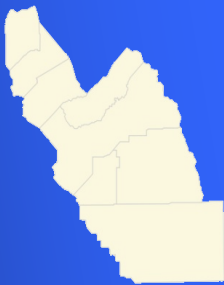


San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

c/o Madera County Transportation Commission – 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201 – Madera, CA 93637
Phone: 559-675-0721 Fax: 559-675-9328



**Madera County
Transportation
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Chair

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**Fresno Council of
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Andrew Chesley

**Stanislaus
Council of
Governments**
Carlos Yamzon

**Tulare County
Association of
Governments**
Ted Smalley

March 7, 2013

Mary D. Nichols, Board Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Investment Plan for Cap and Trade Proceeds

On behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, we are providing our comments to the California Air Resources Board pertaining to the Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan (Plan). Before going any further, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the State of California for hosting a public workshop for the Plan in the San Joaquin Valley on February 19, 2013, in Fresno.

As you are aware, the eight regional planning agencies or metropolitan planning organizations of the San Joaquin Valley are responsible for the development of the SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategies that coordinate land-use and transportation policies to meet the region's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. Our work effort is ongoing and we remain extremely dedicated to developing strategies that enhance the environment for our region, and California.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is an eight-county collaborative effort of elected officials from each Valley regional planning agency and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. In December 2012, we unanimously approved joining the statewide **Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities** and firmly believe in the unifying premise that auction revenues derived from vehicle fuels should be used to fund transportation system needs consistent with AB 32. Our most pertinent and salient comments regarding the Investment Plan are as follows:

- Support the eight guiding principals of the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities
- Allocate funding to regions where MPOs and localities can most efficiently implement cost effective projects
- Allow flexibility for regions to determine the most competitive projects for reducing GHG emissions
- Support efforts to reduce GHG emissions through investments in state-of-the-art Goods Movement systems, including the multimodal integration of freight movement systems
- Support investments that maximize "co benefits" particularly related to air quality, a major concern in the San Joaquin Valley

- Support the “Disadvantaged Communities” findings from Cal/EPA that factually illustrate the severe socio-economic and environmental conditions in the San Joaquin Valley
- Support administrative policies to ensure that Disadvantaged Communities receive equitable and multidisciplinary investments, within regions, to improve their conditions

We encourage and appreciate your continued efforts to work with the various stakeholders in our region. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit our comments. Should you need any additional information, please contact me at (559) 675-0721.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director, Madera County Transportation Commission
Chair, San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

Cc: Supervisor Allen Ishida, Chair of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council
San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Directors
Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District