



SAN JOAQUIN
REGIONAL
RAIL COMMISSION



San Joaquin
Joint Powers Authority

**JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE:
SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
AND
SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 – 10:30 am

San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 East Weber Avenue
Third Floor
Stockton, CA 95202

Teleconference Locations

District Office
3361 Walnut Blvd.
Suite 140
Brentwood, CA
94513

2800 W Burrel Avenue
Tulare County
Administration Building
Visalia, CA 93291

1976 Morris Kyle
Drive
Firebaugh, CA
93622

44 N. San Joaquin
Street
Suite 627
Stockton, CA
95202

Members of the public may attend the meeting at the above addresses, or may observe the meeting by using the link or dial-in information below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87947136487>

**Or Telephone: +1 669 444 9171 US
Webinar ID: 879 4713 6487**

Persons wishing to address the Boards on any item of interest to the public regarding rail shall state their names and address and make their presentation. The Boards cannot take action on matters not on the agenda unless the action is authorized by Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Materials related to an item on the Agenda submitted to the Boards after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority office at 949 E. Channel Street during normal business hours. These documents are also available on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (Authority) websites at <https://www.sjrcc.com/events/> and <https://www.sjpa.com/events/> subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting. If a member of the public wishes to make a public comment:

1. Submit written comments to the Rail Commission or the Authority via email at clerk@sjrcc.com in which staff will read the comment aloud during the public comment period.

2. Complete a Request to Speak form (available at the entrance to the meeting) and give it to the Secretary before the Item is considered by the Boards.
3. Join from the Zoom meeting link and notify Staff by alerting them via the “Raise hand” or “Chat” function; call +1 669 444 9171, enter Webinar ID: 879 4713 6487#, dial *9 to raise your hand when you wish to speak, and dial *6 to unmute when you are requested to speak. Please note that if participating using Zoom, all members of the public will be placed on mute until such times allow for public comments to be made.

Public comments should be limited to five (5) minutes per comment.

This Agenda shall be made available upon request in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code § 54954.2). Persons requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Rail Commission and Authority staff, at (209) 944-6220, during regular business hours, at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of the meeting.

All proceedings before the Rail Commission and Authority are conducted in English. Anyone wishing to address the Rail Commission or Authority Boards are advised to have an interpreter or to contact the Rail Commission or Authority during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting so that the Rail Commission or Authority can provide an interpreter. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Rail Commission or Authority regarding any item on this agenda will be made available upon request in both English and Spanish for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Director located at 949 East Channel Street, Stockton, California, 95202 during normal business hours or by calling (209) 944-6220. The Agenda is available on the Rail Commission website: www.sjrrc.com. The Agenda is also available on the Authority website: www.sjipa.com.

Disclosures: *Commissioners and Directors shall disclose any agenda item in which they have a conflict of interest under State law and acknowledge whether they will recuse from hearing that item. Among other State laws, the Levine Act (Gov. C. §84308) may require recusal on agenda items involving a contract or entitlement before the Authority where a campaign donor is a participant, and the campaign contribution totals more than \$250 within the 12-month period before the decision on the item.*

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance SJIPA Chair Verboon

2. Safety Briefing Brian Schmidt

3. Roll Call

SJRRRC Roll Call: Marchand, Salwan, Arriola, Ding, Fugazi, Morowit, Vice-Chair Zuber, Chair Craig-Hensley

Ex-Officios: Zwahlen (StanCOG), Nguyen (SJCOG), Clifford (SJRTD), Magsayo (Caltrans)

SJIPA Roll Call: Chiesa, Fugazi, Gonzalez, Haubert, Shuklian, Pedrozo, Valdez, Vice-Chair Burgis, Vice-Chair Hume, Chair Verboon

4. Public Comment

Persons wishing to address the Rail Commission or the Authority on any item of interest to the public regarding rail shall state their names and addresses and make their presentation. Please limit presentations to five minutes. The Rail Commission and Authority cannot take action on matters not on the agenda unless the action is authorized by Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Materials related to an item on the Agenda submitted to the Boards after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Rail Commission and Authority offices at 949 E. Channel Street during normal business hours. These documents are also available on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission website at <https://www.sjrcc.com/events/> and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority website at and <https://www.sjjpa.com/events/> subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting.

5. Consent Calendar

5.1 Adopt a Joint Resolution of the Authority and the Commission Authorizing the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, through its Executive Director, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) Regarding Coordination of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funding Applications and Communication on the Federal Funding Program in Sacramento County, Subject to Approval of the MOU as to Form by General Counsel **ACTION**
(Authority Directors and Regular Voting Members of the Commission Only)

6. Addressing Homelessness in the Rail Corridors: Focus on Stockton **INFORMATION**
(Cameron Paler)

7. Valley Rail Status Update **INFORMATION**
(Valley Rail Program Team)

8. Passenger Experience Update **INFORMATION**
(David Lipari)

9. The Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC) Update **INFORMATION**
(Megan Craig)

10. Board Member Comments

11. Executive Director's Report

12. Adjournment

The next San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission regular meeting is scheduled for:
June 6, 2025 – 9:30 am

The next San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority regular meeting is scheduled for:
May 16, 2025 – 10: 30 am

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
AND SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**
Joint Special Meeting of May 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Item 5.1

ACTION

Adopt a Joint Resolution of the Authority and the Commission Authorizing the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, through its Executive Director, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) Regarding Coordination of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funding Applications and Communication on the Federal Funding Program in Sacramento County, Subject to Approval of the MOU as to Form by General Counsel

Background:

The San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (Authority) has delegated responsibility to the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) for coordinating the planning, funding, development, and delivery of an expansive and complex capital improvement program required to implement new and integrated passenger rail service to the regions that will be served by the Valley Rail Program. The Valley Rail Program is funded through a combination of federal, state, and regional grants and the program is now at an advanced stage of development in preparation for construction and implementation of the service. Due to inflation-driven cost escalation and evolving host railroad requirements, the Rail Commission needs to fill a funding shortfall to complete the northern Valley Rail capital projects, including station and track infrastructure improvements located in Sacramento County.

Staff are identifying new funding sources for the Valley Rail Program and have been aggressively pursuing all opportunities to secure funding consistent with joint direction from the Rail Commission and Authority in February 2024, including regional funding contributions. Within Sacramento County, staff have targeted State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds eligible for capital rail and transit expansion projects – the California Transportation Commission approves new funding in the STIP every two years and calculates county-level funding apportionments. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is responsible for prioritizing and approving projects within Sacramento County for the STIP as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the larger four-county Sacramento region. SACOG has developed its own regional guidance and procedures for selecting projects for state and federal funding that make up the STIP through a call for projects process and has assigned responsibility for coordinating and prioritizing applications for rail and transit projects to the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA). The goal of this approach is to facilitate better interagency coordination, reduce the number of applications competing for funding, and enhance the predictability of STIP awards.

Based on consultation with its member agencies, STA intends to form a dedicated rail and transit working group for the STIP process beginning in the current cycle that SACOG formally initiated in March 2025. Building on past regional coordination efforts with STA, staff were successful at including the Rail Commission in the STIP working group. STA developed an MOU to establish the purpose of the working group and procedures for guiding working group functions and proceedings and is requesting approval by the member agencies. Staff is recommending that the Authority and the Rail Commission authorize the Rail Commission to execute a memorandum of

understanding with STA, which will enable STA and the Rail Commission to better coordinate and compete for regional funding to support implementation of the Valley Rail Program, and more broadly develop collaborative working relationships with partner transit agencies that will be necessary to maximize the success of the new passenger rail service being delivered as part of Valley Rail Program.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

Adopt a Joint Resolution of the Authority and the Commission Authorizing the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, through its Executive Director, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) Regarding Coordination of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funding Applications and Communication on the Federal Funding Program in Sacramento County, Subject to Approval of the MOU as to Form by General Counsel.

SJJPA/SJRRRC RESOLUTION 24/25 –

RESOLUTION OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZING THE SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION, THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE SACRAMENTO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (STA) REGARDING COORDINATION OF STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATION ON THE FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAM IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE MOU AS TO FORM BY GENERAL COUNSEL

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (Authority) has delegated responsibility to the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) for coordinating the planning, funding, development, and delivery of an expansive and complex capital improvement program required to implement new and integrated passenger rail service to the regions that will be served by the Valley Rail Program; and

WHEREAS, the Valley Rail Program is funded through a combination of federal, state, and regional grants and the program is now at an advanced stage of development in preparation for construction and implementation of the service; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation-driven cost escalation and evolving host railroad requirements, the Rail Commission needs to fill a funding shortfall to complete the northern Valley Rail capital projects, including station and track infrastructure improvements located in Sacramento County; and

WHEREAS, staff are identifying new funding sources for the Valley Rail Program and have been aggressively pursuing all opportunities to secure funding consistent with joint direction from the Rail Commission and Authority in February 2024, including regional funding contributions; and

WHEREAS, within Sacramento County, staff have targeted State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds eligible for capital rail and transit expansion projects – the California Transportation Commission approves new funding in the STIP every two years and calculates county-level funding apportionments; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is responsible for prioritizing and approving projects within Sacramento County for the STIP as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the larger four-county Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, based on consultation with its member agencies, STA intends to form a dedicated rail and transit working group for the STIP process beginning in the current cycle that SACOG formally initiated in March 2025. Building on past regional coordination efforts with STA, staff were successful at including the Rail Commission in the STIP working group; and

WHEREAS, Staff is recommending that the Authority and the Rail Commission authorize the Rail Commission to execute a memorandum of understanding with STA, which will enable STA and the Rail Commission to better coordinate and compete for regional funding to support implementation of the Valley Rail Program, and more broadly develop collaborative working relationships with partner transit agencies that will be necessary to maximize the success of the new passenger rail service being delivered as part of Valley Rail Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and the Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission hereby authorizes the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, through its Executive Director, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) Regarding Coordination of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funding Applications and Communication on the Federal Funding Program in Sacramento County, Subject to Approval of the MOU as to Form by General Counsel.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission this 7th day of May 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY

STACEY MORTENSEN, Secretary

DOUG VERBOON, Chair

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL
COMMISSION

LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
AND SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**
Joint Special Meeting of May 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Item 6

INFORMATION

Addressing Homelessness in the Rail Corridors: Focus on Stockton

Background:

Homeless encampments present considerable challenges to communities, affecting public health and safety, contributing to environmental degradation, and undermining economic vitality. Furthermore, they exert pressure on local resources, including waste management and emergency services, which can lead to decreased property values and obstruct future development initiatives. These concerns have generated a compelling demand for immediate and effective action.

Under the strong leadership of Stockton Mayor Fugazi, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) is taking decisive action by partnering with the Stockton Police Department, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), BNSF Railway, and local municipal leaders to confront the critical issues of trespassing, homeless encampments, and safety within the rail corridors.

This collaboration demonstrates the Rail Commission's commitment to an effective and proactive response.

Fiscal Impact:

This is an information item only. There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

This is an information item only.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
AND SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**
Joint Special Meeting of May 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Item 7

INFORMATION

Valley Rail Status Update

Background:

Staff will provide a presentation on the status of the Valley Rail Program at the May 7, 2025 Joint Special Meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

This is an information item only. There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

This is an information item only.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
AND SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**
Joint Special Meeting of May 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Item 8

INFORMATION

Passenger Experience Update

Background:

Staff will provide an update on ACE and San Joaquins passenger experience initiatives at the May 7, 2025 Joint Special Meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

This is an information item only. There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

This is an information item only.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
AND SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**
Joint Special Meeting of May 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Item 9

INFORMATION

The Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC) Update

Background:

The Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC) is the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's (Rail Commission's) workforce development program developed with educational partner Sacramento City College (Sac City). TRACC addresses the challenges of renewing a skilled workforce and creating opportunities for life-changing salaries and professional jobs for interested community members.

Currently, TRACC allows students to gain marketable skills and position themselves for successful careers in the railroad industry.

TRACC accepts adult learners enrolled directly through Sac City and high school juniors and seniors who participate in the dual-enrollment program offered through their school district in partnership with Sac City. The minimum age for enrolling in the dual-enrollment program is 16, and students must be in 11th or 12th grade. The Rail Commission and Sac City staff participated in career-education and community outreach events in Stockton, Tracy, Lodi, and Sacramento. Staff has connected with additional industry and educational partners, and community resources in the area to continue to grow the network of support for TRACC.

Due to the extensive interest in the TRACC program, Rail Commission staff has performed outreach throughout San Joaquin County to expand the dual enrollment program offering with high schools in our region. Staff has met with the associate superintendent of Lodi Unified School District, and the Superintendent of Ripon Unified School District and has started the process of establishing the dual enrollment agreement for these schools, and are working with Sac City staff to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each school as of March 2025. Staff has also partnered with the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) Career Technical Education Coordinator and Division Director for STEM, Workforce Development, and Innovation. Staff was invited to introduce TRACC to the April SJCOE Career Technical Education department meeting, which featured Career Technical Education directors and personnel from high schools throughout San Joaquin County. The May SJCOE Career Technical Education department meeting will be hosted at the ACE Rail Maintenance Facility on May 16, 2025, at 9:00 am, and CTE directors will have the opportunity to meet with Sac City staff to answer any questions and start the MOU process for the schools.



In the first year, two cohorts graduated from the program – 10 students graduated on August 1, 2024, and 13 students graduated on November 24, 2024. TRACC Graduates have already begun interviewing with Amtrak, Union Pacific Railroad, TransitAmerica Services Inc. (TASI) for Caltrain and ACE, Sierra Northern Railway, San Diego Metropolitan Transportation System, Terminal Switching Services (TSS), and the Rail Commission. Six (6) TRACC graduates have accepted job offers in the industry with Union Pacific Railroad, Terminal Switching Services, and the Rail Commission.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

This is an informational item. There is no action requested.