

May 2-3, 2018

WATER



EDUCATION



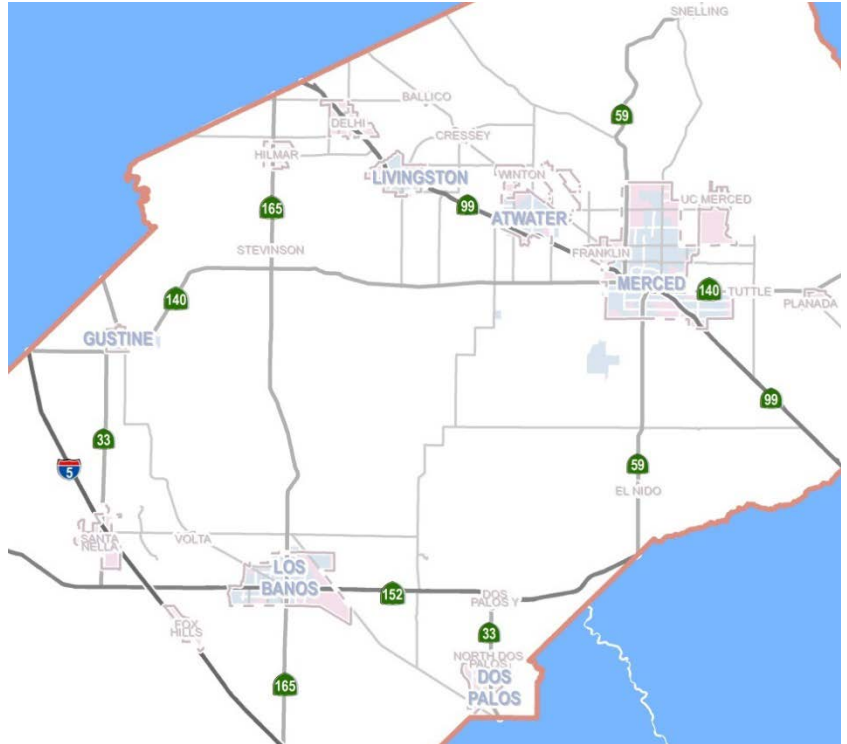
HOUSING



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY



TRANSPORTATION



One Voice

May 2, 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) One Voice delegation. We appreciate the demands on your schedule and are grateful for the time you have provided to learn about our region's priorities and projects, and to speak with us about the critical work you and your colleagues are doing in Washington, D.C.

Merced County, California, is home to a diverse population of 268,500 people and is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley—the world's most productive agricultural area. Nine of the nation's top ten agricultural-producing counties are in California, with seven located in the San Joaquin Valley including Merced County. Our county is also home to the University of California, Merced, the 10th campus in the UC system, and the first American research university of the 21st Century. Having opened its doors to students in 2005, the student population today exceeds 7,000 with nearly one-third coming from the San Joaquin Valley. The campus also leads the UC system in the percentage of students from underrepresented ethnic groups, low-income families and families whose parents did not attend college.

One Voice is a federal advocacy program comprised of local representatives, elected officials and staff who travel to Washington, D.C. annually to meet with legislators and agency staff to advocate for projects and issues of regional significance. The goals of the program are to:

- Communicate the region's legislative priorities clearly and succinctly;
- Obtain more federal funding for local projects;
- Advocate for legislation or policy changes that will benefit Merced County;
- Support our legislators by meeting with their peers and garnering wider support for projects and issues relevant to the Merced County region.

These advocacy trips are important to us as they give us the opportunity to share information about our local challenges, initiatives and projects and to build relationships and partnerships with policymakers and staff that will benefit the work we are doing to improve the quality of life in Merced County. Thank you again for your time. We look forward to working with you on these priorities.

Sincerely,

Patrick Pittenger
Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments



Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) is an association of city and county governments working together to address regional issues and opportunities. MCAG’s annual One Voice trip to Washington D.C. provides an opportunity for a delegation of local public and private representatives to meet with federal legislators and officials to advocate for legislative

solutions and funding for programs and projects of regional significance. The following is a summary of MCAG’s 2018 One Voice priorities.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Infrastructure Funding:** Continue funding FAST Act grant programs including INFRA and TIGER with increased consideration for economically disadvantaged areas.
- **Passenger Rail:** Support funding for Amtrak San Joaquin service, Altamont Corridor Express and High-Speed Rail.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** Support funding for permanent supportive and affordable housing to assist local partnerships in addressing the homelessness crisis.
- **Affordable and Market Rate Housing:** Support funding for market rate housing projects including those that offer affordable housing units in a downtown mixed-use development with transit access.
- **Community Development Funding:** Support continued funding through the Community Development Block Grant program.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Police Officers:** Support continued funding for the COPS program as well as other opportunities to fund officer retention and gang suppression activities.
- **Police stations:** Provide public safety capital funding for the development of police stations and related capital projects.
- **Public Health:** Identify solutions for community challenges and public health issues related to the Migratory Bird Species Act

WATER

- **Flood Control:** Increase flood control capacity at Lake McClure.
- **Storage, Quality, and Reliability:** Support resources dedicated to addressing the San Joaquin Valley’s water quality, quantity and reliability issues including additional storage capacity0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Industrial Parks:** Provide funding to conduct feasibility studies for regional industrial parks.
- **Small/Rural Communities:** Provide grant programs and policy flexibility to address economic development needs of small/rural communities.
- **Small Business Development:** Support funding for small business development, attraction and retention.
- **Municipal Recreational Facilities:** Provide funding for recreational facilities such as community soccer and softball facilities.
- **Public Art and Beautification Programs:** Provide funding support for public art and municipal beautification programs.

EDUCATION

- **Access to affordable childcare:** Raise the income eligibility limit for subsidized childcare programs including HeadStart.
- **Student Transportation:** Fund a pilot project to study school bus transportation trends and options to expand service areas.

2018 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

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