

**AGENDA
KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

**PRIMARY MEETING LOCATION
TELECONFERENCING AVAILABLE**

Kern Council of Governments
Board Room
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

SECONDARY MEETING LOCATIONS

Ridgecrest City Hall
Conference Room B
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

KERN COG BOARD

Please join meetings from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

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DISCLAIMER: This agenda includes the proposed actions and activities, with respect to each agenda item, as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Committee from taking other actions on items on the agenda which are different or in addition to those recommended.

I. ROLL CALL:

Congestion Management Agency Ex-Officio Members:

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Council on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Council. Council members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.**

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Kern Council of Governments may request assistance at 1401 19th Street Suite 300: Bakersfield CA 93301 or by calling (661) 635-2900. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting materials available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made at least three (3) working days in advance whenever possible.

- III. CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by Kern COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Council or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Council concerning the item before action is taken. **ROLL CALL VOTE.**

- A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** November 20, 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE.
- B. **CONCURRENCE IN ACTIONS OF TPPC**
- C. **AMENDMENT TO EV READY COMMUNITIES MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN KERN COG AND CITY OF MCFARLAND AS FUNDED BY THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION AGREEMENT ARV-20-010-01 (Enriquez)**

Comment: Amendments to the EV Ready Communities Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between Kern Council of Governments and various site hosts to extend the termination date, County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form.

Action: Approve the Amendment to Memoranda of Understanding between Kern Council of Governments and City of McFarland; authorize Chair to sign. ROLL CALL VOTE.

D. **Local Clearinghouse:**

The State Clearinghouse (SCH) notifies state and local elected officials and agencies and the public of the grant applications through the Submissions page of the Office of Planning and Research Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs website email and via email notifications to registered users of the website. This notification process allows elected officials and agencies and the public the opportunity to review applications and the option to comment or collaborate on a particular application. Since the SCH does not receive a complete copy of the federal assistance full proposal or budget, any person wishing to review a proposal further must contact the applicant directly for more information. Kern COG takes no position on any of the projects presented but provides the information for public consideration only.

Applicant: CSUB Auxiliary for Sponsored Programs Administration

Address: 9001 Stockdale Hwy

Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022

Contact: Daphne Evans

Telephone Number: (661) 654-2253

Email Address: devans6@csub.edu

Federal Agency: Department of Education

Assistance Listing Number: 84.116

Funding Opportunity Number: ED-GRANTS-111225-001

Title: Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE): Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE): Special Projects; Assistance

Listing Number (ALN) 84.116J

Description: CATALYST: Cultivating Adaptive Teaching And Learning with AI-Supported Technologies

Federal Funds: \$ 3,967,313.00

State Funds:

Program Income:

Total Funds: \$ 3,967,313.00

Action: Information.

*** END CONSENT CALENDAR - ROLL CALL VOTE ***

IV. **KERN COG REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT CERMEONY (Romero-Valdivia)**

Comment: Announcement of the 2025 Regional Awards of Merit Recipients.

Action: Information.

V. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY: (None)

VI. KERN MOTORIST AID AUTHORITY (None)

VII. MEETING REPORTS: (None)

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. Timeline

IX. MEMBER STATEMENTS: On their own initiative, Council members may make a brief announcement or brief report on their own activities. In addition, Council members may ask a question of staff or the public for clarification on any matter, provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting concerning any matter. Furthermore, the Council, or any member thereof, may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

X. CLOSED SESSION: None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: NEXT MEETING – The next scheduled meeting will be February 19, 2026.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2025

KERN COG BOARD ROOM
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY
November 20, 2025
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith at 7:12 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Calderon, Florez, Gorman, Hawkins, Osorio, Parlier, Perez, Reyna, B. Smith, P. Smith

Congestion Management Agency Ex-Officio Members: Gunn, Parra, Tognazzini, Warney

Members Absent: Espinoza, Morse, Noerr

Others: Samuel Lux

Staff: Schlosser, Napier, Romero-Valdivia, Ball, Enriquez, Valle, Raymond, Banuelos, Invina-Jayasiri, Campbell, Van Wyk

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Council on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Council. Council members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.

None.

- III. CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by Kern COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Council or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Council concerning the item before action is taken. **ROLL CALL VOTE.**

A. Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2025

B. Concurrence in Actions of TPPC

C. Response to Public Comments

D. Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 Grant Resolution

Action: Approve Resolution No. 25-25 and authorize the chairman to sign the Resolution. ROLL CALL VOTE

E. FY 2025-2026 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 2: RESOLUTION NO. 25-27 (Napier)

Action: Approve the Amendment No. 2 to the FY 2025-2026 Overall Work Program and Financial Plan and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution No. 25-27. ROLL CALL VOTE.

F. Amendment to EV Ready Communities' Memoranda of Understanding Between Kern COG and City of Wasco as Funded by the California Energy Commission Agreement ARV-20-010-01 (Enriquez)

Action: Approve the Amendment to Memoranda of Understanding between Kern Council of Governments and City of Wasco; authorize Chair to sign. ROLL CALL VOTE.

G. Community Survey Contract Approval

Action: Approve the contract for the Community Survey between Kern COG and Godbe Research in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 and authorize the Chair to sign. ROLL CALL VOTE.

H. Local Clearinghouse:

The State Clearinghouse (SCH) notifies state and local elected officials and agencies and the public of the grant applications through the Submissions page of the Office of Planning and Research Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs website email and via email notifications to registered users of the website. This notification process allows elected officials and agencies and the public the opportunity to review applications and the option to comment on a particular application. Since the SCH does not receive a complete copy of the federal assistance full proposal or budget, any person wishing to review a proposal further must contact the applicant directly for more information. Kern COG takes no position on any of the projects presented but provides the information for public consideration only.

Applicant: County of Kern

Address: 2005 Ridge Road
Bakersfield, CA 93305-4123

Contact: Vaughn Griffeth

Telephone Number: (661) 868-4146

Email Address: vaughngriffeth@kernprobation.org

Federal Agency: Office of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention

Assistance Listing Number: 16.823

Funding Opportunity Number: O-OJJDP-2025-172450

Title: OJJDP FY 25 Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities

Description: The County of Kern application for OJJDP funds to improve critical infrastructure and the safety of staff/youth within our juvenile facilities.

Federal Funds: \$200,000.00

State Funds:

Program Income:

Total Funds: \$200,000.00

Applicant: County of Kern California

Address: 2005 Ridge Road
Stockton, CA 93305-4123

Contact: Vaughn Griffeth

Telephone Number: (661) 868-4146

Email Address: vaughngriffeth@kernprobation.org

Federal Agency: Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention

Assistance Listing Number: 16.830

Funding Opportunity Number: O-OJJDP-2025-172458

Title: OJJDP FY 25 Reducing Recidivism for Female Juvenile Delinquents

Description: The County of Kern application for OJJDP funds to reduce recidivism of female juvenile delinquents through the development and enhancement of female youth programs.

Federal Funds: \$525,000.00

State Funds:

Program Income:

Total Funds: \$525,000.00

Applicant: East Bay Regional Park District

Address: 2950 Peralta Oaks Court

Oakland, CA 94605-5320

Contact: Katy Hornbeck

Telephone Number: (510) 544-2204

Email Address: KHornbeck@ebparks.org

Federal Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance

Assistance Listing Number: 16.835

Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172461

Title: BJA FY 25 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies

Description: East Bay Regional Park District Body-Worn Camera Expansion Program

Federal Funds: \$25,000.00

Applicant: \$25,000.00

State Funds:

Program Income:

Total Funds: \$50,000.00

Action: Information Only.

***** END CONSENT CALENDAR - ROLL CALL VOTE *****

MOTION BY DIRECTOR P. SMITH TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A THROUGH H, SECOND BY DIRECTOR CALDERON, MOTION CARRIED WITH A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

IV. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY: (None)

V. KERN MOTORIST AID AUTHORITY: (None)

VI. MEETING REPORTS: (None)

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Summary of RTP Outreach
 - 8/15 – Tehachapi Mountain Festival (199)

- 9/17-9/28 – Kern County Fair (1069)
- 10/10 – Bike Bakersfield Downtown (25)
- 10/18 – Taft Oildorado (137)
- 10/20 – CRPE Delano (30)
- 11/2 – AkaMya Culture Group Ridgecrest (22)
- 11/6 – FARO Church Arvin (34)
- 11/8 – Riverlakes Farmers Market (21)
- 11/13 – Wasco PAL (28)
- Total 1565
- Regional Awards Nominations deadline Monday, December 1, 2025
 - Need 3 Board Member to make up the Selection Committee – volunteers?
- California High Speed Rail – Funding Update
- Board Folder Items
 - Timeline
 - Regional Awards Call for Nominations Flier
 - Local Assistance Delivery – September 30, 2025
 - Progress Report for Projects of Regional Significance – November 2025

VIII. MEMBER STATEMENTS: None.

IX. CLOSED SESSION: None.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no other comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. - **NEXT MEETING – December 18, 2025 (May be Dark)**

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Jay Schlosser, Executive Director

Bob Smith, Chairman

DATE: _____

January 15, 2026

TO: Kern Council of Governments (COG)

FROM: John Schlosser,
Executive Director

By: Irene Enriquez,
Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Kern Council of Governments Consent Agenda Item: III.C.

AMENDMENT TO EV READY COMMUNITIES' MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN KERN COG AND CITY OF MCFARLAND AS FUNDED BY THE
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION AGREEMENT ARV-20-010-01

DESCRIPTION:

Amendments to the EV Ready Communities Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between Kern Council of Governments and various site hosts to extend the termination date, County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form.

DISCUSSION:

During the California Energy Commission (CEC) Business Meeting held on January 26, 2022, the commissioners approved augmenting the initial agreement with Kern COG by (a) increasing the award to the requested \$2.5 million (an increase of \$1,792,485), (b) increasing the matching fund requirement to \$833,377, (c) extending the term of the agreement to September 30, 2024, (d) revising the Scope of Work, and (5) revising the Schedule of Products.

The 2019 Kern EVCS Blueprint identified high impact charging station locations within the jurisdictions of Kern COG's member agencies, demonstrating opportunities to benefit disadvantaged communities. Kern Community College District (KCCD) and its Bakersfield College (BC) requested and will receive funding through this opportunity: the cities of Arvin, California City, Delano, McFarland, and Wasco.

Kern COG, along with the City of McFarland, agreed to retroactively extend the term of the MOU. The amendment to the MOU does not alter the scope of work. However, the Schedule of Projects has been updated to fulfill administrative reporting requirements, complete installations, and deliver the projects. The amendment attached outlines the current termination date for City of Wasco and the new extension date for the amendment.

Staff requests approval of the amendment.



III.C.
COG

ACTION:

Approve the Amendment to Memoranda of Understanding between Kern Council of Governments and City of McFarland; authorize Chair to sign. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Attachments: KernCOG-Contract 2025 Amendment 4 CITY OF McFarland

AMENDMENT No. 4 TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) READY COMMUNITIES PHASE II-
BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION (GFO-19-603)

SUBCONTRACTOR TO KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS;
CEC AGREEMENT GFO-20-010 WITH KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

THIS AMENDMENT (hereinafter "Amendment No.4") TO CONTRACT, for reference purposes is made effective as of January 1, 2026 ("Effective Date") by and between the Kern Council of Governments (hereinafter "KERN COG") and CITY OF McFarland, a municipal government of the State of California (hereinafter "CITY").

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, KERN COG and the CITY entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") dated September 15, 2022; AND

WHEREAS, the Parties amended the agreement for the first time on January 19, 2023 to update the budget, scope work, and extend the termination date from March 31, 2024, to September 30, 2024, AND

WHEREAS, the Parties amended the agreement for the second time on August 15, 2024, to extend the termination date from September 30, 2024 to August 31, 2025, AND

WHEREAS, the Parties amended the agreement for the third time on September 18, 2025, to extend the termination date from August 31, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, the parties wish to amend the MOU as specified herein.

AGREEMENT:

1. The Term of the MOU shall be extended through June 15, 2026.
2. Except as expressly amended herein, all provisions of the MOU shall remain in force and effect.

[Remainder of page left blank intentionally]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Amendment Number 4 to the MOU shall be effective as of the Effective Date.

CITY OF McFarland

Diego Viramontes, City Manager
City of McFarland

Saul Ayon, Mayor
City of McFarland

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Jay Schlosser Executive Director
"Kern COG"

Bob Smith, Chair
"Kern COG"

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Brian Van Wyk, Deputy
County Counsel



**Kern Council
of Governments**

**IV.
COG**

January 15, 2026

TO: Kern Council of Governments

FROM: John Schlosser,
Executive Director

BY: Victoria Romero Valdivia
Regional Planner

SUBJECT: KERN COG AGENDA ITEM: IV.
Kern COG's 2025 Regional Award of Merit Ceremony

DESCRIPTION:

Announcement of the 2025 Regional Awards of Merit recipients.

DISCUSSION:

Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) will honor 17 individuals and programs for making significant contributions to this area's quality of life through innovative, cooperative efforts during its annual Regional Awards Program on March 5, 2026.

The winners, divided among eight broad categories, are:

Award of Merit for Local Government

Community Vitality Initiative – City of Bakersfield

Dennis Fidler – City of Shafter

Award for Community Involvement

City of Wasco Police Department – Police Activities League

Award of Merit for Community Development

Excellence in Planning: City of Bakersfield – Old Town Kern Vision Plan

Transformative Development: Emily and Sherod White – Woolworth's Restoration

Troy Hancock – California Dairies Extended Shelf-Life Facility

Award of Merit for Transportation

Aldrin Mangon and Sergio Pinedo Felix – Walk Isabella ATP Project

Richard A. Maxwell Award for Public Safety

Kern County Superintendent of Schools – Safety School Coalition

Award of Merit for Innovation

Greg Garrett and Key Budge – Water Awareness Campaign— City of Tehachapi

Darrel Hildebrand Distinguished Leadership

Elected Official: Bob Smith – City of Bakersfield

Public Official: Damon McMinn – City of Taft
Maribel Reyna – City of Delano

Ronald E Brummet - Lifetime Achievement

Elected Official: Phil Franey – Kern County

Public Official: Greg Terry – City of Bakersfield

Private Citizen: Vibul “Dr. Tang” Tangpraphaphorn, MD – City of Taft

Kern COG expresses gratitude to board members Olivia Calderon, Maria Perez, and Bob Smith for selecting recipients for this year's Regional Awards Ceremony. Kern COG is celebrating 34 years of recognizing those programs and people in our region whose ideas and hard work have made life in Kern County better for us all.

The awards banquet will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Seven Oaks Country Club, 2000 Grand Lakes Ave., Bakersfield, Calif. 93311. Cost is \$65 per person, which includes a two-entree dinner buffet.

Reservations are due by noon on February 16, 2026, by calling 661-635-2903 or emailing regionalaward@kerncog.org. **No money will be accepted at the door.**

ACTION: Information.

Timeline

*Better Planning.
Better Transportation*

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The KERN COG TIMELINE is a list of actions and events that may appear on future agendas or are of general interest to Board Member

JANUARY 2026

- January 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Active Transportation Resource Center: Intro to Active Transportation Planning and Design Training at Kern COG
- California Transportation Commission Meeting in Roseville, January 29-30, 2026
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program – Draft Program of Projects
- Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) – Draft Program of Projects

FEBRUARY 2026

- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program – Final Program of Projects
- Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) – Final Program of Projects
- Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Blueprint Update
- Mobility Innovations Report

MARCH 2026

- California Transportation Commission Meeting in Los Angeles, March 19-20, 2026
- Combined Public Review Scheduled to **Begin** - Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Environmental Document/Air Quality Conformity/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
- Kern COG RTP Public Presentations to City Councils/County Board of Supervisors
- Kern Area Regional Goods-movement Operations (KARGO) Study Draft Report

APRIL 2026

- Combined Public Review **Continues** - Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Environmental Document/Air Quality Conformity/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
- Kern COG RTP Public Presentations to City Councils/County Board of Supervisors

MAY 2026

- California Transportation Commission Meeting in San Francisco, May 14-15, 2026
- Combined Public Review Scheduled to **Concludes** - Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Environmental Document/Air Quality Conformity/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
- Kern COG RTP Public Presentations to City Councils/County Board of Supervisors

JUNE 2026

- California Transportation Commission Meeting in Sacramento, June 25-26, 2026

JULY/AUGUST 2026

- **Adoption** - Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Environmental Document/Air Quality Conformity/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)