



One Voice 2018 Planning Meeting

Thursday, March 29, 2018
3:30 pm

Merced County Association of Governments
369 W. 18th Street, Merced CA

1. Welcome and Introductions
 2. Finalize Strike teams and speakers (meeting handout)
 3. Discuss platform with Congressman Costa
 4. Discuss next steps
 - Print material & talking points distributed by April 5, 2018
 - Practice run April 12 & April 26
 5. Comments/Questions from committee or public
 6. Adjourn: Next meeting **April 12, 2018** at 3:30 pm, MCAAG
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ITEM 11c
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 15, 2018

TO: MCAG Governing Board

FROM: Stacie Dabbs, Deputy Executive Director

RE: 2018 One Voice Priority Issue Areas and Key Messages

BACKGROUND

One Voice is a legislative advocacy program for the Merced County region that promotes issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies through an annual advocacy trip to Washington, DC. The purpose of the program is to advocate for increased funding and/or new or amended legislation. Merced County Association of Governments contracts with Townsend Public Affairs to support the planning process, coordinate the trip itinerary and assist with post-meeting action items. The 2018 One Voice trip to Washington, DC is scheduled for May 1-4, 2018.

2018 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

Paul Creighton, Councilman, City of Atwater	Alex McCabe, Councilman, City of Livingston
Brian Raymond, Councilman, City of Atwater	Jim Soria, Mayor, City of Livingston
Art de Werk, City Manager, City of Atwater	Ruben Chavez, Police Chief, City of Livingston
Josh Pedrozo, Councilman, City of Merced	Mike North, Public Information Officer, County of Merced
Matt Serrato, Councilman, City of Merced	Daron McDaniel, Supervisor, County of Merced
Steve Carrigan, City Manager, City of Merced	Steve Tietjen, Superintendent, Merced County Office of Education
Frank Quintero, Director of Economic Development, City of Merced	Alan Peterson, Superintendent, Merced Union High School District
Joe Oliveira, Councilman, City of Gustine	Robert Morse, Citizens Advisory Committee
Pat Nagy, Councilman, City of Gustine	Jose Delgadillo, Citizens Advisory Committee
Doug Dunford, City Manager, City of Gustine	Andy Krotik, Merced County Association of Relators
Mike Villalta, Mayor, City of Los Banos	Robert Dylina, Merced Boosters Club and Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce
City of Los Banos Representative - TBD	Patrick Pittenger, Executive Director, MCAG
Cori Lucero, Executive Director, Office of Governmental Relations, UC Merced	Stacie Dabbs, Deputy Executive Director, MCAG
Mike Jensen, Public and Government Relations Manager, Merced Irrigation District	Eva Garibay, Public Programs Specialist, MCAG

PLATFORM OF ISSUES/PROJECTS

The 2018 One Voice issues of regional significance are Transportation, Economic Development, Public Safety, Education, Water and Housing/Homelessness. Considering the size of the delegation this year, we anticipate three strike teams with concurrent itineraries which will allow the delegation to hold

many more meetings over the course of two days. Below are the key messages for each priority issue area.

Water

- Advocate for the increase of flood control capacity at Lake McClure.
- Continue to support federal resources dedicated to addressing the San Joaquin Valley's water quality, quantity and reliability issues, including additional storage capacity.

Public Safety

- Support continued funding for the COPS grant program and discuss programs related to officer retention and gang suppression.
- Seek public safety capital funding opportunities. A representative project is a new police station in the City of Merced.

Homelessness/Housing

- Discuss housing programs for homelessness, HUD-VASH vouchers and affordable housing programs

Economic and Community Development

- Identify funding opportunities for a partnership project between the City of Merced and Merced County to conduct an Industrial Park Feasibility Study.
- Advocate for grant programs and policy flexibility to benefit economic development needs of small/rural communities. A representative project is the City of Gustine's downtown revitalization project.
- Support funding for small business development; business attraction and retention.
- Seek funding to develop community recreational facilities. A representative project is a youth soccer park in the City of Merced.
- Discuss impacts and potential solutions to a Cattle Egret health hazard in Gustine.
- Discuss wireless infrastructure legislation impacts on local governments.
- Discuss public art and beautification programs.

Education

- Request funding for a pilot program to study school bus transportation trends and options to expand service areas.
- Advocate for a higher income limit for subsidized childcare, including HeadStart.

Transportation

- Seek funding opportunities for the Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1B.
- Support expanded passenger rail service to Merced County through funding support for the San Joaquin service, Altamont Corridor Express rolling stock procurement and High Speed Rail construction.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 17-18 OWP includes element 550 – One Voice Legislative Program. This element budget includes costs associated with professional services, travel and staff time associated with the development and implementation of the One Voice and Valley Voice programs.

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the 2018 One Voice priority areas and key messages.

Attachments: One Voice Menu of Potential Meetings
One Voice Draft Project Fact Sheets

One Voice – March 8, 2018 Meeting

NOTES

Present: Robert Dylina, Josh Pedrozo, Pat Nagy, Mike Villalta, Ruben Chavez, Mike North, Steve Tietjen, Lori Waterman, Jose Delgadillo, Doug Dunford, Robert Morse (via ConferTel), Alan Peterson (via ConferTel)

Staff: Patrick Pittenger, Stacie Dabbs, Eva Garibay, Laura Kroger (Townsend)

Agenda Discussion Items

- Staff reviewed the 01.11.18 meeting notes – no changes were made.
- Laura Kroeger provided Washington update which included the following main points:
 - Congress hasn't passed full year funding yet but hopeful for an omnibus by March 23rd.
 - Efforts are underway to develop funding bills for FY 2018-19 (begins October 1) and our efforts should focus on "pools" of funding rather than specific project funding requests as earmarks are no longer permitted.
 - The upcoming retirement of the Senate Appropriations chair may result in committee assignments and leadership positions.
- Laura Kroger discussed logistics of the trip and provided a handout of possible meetings and strike teams.
 - We will most likely have three strike teams due to the size of the delegation.
 - Team assignments will try to honor everyone's first choice issue.
- Stacie Dabbs notified delegates of updates to the meeting schedule, including the Congressman Costa meeting on March 29th at MCAG.

Program Development Discussion

- The following delegates volunteered to serve as speakers. The final list of speakers will be determined at the March 29th meeting.

CATEGORY	SPEAKER
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Tietjen• Alan Peterson• Robert Morse
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Daron McDaniel</i>• Robert Dylina• Mike Villalta (NEA)• <i>Jim Soria</i>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Villalta• <i>Mike Jensen</i>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josh Pedrozo• Mike North• Robert Morse
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruben Chavez• Pat Nagy• Doug Dunford

Follow-Up Action Items

- Follow up with absent delegates about attending the March 29th meeting
- Take the draft platform to Governing Board for approval on March 22nd
- Deadline to secure hotel at group rate March 22nd
- Delegates need to confirm plus one(s) for group dinner