



Valley Voice 2019 Washington D.C.

The San Joaquin Valley Policy Council is a partnership that exemplifies the regional transportation planning agencies' commitment to working collaboratively to address regional issues, challenges and opportunities. Valley Voice is the Policy Council's advocacy program that communicates the region's priorities to policy makers and agency staff in Sacramento and Washington D.C. On Wednesday and Thursday, September 11 and 12, over thirty elected officials and staff from the eight valley Councils of Government and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District met with Congressmembers, Senators and Professional Staff to advocate on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley.



The Valley Voice contingent met with Congressmembers Devin Nunes, T.J. Cox, Josh Harder, Jim Costa, Jerry McNerney, Tom McClintock, Kyle Lombardi and Trevor Smith from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's office and Senator Dianne Feinstein. The group also met with Professional Staff from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Government Affairs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air and Radiation.

The following issues were discussed:

- ◆ Funding for Major Regional San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Projects
- ◆ America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019 (Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act)
 - ◇ Restore Highway Trust Fund Solvency
 - ◇ Fund Multimodal Mobility Solutions
 - ◇ Improve the Buy America Waiver Process
 - ◇ Create a National Farm-to-Market Routes Rehabilitation Program
 - ◇ Create the SMART Transportation Planning Program
 - ◇ Expand Eligible Activities for the National Highway Freight Program
 - ◇ Enhance Flexibility and Avoid New Administrative Burdens
 - ◇ Increase MPO Flexibility and Decision Making Authority
 - ◇ Protect CMAQ and Restore Flexibility
- ◆ San Joaquin Passenger Rail
- ◆ Air Quality (Incentive Based Programs)
- ◆ Aviation Fuel Sales Tax

The Valley Voice delegation was fortunate enough to be in Washington D.C. during the White House Leadership Day for the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Two panels were convened, the Land Management Panel which included the Department of Agriculture and several sections of the Department of the Interior and the Community Revitalization Panel which included the Office of Management and Budget, Department of Transportation Office of Policy, Office of American Innovation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Remarks were made by Vice President, Mike Pence, Jim Carroll, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and David Bernhardt, Cabinet Secretary, Department of the Interior.



Kern Council of Governments News & Events

Golden Empire Transit Ride-Hailing Service

Golden Empire Transit's new ride-hailing service, RYDE, is catching on among Bakersfield residents. "Residents realize that RYDE is more affordable than Uber or Lyft, which is making this program very popular with those who rely on ride-hailing services," GET CEO Karen King said in a news release. Trips on RYDE are only \$3.50 and all the drivers are professionally trained. Requests for rides have grown steadily during the first four months of the nine-month pilot. Over the four-month period, 5,571 rides were requested with the last month totaling 2,109 ride requests.



RYDE works either through a smart-phone app, website or by calling 661-869-6380. Users can request a ride anywhere inside the special zone in a large pocket of southwest Bakersfield that had been experiencing low ridership. Across the country, more and more municipalities are switching to ride-hailing instead of fixed routes. GET's new service is based off one debuted by the Sacramento Regional Transit Authority.



Wasco Elementary School District Gets 5 New Electric Cars

Wasco Union Elementary School District is doubling its fleet of electric cars used by staff from 5 to 10. The District received a grant from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for the electric vehicles that will cover \$100,000 of the \$177,377 cost.

Rideshare Luncheon

The 2019 Rideshare Week Kickoff Luncheon was held on August 22 at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The complimentary kickoff luncheon is for eTRIP coordinators, Human Resource representatives, and management personnel who promote ridesharing at their worksites. Marketing materials for *CommuterKern's 2019 Rideshare Week* campaign were available for distribution. Rideshare agencies were present to share information about the services they provide including: GET Bus—RYDE Microtransit; Kern Transit—Santa Clarita Route; Airport Valet Express—New Stop/Fares to Van Nuys Fly Away; Kern Green—New Green Business Certifications; Bike Bakersfield—Upcoming Events; CalVans—Expansion of Services and Addition of Mio Car; and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District—eTRIP updates. The *CommuterKern 2019 Rideshare Week* is from October 7 through October 11 and will include special events.



Upcoming Events

- September 18 thru 29 - Kern County Fair
- September 25 - Tehachapi Fall Business Showcase
- October 2 - California Clean Air Day
- October 7-11 - CommuterKern 2019 Rideshare Week
- October 13 - Tehachapi Apple Fest with EV Ride and Drive
- November - 2019 Kern Regional Award Call for Projects