



PRESS RELEASE

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**“VALLEY VOICE” DELEGATION FROM THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON D.C.**

Elected officials from all eight San Joaquin Valley counties will be meeting with White House officials and key federal legislators during the annual “Valley Voice” advocacy trip to Washington D.C. on September 6 and 7, 2017. The delegation traveling to the nation’s capital is known as the **San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council**, and represents the boards of each metropolitan planning organization (MPO or COG), and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Representatives participating from the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) Board include Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County Supervisor and Gary Soiseth, City of Turlock Mayor.


The Regional Policy Council will advocate for major transportation initiatives for the San Joaquin Valley, including federal funding for major highway projects, changes to the federal Clean Air Act, legislative amendments to regional transportation plans and aviation fuel sales tax collection processes, and other advocacy positions. ***The attached document highlights the policy and legislative priorities for Valley Voice 2017.***


Valley Voice 2017 will include meetings with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Senators Feinstein and Harris, House Majority Leader McCarthy, Congressmen Costa, Denham, McClintock, McNERNEY, Nunes, Valadao, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the US Department of Agriculture.


Valley Voice 2017 Delegation:

Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County Supervisor
Elbert Holman, Stockton Councilmember
Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County Supervisor
Gary Soiseth, City of Turlock Mayor
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Mike Villalta, City of Los Banos Mayor
Robert Poythress, Madera County Supervisor

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin Mayor
Gary Yep, City of Kerman Mayor Pro Tem
David Ayers, City of Hanford Mayor
Rudy Mendoza, City of Woodlake Mayor
Andrew Medellin, City of Madera Mayor
Cheryl Wegman, City of Wasco Mayor
Rueben Pascual, City of Delano Councilmember

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Chair
Mayor Rudy Mendoza
City of Woodlake

Vice-Chair
Supervisor Chuck Winn
San Joaquin County

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Tulare County
Association of
Governments

Fresno
Council of
Governments

Kern
Council of
Governments

Kings County
Association of
Governments

Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

“Our Highways and Interstates are vital to the economic growth and prosperity of the San Joaquin Valley. Our region has 31,000 road miles, more than the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento region combined,” said City of Woodlake Mayor and Chair of the Regional Policy Council, Rudy Mendoza.

“The success of one Valley county lends to the success of another. Our ability to work together sends a strong message about our regional collaboration and the importance we place collectively on transportation, economic development, and air quality.”

Who: San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

What: Two-day “Valley Voice” advocacy in Washington D.C.

When: September 6-7, 2017

Where: White House, United States Congress, Federal Departments, Washington D.C.

Why: Legislative Advocacy for the San Joaquin Valley

For more information: ***San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council web site:*** www.sjvcogs.org

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About Stanislaus Council of Governments

StanCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Stanislaus Region as designated by the federal government, and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) as designated by the State of California. An MPO/RTPA is a public organization that works with local governments and citizens in its region by dealing with issues and needs that cross city and county boundaries. 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 the County of Stanislaus, that was established in 1971 by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to address regional transportation issues.

About the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

The Policy Council provides a forum for our Valley to communicate easily and effectively on regional issues that impact us all, like transportation, air quality and advocacy efforts. Working regionally to identify action items that—when implemented by individual Regional Planning Agencies—result in a single vision for the entire San Joaquin Valley.