



## Sustainable Communities Work Group

### Challenge

The San Joaquin Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in the state with its population expected to double by 2050. To support the anticipated growth of the region, the transportation system must be improved to attract capital investment, support economic development and embrace new technology to minimize impact on the Valley's poor air quality. Additionally, by integrating land use and transportation planning, the region will reduce vehicle miles traveled and thus reap the benefits of improved performance measures projected by the Blueprint planning process. Ultimately, the Valley must balance growth with the needs of its residents and economy, while preserving agricultural land and natural resources.

### Opportunity

Support and promote regional consensus on future land use through the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint smart growth principles. Build innovative transportation systems to increase travel choices, improve mobility, bolster regional and state goods movement, improve air quality, and facilitate economic prosperity. Identify appropriate areas for growth and economic development while protecting the natural resources and sustainability of the region.

### Focus

The Sustainable Communities Work Group focuses on promoting regional coordination through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint, and building a transportation system that improves mobility and increases travel choice for San Joaquin Valley residents. The work group priorities include improving goods movement within the region, as well as, supporting the implementation of the Regional Blueprint.

### Success for the San Joaquin Valley

- In April 2009, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council adopted the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint – a vision and guide for future development in the Valley to the year 2050 which includes 12 Smart Growth principles
- In the fall of 2010, the Valley MPOs developed a successful Prop 84 proposal that includes funding to initiate the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint that will complement and reinforce the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint to promote more efficient urban growth and development.
- The San Joaquin Valley MPOs submitted a successful proposal to Caltrans to fund the development of the San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan that will identify a future preferred goods movement strategy for the Valley implemented through a comprehensive interregional strategy.

### Mission

*Build innovative transportation systems to increase travel choices, improve mobility, bolster regional and state goods movement, improve air quality, and facilitate economic prosperity. Support and promote regional consensus on future land use through the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Roadmap's smart growth principles. Identify appropriate areas for growth and economic development, while protecting the natural resources and sustainability of the region.*

### Action Plan: Near-Term Priorities

*Improve goods movement capacity within the region while increasing mobility and traffic safety, decreasing congestion, improving air quality, and promoting economic development*

- *Increase benefits to the Valley from goods movement through a goods movement enhancement system specific to the region*
- *Accommodate current and future goods movement needs while improving air quality and economic prosperity*

*Foster regional consensus to support development and implementation of the Regional Blueprint*

- *Assist development of Regional Blueprint*
- *Develop a high-value parks and open space strategy*

*Determine requisite regional infrastructure and funding strategies to support implementation of the Regional Blueprint and Goods Movement Action Plan*

- *Develop and implement a plan for the provision of regional infrastructure*
- *Develop and implement process for monitoring the performance and adequacy of regional infrastructure and determining needs.*

## **Action Plan: Long-Term Objectives**

*Implement a Route 99 Corridor Master Plan for the 274-mile section within the San Joaquin Valley as a leading economic development strategy*

- *Improve Highway 99 to freeway standards to increase safety*
- *Increase Highway 99 capacity which will result in improved mobility and reduced congestion, while protecting environmental resources and fostering economic vitality*
- *Create a San Joaquin Valley Route 99 corridor identity*
- *Build an ongoing coalition of civic leaders to support improvements to the Highway 99 corridor*

*Improve safety and capacity of vital east-west corridors*

- *Support construction of projects to improve safety and capacity of vital east-west corridors*
- *Incorporate plans for improving east-west corridors into Regional Blueprint Plan*

*Develop a sustainable regionwide transit system*

- *Implement an efficient alternative transportation system for intra-regional and inter-regional passenger trips*

*Transform roadside rest stops into user-friendly amenities that benefit the overall region and host communities*

- *Improve roadside rest stops amenities and facilities to benefit user safety, facilitate tourism, and educate users about the environment and local communities*

*Improve mobility through more efficient land use patterns that will reduce single-occupant trip generation and support use of alternative modes*

- *Encourage the Regional Blueprint Plan process to integrate land use and transportation planning to improve mobility*
- *Incorporate into regional transportation plans actions that support and encourage implementation of the Regional Blueprint*

*Improve understanding by public officials and public of the relationship between investments in transportation improvements and economic development*

- *Develop and implement a system for tracking economic development that results from transportation improvements*

*Implement "intelligent transportation system" (ITS) technologies to assist the region in achieving mobility goals*

- *Integrate ITS into all transportation planning and construction projects*

*Assure a high-speed rail system supports the San Joaquin Valley in achieving its economic, environmental, land use, and mobility goals*

- *Provide tangible benefits and mitigate impacts to the region while assisting the state in meeting transportation goals*

*Promote adoption of community design guidelines that will ensure strong neighborhoods, improve mobility, improve air quality, increase energy efficiency, and increase infrastructure cost-effectiveness through land use*

- *Increase overall average density for new development*
- *Study and adopt a strategic concept for accommodating new growth by encouraging communities with the necessary elements and constraints to be cost-effective and self-sufficient in achieving the overall goals and objectives*

*Improve the planning and development process to be consistent with the Regional Blueprint and provide incentives for smart growth*

- *Improve the sharing, access and use of planning and environmental resource data among state, COGs, local governments, business organizations, environmental groups, other stakeholders and the public for more informed decision-making*

*Develop a long-range strategy for agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley that ensures its viability and sustainability*

- *Develop a long-range plan to maintain the viability of agriculture in the region*

*Valley COGs to develop improved modeling capacities to address requisites of SB 375 and Sustainable Communities legislation*

- *Define a scope of work to accomplish improved modeling tasks*
- *Develop a Valley-wide Model Improvement Program based on identified task list*

*Identify legislative and regulatory changes necessary to facilitate the implementation of the adopted goals and strategies*

- *Provide tangible benefits and mitigate impacts to the region while assisting the state in meeting transportation goals*

## About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006 and in December 2008, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Opportunity*. On July 1, 2010, the Partnership was extended indefinitely with Executive Order S-10-10.

## Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include advanced communications services; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; housing; preK-12 education; sustainable communities; and water.



California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley

Administered by

**FRESNOSTATE**  
Community and Economic Development

## Sustainable Communities Work Group

[www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org)

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Barbara Steck, Deputy Director  
Fresno Council of Governments

Email: [bjsteck@fresnocog.org](mailto:bjsteck@fresnocog.org)

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721

(559) 233-4148 Office  
(559) 233-9645 Fax