



2014 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

City of Clovis
City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
City of Fresno
City of Huron
City of Kerman
City of Kingsburg
City of Mendota
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of Sanger
City of San Joaquin
City of Selma
County of Fresno



THE PURPOSE OF THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ITEM V C

The Fresno COG, in coordination with our member agencies, has established a 2014 Legislative Platform that reflects the current priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform represents a unified voice on regional issues 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 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 the region while directing advocacy efforts for improvements in areas such as

air quality, transportation mobility, and adequate funding for existing infrastructure systems that will ultimately contribute to prosperity and improved quality of life throughout the Fresno County region.

MEMBER AGENCY PRIORITIES:

- ▶ Advocate throughout the year for legislative priorities that are consistent with the Fresno COG Policy Board identified and agreed upon general principles.
- ▶ Pursue state and federal programs that contribute to economic development and support economic recovery.

TRANSPORTATION

PROTECT AND ENHANCE CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS FOR TRANSPORTATION-RELATED PROGRAMS

- Continue to advocate for core State and Federal transportation funding for maintenance, operation, rehabilitation and improvement of existing transportation infrastructure and systems for all modes.
- Continue to advocate for transportation-related improvements in state and federal legislation that support sustainable communities and facilitate economic development.
- Continue to advocate for transportation improvements and programs to ensure adequate intermodal capacity and systems for safe and efficient movement of freight and commodities.
- Continue to coordinate advocacy efforts with our local and regional partners to identify, develop consensus, and advance common goals and shared interests that will contribute significantly to an improved quality of life for Fresno County residents.

INTER CITY RAIL

- Continue to provide regional leadership in the implementation of AB 1779 which enabled the formation of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority for the purpose of regional governance/management of the existing San Joaquin Intercity passenger rail service between Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-Oakland.

HIGH SPEED RAIL

- Support federal and state funding for the development of the high-speed rail system in California.
- Support location of High-Speed Rail heavy maintenance facility in the City of Fresno or Fresno area consistent with Fresno County's Expression of Interest.
- Support the San Joaquin Valley segment of the high-speed rail system being completed first since its construction is not as complex or costly as other alternatives and is the only segment capable of serving as the test track.

GOODS MOVEMENT - Surface Highway System

- Advocate for sufficient state and federal funding to maintain and improve goods movement corridors, recognizing that the majority of goods movement takes place on surface highways and that State Route 99 and Interstate 5 in the San Joaquin Valley are major national goods movement corridors.

- Support efforts to include the San Joaquin Valley in distribution of air quality impact fees collected at California ports.
- Continue to advocate for timely completion and upgrade of State Route 99 as a six-lane freeway from Kern County to Sacramento.
- Support efforts to integrate goods movement as a critical element in Statewide economic and transportation planning efforts.
- Advocate for inclusion of State Route 99 in the National Goods Movement Primary Freight Network and development of a national freight strategic plan.

GOODS MOVEMENT - Rail and Air

Freight Rail

- Seek increased state and federal funding for highway-railroad grade separations, to increase safety and efficiency of surface highways, and facilitate movement of freight rail.
- Support efforts to use passenger rail funding to improve freight rail capacity when facilities are jointly used by freight and passenger rail (Amtrak).
- Support efforts to investigate and site intermodal facilities to make the movement of freight in, out, and through the San Joaquin Valley more cost-effective, create more economic opportunities, and reduce pollutant emissions.

Short-Haul Rail

- Support efforts to fund supporting research for short-haul rail, short-seas shipping and other programs that lead to development of new options for intermodal shipping.
- Support The Central California Rail Authority's effort to prevent additional short-haul rail abandonments or discontinuance of service on existing short line railroad in the Central Valley.
- Pursue revisions to short-haul rail abandonment regulations to require short-line rail operators to notify transportation planning agencies of their intent to abandon a segment of rail line.

Air Freight

- Advocate for air freight transportation improvements to ensure adequate intermodal capacity.
- Support efforts to seek proportionate funding to maintain, rehabilitate, and improve air freight infrastructure at Fresno Yosemite International Airport.

LOCAL & REGIONAL PLANNING

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.

SENATE BILL 375 (2008)

- Advocate for funding proposals submitted for Proposition 84 and other sources, to adequately assist Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and local governments in implementation of SB 375.
- Advocate for local agencies to be able to use the EIRs and EISs prepared for the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy when performing project-level CEQA analysis for transportation projects to reduce the analytical burden, cost and duplicative efforts.

BLUEPRINT PLANNING

- Support continued recognition by the State of local authority for the implementation of regional blueprints, with funding incentives for regions who implement Blueprint planning goals and the integration of land use and transportation planning.

REGIONAL ENERGY PLANNING

- Support regional planning efforts in the San Joaquin Valley and continue to work with the Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission to encourage funding the "Sunshine Initiative" and other regional planning and development efforts for the eight county San Joaquin Valley region.

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.
- Continue to advocate for state and federal incentives and support to reduce emissions from businesses and transportation.
- Advocate for clean-air assistance rather than penalties in the San Joaquin Valley: recognize distinct regional conditions of meteorology, topography, heavy through-freight traffic and associated diesel emissions which contribute to delay in meeting air quality goals, and high proportion of low income residents and disadvantaged communities without resources to achieve clean air standards.

WATER

- Water is currently the most critical issue facing 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.
- Support state and federal planning and funding for a long-term solution to Delta water and delivery issues

to ensure a reliable water supply for all users of water delivered through the Delta.

- Support use of Integrated Regional Water Management planning processes for coordinated management of water resources and allocation of water project funding.
- Support funding to assist disadvantaged rural communities to secure and maintain safe, affordable, and reliable community water systems and water supplies.
- Support opportunities for investigation and funding for increased surface and groundwater storage to increase water supply, reliability, and flexibility through conjunctive use.
- Support a water bond act that addresses storage as well as drought relief, water supply reliability, Delta sustainability, statewide water system operational improvement, conservation and watershed protection, groundwater protection and water quality, and water recycling and water conservation.

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 economic development incentives for hard hit areas to take the place of the former Enterprise Zone.
- Support replacement legislation for an improved program to take the place of Redevelopment Authority
- Continued support for the Enhanced Economic Development Rate submitted to the Public Utility Commission

FUNDING

Support legislative efforts to direct investment towards transportation infrastructure, not only for roads and highways, but for transit, goods movement, and non-motorized transportation.

FEDERAL

Work collaboratively with state and federal government agencies through the implementation of the MAP-21 provisions.

STATE

Support legislation to implement and maximize Fresno County's regional share of state funding including funds for State Route 99 improvements, local match programs, and Proposition 84 (includes the sustainable communities and climate change reduction grants).

LOCAL

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

ABOUT THE FRESNO COG

OUR ROLE:

The Fresno Council of Governments, better known as Fresno COG, brings together mayors, city council members and county supervisors to work on regional transportation and related issues for Fresno County. Since its inception in 1969, Fresno COG has primarily acted as the regional 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 county's 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.

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 second largest county in the San Joaquin Valley, encompassing approximately 6,000 square miles. According to the latest data recorded for 2012, Fresno County is the nation's leading farm county with \$6.6 billion a year in commercial crop production value. The January 2013 population of 952,166 places Fresno as the tenth most populous of the 58 California counties and the City of Fresno is the fifth most populous city in the state, with a population of 508,453. There are fifteen incorporated cities and the county contains a federally-recognized urbanized area – the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area – with a January 2013 population of 608,436.

LOCAL & REGIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

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

FRESNO COG 2014 POLICY BOARD

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