

Fresno COG “One Voice” - 2009 Regional Issues

Issue	Summary	Area Affected
<p>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Economic Stimulus Plan)</p>	<p>The federal government is currently in the process of developing an economic stimulus plan which will both restart the economy and provide a source of job creation. Infrastructure projects, specifically transportation projects, have been called out as a catalyst of this plan. The jurisdictions within Fresno County are prepared to engage in this economic opportunity.</p>	<p>Fresno County</p>
<p>Clean Energy</p>	<p>The eight county region of the San Joaquin Valley, with about 3.4 million residents and the most productive agriculture in the nation, is facing significant economic, environmental and growth challenges. However, it is a region that is committed to addressing its challenges through increased use of clean energy, including energy efficiency and all forms of renewables. It is and has an abundance to generate (such as solar, biomass, biofuels, and wind as well as traditional forms of energy, such as oil and natural gas).</p>	<p>San Joaquin Valley</p>
<p>San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Program and State Route 99</p>	<p>The efficient movement of goods across state and international boundaries increases the nation’s ability to remain globally competitive and generate jobs. This request is one of seven principles contained in the California Consensus Principles on Federal Transportation Authorization for 2009 – endorsed by California’s Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, the California Association of Councils of Governments, California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies.</p>	<p>San Joaquin Valley</p>
<p>Proposed Economic Development “Starbond”</p>	<p>The concept for “Starbonds” started in the Cities of Kansas City and Reno for the purpose of helping the Tourism Industry. There are several reasons why a Federal Starbond program should be considered not only for Fresno County, but for the entire eight county region of the San Joaquin Valley. Both of the States mentioned above utilize the bonds to raise funds to finance infrastructure and improvements that help attract tourist dollars to a given geographic area.</p>	<p>San Joaquin Valley</p>
<p>National Parks Infrastructure Needs</p>	<p>As the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service approaches in 2016, visitors to those parks increasingly find crumbling roads and historic buildings, outdated displays and poorly maintained campgrounds and trails. With Congress and President Barack Obama considering infrastructure plans to jump-start the nation’s economy, there is an opportunity to change this sad state of affairs.</p>	<p>San Joaquin Valley</p>
<p>High Speed Rail – Federal Component</p>	<p>With the passage last November of Proposition 1A, the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act, the prospects for high-speed rail in California have improved. It is particularly noteworthy that Fresno County had the highest percentage of voters supporting the Bond Act of all the San Joaquin Valley counties. Residents of Fresno County have long supported the development of high-speed rail for all of the reasons noted below. Fundamentally, however, high-speed rail will better connect Fresno County and the entire San Joaquin Valley with the State’s major metropolitan areas and offers the potential for significant economic development in an area of the state that is sorely in need.</p>	<p>California</p>