

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council
DRAFT 2014 Federal Legislative Platform
Revised April 29, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies include the San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stanislaus Council of Governments, Merced County Association of Governments, Madera County Transportation Commission, Fresno Council of Governments, Kings County Association of Governments, Tulare County Association of Governments, and Kern Council 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 Planning Agencies, has established a San Joaquin Valley Legislative Platform that reflects the Regional Policy Council's priorities in federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform provides guidance to the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional 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 federal legislative delegation as well as relevant federal agencies.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Protect current resources and solicit additional federal funding levels for transportation related programs.
- Continue to advocate as a region to advance common goals to streamline transportation projects through federal legislation and policies.

VALLEY VOICE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

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

2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**Goods Movement**

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

- Build upon the success and implement the 2013 San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan as resources become available.
- Identify long term federal funding for goods movement in the San Joaquin Valley, including freight rail.
- Support TIGER grants for rail upgrades.

MAP-21 Implementation

- Continue bridge replacement and rehabilitation funding through the Surface Transportation Program, while including “off system” bridges.

Future Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill

- Support reauthorization of Federal Transportation Bill identifying long-term funding sources for all modes of transportation.
- Support inclusion and funding for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program.
- Maintain current MPO population thresholds.
- Encourage the continuation of dedicated funding for bridges such as the Highway Bridge Program, in addition to the set-aside for bridges located on public roads.

Air Quality

- Support the continued effort for the Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone designation to provide new incentive funding and tax incentives to address impacts of nonattainment of federally mandated air quality standards in the San Joaquin Valley.