

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE  
REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES  
IN THE  
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF THE UNDERSTANDING, which shall be effective upon the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2006, between and among the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Kern Council of Governments, the Kings County Association of Governments, the Madera County Transportation Commission, the Merced County Association of Governments, the San Joaquin Council of Governments, the Stanislaus Council of Governments, and the Tulare County Association of Governments, herein referred to as regional planning agencies, hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the above listed regional planning agencies first entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on September 21, 1992, agreeing to coordinate regional planning activities; and

WHEREAS, this memorandum of understanding shall supercede and replace the existing memorandum of understanding; and

WHEREAS, since 1992 the above listed regional planning agencies have cooperatively addressed issues pertaining to transportation planning and related air quality responsibilities, transportation modeling, geographic information mapping; and

WHEREAS, the regional planning agencies of the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare are federally designated metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) responsible for implementing the federal comprehensive transportation process and have specified air quality/transportation planning responsibilities for their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, the eight regional planning agencies of the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare (hereinafter referred to as the "Eight Valley RPAs" are state designated regional transportation planning agencies (RTPA) or local transportation commissions (LTC) responsible for the state comprehensive transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Eight Valley RPAs shall cause to be developed and adopted a Valley Chapter of the Regional Transportation Plan, which shall be included within each regional planning agency's own plan. This chapter shall address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries and specifically affect several counties, such as a transportation corridor, and may include air quality, highways, streets and roads, aviation, rail, goods movement, and transportation demand management efforts; and

WHEREAS, the regional planning agencies of the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare are responsible for the allocation of projected housing needs to their respective cities and county; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley is designated as:

- a nonattainment area for the 8-hour ozone standard,
- a nonattainment area for both PM-10 and PM-2.5 standards, and
- the urban areas of Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto and Stockton are designated as maintenance areas for carbon monoxide, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Clean Air Act requires nonattainment area plans to include transportation control measures; and

WHEREAS, the California Clean Air Act requires nonattainment area plans to include reasonably available transportation control measures; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of 2005, and any successor federal act, requires that when multiple Metropolitan Planning Organizations exist within designated air quality nonattainment areas they shall consult with each other and with the state in the coordination of plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Eight Valley RPAs shall develop and maintain a unified and coordinated approach to air quality management planning process issues; and

WHEREAS, the cities and counties within the San Joaquin Valley are projected to have significant increases in population, housing and employment during the next thirty years requiring a cooperative, comprehensive, and coordinated planning process.

WHEREAS, the Eight Valley RPAs shall serve as a forum to encourage and facilitate regional data sharing, GIS development and mapping; and

WHEREAS, the Eight Valley RPAs shall rely, as much as practicable, on existing regional planning agencies for its financing, data and expertise, but may jointly contract for services if provided for in each of their individual Overall Work Programs and Budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED that the regional planning agencies of the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare shall coordinate as the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies with respect to the performance of the following tasks when interregional issues are involved:

1. Preparation of multi-modal transportation plans that will include coordinated forecast methodologies for future population, housing, employment, land use, and air quality, and identify other common elements in relationship to the San Joaquin Valley and major interregional transportation corridors.
2. Preparation of regional transportation plans and policies addressing identified common transportation issues occurring within the Valley.
3. Preparation and development of regional transportation improvement programs and other short-range programs to provide for timely implementation of transportation control measures consistent with schedules included in applicable Air Quality Attainment plans.
4. Coordination with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District on emission reduction projects necessary for the implementation of the California Clean Air Act.
5. Coordination with Caltrans District Offices on transportation system planning efforts.
6. Coordinate planning efforts with the appropriate state and federal agencies to insure good communication is maintained on issues important to the San Joaquin Valley.
7. Development and use of coordinated transportation and traffic database information for transportation modeling and related emission modeling.
8. Preparation of interregional technical and transportation systems studies in developing transportation corridor or plan alternatives.

9. Coordination on rail issues (both passenger rail and goods movement) within the Valley, including the development of plans and policies that affect rail service.
10. Provide a leadership role for all Valley Blueprint activities by planning for future growth and quality of life through the integration of transportation, housing, land use, economic development and environmental protection elements. Such integration to result in a more efficient and effective transportation system and land use pattern to achieve the three outcomes (3Es) that define quality of life – prosperous economy, quality environment, and social equity.
11. Provide a leadership role and act as a forum for Valley issues and concerns, where such issues and concerns transcend boundaries, allowing the development and consensus of policy questions of mutual interest in order to pursue a coordinated course of action without infringing on the jurisdictional powers of the individual governments.

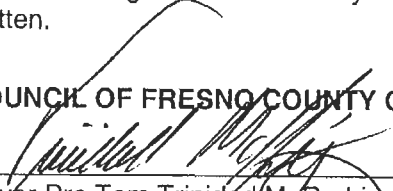
BE IT FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED that to oversee the coordination efforts the following organizational structures shall be established:


12. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council is hereby created consisting of two elected officials (and one alternate) appointed from each of the regional planning agencies policy boards listed herein. The Policy Council shall meet at least twice each fiscal year to provide guidance on common interregional policy issues. The Policy Council shall also represent the San Joaquin Valley at public forums, including before the California Transportation Commission, the Governor and his/her administration, and before State and Federal legislative bodies that require a common voice. The Policy Council shall also provide direction and guidance to the Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee.
  - a. The Policy Council shall cause to be created a set of By-Laws which shall further describe its operational structure and the operational structure of any subcommittees it may create.
  - b. The Policy Council shall provide direction to the Regional Planning Agencies Executive Committee on the development of an Annual Work Program and Budget for activities to be carried out jointly, including identifying revenue for the implementation of these activities. The Annual Work Program and Budget is to be reflected in each respective regional planning agency's budget documents as appropriate.
  - c. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting in any manner the authority and responsibilities of the respective regional planning agencies, and all plans, programs and activities shall at all times be carried out in such manner as to maintain and recognize the separateness and autonomy of the individual regional planning agencies.
13. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee consisting of the regional planning agencies' Executive Directors (or their designees) shall hereby continue to provide coordination and direction on all administrative work required to carry out the development of plans that address interregional issues. The Executive Directors Committee may establish technical committees to assist in research and plan development that address interregional issues as defined herein and on other interregional issues as directed by the Policy Council. One of the primary roles of the Executive Directors Committee shall be as the primary advisory body to the Policy Council on all items appearing on its agenda, and one of its functions shall be to recommend agenda items for the Policy Council's regular agenda. The Executive

Directors Committee shall implement the Annual Work Program and Budget as approved by the Policy Council.

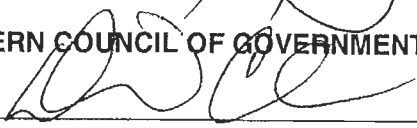
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed by their respective officers to be effective on the date first above written.


**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

  
Mayor Pro Tem Trinidad M. Rodriguez, Chairman

  
Barbara Goodwin, Executive Director

**KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

  
Councilmember David Couch, Chairman

  
Ronald E. Brummett, Executive Director

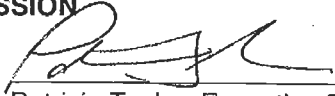
**KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

  
Councilmember Sid Craighead, Chairman

  
Terri King, Executive Director

**MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

  
Councilman Gordon Skeels, Chairman

  
Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

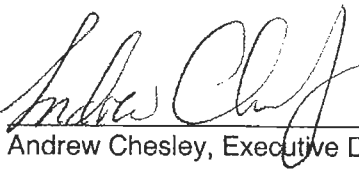
**MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

  
Councilmember William Spriggs, Chairman

  
Jesse Brown, Executive Director


**SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

  
Councilman John W. Harris, Chairman


  
Andrew Chesley, Executive Director

**STANISLAUS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

  
Mayor James Ridenour, Chairman

  
Vince Harris, Executive Director

**TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

  
Supervisor Allen Ishida, Chairman

  
George Firney, Executive Director