

2.6 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: The Council of Fresno County Governments may assist member agencies, or cooperating members by providing technical assistance and services including, but not limited to, governmental management, planning, administration, public involvement, and grants-in-aid when and upon such terms as such assistance is approved by the Council.

2.7 WORK PROGRAM: The Council of Fresno County Governments shall prepare and adopt annually a multi-year work program which contains a description, including objectives and proposed costs, of all activities to be undertaken.

2.8 SPECIAL SERVICES: Consistent with the policies approved by the Council, and the Public Records Act, the Council of Fresno County Governments may provide data, studies, planning documents and other written materials to private or public organizations or individuals. Such organizations or individuals shall bear the cost of providing said data, studies, documents and materials, including the reasonable cost of staff time spent in reviewing said data, studies, documents and materials with the requesting party.

CHAPTER 3

LIMITATIONS

3.1 MEMBER AGENCY AUTONOMY: Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting in any manner the power of the respective member agencies and all plans, programs and activities shall at all times be carried out in such manner as so to maintain and insure the separateness and autonomy of the member agencies.

3.2 SUBMISSION OF PLANS: The council may consider adoption of any areawide plan or element thereof after such plan or element has been submitted to the legislative bodies of the respective member agencies for this consideration at least forty-five (45) days prior to such adoption.

3.3 WORK PROGRAM: The Council may consider adoption of any Annual Budget or Work Program after the preliminary Annual Budget or Work Program has been submitted to the legislative bodies for the respective member agencies for their consideration at least forty-five (45) days prior to final adoption.

CHAPTER 4

ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT, WITHDRAWAL, TERMINATION AND DISSOLUTION

4.1 ENTRY INTO FORCE: This Amendment shall enter into force and become binding upon its adoption by resolution of the governing bodies of no less than one-half of the eligible agencies in Fresno County which in aggregate represent no less than one-half of the population of Fresno County.

4.2 AMENDMENT: The Joint Powers Agreement, as well as any of the provisions may be amended by the approval or ratification of such amendment by the governing bodies of no less than one-half of the member agencies which in the aggregate represent no less than 40% of the population of the member agencies and all member agencies shall thereafter be bound by such amendments.

4.3 WITHDRAWAL: Any of the parties to this agreement may by action of its governing body withdraw from the Council of Fresno County Governments. Such withdrawal shall be accomplished in the following manner:

4.3.1 NOTIFICATION OF INTENT: Written notification of intent to withdraw shall be transmitted to each member of the Council, and to the Executive Director. Such notification of intent must be given no less than ninety (90) days prior to formal withdraw action.

4.3.2 NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL ACTION: Written notification of withdrawal action shall be transmitted to each member of the Council, and to the Executive Director. Such notification shall be given no sooner than ninety (90) days from the date of notification of intent as herein above set forth in 4.31.

4.3.3 EFFECTIVE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL: No withdrawal shall be come effective until nine (9) months from the date of notification of withdrawal as hereinabove set forth in 4.32.

4.4 TERMINATION: This agreement may be terminated by resolution of the governing bodies of all of the member agencies or by vote of the Council in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in 1.23. Should this agreement be terminated, the Council of Fresno County Governments shall be dissolved in accordance with the procedures hereinafter set forth.

4.5 DISSOLUTION: Should the Council of Fresno County Governments terminate as set forth above, or for any other reason, the President of the Council shall appoint a dissolution committee, which committee shall be

approved by the Council. The dissolution committee shall exist for the sole purpose of settling the affairs of the Council of Fresno County Governments, and shall be empowered to immediately take control of all lands, buildings, equipment, accounts, case records, and to conduct all business as may be necessary to dissolve the Council of Fresno County Governments and dispose of any assets, to settle all liabilities and shall pay the balance to the member agencies which have been in good standing during the year on the same proportionate basis that costs are shared as set forth in Chapter 5. Should the proceeds be insufficient, the deficit shall be paid by the member agencies on the same proportionate basis.

CHAPTER 5

FINANCIAL

5.1 COSTS: Costs incurred by Council of Fresno County Governments shall be shared on a proportionate basis in the following manner:

5.1.1 A per capita cost shall be calculated by dividing the total cost by the sum of the total population of member cities and the unincorporated population of Fresno County. The annual population figures published by the California State Controller shall be used to determine the per capita cost.

5.1.2 The County share shall equal the per capita cost times the unincorporated population of Fresno County.

5.1.3 Each member city shall pay an amount equal to the per capita cost times the city's population.

5.1.4 If the costs to be shared are not paid within ninety (90) days of the date they are due and payable as set forth in the by-laws, they shall be delinquent and the member agency shall no longer be a member in good standing until payment is made in full.

The Council of Fresno County Governments may also, when authorized by the Council and the governing body of any member agency, apply for and receive Federal and State grants-in-aid on behalf of the member agency. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the acceptance by the Council of Fresno County Governments, for any of its purposes and functions under this agreement, of donations, grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services from any member agency the United States or any agency thereof, of State of California.

5.2 ANNUAL BUDGET: The preliminary Annual Budget projecting a financial plan to undertake the work for the ensuing fiscal year shall be prepared by the Executive Director and presented, together with the Work Program, to the Council and the Policy Advisory Committee at their regular February meetings of each year, and to the governing bodies of all member agencies not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date scheduled for budget adoption by the Council. The Council shall review and adopt the Annual Budget and Work Program at or before the May meeting.

5.3 FUNDS: The Treasurer of the County of Fresno shall be the depository and have custody of all money of the Council of Fresno County Governments. The Auditor-Controller of the County of Fresno shall draw warrants to pay demands against the Council of Fresno County Governments when approved by the Executive Director. All funds received by the Council of Fresno County Governments shall be strictly accounted for and the Auditor-Controller shall cause to be made an annual audit of the accounts and records of the Council of Fresno County Governments as prescribed in California Government Code Section 6505.

5.4 ANNUAL REPORT: The annual audit report shall be included in and become a part of the Annual Report to the Council and the member agencies.

CHAPTER 6

SERVICES AND PERSONNEL

6.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: There shall be established the position of Executive Director of the Council of Fresno County governments. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Council and shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Executive Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Council of Fresno County Governments and shall have charge of all projects and property and personnel. The Executive Director shall be bonded for an amount established by the Council.

6.2 SERVICES: The Fresno County Counsel's Office shall provide all legal services to the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Council and the committees, provided however the Council may elect to retain independent Counsel when deemed necessary.

CHAPTER 7

AMENDMENT OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS

7.1 SUPERSEDING: This agreement amends in its entirety the original Joint Powers Agreement of the parties hereto dated September 24, 1969, together with the amendments thereto dated January 30, 1970, and April 25, 1971.

It is the intent of the parties hereto that all other provisions of the Joint Powers Agreement dated March 25, 1976, shall remain unchanged.

It is the intent of the parties hereto that all other provisions of the Joint Powers Agreement dated March 25, 1976, and of Amendment No. 4 dated June 25, 1985, not herein amended shall remain unchanged.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized offices as of the day and year first hereinabove written.

Amendment No. 3, dated March 25, 1976, replaced the Joint Powers Agreement in its entirety
Amendment No. 4, dated June 25, 1985
Amendment No. 5, dated April 27, 1989

BY-LAWS FOR THE
COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the county of Fresno and certain Cities of Fresno County, California, have executed a Joint Powers Agreement creating the Council of Fresno County Governments: and

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement designates the Council of Fresno County Governments to perform certain duties: and

WHEREAS, the organizational structure, process and functions of the Council of Fresno County Governments are specified in the Joint Powers Agreement:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The By-Laws of the Council of Fresno County Governments shall be specified herein, except that these By-Laws shall not limit, restrict, modify or supersede those activities or duties conferred or implied in the Joint Powers Agreement.
2. Membership in the Council of Fresno County Governments shall be as provided in the Joint Powers Agreement of March 25, 1976.
(Date)
3. The Council, as specified in the Joint Powers Agreement, shall constitute the governing body of the Council of Fresno County Governments.
4. The Council shall hold regular meetings on the last Thursday of every month, at such time and location as may be prescribed by vote of the membership at a previous meeting. In the event such meeting date should fall on a holiday or the day before a holiday, the membership at its next preceding meeting, or prior thereto, shall fix another convenient date for such regular meetings. If no time or location is so prescribed, the Chairman, or his representative, shall fix said time and location.

Special Meetings may be called by the Chairman or his representative at any time. The members shall be notified in writing of all special and regular meetings; written nature of meeting shall be forwarded by first class mail or other appropriate means not less than seven days prior to the meeting.

All regular and special meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, as amended.

5. The duly authorized representatives of a majority of the members in good standing which represent a majority of the total population of the member agencies shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the council.
6. Except as provided herein or in the Joint Powers Agreement, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall constitute the parliamentary authority for the Council.

ITEM 2

7. Officers of the Council shall consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall be elected from the duly authorized representatives of members in good standing. Their duties shall be as follows:
 - a. Chairman: To preside over all meetings, maintain order, decide questions of parliamentary procedure, call special meetings, and such other duties as elsewhere herein provided.
 - b. Vice-Chairman: To perform the duties of the Chairman in the absence of such officer or upon disqualification of such officer.
8. Nomination and election of officers shall be held at the March meeting of each year, and such officers shall serve a one-year term. Any vacancy during the term shall be filled by nomination and election of such officer for the remainder of the term.
9. Nominations may be made by a committee of duly authorized members in good standing appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Council or from the floor by duly authorized representatives.
10. An election for each office, beginning with that of Chairman, shall be held immediately after all nominations have been declared closed by the Chairman. If there is more than one nominee for any office, voting shall be by roll call in accordance with the voting formula as established by the Joint Powers Agreement.
11. Officers shall take office immediately after their election or as soon thereafter as practicable, and serve until disqualified or their successors are duly elected, whichever condition occurs first.
12. The Policy Advisory Committee, as specified in the Joint Powers Agreement and such committees as established by the Council shall select a Chairman and Vice-Chairman in June of each year from among its members. The duties of the Policy Advisory Committee shall be:
 - a. To hold meetings and conduct business as deemed appropriate under the Joint Powers Agreement.
 - b. To advise, recommend to and assist the Council, as required to carry out Council functions.
 - c. To review and recommend to the Council all business which is to come before the Council, including but not limited to, the annual budget and work program, Overall Program Design, reports, studies, plans and policy items.
 - d. To review and comment on applications submitted to the Council of Fresno County Governments for A-95 review.
13. The Policy Advisory Committee shall hold regular meetings each month, at such time and location as may be prescribed by vote of the committee members. In the event such meeting date should fall on a holiday, or the day before a holiday, the membership at its next preceding meeting, or prior thereto, shall fix another convenient date for such regular meeting. If no time or location is so prescribed, the Chairman, or his representative, shall fix said time and location.

ITEM 2

Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or his representative at any time. The members shall be notified in writing of all special and regular meetings; written nature of meeting shall be forwarded by first class mail or other appropriate means not less than seven days prior to the meeting.

Business may be conducted when there are at least five (5) members present to perform the duties of the Policy Advisory Committee. Any motion or action of the Policy Advisory Committee in order to be deemed carried or approved must receive an affirmative vote from a majority of the members present.

14. The Council agenda shall be established by the Executive Director. Subjects for inclusion on the agenda of the Council shall be directed to the Executive Director sufficiently in advance of the Council meeting so as to be reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee.
 - a. Agenda subjects proposed by the Council shall be referred to the Policy Advisory Committee for its review and recommendation.
 - b. Agenda subjects proposed by persons or organizations not members of the Council shall be placed on the agenda following review and recommendation by the Policy Advisory Committee.
 - c. All subjects on the Council's agenda shall be accompanied by a report from the Policy Advisory Committee, which report shall include the Policy Advisory Committee's voting on the subject.
 - d. The Council Chairman may establish time limits or any other control measure he deems appropriate for presentation or comment.
15. The Council agenda shall be included in written notice of meeting and forwarded to Council Members as specified elsewhere herein. Items of an emergency nature which require immediate action by the Council may be added to the agenda upon concurrence of a majority of the members in good standing present and representing a majority of the population Of the member agencies.
16. All administrative work of the Council shall be performed by or under the direction of an Executive Director, or if specifically directed by the Council, the Policy Advisory Committee. The duties of the Executive Director shall be:
 - a. To serve as Secretary to the Council and Policy Advisory Committee.
 - b. To serve as Secretary to such committees as the Council may establish.
 - c. To keep a good and sufficient record of the proceedings and business of the Council.
 - d. To keep a record and ascertain the qualifications of each duly authorized representative.
 - e. To maintain files for all reports, correspondence and other business of the Council, the Policy Advisory Committee and other committees as may be established.
 - f. To coordinate the work program and budget of the Council.
 - g. To assist member agencies in making application for Federal funds.
 - h. To maintain a record of all financial transactions.
 - i. To transmit to his successor all books, records and files of the Council of Fresno County Governments in his possession.
 - j. To perform such other duties as may be assigned.
17. Membership costs, as specified in the Joint Powers Agreement shall be due and payable at the start of the Council of Fresno County Governments' fiscal year. The Executive Director shall provide each member agency written notice of its cost due not later than thirty (30)

days prior to the due date. If the costs to be shared are not paid within sixty (60) days of the date they are due and payable' the member agency shall immediately be sent written notice by first class mail advising amount due and consequences of non-Payment. If payment is not made within ninety (90) days of the date due and payable, the member agency shall immediately be sent written notice that it is not longer a member in good standing, as specified in the Joint Powers Agreement, and no longer carries voting privileges in the conduct of the business of the Council of Fresno County Governments.

Good standing shall be restored to a member agency immediately after payment of delinquent costs is received.

18. A proposed annual Overall Work Program (OWP) for the ensuing fiscal year shall be prepared by the Executive Director and presented to the Policy Advisory Committee for their approval in January of each year. The Policy Advisory Committee shall have forty-five (45) days and shall review and prepare a preliminary budget by March 1 of each year.

A proposed annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be prepared by the Executive Director and presented to the Policy Advisory Committee for their approval in February of each year. The Policy Advisory Committee shall have forty-five (45) days and shall review and prepare a preliminary budget by April 1 of each year. The budget shall be a financial plan to undertake the work program of the Council. The council shall review and adopted the budget and OWP at or before the May meeting.

19. The Fresno County Counsel's Office shall provide de all legal services to the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Council and any committees as specified in the Joint Powers Agreement, except the Council may retain independent legal counsel when it deems appropriate.
20. The Council shall be responsible for making all amendments to these By-Laws.
 - a. Proposed amendments may be originated by the Council or any duly authorized representative to the Council.
 - b. Proposed amendments may not be finally acted upon unless all of the members have been given written notice thereof at a prior meeting or by mail at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting at which final action is to be taken.
 - c. Amendment to these By-Laws shall require the approval of a majority of the governing bodies of the Joint Powers Agreement representing a majority of the population of the member agencies.



2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148 • Fax: (559) 233-9645
Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

Minute Excerpt

COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS POLICY BOARD

Date: Thursday, June 24, 2010
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Present: Mayor Trinidad M. Rodriguez, City of Kerman, Chair
Mayor Dennis Lujan, City of Selma, Vice Chair
Mayor Harry Armstrong, City of Clovis
Mayor Javier Marquez, City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Rico Aguayo, City of Fowler
Mayor Ashley Swearengin, City of Fresno
Mayor Ramon Dominguez, City of Huron
Mayor Bruce Blayney, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
Mayor Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Pena, City of Sanger
Supervisor Judith Case, County of Fresno

Sharri Bender-Elhert, Caltrans
Janelle Kelley, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 12 members present representing 95.2% of the population and there was a quorum. (Clovis, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County) Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) arrived at 5:42 p.m. – 13 members present representing 95.6% of the population.

ITEM VII C – MOVED TO BEGINNING OF MEETING

C. Letter Supporting Comprehensive Federal Immigration Reform and Opposing Arizona's SB 1070 [BOREN]

Tony Boren (Fresno COG) presented this item. Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) made a motion to send the letter striking language regarding SB 1070. Discussion among the Board Members ensued with each Member weighing in on how they would vote based on direction from their Councils. Mayor Lujan (Selma) asked if there were members of the public wanting to comment.

The following people commented: John Smedley, Ron Drioane, Daniel Luna, Ron Keenan, Juan Avitia, Lee Walker, Dave Marquez, Bob Lindomood, Ed Gonsalves, Leon Vasquez, Tom Hancock, Leonel Flores, Matha Zarate, Mauro Carrera, Ron Arteno, John Fiel, Rey Leon and Joe DeLosSantos.

Approximately one hour later, Mayor Lujan (Selma) closed the time for public comment. Mayor Lopez (Parlier) clarified that Arizona asked for help and that's why the Board got involved.

A roll call vote was held (Ayes – Firebaugh, Fowler, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma; Nays – Clovis, Fresno, Fresno County, Kingsburg, Reedley) and the motion failed.

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

Supervisor Case (Fresno County) motioned for a subcommittee to be formed to set the framework for what the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) gets involved in and volunteered to be on that committee. Mayor Swearengen (Fresno) seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

The public was dismissed and the meeting continued.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Boren, Executive Director

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155 W. Durian Avenue
Coalinga, CA 93210

Phone (559) 935-1533
FAX (559) 935-5912
www.coalinga.com

June 29th, 2010

Fresno County Council of Governments
Attn: Mr. Tony Boren, Executive Director
2035 Tulare Street, #201
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Boren:

On behalf of the City of Coalinga City Council all the members would like to go on the official record that the City is opposed to the Fresno County Council of Governments taking a position on the Arizona immigration issue.

The Council also agrees with the City of Clovis in the following policy being developed:

If the Council of Governments Policy Board intends to adopt a position and ask members to vote on record and go on letterhead, that each member validate that they are acting on behalf of their City Council position.

If the Council of Governments is going to entertain policy actions such as the Immigration debate, then it should either refer the matter back to the respective city/county for elected action or find a way to validate that COG members are acting in the official capacity representing the majority opinion of their elected body.

Thank you for you attention and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Lander,
Mayor

RECEIVED

JUL 02 2010

BY: _____
FRESNO COG

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

The SJV Regional Policy Council, which is comprised of two elected official and one alternate from each of the eight Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies' Boards, was formed in 2006. Fresno COG's representatives on the RPC are Supervisor Judy Case and Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal. Mayor Harry Armstrong serves as the alternate. The mission of the RPC is:

- to provide guidance on common interregional policy issues;
- to represent the San Joaquin Valley at public forums that require a common voice; and
- to provide direction and guidance to the Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee (COG Directors) on activities that are to be carried out jointly.

The RPC is staffed by the Valley COG Directors and meets on a quarterly basis. In July 2010, the Directors hired consultant Michael Sigala to coordinate the activities and communication. At the July meeting, staff reported its intent to provide a quarterly update on the Regional Policy Council to the Fresno COG Policy Board.

It would be appropriate to discuss the relationship of the Fresno COG Policy Board to the Regional Policy Council and to establish a flow of communication between the two Boards.



2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148 ♦ Fax: (559) 233-9645
Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

September 21, 2009

NOTICE
Call for Projects
Council of Fresno County Governments 2010 “One Voice”

Dear Interested Stakeholders,

Over the past several years, the Fresno COG has embarked upon an annual “One Voice” lobbying visit to Washington D.C. The purpose of the trip is to seek federal funding for projects of regional significance within Fresno County. To this end, a contingent of elected officials, public administrators and regional stakeholders from the public and private sectors travel to Washington D.C. for a week long visit. The goal of this “One Voice” delegation is to meet with our congressional and federal departmental representatives and advocate for the projects that have been identified and prioritized through a COG selection process. We also address policy issues and may seek regulatory reform. Ideally, the trip results in the Fresno region garnering federal earmarked funds that it might not receive otherwise. To date, we have been successful in acquiring over \$13 million toward funding the projects that the “One Voice” delegation has promoted.

Our representatives in Washington have welcomed our efforts and have responded positively. We have been encouraged to continue the effort, as our presence helps our representatives to prioritize and shepherd much needed regional projects through the federal budget process. With that encouragement in mind, we are in the midst of launching our 8th annual “One Voice” endeavor. The trip is planned for February 6-11, 2010.

With input from our Washington, D.C. lobbyist, a task force, comprised of participants from earlier “One Voice” trips, has developed project selection criteria. These criteria require that:

- Projects be of regional significance – advancing the goals of the region
- Projects be limited to transportation and infrastructure (*physical infrastructure/capital improvements*) or be social/economic initiatives that have regional impact
- Regional projects be limited in number and in dollar amount requested.
(*Local projects can be submitted separately and will be presented according to a predetermined format*)
- Priority may be given to those projects on the 2009 “One Voice” list that meet the criteria and that have received partial funding. (These projects must be resubmitted by the project proponent.)
- Projects should be shelf ready
- Project proponent(s) must be part of “One Voice” delegation back to Washington D.C.

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

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- Projects should be collaborative in nature (i.e. more than one agency involved)
- Projects should cover a large service area, have potential to have a meaningful impact on the region, have support of decision makers, have quality leadership, fall within the community agenda and meet a "highest and best use" standard

We are now ready to solicit projects for the 2010 trip. This letter is intended to serve as a call for projects. The process entails COG's contacting a large number of public agencies and regional stakeholders, allowing them 3 weeks to determine if they have regionally significant projects they would like to submit, convening the task force to select and prioritize projects and gaining COG Policy Board approval of the priority project list. These efforts will culminate with the "One Voice" trip to Washington D.C in February.

Enclosed is a Project Application form that you will need if you have a project you would like to see considered for the regional priority list. This package is also available on our website at www.fresnocog.org.

The deadline for submittal of project application forms is 5:00 PM on Friday, October 9, 2009.

Forms should be submitted to:

Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
Attention: Barbara Steck

Thanks in advance for your interest in this important process. If you should have any questions regarding "One Voice", please feel free to contact me or Barbara Steck at 559-233-4148.

Sincerely,



TONY BOREN, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments

Enclosures: Application
Sample project format
Simon & Company Recommendations
Appropriations Accounts

SIMON AND COMPANY
INCORPORATED*Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Affairs*1660 L Street, NW • Suite 501 • Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-2229 • Fax (202) 659-5234 • e-mail: len.simon@simoncompany.com**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Tony Boren
Marla Day
Barbara Steck

FROM: Len Simon

SUBJECT: 2010 Fresno COG “One Voice”: *Observations and Recommendations*

DATE: May 5, 2010

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with the 2010 Fresno COG “One Voice” delegation. I feel compelled to invoke Dickens by saying “*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times*”. In other words, I thought our run-up to the “One Voice” from the fall planning period right up until the days before was the best of the efforts we’ve undertaken over the years, while the cancellation because of Washington’s record-breaking week long snow emergency made it the worst, because it really was a great agenda!

However, even from calamity there is always something to learn so I’m please to make some observations and recommendations based on the total experience:

- (1) A Later Date. As we’ve discussed, prudence suggests that we plan the 2011 “One Voice” a bit later in the year. I’m pleased that the COG has moved in that direction focusing on the last week in February. I predict excellent weather.
- (2) A New Congress. The additional 2-3 weeks will also give us time to work with a new Congress elected this November which may be significantly different that the one we have dealt with in the last two years;
- (3) New Delegation Member. Specifically, with the retirement of Rep. Radanovich, we know for sure that there will be a new member of the Fresno area delegation. Consequently, additional time to work with him and his staff, whoever he is, to orient him to “One Voice”, will be quite helpful.
- (4) Mix of Congress and the Administration. The agenda for 2010 “One Voice”, outside of our own delegation, concentrated very strongly on the Obama Administration and its major new initiatives. In 2011, as the Administration heads

into its third year, we recommend that the agenda reflect a mixture of the executive branch agencies and the White House.

- (5) Policy and Grants. Earmarks continue to be contentious. With Reps. Nunes and Radanovich choosing not to do earmarks this year – along with the entire House Republican Caucus - there was a major chunk of the COG agenda which we could not practically discuss with them. We don't know yet if the Caucus position will be extended next year. But to be on the safe side, our agenda should be equally divided between *projects, grants and policy*.
- (6) New Initiatives. The Obama Administration has been prolific in recent weeks in the roll-out of new initiatives – Sustainable Communities, Livable Communities, Challenge Grants, Promise Neighborhoods TIGER II, and Smart Growth among the most prominent. We recommend that COG do an inventory in the fall of which of its members and participants are seeking funding under these programs to help steer the agenda for February.
- (7) Economic Recovery. If the past is prologue, there will still be lots of interest in February on how each of the individual communities is doing regarding economic recovery. We recommend that COG undertake to help participants organize an “Economic Recovery Profile” focusing on core statistics on how their communities are doing and what they have received to date under the Recovery Act.
- (8) Briefing Book. I was impressed as to how streamlined and compact the COG Briefing Book was in 2010 in comparison to previous years. I think that approach is a good one and should be continued for 2011.
- (9) The Year of Projects. 2011 could be the “perfect storm” year for projects, with congress considering bills for transportation, water resources and appropriations each with its own call for projects and separate criteria and considerations for inclusion. “One Voice” will need to be judicious and careful in the selection and promotion of these projects.
- (10) Presentations. We recommend that the COG provide its “Briefing Book” to Congressional staff and others on a CD or flash stick in addition to hard copy so that it is easier for the congressional staff to utilize them in for subsequent purposes.

We hope that you find this information helpful as you begin to think about “One Voice” 2011. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance.

We look forward to talking with you soon.



Council of Fresno County Governments

2010 Legislative Platform

THE PURPOSE OF THE 2010 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ITEM 6

The Fresno COG, in coordination with our member agencies, has established a 2010 Legislative Platform that reflects the current priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform represents a unified voice when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal legislators as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to the Fresno COG staff and our lobbying partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board.

The goal of the Legislative Platform is to have a document in place that outlines the legislative priorities of our region that will direct advocacy efforts for improvements in areas such as air quality, transportation mobility, and regional prosperity that will ultimately contribute to an improved quality of life throughout Fresno County.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Protect and enhance current funding levels for transportation related programs.
- Continue to advocate for transportation-related improvements in state and federal legislation.
- Continue to coordinate advocacy efforts with our local and regional partners to advance common goals and shared interests that will contribute significantly to an improved quality of life for Fresno County residents.

MEMBER AGENCY PRIORITIES

- Advocate for legislative priorities that are identified as regional priorities throughout the year by our local member agencies and agreed upon by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

ONE VOICE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program and FY 2010 Federal appropriation requests for Fresno COG One Voice projects and priorities.
- Continue to pursue state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the Fresno COG One Voice efforts.

VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program authorizations and FY 2010 Federal appropriation requests for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's Valley Voice projects and priorities.
- Continue to pursue state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's Valley Voice efforts.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

FUNDING - FEDERAL

- Actively participate with Caltrans and other interests on the development of state and national consensus principles and priorities that will be favorable to the Fresno County region for the next Federal Surface Transportation Program due to be enacted in 2010.

FUNDING - STATE

Oppose the Gas Tax Swap

- Support full dedication of gasoline sales taxes to transportation and oppose the practice of directing gasoline "spillover" funds to the state general fund to be used for other purposes.
- Protect Proposition 42 (Transportation Congestion Improvement Act) and other transportation funds from being diverted to other purposes in the state budget as this will have a severe negative impact on:
 - o Cities
 - o Transportation Planning Agencies
 - o Transit Agencies
 - o School Districts

FUNDING - LOCAL

- Support efforts to reward self-help counties in funding programs and policies.
- Support legislation that lowers the threshold required to pass transportation initiatives to 55%.
- Support legislation that includes the use of design/build, public/private partnerships, and other innovative financing for transportation infrastructure projects.

HIGH SPEED RAIL

- Support federal and state funding for the development of the high-speed rail system in California.
- Promote Fresno County's *Expression of Interest* to locate the High Speed Train heavy maintenance facility on the proposed site in Fresno County.
- Encourage the completion of the Central Valley segment of the high-speed rail system in the first phase, since its construction is not as complex or costly.

GOODS MOVEMENT

- Support goods movement legislation that includes the San Joaquin Valley region as a recipient of any new port container fees collected at the California ports to mitigate the emissions associated with freight movement to and from the ports through the Valley. Additionally, ensure that exporters of valley agricultural products do not carry an unfair burden of any port fees that may be enacted.
- Support the Central Valley Trade Corridor in legislation pertaining to Goods Movement funding and programs.
- Support the inclusion of a dedicated funding program for Goods Movement infrastructure projects in the next Federal Surface Transportation Program due to be enacted in 2010. Work with the appropriate state and federal agencies and legislators to ensure that the San Joaquin Valley receive an equitable share of this funding to complete goods movement projects of regional significance.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

SENATE BILL 375 (2008)

- Ensure cleanup legislation and implementation guidelines related to SB 375 advance Fresno County's transportation and land use goals.
- Advocate for funding through Proposition 84 and other sources, to adequately assist Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and local governments in implementation of SB 375.
- Advocate for expansion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining for transportation projects that are consistent with a Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Advocate for local agencies to be able to use the EIRs and EIS prepared for the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy when performing project-level CEQA analysis for transportation projects. This will reduce the analytical burden and cost for transportation projects and eliminate duplication of effort.

BLUEPRINT PLANNING

- Support consistent and ongoing funding in the state budget for the implementation and update of regional blueprints.
- Support consistency with regional blueprints as a major factor in allocating bond funds from state agencies and in developing legislation and state policies on climate change.

AIR QUALITY

Seek the establishment of a new San Joaquin Valley designation as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level.

WATER

- Water is currently the most critical issue being faced by the San Joaquin Valley. The San Joaquin Valley needs the support and partnership of State and Federal legislators, and water management and infrastructure agencies as we work through the complex issues surrounding water supply, reliability, and quality.
- The region relies on a combination of ground water pumping and surface water deliveries to supply its water needs, which are crucial to Fresno County's and the San Joaquin Valley's ag-based economies.
- The successes or failures of the agricultural industry reverberate throughout the regional economy.
- The loss of surface water supplies over the last decade, especially the last two years of drought exacerbated by pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, have put a tremendous strain on the agricultural economy and the communities it supports.
- As drought and Delta pumping restrictions reduce surface water supplies, increased pumping pressures are placed on groundwater supplies, risking the long-term reliability and quality of these crucial water sources.

ENERGY

Support the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Energy Development advocacy efforts. Their mission is to promote energy use efficiencies and adoption of clean, renewable energy technologies to ensure a reliable supply, grow the economy, and improve air quality.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the inclusion of transportation and other types of infrastructure funding in any state and federal proposal for an economic stimulus package.
- Support policies that create the skilled and labor ready work force that Fresno County desperately needs to combat high rates of unemployment and poverty of Fresno County families.
- Remove policy obstacles to the regional economy as a whole, and direct jobs-creation provisions, including a direct wage subsidy for small businesses to create jobs and grants to retrofit public buildings.

PROCESS STREAMLINING

Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to streamline the federal and state government's project delivery process and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements.

OUR ROLE:

The Council of Fresno County Governments, better known as Fresno COG, brings together mayors, city council members and county supervisors to work on regional issues for Fresno County. Since its inception in 1969, Fresno COG has primarily acted as the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for Fresno County. Fresno COG functions as both the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and for federal purposes, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

ORGANIZATION:

A 16-member Policy Board gives Fresno COG policy direction. The Board consists of the mayors from each of the 15 incorporated cities in Fresno County and the Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Fresno COG offers each of these agencies an opportunity to come together on a level playing field to discuss and resolve transportation and related air quality issues that go beyond their own jurisdictional boundaries.

REGIONAL PROFILE:

Fresno County is classified as an urban county (despite many rural characteristics) and is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley within the state of California. Fresno County is the most populous county and geographically the second largest county in the San Joaquin Valley, encompassing approximately 6,000 square miles. With \$5.3 billion a year in commercial crop production it is the nation’s leading farm county. The January 2009 population of 942,298 places Fresno as the tenth most populous of the 58 California counties and the City of Fresno ranks as the fifth most populous city in the state, with a population of 495,913. There are fifteen incorporated cities and the county contains a federally-recognized urbanized area – the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area – with a January 2009 population of 680,000.

Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board

Chair: Mayor Trinidad M. Rodriguez	City of Kerman
Vice-Chair: Mayor Dennis Lujan	City of Selma
Mayor Harry Armstrong	City of Clovis
Mayor Ron Lander	City of Coalinga
Mayor Javier S. Marquez	City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Rico Aguayo	City of Fowler
Mayor Ashley Swarengin	City of Fresno
Supervisor Judy Case	County of Fresno
Mayor Ramon Dominguez	City of Huron
Mayor Bruce Blayney	City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva	City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez	City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez	City of Parlier
Mayor Mary Fast	City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal	City of San Joaquin
Mayor Jose R. Villarreal	City of Sanger

Tony Boren - Executive Director
Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721
(559)-233-4148 (Phone)
(559)-233-9645 (FAX)
Website: www.fresnocog.org

Housing

Support legislation that would provide flexibility for rural housing trusts in the San Joaquin Valley to better participate in the Proposition 13C Local Housing Trust Fund program.

Support policy initiatives that move the housing market into economic recovery and assist economically distressed areas in mitigating the adverse impacts of the economic crisis.

Air Quality

Support a new designation for the San Joaquin Valley as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level.

For funds generated under a cap and trade program, if any, support legislation that will provide adequate funding to disparately impacted regions such as San Joaquin Valley for the purpose of mitigating air quality impact or climate change mitigation.

Process Streamlining

Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to streamline the federal and state government project delivery process and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements.

Support integrating state and federal environmental impact studies without compromising environmental standards, to avoid project cost increases that occur due to lengthy processes.

Water Quality, Supply and Reliability for the San Joaquin Valley

Support the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Water Quality, Supply, and Reliability advocacy efforts. Their mission is to ensure a reliable, adequate quality water supply to sustain a high quality of life, and a world-class agricultural sector, while protecting and enhancing the environment.



California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Support efforts to establish through Executive Order and/or statute, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and to provide a continuing stream of funding for its existence.

Economic Development

Preserve Enterprise Zones, especially in chronically economically depressed regions.

Increase income caps in State and Federal grants so that qualified mid-income entrepreneurs may participate. Current guidelines provide financial aid for only those in the low to very low income brackets.

Other

Oppose unfunded federal and state mandates on local and regional governments.

Contact Robert Phipps, Kern Council of Governments
for more information:
(661) 861-2191 • email: rphipps@kerncog.org

Rev 12/2009

The Legislative platform of the

SAN JOAQUIN

VALLEY REGIONAL

TRANSPORTATION

PLANNING AGENCIES

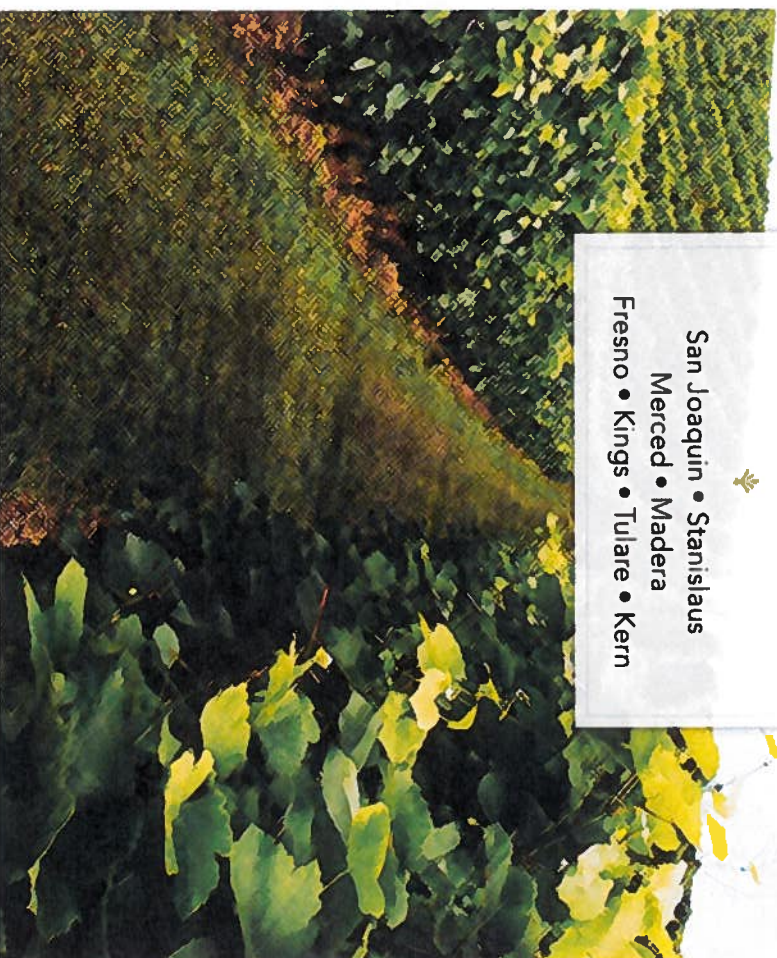
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San Joaquin • Stanislaus

Merced • Madera

Fresno • Kings • Tulare • Kern



Introduction

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies include the Council of Fresno County Governments, Kern Council of Governments, Kings County Association of Governments, Madera County Transportation Commission, Merced County Association of Governments, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stanislaus Council of Governments, and Tulare County Association of Governments. In 2006, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies expanded their Memorandum of Understanding to form a Regional Policy Council, comprised of two elected officials from each of the eight Valley counties, to discuss and build consensus on issues of Valleywide importance.

The Regional Policy Council, in coordination with the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, has established a San Joaquin Valley Legislative Platform that reflects the Regional Policy Council's priorities in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform provides guidance to the eight Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and their lobbying partners when taking action on specific legislative proposals.

The Platform is intended to provide a unified voice when communicating legislative issues of regional importance to the Valley's state and federal legislative delegation as well as to relevant state and federal agencies.

This brochure identifies the legislative priorities within different topic areas that are most important to the Regional Policy Council and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies for the upcoming legislative session.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies 2010 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

General Principles

- Protect and enhance current state and federal funding levels for transportation related programs.
- Continue to advocate as a region to advance common goals for improvements in state and federal legislation and policies.

Valley Voice Advocacy Efforts

- Continue to pursue federal and state support for the projects and legislative priorities identified through the Regional Policy Council's advocacy program called "Valley Voice".

Transportation

Funding - Federal

- Work with Caltrans, California Association of Councils of Governments, National Association of Regional Councils, and other interests to develop state and national principles and priorities that will be favorable to the San Joaquin Valley for the next Federal Surface Transportation Program, due to be enacted in 2010.

- Support Federal Surface Transportation Program authorizations and FY 2010 appropriation requests for Valley Voice projects and priorities.

Funding - State

- Protect Proposition 42 (Transportation Congestion Improvement Act) and other transportation funds from being diverted to other purposes in the state budget.

- Support full dedication of gasoline sales taxes to transportation and oppose the practice of directing gasoline/spillover funds to the State General Fund to be used for other purposes.

- Support legislation to implement and fund the remaining provisions of Proposition 1B (state transportation bond), 1C (state affordable housing bond), and Proposition 84 (state water and parks bond) that will maximize the San Joaquin Valley's regional share of funding.

- Oppose state project cost shifts or changes in responsibility to local transportation entities

- Ensure that federal transportation planning funds are available to regional agencies throughout the year and are not made unavailable due to delays or changes in enacting the state budget.

- Oppose revisions to state transportation programming and funding reform legislation not consistent with SB 45 (1998).



Funding - Local

- Support legislation that lowers the threshold required to pass transportation initiatives to 55%.

- Continue to support legislation to authorize design/build and expand public/private partnerships and other innovative financing opportunities to fund transportation improvements.

Highway 99

- Continue to protect and solicit funding for Highway 99, a major trade corridor in the San Joaquin Valley.

Goods Movement

- Support goods movement legislation that includes the entire San Joaquin Valley region as a recipient of any new fees collected at the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland in order to mitigate the burden imposed by the overland movement of cargo through the San Joaquin Valley as related to the ports.



- Support including the Central Valley Trade Corridor in legislation pertaining to goods movement funding and programs and that identifies all eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies as stakeholders.

- Support legislation that would implement the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Action Plan.

- Support rail preservation through additional funding and policy changes at the state and federal level in the next Federal Surface Transportation Program, the annual budget appropriations, and in state and federal regulations and guidelines.

High-Speed Rail

- Support California's effort to build a High Speed Rail system, and support the state's proposal for federal funding.

- Support annual appropriation of Proposition 1A funding through the state budget.

- Support Amtrak as a complementary service to the high-speed rail system

- Support the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's efforts to extend commuter rail service from Merced to Sacramento and the Bay Area along the Altamont Corridor.

- Support the San Joaquin Valley as a test track for high-speed rail and support the location of a maintenance station in the San Joaquin Valley.

- Preserve and enhance Short Haul Rail as a vital tool for the movement of goods and improvement of air quality throughout the state.

Local and Regional Planning

Senate Bill 375 (2008)

- Ensure cleanup legislation related to SB 375 advances the Valley's transportation and land use goals.

- Advocate for funding through Proposition 84 and other sources, to adequately assist Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and local governments in implementation of SB 375.

- Advocate for expansion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining for transportation projects that are consistent with a Sustainable Communities Strategy.

- Advocate for local agencies to be able to use the EIRs and EIS prepared for the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy when performing project-level CEQA analysis for transportation projects. This will reduce the analytical burden and cost for transportation projects and eliminate duplication of effort.

Blueprint Planning

- Support consistent and ongoing funding in the state budget for the development, implementation, and update of regional blueprints.

- Support consistency with regional blueprints as a major factor in allocating bond funds from state agencies and in developing legislation and state policies on climate change.



Memorandum

To: Fresno COG Policy Board

From: Les Beshears, Finance Director

Subject: AB1234 Mandatory Ethics Training Requirements

Date: July 14, 2010

A new law effective January 1, 2006 requires specified local officials to receive two hours of ethics principles and ethics laws relevant to public service within one year of hiring/election/or appointment to the Board and at least once every two years thereafter, pursuant to Government Code Sections 53234 through 53235.2. The requirement applies to local officials who either receive compensation for their service to the city or are reimbursed for their expenses.

The training must cover both ethics laws and ethics principles. There are a number of options for complying with this requirement.

- Self-study materials are available at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance. The materials require that you read two articles on public service ethics laws and principles, take the self assessment test and then submit it to the Institute for Local Government with a processing fee. The Institute will review your test, provide you with the correct answers to the questions and a proof of participation certificate.
- Regional and statewide training opportunities include those offered by the League of California Cities whose options are described on their website at www.cacities.org.
- Free On-line Ethics Training Course provided at www.caag.state.ca.us/ethics the website of the Attorney General, State of California, Department of Justice.

Once you receive your proof of participation in the required AB 1234 training, please provide a copy of the certificate to the Fresno COG for our records. These records will be retained as public records for at least five years.

As with all ethics laws, AB 1234 creates a minimum for ethics education, not a maximum. We encourage you to take advantage of additional training in ethics related topics and document those efforts as well.

Most of the certificates we have on file expire in 2010 so we need current proof of participation in the required AB 1234 training for our files. Please forward this information to Marla Day at Fresno COG. A list of the dates that your last training was completed has been sent to your City Clerk.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact my office.

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County