



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' 2026 REGIONAL AWARDS

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — September 14, 2026 — Kern County is full of people, organizations and programs making a difference in their communities. The Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is looking for those local changemakers to recognize through its annual Regional Awards.

Nominations are now open for individuals, organizations and programs whose innovative, cooperative and regional efforts are helping improve the quality of life throughout Kern County. The nomination deadline is Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.

The Regional Awards recognize accomplishments across a broad range of areas, including Local Government, Community Involvement, Environmental Resources and Conservation, Transportation, Public Safety, Innovation, Distinguished Leadership and Lifetime Achievement.

“Every community has individuals and organizations doing work that deserves to be recognized,” said Kern COG Executive Director, John Schlosser. “These awards give us an opportunity to shine a light on the people and programs working together to make Kern County a better place to live, work and thrive.”

Who should be nominated?

Kern COG encourages nominations of individuals, organizations and programs that demonstrate meaningful accomplishments, innovative approaches, regional cooperation or a lasting contribution to Kern County.

Nominators should complete the official nomination form and submit no more than two pages explaining why the nominee deserves a Regional Award of Merit.

How to Nominate

The official nomination form is available online at:

[2026 Regional Awards Nomination Form](#)

Completed nominations may be submitted by email or mail to the Kern COG office or by email to Victoria Romero Valdivia at vromerovaldivia@kerncog.org.

Nominations must include at least 10 photo-quality electronic images or video footage of at least two minutes showcasing the nominee's accomplishments. At least one image must clearly identify the individual, organization or program. A sign or logo may be submitted when no other distinguishing image is available.

All submitted materials become the property of the Kern Council of Governments and will not be returned.

Recipients will be selected by a Kern COG Board ad-hoc committee.

For more information, contact **Victoria Romero Valdivia** at **661-635-2903** or vromerovaldivia@kerncog.org.

About Kern Council of Governments

The Kern Council of Governments is Kern County's regional transportation planning agency, coordinating transportation planning and investments among the county's 11 incorporated cities and the County of Kern.

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