



KERN COG ANNOUNCES 2025 REGIONAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Award recipients to be recognized at the Regional Awards Ceremony on March 5, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kern Council of Governments Announces 2025 Regional Awards Recipients

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. – The Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) has announced the recipients of its 2025 Regional Awards, recognizing outstanding leadership, innovation, and achievement that contribute to the quality of life throughout Kern County.

The Regional Awards honor elected officials, public servants, private citizens, organizations, and jurisdictions whose work demonstrates excellence in planning, transportation, public safety, community development, and regional collaboration. The awards recognize achievements from the 2025 program year and are presented annually at a ceremony held the following year.

“The Kern COG Regional Awards provide an opportunity to recognize the individuals and organizations whose leadership, dedication, and collaboration strengthen our communities and advance regional priorities,” said Jay Schlosser, Executive Director of the Kern Council of Governments. *“This year’s recipients reflect the innovation and commitment that continue to move Kern County forward.”*

The 34th Annual Regional Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Seven Oaks Country Club Ballroom in Bakersfield. The evening will begin with a no-host reception and dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards presentation at 6:00 p.m.

Ticket information and purchasing details will be announced at a later date.

2025 REGIONAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Ronald E. Brummet Regional Award of Merit for Lifetime Achievement

- *Elected Official:* Phil Franey, for 43 Years of Dedicated Service and Leadership with KCERA
- *Public Official:* Greg Terry, Chief of Police — Bakersfield Police Department
- *Private Citizen:* Vibul Tangraphaphorn, MD

Darrel Hildebrand Regional Award of Merit for Distinguished Leadership

- *Elected Official:* Bob Smith, Ward 4 Councilmember — City of Bakersfield
- *Public Official:* Damon McMinn, Chief of Police — City of Taft
- *Public Official:* Maribel G. Reyna, City Manager – City of Delano

Regional Award of Merit for Community Development

- *Excellence in Planning:* Old Town Kern Vision Plan – City of Bakersfield
- *Transformative Development:*
 - Emily and Sherod Waite – Woolworth's Restoration
 - Troy Hancock, California Dairies, Inc.

Regional Award of Merit for Transportation

- Aldrin Mangon and Sergio Pinedo Felix, Senior Engineers – Kern County Public Works

Regional Award of Merit for Community Involvement

- City of Wasco Police Department's Police Activities League (P.A.L.)

Regional Award for Local Government

- Community Vitality Unit – City of Bakersfield
- Dennis Fidler, Chief Building Official, City of Shafter

Regional Award of Merit for Innovation

- Greg Garrett and Key Budge – City of Tehachapi

Richard A. Maxwell Regional Award of Merit for Public Safety

- Safer Schools Coalition of Kern

The Kern COG Regional Awards program is held annually to recognize excellence in regional planning, public service, and collaboration among Kern County's cities, agencies, and community partners.

For more information about the Kern Council of Governments and the Regional Awards Program, visit www.kerncog.org.



Kern Council
of Governments



A B O U T

Kern COG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Kern Region as designated by the Federal government, and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency as designated by the State of California. It is responsible for developing and updating a variety of transportation plans and for allocating federal and state funds to implement them. While regional transportation planning is its primary role, Kern COG is also involved in other issues that affect the entire region such as air quality. Kern COG provides the forum that brings mayors, city council members and county supervisors together to work on regional issues in a setting that promotes the involvement of the public in the planning process for the Kern region.



**Kern Council
of Governments**