

## More Fruits of One Voice

2011 Funding from the Highway Bridge Program included the following One Voice Project:

\$500,000 for the Manning Avenue Bridge

2010 Omnibus Appropriations Bill included the following One Voice project:

\$800,000 for State Route 180

2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill included the following One Voice projects:

\$1,330,000 for State Route 180 East

\$570,000 for Veterans Boulevard

\$300,000 for Fresno County Gang Prevention Program

2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill included the following One Voice project:

\$1,636,000 for Friant Road Widening, Copper to Millerton

In 2007 a Continuing Resolution was passed that nationally eliminated all projects proposed for the Appropriations Bill. This action included the four following One Voice projects that were pending:

\$500,000 for State Route 180 Improvements

\$250,000 for the construction of a vocational training facility in Mendota

\$1,000,000 for Friant Road Widening

\$200,000 for the West Side Vocational Training Center in Fresno County

2006 Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill included:

\$900,000 for State Route 180 East Improvements

2005 Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill (SAFETEA-LU) included:

\$1,200,000 for Friant Road Widening

\$7,600,000 for Freeway 180 Improvements

\$240,000 for Willow and Herndon Traffic Flow Improvements

2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill included the following One Voice projects:

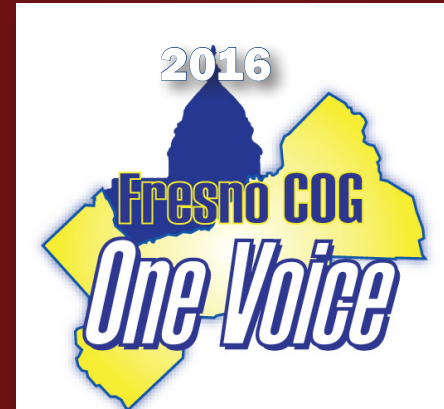
\$250,000 for the Non-Point Source Water Quality Management Program to Fresno COG to contract with the Fresno County Farm Bureau

\$500,000 for the Friant Corridor Improvements Project to the County of Fresno

\$200,000 for the Regional Jobs Initiative to CSUF

\$400,000 to the Workforce Investment Board

\$225,000 for the Rural Vocational Training Centers Project to the County of Fresno



“One Voice” unites Fresno County communities and regional interests in a voluntary and collaborative effort to seek federal and state funds annually for projects of regional significance. All projects chosen shall contribute to an improved quality of life throughout the Fresno County region.

## The 2016 Fresno COG One Voice Sponsors:



Hosted by:



## **The Fruits of One Voice D.C.**

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) began the “One Voice” effort in 2003, to seek federal funding for projects of broad community-wide benefit to Fresno County. They assembled a public-private delegation, selected prioritized projects, and visited our Congressional and federal departmental representatives in Washington, D. C. to pursue funding and grant opportunities. The Fresno COG proposed this as an annual effort and has made a similar effort at the State level in Sacramento.

The message we receive during each visit to Washington, D.C. is that we are welcome and encouraged to return and to continue communications, building upon the broad-based coalition we have assembled. The “One Voice” approach is positively recognized and viewed as a means of assisting our federal representatives identify, prioritize and shepherd much needed projects and programs through the federal budgetary process. No accomplishments in connection with “One Voice” activities would be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Fresno region’s congressional delegation.

Although the “One Voice” effort does not represent the sole advocacy for the Fresno region as Fresno County, individual cities and other public authorities pursue important objectives in Washington as well. But it does provide an opportunity to give special focus to a core group of regional projects and priorities around which the broadest group within the county can unite. Now, more than ever, it is important to advocate for policy and regulatory reform. It is also imperative that the One Voice delegation advocate for the preservation of funding programs that are crucial to projects in the Fresno County region. Although Congress has chosen to stop earmarking, the federal government still distributes hundreds of billions of dollars through discretionary grant programs.

Each year, Fresno COG’s One Voice delegation seeks funding sources for projects that appeal to federal decision makers and advocates for congressional and federal agency support during the competitive grant processes. With this support, the Fresno COG region has been successful at obtaining discretionary grant funding for many planning and construction projects beyond establishment of the moratorium on earmarks. By advocating for policy and regulatory reform, Fresno COG One Voice has had legislation introduced and enacted that streamlines the way federal and state agencies work together. We continue to find ways to eliminate unnecessary procedures so that government agencies and the business community can work together efficiently toward job creation.

### ***The “fruits” of One Voice to-date include the following:***

In 2015 Congress enacted transportation legislation which contained many of the policy positions advocated by “One Voice” in recent years, including:

- Passing a five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)
- FAST Act establishes a National Multimodal Freight Policy and requires the development of a National Freight Strategic Plan to implement the goals of the new National Multimodal Freight Policy

- FAST Act establishes both formula and discretionary grant programs to fund critical transportation projects that would benefit freight movement
- FAST Act now authorizes funding for the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program at \$4.5 billion through 2020
- FAST Act makes approximately \$800 million is discretionary funding available through FAST LANE grants in Fiscal Year 2016 for various transportation projects
- FAST Act adopted a number of project delivery enhancements to streamline the permitting processes and codify the online system to track projects and inter-agency coordination processes
- FAST Act strengthens Buy America requirements that promote domestic manufacturing through vehicle and truck purchases
- DOT extended the Local Hire Initiative, which explores new ways to make it easier for states and cities to hire local residents for transportation projects. This pilot program allows recipients of highway and transit grants to use hiring programs in which preference is given to local residents, low-income workers, and veterans.

### ***Both the House and Senate worked towards authorizing legislation to respond to the crisis resulting from the California drought, including:***

- The House approved Rep. Valadao’s drought legislation, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015 (H.R. 2898)
- Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2015 (S.1894)
- The Administration established the National Drought Resilience Partnership
- The Department of Commerce and Department of Interior utilized regulatory flexibility to optimize pumping operations and increase water supplies when precipitation occurred during spring storms

### ***Other Federal Priorities***

While earmarked projects are no longer available in federal authorizing or appropriations legislation, Congress and the Administration continued to ensure that competitive discretionary grant programs would be made available throughout the legislative sessions, many of which continue to be high priorities during “One Voice” advocacy efforts. These include, but are not limited to:

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- The Department of Interior (DOI) Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
- Department of Commerce (DOC) Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs
- Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pest Prevention Program, Agriculture Canine Inspection, and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).