

**AGENDA
KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

PRIMARY MEETING LOCATION

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

**SECONDARY MEETING LOCATION
TELECONFERENCING AVAILABLE**

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

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: August 20, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE.

B. CONCURRENCE IN ACTIONS OF TPPC

C. AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT PC LAW GROUP AS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) (Sanchez)

Comment: An Agreement between Kern COG and PC Law Group has been negotiated for immediate legal counsel in response to comments on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This item has been reviewed by County Counsel.

Action: Approve Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign. ROLL CALL VOTE

D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Note: With approval of item III.B. CONCURRENCE IN ACTIONS OF TPPC the Board is concurring with the adoption of the 2026 RTP which includes the update to the Congestion Management Program found on RTP pages 5-105 to 5-117 for which the Congestion Management Agency oversees.

E. 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.

1. **Applicant:** Delano THRIVE - City of Delano - OVW Youth DV
 Address: 1015 11th Avenue
 Delano, CA 93215-2262
 Contact: Juan Sanchez
 Telephone: (661) 720-5516
 Email: jusanchez@delanopd.org

Federal Agency: Office on Violence Against Women

Funding Opportunity O-OVW-2026-172652

Title: OVW Fiscal Year 2026 Consolidated Grant Program to Assist Children and Youth Affected by and to Engage Men and Youth in Preventing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Description: Delano THRIVE (Trauma Healing, Resilience, Intervention, & Violence-Prevention Empowerment)

Federal Funds: \$500,000.00

State Funds: \$0.00
Applicant: \$0.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$500,000.00

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

IV. KERN MOTORIST AID AUTHORITY: (None)

V. MEETING REPORTS: (None)

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- A. Kern COG Regional Awards Dinner
- Thursday, March 4, 2027
 - Nominations Open on September 10, 2026
 - Nominations Close on October 30, 2026

B. Timeline

VII. 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.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: NEXT MEETING – The next scheduled meeting will be October 15, 2026.

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KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of the Meeting of August 20, 2026

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

THURSDAY
AUGUST 20, 2026
6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith at 7:07 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: B. Smith, P. Smith, C. Parlier, D. Couch, M. Hawkins, S. Gorman, M. Perez, G. Reyna, D. Noerr

Congestion Management Agency Ex-Officio Members: M. Warney, C. Parra, N. Peacock, B. Duran

Members Absent: O. Calderon, C. Morse, B. Osorio, P. Espinoza

Others: Jason Miao (D6), Norm Witt (online)

Staff: R. Invina-Jayasiri, C. Valle, R. Ball, B. Raymond, R. Pacheco, I. Enriquez, S. Brar, B. Van Wyk (KC Counsel), J. Schlosser, S. Sanchez, M. Heimer, M. Saberon Ybarra, A. Banuelos, J. Leon, V. Romero Valdivia, E. Flickinger

- 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: June 18, 2026. ROLL CALL VOTE.

B. CONCURRENCE IN ACTIONS OF TPPC

C. 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.

1. **Applicant:** Housing Authority of Kern
 Address: 601 24th Street
 Bakersfield, CA 93301-4150
 Contact: Stephen Pelz
 Telephone: (661) 631-8500
 Email: spelz@kernha.org

Federal Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development
Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6901-N-25A
Title: Continuum of Care Builds (CoC Builds)
Description: Washington and Potomac Apartments, a multifamily affordable housing development serving disabled homeless veterans, other disabled homeless, extremely-low and very-low income individuals and households.

Federal Funds: \$12,000,000.00
State Funds: \$0.00
Applicant: \$0.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$12,000,000.00

2. **Applicant:** UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL EASTERN CALIFORNIA INC
 Address: 4101 Easton Drive
 Bakersfield, CA 93309-1021
 Contact: Eric Arias
 Telephone: (661) 885-5730
 Email: eric.a@uwcec.org

Federal Agency: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
Assistance Listing Number: 84.215
Funding Opportunity Number: ED-GRANT-26-054
Title: Promise Neighborhoods-84.215N
Description: West Kern Consortium for Promise Neighborhoods

Federal Funds: \$ 26,834,983.00
State Funds: \$ 12,142,505.00
Applicant: \$ 1,350,000.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$ 40,327,488.00

3. **Applicant:** City of California City Police Department
 Address: 21130 Hacienda Blvd.
 California City, CA 93505-2206
 Contact: Shannon Hayes
 Telephone: (760) 373-8606
 Email: shayes@californiacitypd.org

Federal Agency: Community Oriented Policing Services
Assistance Listing Number: 16.068

Funding Opportunity Number: O-COPS-2026-172611
Title: FY26 COPS Hiring Program
Description: California City Police Department Community Policing and Public Safety Expansion Project

Federal Funds: \$125,000.00
State Funds: \$0.00
Applicant: \$79,859.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$204,859.00

4. **Applicant:** CSUB Auxiliary for Sponsored Programs Administration
Address: 9001 Stockdale Hwy.
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022
Contact: Jeremy Woods
Telephone: (661) 654-3961
Email: jwoods7@csub.edu

Federal Agency: Department of Commerce (EDA)
Assistance Listing Number: 11.307
Funding Opportunity Number: PWEAA2023
Title: AI Upskill Accelerator Pilot Program Addendum
Description: Aerospace Valley AI Upskill Accelerator

Federal Funds: \$1,597,008.00
State Funds: \$0.00
Applicant: \$1,176,600.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$2,773,608.00

5. **Applicant:** Clinica Sierra Vista
Address: 9525 Camino Media
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314
Contact: Aidee Cardenas
Telephone: (661) 635-3050 ext 2211
Email: aidee.cardenas@clincasierravista.org

Federal Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Assistance Listing Number: 93.940
Funding Opportunity Number: TI-26-019
Title: Preventing Drug Overdoses: Community Prevention and Response
Description: Clinica Sierra Vista: Kern County Overdose Education and Response Initiative

Federal Funds: \$850,000.00
State Funds: \$0.00
Applicant: \$0.00
Local: \$0.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$850,000.00

6. **Applicant:** LOST HILLS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Address: 20951 Pavilion Way
 Lost Hills, CA 93249-0158
 Contact: Leticia Limon
 Telephone: (661) 797-3025 ext 126
 Email: lelimon@losthills.k12.ca.us
- Federal Agency:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
 Administration
 Assistance Listing Number: 95.532
 Funding Opportunity Number: SM-26-005
 Title: Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)
 Description: West Kern Consortium for Project AWARE
- Federal Funds:** \$1,500,000.00
 State Funds: \$363,704.00
 Applicant: \$0.00
 Local: \$0.00
 Other: \$0.00
 Program Income: \$0.00
 Total Funds: \$1,863,704.00
7. **Applicant:** KERN TULARE WATER DISTRICT
 Address: 5060 California Avenue, Suite 1020
 Bakersfield, CA 93309-0728
 Contact: Skye B. Grass
 Telephone: (661) 327-3132
 Email: skye@kern-tulare.com
- Federal Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation
 Assistance Listing Number: 15.514
 Funding Opportunity Number: R26AS00016
 Title: WaterSMART Drought Response Program
 Description: Guzman Reservoir Seepage Reduction and Storage Resiliency
 Project
- Federal Funds:** \$1,500,000.00
 State Funds: \$0.00
 Applicant: \$1,861,000.00
 Local: \$0.00
 Other: \$0.00
 Program Income: \$0.00
 Total Funds: \$3,361,000.00
8. **Applicant:** Casa Esperanza Transitional Home for Women
 Address: PO Box 13104
 Bakersfield, CA 93389
 Contact: Diane Contreras
 Telephone: (661) 742-1137
 Email: dcontreras@esperanzabakersfield.org
- Federal Agency:** Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Assistance Listing Number: 14.267
 Funding Opportunity Number: CPD-2600-DC-0025

Title: Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Competition
Description: Journeys of Hope - HUD

Federal Funds: \$ No Information Provided.
State Funds: \$ No Information Provided.
Applicant: \$ No Information Provided.
Local: \$ No Information Provided.
Other: \$ No Information Provided.
Program Income: \$ No Information Provided.
Total Funds: \$ No Information Provided.

9. **Applicant:** VINELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Address: 14713 Weedpatch Hwy
 Bakersfield, CA 93307-9653
 Contact: Anthony Beckman
 Telephone: (661) 845-3713
 Email: anbeckman@vinelandsd.org

Federal Agency: Community Oriented Policing Services
Assistance Listing Number: 16.071
Funding Opportunity Number: O-COPS-2026-172540
Title: FY26 COPS School Violence Prevention Program
Description: Vineland SD School Safety Project

Federal Funds: \$500,000.00
State Funds: \$0.00
Applicant: \$167,000.00
Local: \$0.00
Other: \$0.00
Program Income: \$0.00
Total Funds: \$667,000.00

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

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE MADE NOR WAS THERE A MEMBER WISHING TO PULL ANY ITEM OFF OF CONSENT. MOTION BY DIRECTOR P. Smith TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A THROUGH C, SECOND BY DIRECTOR D.Couch, 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:**

- A. Timeline
- B. September 17 Board Meeting to consider the RTP
- C. ASCE Award – KARGO Study
- D. Board Folder Items

VIII. **MEMBER STATEMENTS:** None.

IX. CLOSED SESSION:

- A. Employment (Government Code § 54957): Regional Planner
- B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957): Executive Director

X. ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no other comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. **NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2026.**

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Jay Schlosser, Executive Director

Bob Smith, Chairman

DATE: 09/17/2026



III.C. COG

September 17, 2026

TO: Kern Council of Governments

FROM: Jay Schlosser, Executive Director

By: Stephan Sanchez
Deputy Director – Administration

SUBJECT: KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: III.C.

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT PC LAW GROUP AS LEGAL COUNSEL
FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

DESCRIPTION: An Agreement between Kern COG and PC Law Group has been negotiated for immediate legal counsel in response to comments on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This item has been reviewed by County Counsel.

DISCUSSION: The Agreement between the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG), and PC Law Group for legal counsel in response to comments made on the 2026 RTP EIR has been attached for the Board's consideration. This Agreement has been reviewed by County Counsel and has been negotiated and approved within the purchasing limits of the Executive Director to give the contractor sufficient time to begin preparing and advising Kern COG's response to comments.

County Counsel has advised Kern COG that given the longstanding relationship with this law group, the specialized nature of the services, the general satisfaction with their past performance, and the immediate need for services, it would be inadvisable to conduct a competitive process at this time. For this purpose, procurement of PC Law Group has been through a Sole Source justification, and services are to be contracted on a time and materials basis up to the amounts already budgeted within the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 Overall Work Program's (OWP) in Work Element 601.1.

Kern COG has previously hired PC Law Group in 2014, 2018, and 2022. PC Law Group is a specialized environmental law and land use law firm founded by Patricia Chen in 2011. PC Law Group has extensive experience in complex environmental and land use issues in transactional and litigation matters and are currently handling and have successfully handled matters involving hazardous materials, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Climate change, Clean Water Act, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Air Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and Proposition 65.

ACTION: Approve Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign. ROLL CALL VOTE

Attachments: Contract Agreement between Kern COG and PC Law Group and Sole Source Justification.

Kern Council of Governments

SOLE SOURCE OR SOLE BRAND VENDOR JUSTIFICATION

Requestor: John (Jay) Schlosser

1. Please indicate whether this procurement is a sole source or sole brand:

✓ **Sole Source:** If checked, please specify whether this procurement is for the purchase of 'goods' and 'services'.

Goods: Item is available from one source only. Item is a one-of-a-kind and is not sold through distributors, only through the manufacturer who is the exclusive distributor of goods you wish to purchase.

Services: This service can only be performed by one vendor. There are unique qualifications, rights, patents and/or licenses this vendor possesses which make this vendor exclusive.

OR:

Sole Brand: There is more than one source that can supply the specified model and brand. A competitive bid can be solicited for this requested brand only. This brand meets form, fit and function. Nothing else will do.
(Skip #2 – proceed to #4 below)

2. Have you made a diligent and conscientious search to locate other vendors who can supply this item or service and no other vendor can be found?

No – Please continue to search for other suppliers until you are convinced no other vendor exists that can provide this good/service or commit to a competitive bid process.

Yes - Yes Please fill out the required vendor information below

3. The following vendor is the only vendor able to supply the sole source good or service requested:

Vendor Name: PC Law Group

Contact: Patricia J. Chen, Esq., LEED AP

Address: 17595 Harvard Avenue, Suite C172, Irvine, CA 92614

Federal Employer #:

Phone: (949) 209-9019 Cell: (213) 804-8000

Email: pchen@pclawgrp.com

4. a. Provide a brief description of the goods/services to be purchased:

Legal services for Environmental Document - EIR

- b. Why has the product and/or vendor been selected?

PC Law Group is a boutique environmental law and land use law firm founded by Patricia Chen in 2011. At PC Law Group has extensive experience in complex environmental and land use issues in transactional and litigation matters and are currently handling and have successfully handled matters involving hazardous materials, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Climate change, Clean Water Act, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Air Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and Proposition 65.

- c. For goods only: Are there unique performance features REQUIRED (not merely preferred) for this product/brand selected that are not available in any other product/brand?
- a. For services only: Are there unique qualifications, rights, patents or licenses that this vendor possesses?

Kern COG previously hired the same attorney in 2014, 2018, and 2022. Given the longstanding relationship with this attorney, the specialized nature of the services, the general satisfaction with their past performance, and the immediate need for services, it would be inadvisable to conduct a competitive process at this time.

- b. Why are these specific features/qualifications required?

Kern COG is in need of immediate legal representation from a vetted and qualified CEQA Law attorney. Kern COG has used PC Law Group in the past and can attest that they are a qualified firm.

- c. What other products/services have been examined and rejected?
- d. Why are other sources that may be able to provide equivalent goods or services unacceptable? Provide a full meaningful explanation.

PC Law Group has unique experience on land use and environmental matters having represented municipalities, regional governmental agencies, joint powers authorities, water districts, utilities, developers, family trusts, and publicly-traded and privately-held companies.

- e. What are the total costs for these goods/services? Include all cost details such as taxes, delivery, etc.

**The current rate for public entities is \$463/hr. Total number of hours are to be determined based on the need and length of legal proceedings.
Initial retainer for services is \$10,000.00.**

Once approved by the board, future services are to be contracted on a time and materials basis up to the amounts already budgeted within the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 Overall Work Program's (OWP) in Work Element 601.1.

- 5. Is there an unusual or compelling urgency associated with this project?

No

- ✓ **Yes** – Please Explain: **Kern COG urgently needs legal representation from a vetted and qualified CEQA Law attorney to avoid any delays with the Environmental Impact Report and RTP adoption. A delay in RTP adoption may directly negatively impact funding for Kern COGs member agencies.**

I hereby certify that:

I am an approved staff, representative and am aware of Kern Council of Governments requirements for competitive bidding, as well as the criteria for justification for sole source purchasing.

John (Jay) Schlosser - Executive Director Signature

Date:

**KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
PC LAW GROUP**

ATTORNEY FEE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made by and between the client whose name appears below (referred to herein as “Client”) and the attorneys whose names appear below (referred to herein as “Attorneys”).

1. Services to Be Provided by Attorneys. Client hereby engages Attorneys to provide all legal services reasonably required to represent Client in connection with the matter (the “Matter”) described in the schedule commencing after the signature lines below (the “Schedule”). In order to enable Attorneys to render these services effectively, Client shall be truthful with Attorneys in discussing the Matter and shall keep Attorneys apprised of all developments regarding the Matter. Client shall otherwise cooperate with Attorneys in the Matter and shall be reasonably available to attend meetings, court appearances, or other proceedings in connection with the Matter. Client hereby acknowledges that it already has a general counsel and acceptance of this engagement by Attorneys does not involve representation of Client or Client’s business interests in any matter other than the Matter. It is further acknowledged that any communications or documents shared between Attorneys and the general counsel shall be treated with the same privilege they would be afford if the communication was directly with the Client.

2. Fees.

a. As compensation for the services to be performed by Attorneys pursuant to **Section 1** above, Client agrees to pay fees to Attorneys at the basic hourly rates set forth on the Schedule subject to periodic changes as provided herein and subject to adjustment as provided in **Section 2(b)** below. The basic hourly rates set forth in the Schedule are subject to review and change by Attorneys on a periodic basis. Attorneys shall give Client thirty (30) days notice of any such change and Client shall be presumed to have agreed to the new basic hourly rates if Client does not discharge Attorneys within the 30-day period before the new rates take effect.

b. Time for legal personnel is charged in the minimum increments set forth on the Schedule, except as may otherwise be noted on said Schedule with respect to a specific task. Any minimum time charges for a specific task noted on the Schedule are subject to periodic change in the same manner provided for the basic hourly rates as set forth in **Section 2(a)** above.

c. All time spent in connection with the Matter by the legal personnel designated by Attorneys to handle the Matter shall be billed to Client in accordance with this **Section 2**. Such time may include, without limitation, time spent waiting in court, time spent in travel, and time spent in office conferences between or among the legal personnel assigned to the Matter. When such personnel engage in office conferences, each person will charge for his or her time expended. Likewise, if more than one of Attorneys’ legal personnel attends a meeting, court hearing or other proceeding, each will charge for his or her time. Attorneys shall assign legal personnel to the Matter solely in Attorneys’ judgment.

d. Client hereby acknowledges that although Attorneys may, from time to time for Client's convenience, furnish Client with estimates of the amounts of fees which Attorneys anticipate will be charged with respect to services to be performed under this Agreement, such estimates are by their nature inexact and are not binding on either Attorneys or Client.

3. Costs and Expenses. Client agrees to pay Attorneys, in accordance with this **Section 3**, all costs and expenses incurred in performing legal services in connection with the Matter. Such costs and expenses may include, without limitation, long-distance telephone calls, messenger and other delivery fees, overnight mail, charges for computer research and outside assisted legal research, travel expenses such as mileage, parking, airfare, meals, and hotel accommodations which shall be in addition to the hourly rates for travel time, photocopying and other reproduction charges, clerical staff overtime, word processing charges, charges for computer time, process server's fees, filing fees and other charges assessed by courts and other public agencies, court reporter's fees, jury fees, witness fees, investigator's fees, expert's fees, or consultant's fees, and other similar items. Except as may be listed on the Schedule, all such items will be charged to Client at Attorneys' cost. The charges for any items listed on an attachment hereto are subject to periodic change in the same manner provided for the basic hourly rates as set forth in **Section 2(a)** above.

4. Retainer. If specified on the attached schedule, Client hereby agrees to pay, upon execution of this Agreement, a retainer (the "Retainer") which shall be deposited in a trust account. This Agreement shall take effect upon execution of this agreement. However, the effective date of Attorneys' representation will be retroactive to the date services were first performed. The Retainer, if any, shall be applied against Attorneys' periodic invoices to Client. After satisfaction of any such invoices that are outstanding at the conclusion of the representation, any unused portion of the Retainer shall be refunded to Client. Client hereby authorizes Attorneys to withdraw the Retainer from the trust account and apply the Retainer in the manner set forth herein.

5. Billings. Attorneys will send Client an invoice for fees and costs incurred on a monthly basis. Client shall pay each such invoice within 30 days of its date. If the amount shown as due on our monthly statement is not paid within 30 days, the unpaid balance will bear interest at the rate of 1% per month. Attorneys' invoice shall clearly state the basis thereof, including the amount, rate and basis for calculation (or other method of determination) of Attorneys' fees. Attorneys shall provide Client with an invoice within ten (10) days of Client's request. Client may make subsequent requests for invoices at intervals of no less than thirty (30) days following the initial request.

6. Grant of Lien. Client hereby grants Attorneys a lien on any and all causes of action which Client may assert in any court action brought by Attorneys on Client's behalf under this Agreement. Such lien shall be in addition to all other rights of Attorneys to receive sums owing from Client under this Agreement.

7. Insurance. Pursuant to §6147 or §6148 of the **California Business and Professions Code**, as applicable, Attorneys hereby disclose that Attorneys maintain errors and omissions insurance coverage applicable to the services to be performed by Attorneys.

8. Disclaimer. Attorneys have made no promises or guarantees to Client concerning the outcome of the Matter, and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as such a promise or guarantee.

9. Termination of Services.

a. Client shall have the right at any time to terminate Attorneys' services upon written notice to Attorneys, and Attorneys shall immediately after receiving such notice cease to render additional services. Such termination shall not, however, relieve Client of the obligation to pay the fees due for services rendered and costs incurred prior to such termination.

b. If Client fails to meet any of Client's obligations under this Agreement, Attorneys shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, and Client shall take all steps necessary to free Attorneys of any obligation to perform further, including without limitation the execution of any documents necessary to complete Attorneys' discharge or withdrawal. The right of Attorneys hereunder is in addition to those created by statute or recognized by rules of professional conduct.

10. Electronic Data Communication and Storage. Attorneys may communicate with Client or others by email, facsimile transmission, send data over the Internet, store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the Internet, or allow access to data through third-party vendors' secured portals or clouds. Electronic data that is confidential to may be transmitted or stored using these methods. In using these data communication and storage methods, Attorneys make reasonable efforts to keep such communications and data access secure in accordance with our obligations under applicable laws and professional standards. Client recognizes and accepts that Attorneys have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or data once it has been sent or has been subject to unauthorized access, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by Attorneys or their third-party vendors. Client consents to Attorneys' use of these electronic devices and applications and submission of confidential client information to third-party service providers during this engagement.

11. File Retention and Destruction. At the conclusion of this matter, Attorneys will retain your legal files for a period of 3 years after we close our file. At the expiration of the 3-year period, we will destroy these files unless you notify us in writing that you wish to take possession of them. We reserve the right to charge administrative fees and costs associated with researching, retrieving, copying and delivering such files.

12. Voluntary Arbitration. The parties understand that Attorneys are required to arbitrate any fee dispute under this Agreement. Client reserves its rights pursuant to **California Business and Professions Code §6200**.

13. Conflict of Interest Waiver. The Rules of Professional Conduct require a client's informed written consent before an attorney may begin or continue to represent a client, if the attorney has or has had a relationship with another party interested in the subject matter of the proposed representation of the client. If a conflict arises such that Attorneys believe they cannot feasibly represent all parties, Attorneys will immediately inform Client, and the parties will discuss the options.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date indicated below.

DATED: 07/14/26 _____

CLIENT:

ATTORNEYS:

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PC LAW GROUP

By: John Schlaaver

By: PATRICIA J. CHEN, PRINCIPAL

1401 19TH STREET, SUITE 300
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
OFFICE: 661.861.2191

17595 HARVARD AVENUE
SUITE C172
OFFICE: 949.209.9019
FAX: 424.835.5286

Referred by: Wendy Lockwood

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Bob Smith, Chairman
"KERN COG"

Approved as to form:

County Counsel
For KERN COG

**DESCRIPTION OF MATTER
AND SCHEDULE OF RATES**

1. **CLIENT:** Kern Council of Governments

MATTER: 1037.001 Legal services re: Regional Transportation Plan and California Environmental Quality Act compliance

For services to be rendered to Kern Council of Governments (Client), including telephone conferences, meetings, negotiations, pleadings, hearings, correspondence and/or memoranda, research and preparation of any documents necessary to assist in Client's Matter. Representation of Client will not commence until a signed fee agreement and requisite retainer are received by Attorneys. New matters outside this scope will entail the following: (1) an agreement in writing and (2) our standard hourly rates will apply, unless some special fee arrangement is made. Patricia J. Chen, principal, will be the principal attorney in charge of this matter and may utilize the services of other attorneys in the firm.

2. **FEES:** Standard hourly rates.

All hourly rates are billed in minimum increments of **.10 (tenths)** of an hour.

Hourly rates will be charged for any additional work beyond the scope of the legal services described above.

Rates per Hour:	Year 2026
Principal	\$463.00
Paralegal	\$165.00
Legal Clerk	\$120.00

3. COSTS AND EXPENSES CHARGED TO CLIENT ABOVE ATTORNEYS' COST:

Duplication\$.15/page	Database Research (varies based on research type)..... Direct Cost
FeesApplicable Fees Court Filing Fees Commissioner of Corporations Deposition/Transcript Fees Franchise Tax Board Filing Fees Secretary of State Filing Fees Trademark/Patents Application, Annuity Fees, etc. Recording Fees (Deeds) (List not inclusive)	Travel Mileage \$.752 per mile or current IRS rate Delivery Services: Direct Cost Messenger Service (varies by delivery location) Federal Express, UPS (varies by size, weight and Location)
Long-Distance Telephone..... Direct Cost International Calls..... Direct Cost	Witness Fees Direct Cost
Large Facsimiles (Outgoing Faxes)..... Direct Cost	Postage Standard Postal Rates

It is Attorneys' general practice not to charge Client for telephone charges, small photocopying jobs, and telecopying service (incoming or outgoing). However, Client will be responsible for all other out-of-pocket expenses incurred on its behalf, such as travel, meals, parking, transcripts of proceedings, and services such as messenger or delivery service and large photocopying jobs. Expenses will be separately itemized in Client's billing statements as "Costs."

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Timeline

*Better Planning.
Better Transportation*

1401 19th Street, Ste. 300 • Bakersfield, CA 93301 • 661 635 2900 • www.kerncog.org



The 2026 KERN COG TIMELINE is a list of actions and events that may appear on future agendas or are of general interest to Board Member

SEPTEMBER

- Kern COG Regional Awards Nominations Open, September 10, 2026
- Kern County Fair Booth, Bakersfield, September 23 – October 4, 2026

OCTOBER

- Member Agency Technical Assistance/Grant Writing Requests Due October 2, 2026
- Annual ASCE Banquet, Kern COG Awarded ASCE Excellence Award for Outstanding Transportation Project, October 2, 2026
- CommuteKERN Rideshare Week, October 5-9, 2026
- California Transportation Commission Meeting at Hanford, October 15-16, 2026
- Kern COG Regional Awards Nominations Close, October 30, 2026

NOVEMBER

- California Freight Advisory Committee Meeting, Sacramento, November 3, 2026

DECEMBER

- California Transportation Commission Meeting at the Inland Empire, December 3-4, 2026
- Federal Highways Administration Approval of the 2026 RTP Air Quality Conformity Analysis

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2026

KERN COUNCIL *of* GOVERNMENTS



REGIONAL AWARDS

Call for Nominations

Celebrating leadership, innovation,
and dedication that strengthens our region.



Kern Council
of Governments

Kern Council of Governments is pleased to present its 2026 Annual Regional Awards Program. This special event provides Kern County residents the opportunity to thank and honor citizens, community-based organizations and public officials who have made, and are still making, significant contributions to this region's quality of life. Those who will be recognized are the impetus behind valuable programs and projects and have dedicated themselves to this area's success.

You are cordially invited to submit your nominations celebrating both the pacesetters and visionary projects that have contributed significantly to our region in 2026.
Thank you for your support.



Bob Smith | 2026 Chair
Kern Council of Governments

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

RONALD E. BRUMMETT REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

offers three opportunities for recognition of those individuals who have shown extensive dedication and leadership in the course of their career, or in service to the public good in the following categories:

- Lifetime Achievement Award to an Elected Official
- Lifetime Achievement Award to a Public Official *
- Lifetime Achievement Award to a Private Citizen

DARREL HILDEBRAND REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP

offers three opportunities for recognition of individuals or groups demonstrating excellence in leadership by promoting strong, representative local or regional government in the following categories:

- Distinguished Leadership Award to an Elected Official
- Distinguished Leadership Award to a Public Official*
- Distinguished Leadership Award to a Private Group or Individual

REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

is presented to an individual or organization for contributions to improving a community within the region.

- Community Development Award for Excellence in Planning
- Community Development Award for Transformative Development

REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR TRANSPORTATION

is presented to an individual or organization for contributions to improving transportation within the region.

- Transportation Award for Public Group or Individual
- Transportation Achievements

REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

honors the efforts of citizens taking a leadership role in improving or enhancing the visual quality of our community, the availability of services, or the public's understanding of regional issues.

REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

recognizes excellence of individuals or organizations at the local government level for cooperative service, delivery, productivity improvements or public-private partnerships.

REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR INNOVATION

recognizes those individuals, products, programs or services that demonstrate groundbreaking thought in introducing a new idea or method.

RICHARD A. MAXWELL REGIONAL AWARD OF MERIT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

is presented to an individual or an organization for contributions to improving public safety within the region.



*Public officials are defined as planning commissioners and public agency staff

Nomination Guide

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals, public and private entities, educational institutions, and service organizations in Kern County that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in any of the categories are eligible nominees. Past Regional Awards individuals are not eligible. Past organization recipients are only eligible under new projects.

JUDGING

Nominations may be submitted by any individual, organization or agency in Kern County. Nominees will be judged by a peer committee appointed by Kern Council of Governments Board of Directors. Completed nomination forms and accompanying support documents are the only materials that will be used to judge each entry.

DEADLINE

All nominations for the 2026 Regional Awards of Merit program must be received by Kern Council of Governments, 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, California, 93301 by **5pm, Friday, October 30, 2026.**

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

Winners will be notified by mail and awards will be presented at a date to be determined.

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

To prepare your entry, attach the official entry form to a typewritten submission of not more than two pages, describing why you think the individual or organization deserves a Regional Award of Merit. Applications may be submitted by email, fax, or mail to Kern Council of Governments' office.

Please utilize email as an electronic form submission:
vromerovaldivia@kerncog.org

MORE INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Victoria Romero Valdivia at Kern Council of Governments (661) 635-2903, or email: vromerovaldivia@kerncog.org

THE FOLLOWING POINTS MUST BE ADDRESSED WHEN PREPARING YOUR ENTRY:

- 01 ORIGINALITY**
Is this an innovative concept or a refinement of existing techniques and procedures?
- 02 TRANSFERABILITY**
Can this concept or approach be sustained in a different environment?
- 03 QUALITY**
Does this concept/person display excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics and character or presentation?
- 04 IMPORTANCE**
Is this concept/person recognized as significant to the study area or field of planning?
- 05 IMPLEMENTATION**
Is the work effective? Has it been carried out to completion? Does it show promise of being implemented?
- 06 COMPREHENSIVENESS**
Have planning principles been observed, especially in considering the effects of the project on other public objectives?
- 07 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**
Has the project/principle provided lasting results and improved the local quality of life?
- 08 REGIONALISM**
How does the project contribute to a better regional community or foster a regional identity?

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Please mail, deliver or email (*as attachment or Dropbox link*) the complete submission with all supporting documentation and images to:

Victoria Romero Valdivia
Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300 Bakersfield, CA 93301
vromerovaldivia@kerncog.org

Regional Awards of Merit Program Nominations

Entry deadline: by 5pm, Friday, October 30, 2026
All fields below must be completed in order to be considered.

NOMINEE NAME

PROJECT/PROGRAM TITLE

CATEGORY

NOMINATOR NAME

NOMINATOR EMAIL

Continued on the next page



Regional Awards of Merit Program Nominations (continued)

WHY DOES THIS NOMINEE DESERVE RECOGNITION?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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COME VISIT US **at the** **KERN COUNTY FAIR**

Kern COG will have a booth at this year's Kern County Fair and will be collecting input for our 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies



**September 23 to
October 4, 2026**



**Exhibit Building 2
Next to the Cinnamon Rolls!**



**Kern Council
of Governments**

kerncog.org