

# News Release

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For immediate release

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## **Fresno COG's Sacramento "One Voice" Delegation highlighting issues crucial to Fresno County's future**

This year's 25-member Fresno COG One Voice delegation travels to Sacramento on Sunday morning carrying with them six advocacy issues crucial to Fresno County's future growth. Fresno County business and government leaders will spend two days requesting support from state representatives for issues chosen for their regional significance, their ability to bring prosperity to Fresno County, and their potential contribution to improved air quality and transportation mobility. Earlier Washington D.C. "One Voice" delegations have been successful in bringing over \$13 million in project funding back to Fresno County. Advocacy Issues for the Sacramento One Voice trip are listed below by Regional Priority:

<b>Ranking by Regional Priority</b>	<b>Advocacy Issues</b>	<b>Request</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>WATER: COMPREHENSIVE WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION</b>	To have the State of California Legislature develop and place a comprehensive water bond package on the next available ballot, including specific priority items for Fresno County.
<b>2</b>	<b>FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE</b>	Maximize Fresno County's regional share of Federal economic stimulus funding.

3	CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support California High-Speed Rail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support annual appropriations of Proposition 1A (2008).</li> <li>• The High-Speed Rail Authority should consider locating the proposed maintenance and storage facility in the City of Fresno or Fresno area.</li> <li>• The Central Valley segment of the high-speed rail system should be completed first since its construction is not as complex or costly</li> </ul> </li> <li>* Support \$1million in funding to ensure sustainability of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.</li> <li>* Protect Proposition 42 (Transportation Congestion Improvement Act) and other transportation funds from being diverted to other purposes in the state budget.</li> <li>* Seek Proposition 84 funding and other sources to offset costs for implementation of SB 375 requirements for MPO's and local governments.</li> </ul>
4	AIR QUALITY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Seek the establishment of a new San Joaquin Valley Designation as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level.</li> <li>* Support Port Container Fees for the San Joaquin Valley.</li> </ul>
Information Only in Packets	San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process	Provide project update on regional blueprint planning activities.
Information Only in Packets	Council of Fresno County Government's 2009 Legislative Platform	Provide Legislative Platform.

The following companies generously supported the 2009 "One Voice" effort:

**BLUE LEVEL SPONSOR**

**GRANVILLE HOMES, INC. \$3,000**

**WHITE LEVEL**

**QUAD KNOFF \$2,500**

**CITY OF REEDLEY \$2,000**

**KLEINFELDER \$2,000**

**RED LEVEL SPONSORS**

**VRPA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. \$1,000**

**HATCH MOTT MACDONALD \$1,000**

**STRATEGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE \$1,000**

**KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. \$1,000**

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

OMNI-MEANS	\$500
DEDEKIAN, GEORGE, SMALL & MARKARIAN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION	\$250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,750</b>

One Voice Mission Statement:

***“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.***

In 2003, the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) decided to undertake a “One Voice” effort seeking federal and/or state funding for projects of broad community-wide benefit within Fresno County. The goal was to assemble a public-private delegation, select prioritized projects, and then visit 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 heard during each of our visits to Washington, D.C. was that we were welcomed and encouraged to return and to continue communications, building upon the broad-based coalition we were assembling. The “One Voice” approach is positively recognized and viewed as a means of assisting our federal representatives identify, prioritize and shepherd much needed projects through the federal budget process. No accomplishments in connection with “One Voice” activities would be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Fresno COG congressional delegation.

Although the “One Voice” effort does not represent the sole advocacy for the Fresno region (Fresno County, individual cities and other public authorities pursue important objectives in Washington as well), it does provide an opportunity to give special focus to a core group of projects around which the broadest group within the county can unite.

## **2008 FRESNO COG’S SACRAMENTO “ONE VOICE” TRIP PARTICIPANTS**

1. **Judy Case**, Supervisor, County of Fresno
2. **Bob Whalen**, Mayor, City of Clovis
3. **Armando Lopez**, Mayor, City of Parlier
4. **Amarpreet Dhaliwal**, Mayor, City of San Joaquin
5. **David Karstetter**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Kingsburg
6. **Glenda Hill**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Orange Cove
7. **Pete Chavez**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Reedley
8. **Victor Ruiz**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Sanger
9. **Julia Hernandez**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of San Joaquin

10. **Mike Derr**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Selma
11. **Rico Aguayo**, Councilmember, City of Fowler
12. **Dan Parra**, Councilmember, City of Fowler
13. **Cynthia Sterling**, Councilmember, City of Fresno
14. **Andreas Borgeas**, Councilmember, City of Fresno
15. **Blong Xiong**, Councilmember, City of Fresno
16. **Henry T. Perea**, Councilmember, City of Fresno
17. **Esther Gonzalez**, Councilmember, City of Orange Cove
18. **David Elias**, City Manager, City of Fowler
19. **Andy Souza**, City Manager, City of Fresno
20. **Alan Bengyel**, City Manager, City of Orange Cove
21. **Rocky Rogers**, City Manager, City of Reedley
22. **Cruz Ramos**, City Manager, City of San Joaquin
23. **Margaret Mims**, Sheriff, County of Fresno
24. **John Campbell**, Assistant Superintendent, Kings Canyon Unified School District
25. **Ron Hudson**, Deputy Superintendent, Kings Canyon Unified School District