In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact the KCAG Office at (559) 852-2654 by 4:00 on the Friday prior to this meeting. Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Commission after the posting of the agenda for this meeting will be available for public review at 339 West D Street, Suite B, Lemoore, CA. In addition most documents will be posted on www.kingscog.org.

MEETING

Place: Board of Supervisors Chambers
Kings County Government Center
1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA

Time: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Agenda: KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Roll Call</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Unscheduled Appearances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any person may address the Commission on any subject matter within the jurisdiction or responsibility of the Commission at the beginning of the meeting; or may elect to address the Commission on any agenda item at the time the item is called by the Chair, but before the matter is acted upon by the Commission. Unscheduled comments will be limited to three minutes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Minutes of September 24, 2014</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. KCAG TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. General Transportation Items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan Grant (Resolution No. 14-11)</td>
<td>8-11</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Caltrans Reports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Staff Comments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Commissioner Comments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### III. KCAG COMMISSION

#### A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by the TPC on October 22, 2014  
   - **Action:** Reaffirm
   - **Page:** 12-16  
   - **Action:** Information
3. Reschedule Next KCAG Commission Meeting Date  
   - **Page:** 17  
   - **Action:** Action

### IV. MISCELLANEOUS

#### A. Correspondence

#### B. Staff Comments

#### C. Commissioner Comments

### V. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting scheduled for November 26, 2014.
MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kings County Association of Governments was called to order by Joe Neves, Chairperson, at 4:41 p.m., on September 24, 2014 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Administration Building, Kings County Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Harlin Casida, Russ Curry, Gail Miller, Joe Neves, Doug Verboon, Lois Wynne

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mark Cartwright

STAFF PRESENT: Terri King, Chris Lehn

VISITORS PRESENT: Greg Gatzka, Jim Christian

A. Roll Call

Chairperson Neves conducted roll call.

B. Unscheduled Appearances

None.

C. Minutes

1. Minutes of July 30, 2014

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Wynn) to approve the Minutes of July 30, 2014. Motion carried by the following vote:

Cartwright: Absent
Casida: Yes
Curry: Yes
Miller: Yes
Neves: Yes
Verboon: Yes
Wynne: Yes
A. General Transportation Items

1. Master Fund Transfer Agreement

Ms. King outlined the Master Fund Transfer Agreement, a contract through which state and federal funds are passed through from Caltrans to regional transportation planning agencies. The Agreement stipulates the terms under which KCAG carries out the OWP activities and Caltrans supplies the reimbursement of funds. The document is also a confirmation of Caltrans’ and KCAG’s mutual fiscal responsibilities and continued partnership.

Ms. King stated that the current Agreement will expire on December 31, 2014. If the Agreement is not renewed by this date, Caltrans will not be able to reimburse KCAG for transportation planning activities. A draft revised Agreement was prepared by Caltrans and the document was reviewed statewide. A final Agreement has been provided which would take effect on January 1, 2015 and extend through December 31, 2024. The final document provided has been reviewed by Legal Counsel, who noted that KCAG will need to ensure the provisions set by the Agreement are included in contracts for consultants.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Wynne) to adopt Resolution No. 14-10, approving the updated Master Fund Transfer Agreement and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Agreement. Motion carried by the following vote:

Cartwright: Absent
Casida: Yes
Curry: Yes
Miller: Yes
Neves: Yes
Verboon: Yes
Wynne: Yes

2. FY 2015-16 Caltrans Planning Grants Program

Ms. King outlined the Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant programs for FY 2015-16, which have been reduced to two for the Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Communities. A summary of the grants, program requirements, local match, and eligible activities was included in the agenda packet. Ms. King mentioned that the information was also presented at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting and emailed to all of KCAG’s member agencies. KCAG Staff encourages members to submit applications for these programs and will be available to assist local agencies in the preparation, submission, and implementation of any grant applications for the programs.

Commissioner Curry inquired about the local match amount for the Sustainable Communities Program. Ms. King clarified that the local match amount is 11.47% of the total project cost.

3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Meeting

Ms. King stated that the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Meeting will be held on Friday, September 26, 2014 in Hanford at the City Council Chambers. Angie Dow
from KCAPTA will have a bus to pick up and drop off attendees arriving on the train. Ms. King indicated the agenda for the meeting was included in the agenda and reported that Commissioner Curry will be attending the meeting in place of Commissioner Verboon. Commissioner Curry indicated that he would welcome attendees to Hanford and tell them about the area.

B. Caltrans Reports

1. Questionnaire

Gail Miller provided the Committee members a survey questionnaire regarding Caltrans’ local agency involvement and participation. The questionnaire is an opportunity for local agencies to critique Caltrans’ participation on the Board, staff’s performance, local agency expectations of Caltrans staff and managers. It will be used to determine if and where improvement is needed in addition to what changes need to be made. The questionnaire will also be extended to the TAC groups. Ms. Miller requested members return responses to Ms. King before the next meeting.

Ms. Miller, Commissioner Curry, and Chairperson Neves discussed roundabouts around the valley. Ms. Miller explained there is a certain criteria that Caltrans uses and that when considering intersection improvements considerations for roundabouts need to be incorporated unless it has been ruled out.

2. Quarterly Updates

Gail Miller provided a summary of various projects under construction along SR 198 in Hanford and Lemoore. Work on SR 198 in Hanford from 14th Avenue overcrossing to the 11th Avenue undercrossing is expected to be completed by the end of October. Work on the 12th Avenue interchange in Hanford is tentatively planned to begin on October 20th. The contractors are waiting for another project on SR 198 to be completed prior to starting this one. The SR 198/19th Ave. interchange project is underway and the westbound SR 198/ SR 41 connector ramp was closed on September 3rd. The ramp will be temporarily closed for the next 45 days. Until then, detours using sections of the newly constructed interchange and surface streets will be utilized. The connector ramp is anticipated to be reopened on October 17th and the completion date of the project is anticipated December 2014/January 2015 barring winter weather. The replacement of the bridge deck on SR 198 at 11th Avenue is complete and work on the 14th Avenue deck has been suspended and will resume in mid-late October with demolition and replacement in two stages with work continuing until August 2015.

Quarterly Caltrans update covering October, November, and December was provided in the agenda packet. Ms. Miller noted that Caltrans is making a paradigm shift and addressing multimodal transportation. As a result, the agency has a new mission, vision, and goals. The Mile Marker: a Caltrans Performance Report has now been released. The report outlines the agency’s goals and progress.

Chairperson Neves requested the history for the 14th Avenue bridge project and stated that the project has taken too long. He would like a timeline to be established so they can figure where the project went wrong. Ms. Miller stated that she would work with the Project Manager to create some chronology for Commissioner Neves and she will email that out to the Board. Communication of the planned closure and detours with the public and local agencies was discussed by Commissioner Neves, Commissioner Wynne, and Ms. Miller. Commissioner Neves expressed that sufficient notification was not given to local Public Works and Public Safety personnel.
Ms. Miller concluded the issue was not public notification but rather jurisdictional notification. She will discuss the issue with their Public Information Officer and look into what can be done to prevent it in the future.

Ms. King stated that KCAG has mentioned the preplanning issue at Quarterly meetings with Caltrans and that KCAG has requested notification when the 12th Avenue project starts up. She expressed the need for pre-planning with city staff in advance for road closures, detours, so agencies are prepared and can plan ahead to inform the public. Commissioner Neves added that fire, police, and emergency medical service personnel were caught off guard by the closures.

Ms. Miller ensured that they would do a better job notifying local agencies on the 12th Avenue project. Commissioner Neves suggested that fire, police and emergency medical services be added to the notification list since they are impacted by the closures.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Staff Comments

1. Ms. King introduced Alex Rangel who is filling in until the Executive Assistant position can be filled. She reported that the KCAG Executive Assistant position recruitment was closed in September and Human Resources is now screening applications and should be scheduling interviews soon.

2. Ms. King summarized the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has released draft guidelines for a new funding program which comes from Cap and Trade funds, called the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. The programs focus on increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers, and key destinations via low carbon transportation options such as walking, biking, and transit resulting in fewer vehicle miles travelled; and protecting agricultural lands from greenhouse gas intensive development such as agricultural land conservation easements resulting in net increases in GHG sequestration. Two project prototypes have been identified to implement this strategy. One is Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project areas and the other is Integrated Connectivity Projects. Majority of the program would apply to urban areas and these project types are where the State wants to focus in allocating future funding.

The SGC will be holding workshops on the guidelines in October and comments are encouraged. The announcement of the workshops and guidelines were sent to the local agencies so that they are aware of these upcoming programs.

E. Commissioner Comments

None.
A. General Commission Items

1. Reaffirm all Actions Taken by KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on September 24, 2014

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Casida) to reaffirm all actions taken by the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee on September 24, 2014. Motion carried by the following vote:

Cartwright: Absent
Casida: Yes
Curry: Yes
Miller: Yes
Neves: Yes
Verboon: Yes
Wynne: Yes

2. San Joaquin Valley IMPACS Tool

Ms. Lehn gave an update about the Valley IMPACS tool, which is an Excel based user friendly development scenario comparison tool that planners can use to look at development proposal alternatives or hypothetical projects to see what kind of operation and maintenance costs may occur as a result of the scenarios that could impact the general fund. She noted that the IMPACS tool is not a detailed fiscal analysis tool and it is not meant to be, but rather it is a broad based comparative tool to provide estimated costs. The tool, instruction manual, and the user agreement will be on the valley blueprint website. The tool has not yet been delivered by the consultant, but it will be in the next few days. There will be a live demonstration at the Regional Policy Council meeting next week. Local agencies are encouraged to utilize the tool, provide comments, suggestions, and feedback on the tool is welcome in order to make any necessary changes.


Ms. King summarized the Valley Voice trip to Washington D.C. that she and Commissioner Cartwright attended earlier this month. The final agenda of meetings that took place was included in the packet. Ms. King stated the topics on the platform discussed at the event included goods movement, reauthorization and implementation of the federal transportation funds, and air quality. Water was not included but it was a major focus of the discussions with representatives.

Ms. King conveyed that Senator Diane Feinstein, who has been working with Senators Denham and Congressman Costa to get water for the valley. Discussion focused on water storage and raising dams that could be more cost effective.

Commissioner Verboon asked about the environmental species act (ESA) and the difficulty in raising dams. Ms. King noted that Senator Feinstein mentioned short term efforts where that the ESA would not have to be changed and long term efforts that would require a change in the ESA, but that short term solutions should be found first.

Ms. King also noted that discussions on funding solutions for the Highway Trust Fund, and that the gas tax was not sustainable. Although the participants said they
were coming up with several ideas, they were not willing to share specifics. It was noted that a vehicle miles tax would hurt the Valley economics, but it should be implemented by the State. It was also noted that an early solution for the highway trust fund may be impacted by the election due to the deals that are currently being worked out now.

Ms. King noted that Senator Feinstein requested a letter in support for water legislation that was provided as a handout. The consultant from the trip developed the draft letter that is to be signed by all participants and sent to the Secretary of the Interior. Comments on the letter should be sent to Ms. King. The consultant will also prepare a memo highlighting all of the discussions during the meetings. Ms. King also highlighted Commissioner Cartwright’s role on the trip to introduce legislation to ease air quality regulations to provide workable solutions.

Commissioner Curry expressed his thoughts that the trips are well worth it and voiced his support of the trips.

4. Regional Planning Advisory Committee Report

Greg Gatzka gave a brief overview of the report that focused on the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint and stated that groundwater collaboration is key to projects. Ms. King noted the changes made to the Phase II Greenprint scope of work as a result of working with the Strategic Growth Council and Valley MPO Directors. The original scope of work did not specify targeted funding amounts and the Valley MPO Directors wanted to make sure that a majority of the funding was to be provided for pilot projects that the local agencies can implement.

Commissioner Neves expressed his concerns regarding the highest value land for groundwater recharge. Work should continue on changing the environmental species act and utilizing the water that otherwise is going out through the Bay, times for pumping, and storage to bring more surface water, rather than spending money on groundwater recharge.

A motion was made and seconded (Verboon / Casida) to accept the Regional Planning Advisory Committee Report. Motion carried by the following vote:

Cartwright: Absent  
Casida: Yes  
Curry: Yes  
Miller: Yes  
Neves: Yes  
Verboon: Yes  
Wynne: Yes

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Correspondence

None.
B. Staff Comments

Ms. King announced that a new Honda Civic CNG car was purchased with the funds from the grant with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. KCAG has fueling cards from Lemoore, but staff still needs to receive training on how to fuel up the vehicle. The reimbursement request has been submitted to the SJVAPCD. She mentioned that the Toyota Prius will go through the County auction bid process and the funds from the vehicle disposal will be applied towards the remaining balance for the cost of the new car. Chairperson Neves inquired about the vehicle range. Ms. King responded that it is not very far, but they have a list of CNG fueling stations and staff will need to plan ahead and know where the stations are located.

Fall Policy Conference is next week and will be hosted by the Tulare County Association of Governments. The reception will be held in Lindsey at the McDermont Field House. Ms. King also noted that the Blueprint Awards Luncheon and the Regional Policy Council meeting will be held on October 3rd at the Visalia Convention Center following the Conference. The Valley IMPACS tool will be demonstrated at the meeting.

Ms. King mentioned that the Valley Legislative Affairs Committee will have a follow up on the DC trip. Ms. King noted that freight and goods movement was discussed on the trip and there was a comment about prioritizing a short list of projects. She also noted that Darius Assemi, a California Transportation Commissioner from Fresno requested a meeting to discuss projects on SR 99.

C. Commissioner Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Kings County Association of Governments Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

[signature]

Terri King, Executive Director
TO: KCAG Transportation Policy Committee  
FROM: Terri King, Executive Director  
DATE: October 15, 2014  

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan Grant

Introduction

The eight San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations previously received a grant for the development of the San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan. This project created a prioritized goods movement investment plan for the multimodal infrastructure of the entire San Joaquin Valley, including its highways and roadways, rail facilities, air cargo facilities, intermodal centers, and ties to inland and marine ports. The project was completed earlier this year and a final report was accepted.

The eight San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations recently submitted and were awarded a FY 2014-15 Caltrans Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation grant for the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan. This planning grant will build upon previous efforts including the San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan completed in 2013.

San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Implementation Plan Components

The subject planning grant will focus on prioritizing "First and Last Mile" connectors and related goods movement planning activities such as assessing truck routing and parking needs, rural priority corridors, goods movement performance measurement and system infrastructure development, and coordination with our Sustainable Communities Strategies.

The San Joaquin Council of Governments was the applicant and designated fiscal agent for this regional planning grant on behalf of the eight San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The $300,000 grant includes a local match of $75,000 to be provided as "in-kind" staffing from each Metropolitan Planning Organizations. KCAG's share of the non-federal local match and/or in-kind match is $2,746, which would be from non-federal fund budgeted activities. The attached resolution is being presented for consideration of approval to each Metropolitan Planning Organization for project administration purposes.

Recommendation

KCAG staff recommends that the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee approve the commitment of KCAG's share of local matching or in-kind staffing funds for the Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant program with the adoption of Resolution No. 14-11.
Appendix A
San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan
Detailed MPO Cost Breakdown for FY 2014-15 Caltrans Planning Grant

Proportional Population Share by MPO for In-kind or Local Cash Match

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPO</th>
<th>Population*</th>
<th>Pct. / Total</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>964,040</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>$17,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kern</td>
<td>873,092</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>$15,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings</td>
<td>150,181</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>$2,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madera</td>
<td>153,897</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$2,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>264,922</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>$4,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Joaquin</td>
<td>710,731</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>$12,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanislaus</td>
<td>526,042</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>$9,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulare</td>
<td>459,446</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>$8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,102,351</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*DOF, May 1, 2014 estimates
BEFORE THE KING'S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

*********

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 14-11
COMMITMENT OF LOCAL IN-KIND STAFFING ) OR CASH FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY ) RE: SJV GOODS MOVEMENT
GOODS MOVEMENT SUSTAINABLE ) PLAN GRANT MATCH
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN GRANT )

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans awarded a FY 2014-15 grant to the San Joaquin Council of Governments on behalf of the eight San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for the preparation of a San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Sustainable Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by Caltrans require a minimum of 20 percent local matching funds which can be in the form of an in-kind staffing contribution ($75,000 combined from the eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs); and

WHEREAS, all eight MPOs are to share in the accrual of the local match determined by each MPO's proportionate share of the combined eight county population (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs routinely share in Valleywide transportation planning and programming activities pursuant to the September 9, 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the San Joaquin Valley MPOs and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee does the following:

1. Approves allocating staffing resources to the aforementioned project consistent with the grant requirements and applicable State and Federal law; and

2. Commits allocating said staffing resources on a proportional population share basis beginning in FY 2014-15; or commits to a cash payment representing the MPO's proportional population share of the local match; or commits to a combination of both staffing allocation and cash repayment; and

3. Shall appoint a Fiscal Officer, or designee, to track and monitor said staffing on a monthly basis and provide to San Joaquin COG no later than the 15th of the following month and as required by the grant.
The foregoing Resolution was adopted on a motion by Commissioner ____________, and seconded by Commissioner ____________, at a regular meeting held on the 22nd day of October, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

_________________________________________
Chairman

WITNESS, my hand this ________ day of ________________, 2014.

_________________________________________
Terri King, Executive Director
TO: KCAG Commission
FROM: Chris Lehn, KCAG Staff
DATE: October 16, 2014
SUBJECT: Valley Voice Washington D.C. Trip Update

Introduction
KCAG staff follows legislation and participates in the Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC). The VLAC consists of staff from the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) who track pertinent legislation, update the COG Directors, and make recommendations when warranted to the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council. The Regional Policy Council is made up of two elected officials from each of the eight RTPAs and provides a forum for elected officials to discuss topics and build consensus on issues of Valleywide importance. Every year a legislative platform is developed to provide guidance to the RTPAs. Many of the RTPAs also develop specific countywide platforms.

Valley Voice Washington D.C. 2013 Trip Update
The Regional Policy Council, San Joaquin Valley Voice Washington D.C. trip took place on September 10-11, 2014. The subsequent documents include the Valley Voice trip observations and recommendations as compiled by the lobbyist and a San Joaquin Valley water letter requested by Senator Feinstein. Having these strategic meetings with our San Joaquin Valley elected officials and federal agency administrators has been proven to be an efficient and effective strategy to increase awareness of our specific SJV issues and gain additional resources.

Recommendation
KCAG staff provides this as an informational report.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Melissa Garza
FROM: Len Simon
Jen Covino
Brandon Key

SUBJECT: 2014 San Joaquin Valley Voice: Observations and Recommendations

DATE: September 26, 2014

Thanks again for the opportunity to work with the 2014 San Joaquin Valley Voice delegation. Following up on our September 18 “Summary Overview” memo, we are pleased to provide these “Observations and Recommendations” to help guide the 2015 planning.

1) Meeting Locations. Our meeting locations – 2103 Rayburn for the first day followed by 2261 Rayburn for the second - were comfortable and convenient to congressional speakers, guests and “One Voice” delegates, with great proximity to cafeterias and other facilities. 2261 is a little tight for a large group, so we’ll try in the future for a larger room but when Congress is in session meeting rooms for outside groups are sometimes tough to get. We are grateful to Rep. Nunes staff for reserving the space for the meetings and continuing to try when it looked like there would be no room available for the second day!

2) Valley Voice Dates. The days when Congress comes back after Labor Day seems to have worked very well. Members of Congress seemed very engaged and eager to discuss their agendas following the long summer recess. We recommend comparable dates for 2015 and we’ll update you on the congressional schedule for next year when it becomes available.

3) Priorities and Briefing Materials. The presentation of “Valley Voice” project and policy priorities was targeted and relevant to the issues on the table. Delegates seemed ready and able to discuss transportation reauthorization in detail and make it specific to the needs of the Valley. During the next Valley Voice meeting, it is likely that Congress and the Administration will continue to be working on these issues. Similarly, the streamlined briefing packet was excellent. We recommend that
this targeted approach be maintained and that the Briefing Materials remain compact and concise for 2015.

(4) DOT and the Committee. We were very pleased that the Deputy Secretary of Transportation and top people from DOT could join us for a very thorough and substantive review of transportation issues. Valley Voice delegates were superb in their interaction with them. We were glad that they could come to meet us on the Hill, which cut down on security and traveling. Similarly, we thought the sessions with House Transportation and Infrastructure staff were first rate as well. We recommend that Valley Voice strive for these kind of high-level executive branch and Congressional authorization committee meetings in 2015.

(5) House Members and Senators. We were delighted that Reps. Costa, Valadao, Denham and McClintock and McNerney. Each one has unique positions and responsibilities that enrich their interaction with Valley Voice delegates. Rep Nunes could not attend because of activity on the House floor at the time he was scheduled but had a strong staff presence throughout the meeting. Though Majority Leader McCarthy could not meet with us, his staff participation was appreciated. We were extremely pleased that Senators Boxer and Feinstein could not only welcome us to their offices, but spend so much time with the Valley Voice group. The Senator’s sessions were extremely helpful in everyone getting a realistic assessment of the state of play in Congress. Valley Voice delegates were excellent in their interaction with both Senators and their staffs. We recommend that the structure of House staff roundtable, and individual House member presentations be followed again and that the Senator meetings continue to be as sharp and focused in the future.

We hope this is helpful as you begin planning “Valley Voice” 2015. Congratulations on a successful 2014 effort – the Valley Voice delegates represented the region in a very effective manner and made good progress on advancing their federal priorities.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can help in any other way. We look forward to talking with you soon.
October 7, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Pritzker:

As you are aware, the most urgent and pressing issue facing the state of California is the ongoing drought. For those of us living in the eight-county San Joaquin Valley, which is in the heart of the state, the human and economic toll the drought is taking on our many fragile, rural communities is devastating. The impact of these conditions will go well beyond the painful economic hardship created by fallowed fields and the obliteration of thousands of farmworker jobs for families that struggle to meet their obligations even when they have work. If permanent crops are not irrigated and maintained, they will be lost and will need to be removed. The time associated with planting new trees and nurturing them to productivity is generally seven unproductive years or more; during this time there will be no yield, no jobs, just considerable capital outlay. This disaster will reverberate throughout the nation as the price of California’s agricultural commodities increase and the jobless rate continues to rise. In addition to the impact on agriculture, the drought is also having a major effect on the day-to-day lives of Valley residents, with local communities running out of water, homeowners losing their investments, and massive wildfires destroying state and national parks. The human and economic disaster the drought is causing, both up and downstream, is already beyond calculation and we cannot allow such devastation to continue.

During September 10-11, we met with our California Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, and the drought was high on everyone’s agenda. We are grateful that a number of our key California House and Senate members are now working hard to craft a bipartisan, bicameral legislative solution. We applaud their efforts toward a common goal of ensuring long-term water security for our state while maintaining species protection. In addition to supporting increased water storage for later years, elected officials in the San Joaquin Valley recognize the more immediate need to increase the amount of water available for use by our farmers and communities.

We strongly encourage the Administration to work in tandem with our California Congressional delegation to expedite approval of a comprehensive legislative solution to help our state cope with this historic drought, which also affects the entire western half of the country, and to ensure the President’s support for their final product. We stand ready to work with both the Administration and Congress on this issue of critical concern to our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Poythress
Mayor, City of Madera
Chairman, San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council
Cc: Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor
Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA Administrator
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Kevin McCarthy
Congressman David Valadao
Congressman Devin Nunes
Congressman Tom McClintock
Congressman Jim Costa
Congressman Jeff Denham
Congressman Jerry McNerney
TO: KCAG Commission
FROM: Terri King, Executive Director
DATE: October 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Rescheduled November / December KCAG Meeting Dates

KCAG's November and December meetings are scheduled close to the Holidays. KCAG historically reschedules and combines the November and December meetings so that they do not conflict with the Holidays. KCAG staff has also spoken with the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency about rescheduling their meetings, as they are regularly scheduled on the same dates.

KCAG staff recommends that the next meeting of the KCAG Commission be scheduled for December 3, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.