



City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus

PRESS RELEASE

September 22, 2020

Contact: Cindy Malekos
Phone: (209) 573-3946
Email: cmalekos@stancog.org

STANCOG PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESS, FEDERAL AGENCIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Modesto, CA) – The annual Valley Voice program by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council has concluded after a series of productive advocacy meetings with the White House, Congress and several federal agencies.

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is represented on the Policy Council by StanCOG Board members Vito Chiesa (Stanislaus County Supervisor-District 2), Bill Zoslocki (Modesto City Council-District 4) and Jenny Kenoyer (Modesto City Council-District 5). The Policy Council works regionally to identify action items that, when implemented by individual Regional Planning Agencies like StanCOG, result in a single vision for the entire San Joaquin Valley. More than 30 local elected officials and staff representing the eight counties participated virtually this year in unified, multi-jurisdictional efforts.

The Valley Voice delegation was provided with exciting news from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that two regional priority projects were selected to receive the following awards from the BUILD Discretionary Grant Program:

- \$20 million grant for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project
- \$16 million grant for the State Route 99 Commercial Avenue Interchange Project in Tulare

In 2018, the Stanislaus region was successful in securing a \$9 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. DOT for the State Route 132 project, the only TIGER grant awarded in California that year.

“We are stronger when we come together as one voice,” said Vito Chiesa, who has participated in the Valley Voice meetings for several years on behalf of StanCOG.

###

About StanCOG

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as designated by the federal government, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) as designated by the State of California, and the Local Transportation Authority (LTA) which administers the local Measure L sales tax dedicated to transportation improvements in the Stanislaus region. StanCOG is a public organization that works with local governments and citizens in the Stanislaus region by dealing with issues and needs that cross city and county boundaries.

Established in 1971, StanCOG is a council of city and county governments, comprised of the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford, and Stanislaus County, which addresses regional transportation issues. It provides the forum that brings local mayors, city council members and county supervisors together to work on regional transportation issues in a setting that promotes the involvement of the public in the planning process for the Stanislaus region.

About the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

The Policy Council is an eight-county collaborative of elected leaders from regional planning agencies and the Valley Air District. The Council works to secure the federal resources for the region to improve the highways and railways that serve as the backbone of the Valley's regional economy. These regional investments will ensure that the Valley remains competitive by enhancing its connectivity, improving access for freight and passenger rail, and make certain the timely distribution of agricultural goods and other products.