

2016 One Voice Submitted Priorities for Consideration

	REGIONAL PRIORITY	TITLE	REQUEST SUMMARY	LEAD AGENCY	CONTACT
1	WATER	Water Policy Support	<p><b>Summary:</b> Support for Federal legislation and funding to assist the San Joaquin Valley in dealing with the negative impacts of continuing drought conditions, improved flexibilities to existing Delta pumping restrictions and the construction of the Temperance Flat Dam Project and other long term water supply reliability projects. Furthermore, support Endangered Species Act (ESA) amendments that balance social and economic benefits with species protection.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> Support for Federal legislation and funding to assist the San Joaquin Valley in dealing with continuing drought conditions coupled with inadequate reservoir water storage capacities and serious Delta pumping restrictions resulting in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serious and negative economic impacts to farms, rural communities and specifically low-income families. Continuation of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding is critical to assure essential support for low-income families who have lost their jobs and are struggling to pay for housing, utilities, and food. Funding programs are also necessary for failed ground water wells to farmers and rural communities (refer to the Economic Opportunities Commission attachment).</li> <li>- Significant operational constraints that severely limit water supply movement through both the State and Federal pumping stations thereby impacting available critical water supplies to both west side and east side farms and cities resulting in making the negative impacts of the natural drought even worse. Both temporary and long term relief is key for the survival of the San Joaquin Valley's Agriculture industry and cities. Specific actions requested include: 1. Support for Congressman Valadao's Legislation, 2. Support for Senator Feinstein's Legislation, 3. Support resulting Legislation from Conference Committee.</li> <li>-The need to storage water normally lost during wet years for drought periods by construction of the Temperance Flat Dam storage project along with the construction of additional water supply reliability projects that would enhance regional water conveyance and improve ground water storage and reduce groundwater over drafting along with city and farm well failures. Specific actions requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Congressional Construction Authorization for Temperance Flat Project-- For features generally described in the feasibility report with a construction budget based on report estimates subject to indexing and with investment protections for non-federal contributions.</li> <li>o Financial Assistance to San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority—To secure partnership agreements and funding from non-federal sources.</li> <li>o Federal Appropriations—To initiate construction related activities such as but not limited to Definite Plan Report, Final Design, Land Acquisition and Construction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Fresno County	<p><b>County of Fresno</b> Board of Supervisors 2281 Tulare St. Room 301 559-600-4000 vday@co.fresno.ca.us</p> <p><b>Bernard Jimenez (PW&amp;P)</b> County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 600, Fresno, CA 93721 Phone: (559) 600-4234 bjimenez@co.fresno.ca.us</p> <p><b>Mario Santoyo</b> San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority 2800 W Burrel Avenue Visalia CA. 93291 Phone: (559) 779-7595 Msantoyo1@verizon.net</p> <p><u>Attending OV Trip:</u> Supervisor Buddy Mendes, Mario Santoyo</p>
	(...cont.) WATER	Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	<p><b>Summary:</b> The single most important tool to respond to the plight of families devastated by the drought is the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). CSBG is flexible, and locally controlled. It is hailed by lawmakers because it is distributed to virtually every county in the nation, requires local input in how funds are used, and the agencies designated to manage CSBG funds must be governed by a tripartite board with members elected by local constituents, members appointed by elected officials with jurisdiction over the region, and members of organizations with a mandate to address the needs of the poor. In Fresno County, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) is the designated agency responsible for federal CSBG funds. The agency's goal is to collaborate, support, and leverage all available resources to empower our residents toward self-sufficiency.</p> <p><b>Request:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding in the amount of \$750 million for Fiscal Year 2017.</li> <li>2. Reauthorization of CSBG: Community Economic Opportunity Act of 2015 (sponsored by Rep. Fitzpatrick, co-sponsors include Costa, Nunes, Valadao.</li> </ol>	Fresno Economic Opportunites Commision	<p><b>Brian Angus, CEO</b> Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) 1920 Mariposa Mall, Suite 300, Fresno, CA 93721 (559) 263-1010 brian.angus@fresnoeoc.org</p> <p><u>Attending OV Trip:</u> <b>Rev. Paul McCoy</b> Fresno EOC Board Chairman (559) 253-3064 rem7698@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Paul Mclain-Lugowski</b> Fresno EOC Chief Innovation Officer (559) 994-5450 paul.mclain-lugowski@fresnoeoc.org</p>

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2	AGRICULTURE	Pest Prevention and Exclusion of Pests Programs	<p><b>Summary:</b> It is widely recognized that additional resources are needed to safeguard America's natural environment and food and fiber systems from potential destruction caused by invasive pests and diseases. There is a great need to use consistent and adequate federal funding to support efforts to discover new pests and diseases that impact agriculture. With sufficient federal funding, Fresno County can mitigate pests offshore and eliminate pathways of introduction, prepare for potential introduction of these pests, and rapidly and effectively respond to introductions when they occur.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> Protect existing revenue sources and enhance federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities. Support adequate and consistent funding for High Risk pest and disease prevention and exclusion programs in California. Fresno County does not receive adequate funding to protect their citizens from invasive pests. In Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Fresno County received \$50,775 compared to \$92,712 in Fiscal Year 2009-2010.</p>	Fresno County	<p><b>Les Wright</b>, Agricultural Commissioner  County of Fresno, Agriculture Department  559-600-7510  Fresno, CA 93721  1730 S. Maple Avenue  Fresno, CA 93702  lwright@co.fresno.ca.us  <u>Attending OV Trip:</u> <b>Supervisor Buddy Mendes</b></p>
	(...cont.) AGRICULTURE	Agriculture Canine Inspection	<p><b>Summary:</b> California is a major producer of agricultural commodities that is important to the nutrition and health of our nation producing one quarter of the nation's supply of fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts. Fresno County is in the forefront of that production. Fresno County has partial support through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through Farm Bill funding to maintain inspections of mail and parcels for contraband plant material that may carry pests detrimental to agriculture and residents. This team is the only USDA team protecting the vast Central Valley of California. California's Central Valley produces half of the United States fruits, vegetables, and nuts and there are many facilities that provide pathways to introduction of harmful pests. Currently the Central Valley has one team in place to cover the entire Valley, but the actual need to adequately cover these pathways would be three additional teams to cover the central portion of California. Higher funding support is needed for the existing agriculture canine inspection teams and to fund the establishment of additional teams in the state.</p> <p><b>Request:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect existing revenue sources and support additional funding for canine detection teams to protect agriculture from invasive pest introduction at parcel facilities in the Central Valley of California. In Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Fresno County was budgeted to receive \$230,434, less than the amount needed to cover expenses for one team (one canine, handler, helper and associated costs). The actual need is for three additional teams, stationed within the Central Valley, to adequately inspect all of the facilities at an estimated cost of \$750,000 annually.</li> <li>2. Support authority to allow agricultural inspectors to conduct inspections of "first class" and "priority mail packages containing plant material at postal facilities.</li> </ol>	Fresno County	<p><b>Les Wright</b>, Agricultural Commissioner  County of Fresno, Agriculture Department  559-600-7510  Fresno, CA 93702  lwright@co.fresno.ca.us <u>Attending OV Trip:</u> Supervisor Buddy Mendes</p>
	(...cont.) AGRICULTURE	Expand Drip Irrigation Funding Opportunities to Tenants	<p><b>Summary:</b> During the course of the USDA-grant funded Valley Grow Project, one glaring challenge for many minority and disadvantaged farmers has become apparent: Those who rent the land they sow do not qualify for the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding for drip irrigation. Because they do not own the relatively small pieces of land they cultivate, minority and disadvantaged farmers typically utilize temporary irrigation "tape" to water their crops rather than investing in more costly and permanent drip irrigation systems.</p> <p><b>Request:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A temporary waiver to USDA regulations during times of officially declared drought so small-scale farmers who use temporary irrigation systems can access USDA EQIP funding.</li> <li>2. The inclusion of programs that would benefit small-scale farmers when federal emergency drought assistance funds are released.</li> </ol>	Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board	<p><b>Melissa Mata</b>, Training Coordinator  Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board  2125 Kern St. Suite 208  Fresno, CA 93721  Phone: (559) 490-7196  mmata@workforce-connection.com</p> <p><u>Attending OV Trip</u>  <b>Blake Konczal</b>, Executive Director  Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board  2125 Kern St. Suite 208  Fresno, CA 93721  Phone: (559) 490-7102  bkonczal@workforce-connection.com</p>

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3	TRANSPORTATION	Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act -- Goods Movement	<p><b>Summary:</b> With the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Congress has taken a major step forward in re-confirming federal commitment to our nation's critical surface transportation infrastructure. Among the major improvements within the Act is that of advancing national policy on freight and goods movement, which addresses bottlenecks in the national freight network and enhances intermodal movement of goods through the National Highway Freight and Nationally Significant Freight &amp; Highway Projects Programs. Furthermore, the Act strives to further infrastructure and operational improvement investments that strengthen economic competitiveness, reduce congestion, reduce the cost of freight transportation, improve reliability, and increase productivity. It is a goal of the Act to improve the safety, security, efficiency, and resiliency of freight transportation in rural and urban areas. However, the Act continues a trend toward growing dependence on general fund dollars for such programs, and continually places more of the funding burden on state and localities.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> In implementing and further improving the FAST Act, Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) recommends the following principles, with particular emphasis on maintaining and supporting federal formula funding allocations to regions and national freight programs that supports investments in Goods Movement (see Attachment 1 for an example project):</p> <p>a. Continue to ensure financial integrity of Highway and Transit Trust Funds through the establishment of consistent revenue streams that provide for financial stability and certainty, and support continual formula funding allocations.</p> <p>b. Support national freight programs through the identification of long-term dedicated funding sources. Long-term, sustainable funding for transportation is yet to be achieved. Because the bill relies on \$70 billion of General Fund support, the expected annual gap between Highway Trust Fund income and spending in 2021 is expected to reach \$20 billion each year.</p> <p>c. Continue to streamline planning, programs and project delivery through additional state and regional stewardship such as delegation programs, increasing state and regional flexibility for using alternative project delivery methods and integrating planning, project development, review, permitting, and environmental processes to reduce delay. Ensure support for efforts that address multimodal connectivity and integration within the planning process.</p>	Fresno COG	<p><b>Tony Boren</b> Executive Director Fresno Council of Governments 2035 Tulare Street #201 Fresno, CA 93721 Phone: 559-233-4148 Ext. 204 tboren@fresnocog.org</p>
	(...cont.) TRANSPORTATION	High Speed Rail Training Facilities	<p><b>Summary:</b> Create policy or regulations that require high-speed rail training facilities be located alongside high-speed rail testing facilities in the Central Valley.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> Provide support to create Fresno as the hub for training workers for high-speed rail for the entire country. A permanent facility of this kind will be necessary to keep up with the advancing technology, especially if the United States wishes not only to utilize this system but gain an innovative presence in the industry worldwide.</p>	Economic Development Corporation	<p><b>Henry Perea</b> Supervisor, District 3, County of Fresno, Board of Supervisors 2281 Tulare Street, Hall of Records, Room 300 Fresno, CA 93721 Office: 559-600-3000 hperea@co.fresno.ca.us</p> <p>Attending OV Trip: <b>Oliver</b></p> <p><b>L. Baines III</b> Councilmember, District 3, City of Fresno, Councilmember 2600 Fresno Street, Room 2097, Fresno, CA 93721 Office: 559-621-8000 oliver.baines@fresno.gov</p> <p><b>Lee Ann Eager</b> President/CEO, Fresno County Economic Development Corporation 906 N Street, Suite 120, Fresno, CA 93721 Office: 559-476-2513 leager@fresnoedc.com</p>

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4	AIR QUALITY	<b>Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation</b>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Support of an Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation to provide new incentive funding for non-attainment areas like the San Joaquin Valley through the reintroduction and enactment of H.R. 6378 - Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation Act of 2012 in the 114th Congress. This Act allows the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an area as an air and health quality empowerment zone if the air pollution control district or other local governmental entity, area entity authorized to regulate air quality for the area) nominates the area for such designation, and submits a strategic plan designed to address air quality challenges, achieve attainment of air quality standards, and improve the health of the population in the area.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> Support reintroduction and enactment of H.R. 6378 - Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation Act of 2012 in the 114th Congress</p>	Fresno County	<p><b>Bernard Jimenez</b>, Deputy Director Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, (559) 600-4234 bjimenez@co.fresno.ca.us 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 600 <u>Attending OV Trip:</u> <b>Supervisor Buddy Mendes</b></p>
	(...cont) AIR QUALITY	<b>Clean Air Act Modernization</b>	<p>The Clean Air Act was last amended in 1990. Over the last 25 years, local, state, and federal agencies and affected stakeholders have learned important lessons from implementing the law and it is clear now that a number of well-intentioned provisions in the Act are leading to unintended consequences. The Clean Air Act Modernization proposal seeks legislative improvements to the Federal Clean Air Act, strategically amended to address five issues, while retaining the core elements in the Act that serve to protect public health. It would streamline the administrative requirements in the Act and ensure expeditious air quality improvements considering technological and economic feasibility.</p>	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	<p><b>Tom Jordan</b> Senior Policy Advisor San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave Fresno, CA 93726 (559) 230-6036 tom.jordan@valleyair.org</p> <p><u>Attending OV Trip:</u> <b>Buddy Mendes</b> County of Fresno Board of Supervisors 2281 Tulare St. Room 301 559-600-4000 vday@co.fresno.ca.us</p>

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5	ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Establish Uniform Workforce Policies in the U.S. Department of Transportation	<p><b>Summary:</b> The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and its various administrative departments lack a uniform policy for both targeted hiring initiatives and funding to related job training. This gets in the way of workforce boards implementing innovative and praised methods of getting unemployed and underemployed persons back to work.</p> <p><b>Request:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A uniform policy across all U.S. DOT administrative departments (Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration) for targeted hiring initiatives.</li> <li>2. All administrative departments within the U.S. DOT should identify workforce training funds that may be used by training providers vetted and used by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)-recognized Workforce Boards.</li> </ol>	Workforce Investment Board	<p><b>Melissa Mata</b>, Training Coordinator Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board 2125 Kern St. Suite 208 Fresno, CA 93721 Phone: (559) 490-7196 mmata@workforce-connection.com</p> <p><u>Attending OV trip:</u> <b>Blake Konczal</b>, Executive Director Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board 2125 Kern St. Suite 208 Fresno, CA 93721 Phone: (559) 490-7102 bkonczal@workforce-connection.com</p>
	(...cont) ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Support Continued and Increased Funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	<p><b>Summary:</b> Support increased funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. CDBG funds are used effectively and discretionally by local government to address the unmet needs of low- and moderate-income families and their neighborhoods, and have significant positive impacts on local economies.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> The FY 2016 funding for CDBG as set by Congress and signed by the President in December, 2015, was \$3 billion, which is equal to FY 2015 spending and \$30 million below the FY 2014 level. Fresno County supports funding CDBG at \$3.3 billion for FY 2017 and preserving it as a flexible and locally-driven community development resource. This support is in conjunction with the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED), the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other members of the Community Development Coalition (supporter groups).</p>	Fresno County	<p><b>Bernard Jimenez</b>, Deputy Director Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, (559) 600-4234 bjimenez@co.fresno.ca.us 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 600 <u>Attending OV Trip:</u> <b>Supervisor Buddy Mendes</b></p>
	(...cont) ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Continuation Of Payments In Lieu Of Taxes Program (PILT)	<p><b>Summary:</b> PILT provides payments to counties to help offset losses in property tax revenues due to the presence of tax-exempt federal land within county boundaries. In fiscal year 2015, Fresno County received \$2,735,384 for 1,526,794 acres in tax-exempt federal lands and as the fiscal year 2016 PILT program has been initiated by the Department of the Interior, Fresno County anticipates receiving the same amount in fiscal year 2016. These funds are critical to Fresno County in provided needed services on these federal lands, including, but not limited to search and rescue operations, law enforcement, sanitation and road maintenance.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> Fresno County respectfully requests that our representatives work with their colleagues to ensure that PILT is fully funded. Continuation of the Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes program is important to Fresno County as it makes up for diminished tax revenues stemming from Federal ownership of land within the County's boundaries. Loss of funding will impact essential County services, such as search and rescue operations, law enforcement, sanitation, and road maintenance.</p>	Fresno County	<p><b>Vicki Crow</b> Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector 2281 Tulare Street, Room 105 (559) 600-3496 VCrow@co.fresno.ca.us</p> <p><b>Paul Dictos</b> Fresno County Assessor-Recorder 2281 Tulare Street, Room 105 559) 600-6879 pdictos@co.fresno.ca.us</p> <p><u>Attending OV trip:</u> <b>Buddy Mendes</b> County of Fresno Board of Supervisors 2281 Tulare St. Room 301 559-600-4000 vday@co.fresno.ca.us</p>

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	<p align="center">(...cont)  <b>ECONOMIC &amp;  COMMUNITY  DEVELOPMENT</b></p>	<p><b>DOE Funding for  Weatherization and  Solar PV Installation</b></p>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Fresno EOC is part of a national Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) network. This network has been providing LIHEAP and DOE WAP (Weatherization Assistance Program) weatherization services for many years on the homes of eligible low-income recipients. Fresno EOC has weatherized over 20,000 housing units in Fresno County in just the last five years. In 2015 Fresno EOC responded to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued by the State Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to install solar PV systems on owner occupied single family homes determined to be eligible for a rooftop solar system based on criteria set forth in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for fiscal year 2015-16. CSD awarded Fresno EOC \$4,050,000 to lead a statewide network of like providers to install rooftop solar systems on the homes of eligible occupants residing in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings, Tulare, Sacramento, and Los Angeles counties. The installation of Solar PV has the potential to offset up to 100% of the electricity burden low income families face. Fresno EOC has been successful, working with these network partners, to install solar systems at a fixed price of \$4.50 per watt. This price includes design, city plan check costs, permits, installation, and net energy metering (NEM) paperwork processing. Fresno EOC leverages LIHEAP and the state's Low Income Weatherization Program (LIWP) funding with state solar funding to bring maximum value to the service recipient, assuring that the home is properly weatherized, safe and energy efficient with the installation of a rooftop solar system.</p> <p><b>Request:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allow the national DOE weatherization service provider network to use their existing weatherization DOE WAP funding to install solar PV on owner occupied single family low-income residential units. Allowing for such flexibility would greatly enhance the network's ability to increase energy efficiency and affordability for our most vulnerable residents.</li> <li>2. Ask the DOE to fund Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission for a demonstration project that installs rooftop solar PV on the homes of eligible low-income residents, a project that could be replicated nationwide. As one of the largest community action agencies in the nation, with more than 40 years of experience in weatherization and the manufacturing of insulation products, and the state's lead for a network of agencies installing rooftop solar on the homes of low-income residents Fresno EOC has the experience and capacity to carry out this demonstration project. It would work closely with its national weatherization networks to roll out the program region by region throughout the country. Benefits of the proposal are numerous: reducing the energy burden on low-income household budgets, creating solar industry jobs for low-income youth residing in the neighborhoods where the services are offered (national programs such as Youth Build and the Conservation Corps could be used for training and deployment of services), and greenhouse gas reduction.</li> </ol>	<p align="center"><b>Fresno  County</b></p>	<p><b>Brian Angus, CEO Fresno EOC</b>  1920 Mariposa Mall Suite 300  Fresno CA, 93721  559-263-1010  Brian.angus@fresnoeoc.org</p> <p align="center"><u>Attending OV Trip:</u>  <b>Reverend Paul McCoy</b> Chairman of  the Board Fresno EOC  (559) 263-1000  Rem7698@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Nathan Magsig</b>, Energy Director, RME  Fresno EOC  (559) 263-1000  Nathan.magsig@fresnoeoc.org</p> <p><b>Paul Mclain-Lugowski</b>, Chief  Innovation Officer Fresno EOC  (559) 994-5450  Paul.mclain-lugowski@fresnoeoc.org</p>

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6	PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY	Future Funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)	<p><b>Summary:</b> SCAAP provides partial reimbursement to states and localities for costs of incarcerating criminal aliens arrested by the local police departments, Sheriff, State or Federal agencies within Fresno County. Despite the rising costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals, funding for SCAAP has sharply declined over the years. This request is for the continuation of funding to the local jail to partially offset the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens arrested by any of the Local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies within Fresno County.</p> <p><b>Request:</b> Advocate for a long-term authorization and increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to assist Fresno County with costs incurred for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens.</p>	Fresno County	<p><b>Margaret Mims</b>, Sheriff  2200 Fresno Street  Fresno, CA 93721  559-600-8800  Margaret.Mims@fresnosheriff.org</p> <p><u>Attending OV Trip:</u>  <b>Margaret Mims</b>, Sheriff</p>