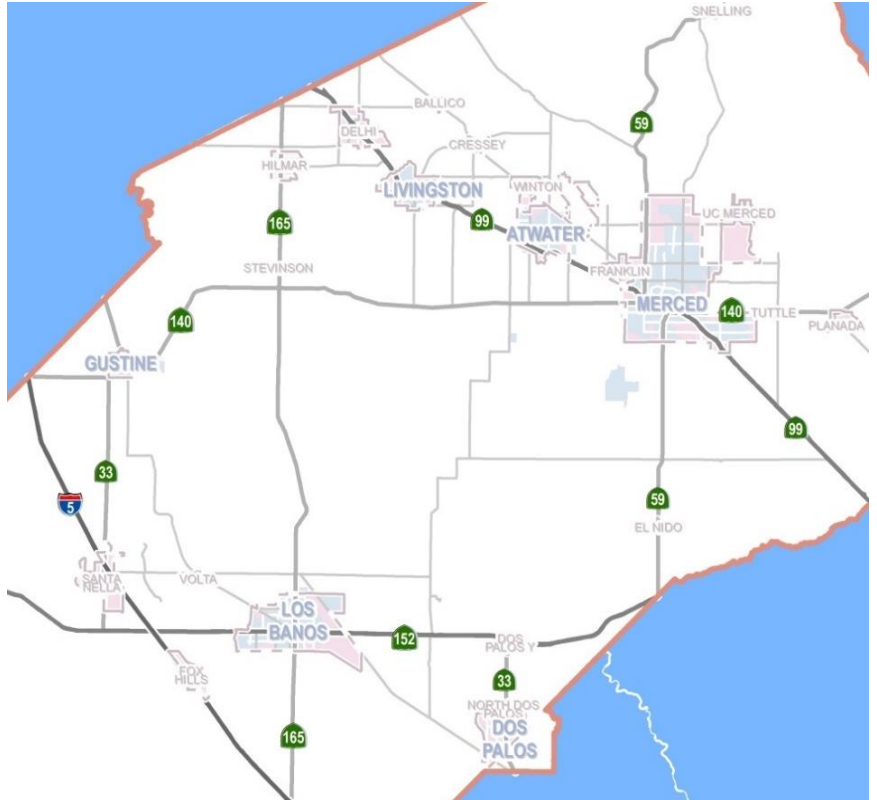


May 4 - 7, 2021

### TRANSPORTATION



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### PUBLIC SAFETY





May 4, 2021

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 284,738 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 10<sup>th</sup> campus in the UC system, and the first American research university of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Having opened its doors to students in 2005, the student population today exceeds 9,000 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 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacie Guzman".

Stacie Guzman  
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 2021 One Voice priorities.

## TRANSPORTATION

- **Infrastructure Funding:** Seek funding opportunities for the Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1B and completion of the Campus Parkway from State Route 99 to UC Merced. Pursue funding for rural regional projects that will enhance local goods movement corridors such as the Pioneer Road Widening project.
- **Passenger Rail:** Support funding for all types of commuter rail in the San Joaquin valley.
- **Public Transit:** Advocate for dedicated funding sources that support and enhance public transit systems such as YARTS that relieve congestion into and within National Parks.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Police and Fire stations:** Provide public safety capital funding for the construction of police and fire stations. Support continued funding for fire fighter retention, equipment, and training.

## UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Infrastructure Funding:** Seek resources to improve storm drain infrastructure in aging downtown cores.
- Explore funding opportunities to replace local water and sewer infrastructure.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Broadband Infrastructure:** Seek federal support and resources for the expansion of rural broadband infrastructure.
- **Municipal Recreational Facilities:** Provide funding for community recreational facilities.
- **Public Art and Beautification Programs:** Provide funding support for public art and municipal beautification programs.
- **Electric Aviation:** Provide funding for the development of a regional electric aviation initiative.
- **COVID-19:** Advocate for policies that provide relief for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 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.



# 2021 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

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## MERCED COUNTY

Supervisor Scott Silveira, District 5

**\*One Voice Committee Chair**

[Scott.Silveira@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Scott.Silveira@countyofmerced.com)

(209) 385-7366

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, District 3

[dmcdaniel@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:dmcdaniel@co.merced.ca.us)

(209) 385-7366

Mike North, Management Analyst

[mnorth@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:mnorth@co.merced.ca.us)

(209) 726-2744

## CITY OF ATWATER

Councilmember John Cale

[jcale@atwater.org](mailto:jcale@atwater.org)

(209) 387-6300

Councilmember Danny Ambriz

[dambriz@atwater.org](mailto:dambriz@atwater.org)

(209) 357-6300

Lori Waterman, City Manager

[lwaterman@atwater.org](mailto:lwaterman@atwater.org)

(209) 357-6201

## CITY OF GUSTINE

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Alexander

[dalexander@cityofgustine.com](mailto:dalexander@cityofgustine.com)

(209) 854-6471

Councilmember Jim Bonta

[jbonta@cityofgustine.com](mailto:jbonta@cityofgustine.com)

(209) 854-6471

Jami Westervelt,

Economic & Community Development Director

[jwestervelt@cityofgustine.com](mailto:jwestervelt@cityofgustine.com)

(209) 854-6471

## CITY OF LIVINGSTON

Councilmember Juan Aguilar Jr.

[jaguilarjr@livingstoncity.com](mailto:jaguilarjr@livingstoncity.com)

(209) 394-8041

Councilmember Maria Soto

[msoto@livingstoncity.com](mailto:msoto@livingstoncity.com)

(209) 394-8041

## CITY OF LOS BANOS

Mayor Tom Faria

[tom.faria@losbanos.org](mailto:tom.faria@losbanos.org)

(209) 827-2430

Gary Brizzee, Acting City Manager

[gary.brizzee@losbanos.org](mailto:gary.brizzee@losbanos.org)

(209) 827-7000

## CITY OF MERCED

Mayor Matt Serratto

[serrattom@cityofmerced.org](mailto:serrattom@cityofmerced.org)

(209) 385-6210

Stephanie Dietz, City Manager

[DietzS@cityofmerced.org](mailto:DietzS@cityofmerced.org)

(209) 385-6834

## MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director

[stacie.guzman@mcagov.org](mailto:stacie.guzman@mcagov.org)

(209) 723-3153 x 109

Matt Fell, Deputy Director – Planning

[matt.fell@mcagov.org](mailto:matt.fell@mcagov.org)

(209) 723-3153 x 128

Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager

[mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org](mailto:mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org)

(209) 723-3153 x 119

Eva Garibay, Public Program Specialist II

[eva.garibay@mcagov.org](mailto:eva.garibay@mcagov.org)

(209) 723-3153 x 108

## TOWNSEND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Laura Kroeger

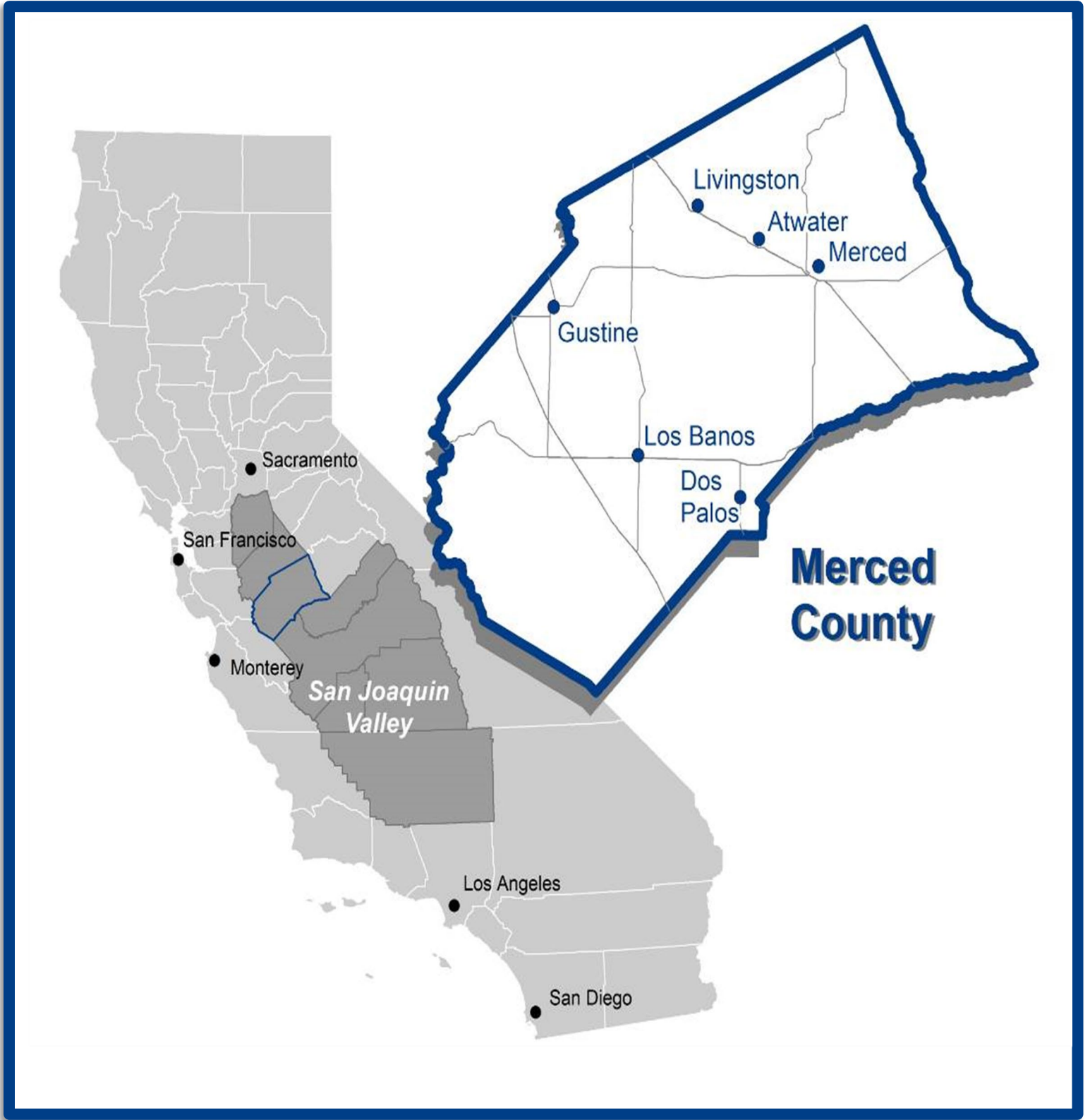
[lkroeger@townsendpa.com](mailto:lkroeger@townsendpa.com)

(916) 316-8001

Richard Harmon

[rharmon@townsendpa.com](mailto:rharmon@townsendpa.com)

(916) 753-9251



**Merced  
County**

*San Joaquin  
Valley*

Livingston  
Atwater  
Merced

Gustine

Los Banos

Dos  
Palos

Sacramento

San Francisco

Monterey

Los Angeles

San Diego