



**2009 Washington D.C. Trip (February 7-12th)
ONE VOICE TASK FORCE MEETING**

DATE: Wednesday, October 29, 2008
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201 (Sequoia Room)
Fresno, CA

AGENDA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Enclosure</i>	<i>Action*</i>
I.	Public Presentations. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.		
II.	Welcome / Self-Introductions		
III.	Discussion of Policy Issues or Regulatory Reform to include in 2009 One Voice Package (Fresno COG Legislative Platform attached)	Yes	Recommend List
IV.	Next Meeting – Reauthorization of Transportation Bill Nov. 13, 2008 (8:30 AM)		
V.	Other Business		
VI.	Adjourn		



**Council of Fresno County Government's
2008 Legislative Platform**



Council of Fresno County Governments

2008 Legislative Platform

Policy Board

Chair: Mayor Trinidad M. Rodriguez	City of Kerman
Vice-Chair: Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Lujan	City of Selma
Mayor Bob Whalen	City of Clovis
Mayor Patricia Hill	City of Coalinga
Mayor Craig Knight	City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Rico Aguayo	City of Fowler
Mayor Alan Autry	City of Fresno
Supervisor Henry Perea	County of Fresno
Mayor Ramon Dominguez	City of Huron
Mayor Leland Bergstrom	City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva	City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez	City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez	City of Parlier
Councilmember Scott Brockett	City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal	City of San Joaquin
Mayor Michael Montelongo	City of Sanger

Barbara Goodwin – Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE OF THE 2008 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Fresno COG, in coordination with our member agencies, has established a 2008 Legislative Platform that reflects the current priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform represents a unified voice when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal legislators as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to the Fresno COG staff and our lobbying partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board.

The goal of the Legislative Platform is to have a document in place that outlines the legislative priorities of our region that will direct advocacy efforts for improvements in areas such as air quality, transportation mobility, and regional prosperity that will ultimately contribute to an improved quality of life throughout Fresno County.

ABOUT THE FRESNO COG

Our Role:

The Council of Fresno County Governments, better known as Fresno COG, brings together mayors, city council members and county supervisors to work on regional issues for Fresno County. Since its inception in 1969, Fresno COG has primarily acted as the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for Fresno County. Fresno COG functions as both the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and for federal purposes, as the county's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Organization:

A 16-member Policy Board gives Fresno COG policy direction. The Board consists of the mayors from each of the 15 incorporated cities in Fresno County and the Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Fresno COG offers each of these agencies an opportunity to come together on a level playing field to discuss and resolve transportation and related air quality issues that go beyond their own jurisdictional boundaries.

Regional Profile:

Fresno County is classified as an urban county (despite many rural characteristics) and is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley within the state of California. Fresno County is the first most populous county and second geographically largest county in the San Joaquin Valley, encompassing approximately 6,000 square miles. With \$4.8 billion a year in commercial crop production it is the nation's leading farm county. The January 2007 population of 917,500 places Fresno as the tenth most populous of the 58 California counties and the City of Fresno is the sixth most populous city in the state, with a population of 481,000. There are fifteen incorporated cities and the county contains a federally-recognized urbanized area – the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area – with a January 2007 population of over 650,000.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Protect and enhance current funding levels for transportation-related programs.
- Continue to advocate for transportation-related improvements in state and federal legislation through face-to-face discussions with and written letters to state and federal legislators.
- Continue to coordinate advocacy efforts with our local and regional partners to advance common goals and shared interests that will contribute significantly to an improved quality of life for Fresno County residents.

TRANSPORTATION

Funding – Federal

- Actively participate with Caltrans and other interests on the development of state and national consensus principles and priorities that will be favorable to the Fresno County region for the next Federal Surface Transportation Program due to be enacted in 2009.
- Support FY 2008 and FY 2009 appropriation requests for Fresno COG One Voice projects.

Funding – State

- Support increased funding by the state for transportation purposes.
- Support legislation to implement and fund the remaining provisions of Propositions 1B (state transportation bond), 1C (state affordable housing bond), and Proposition 84 (state water and parks bond) that will maximize Fresno County's regional share of funding.
- Actively participate in developing guidelines and/or criteria necessary to implement Proposition 1B, Proposition 1C, and Proposition 84.
- Support the Policy Board's approved criteria to be part of the funding guidelines for the State-Local Partnership Program (Proposition 1B).
- Protect Proposition 42 (Transportation Congestion Improvement Act) and other transportation funds from being diverted to other purposes in the state budget.

Funding – Local

- Support efforts to reward self-help counties in funding programs and policies.
- Oppose revisions to state transportation programming and funding reform legislation not consistent with SB 45 (1988).
- Support legislation that lowers the threshold required to pass transportation initiatives to 55%.

Streets and Highways

- Support legislation that includes the use of design/build, public/private partnerships, and other innovative financing for transportation infrastructure projects.

Highway 99 as an Interstate

- Continue supporting efforts to designate State Route 99 through the Central San Joaquin Valley as a federal interstate.

Public Transportation

- Support protection of Federal Transit Administration funding and oppose budget cuts that will transfer transit funds to other non-transit programs.
- Support, in coordination with the local transit operators, efforts to identify additional transit operating funds to meet long-term needs.
- Support high speed rail serving the entire San Joaquin Valley.
- Support funding for the High Speed Rail project and oppose any decrease in funding in the state budget.
- Support the High Speed Rail ballot measure for the 2008 ballot.
- Support Federal contributions to high speed rail and the establishment of a Federal High Speed Rail Authority.
- Support both Pacheco and the Altamont corridors for connecting the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area. However, if the High-Speed Rail Authority selects only one corridor, the preferred corridor should be Altamont.
- Support efforts to secure additional funding from Proposition 1B, Intercity Rail Improvement Program, for high speed rail.

- Support adequate funding for passenger service and capitol improvements on Amtrak's San Joaquin Rail Corridor.
- Seek increases in funding levels for grade separation projects and the evaluation of the state's funding program to improve access to funds.
- Support legislation that includes additional funding and economic development activities for municipal general aviation airports outside the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area.

Goods Movement

- Support goods movement legislation that includes the San Joaquin Valley region as a recipient of any new port container fees collected at the California ports to mitigate the emissions associated with freight movement to and from the ports through the Valley.
- Support including the Central Valley Trade Corridor in legislation pertaining to Goods Movement funding and programs.
- Maximize regional share of Proposition 1B funding to mitigate the impacts of goods movement in the Central Valley Trade Corridor.
- Support legislation pertaining to the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund and the Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program that include the Policy Board's approved criteria when considering funding allocations.
- Educate state officials and legislators that the San Joaquin Valley carries more truck traffic than any other major goods movement corridor in the state, and the resulting impact is significant.
- Support the inclusion of a dedicated funding program for Goods Movement infrastructure projects in the next Federal Surface Transportation Program due to be enacted in 2009. Work with the appropriate state and federal agencies and legislators to ensure that the San Joaquin Valley receive an equitable share of this funding to complete goods movement projects of regional significance.

Other

- Monitor legislation pertaining to the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program.
- Monitor legislation impacting the Freeway Service Patrol Program.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Blueprint Planning

- Support consistent and ongoing funding in the state budget for the development, implementation, and update of regional blueprints.
- Seek a dedicated set-aside from Proposition 84, Sustainable Communities Program, for Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) to develop and update regional blueprints and support legislation that allows all RTPA's to be eligible for funding whether or not they have existing funds for blueprint planning.
- Support the Office of Planning and Research in their efforts to incorporate strategies in the general plan guidelines for implementation of blueprints.

Alternative Growth Strategies

- Support federal and state initiatives that provide funding for local agencies to implement alternative growth and affordable housing initiatives.
- Support federal and state policies and incentives that encourage compact growth, mixed use development, better transit connections and walkable communities.

Housing

- In coordination with local agencies, participate in activities related to legislative and administrative reforms of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).
- Ensure that there is sufficient funding to carry out the RHNA process.
- Monitor legislation and other activities that would establish a San Joaquin Valley Rural Regional Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Eminent Domain

- Support clean-up language of current Eminent Domain law so that both the needs of the public agency and the rights of the property owner are met.

Transportation Modeling

- Monitor legislation that modifies modeling practices or imposes new standards on transportation modeling in transportation planning agencies.

AIR QUALITY

- Monitor air quality issues affecting the Fresno region.
- Partner with the San Joaquin Valley Air District and support their efforts where appropriate.
- Seek the establishment of a new San Joaquin Valley designation as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level.
- Support increased funding to replace the oldest school buses in the Valley and adding flexibility to existing funding programs to allow for the replacement of more school buses.
- Support efforts to pursue funds for the Diesel Truck Retrofit Program and the Triangular Truck Trade Program.
- Work with state and local government and other key stakeholders on the development of legislation and regulations to incorporate climate change policies into regional transportation planning.
- Monitor efforts by the federal, state and local governments to establish common environmental standards related to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

PROCESS STREAMLINING

- Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to streamline the federal and state government's project delivery process and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements.

ONE VOICE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Continue to pursue federal and state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the Fresno COG One Voice efforts.

WATER SUPPLY, STORAGE and QUALITY

- Support legislation and bond proposals that adequately address the water supply, water storage, and water quality needs of Fresno County with special recognition for the importance of agriculture to the county's economy.

- Support legislation and bond proposals that would aid in developing new above-ground water storage facilities on the San Joaquin River to provide adequate supplies of water for agricultural and municipal purposes while providing water and temperature control for river restoration and enhancing flood management and control.
- Support efforts of the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum and other integrated water management planning efforts to enhance beneficial uses of available water, particularly during flood events, through additional groundwater recharge and water banking facilities.
- Support federal and state legislation and administrative activities directed at achieving meaningful and effective environmental and physical repairs and improvements to the Delta (including, but not limited to, levee and channel rehabilitation, conveyance facilities, water quality improvements and solutions to fishery and environmental problems) to permit exports of full supplies of water to water agencies and users along the western San Joaquin Valley.

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

- Support efforts to establish in statute, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and to provide a continuing stream of funding for its existence.
- Partner with the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley for the successful implementation of their strategic action plan.

FLOOD CONTROL

- Support legislation in partnership with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to provide funding that helps local flood protection efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Partner with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County, the Five Cities Economic Development Authority, the I-5 Business Development Corridor, Inc., the region's Chambers of Commerce, and any other relevant organization, to advocate for improvements, when appropriate, to enhance the economic well-being of Fresno County residents.
- Evaluate proposed formulas in state and federal legislation that provide program or formula funding to ensure Fresno County and the Central Valley entities can be competitive for the funds.

IMMIGRATION

- Oppose indiscriminate enforcement actions by the U.S. Government that are conducted in a manner that violates the civil rights of Fresno County area residents for the purpose of deporting undocumented foreign nationals residing and working in Fresno County.

REAUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL FARM BILL

- Monitor legislation pertaining to the federal reauthorization of the 2002 Farm Bill and support the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Farm Bill priorities, where appropriate.

OTHER

- Oppose unfunded federal and state mandates on local and regional governments, and support proposals that would prohibit the passage of legislation that impose new unfunded mandates.
- Work with staff from other Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, both in the San Joaquin Valley and in other regions of the state, to identify issues of regional significance in legislative proposals and policies and coordinate advocacy efforts to advance common goals.