

May 3-4, 2017

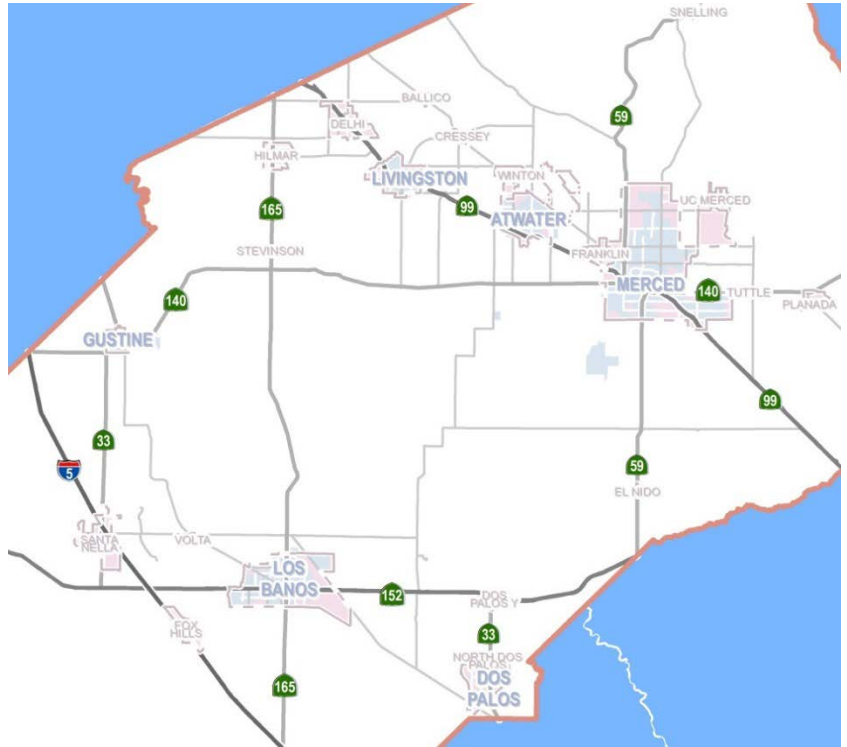
WATER



EDUCATION



HOUSING



TRANSPORTATION



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY



One Voice

May 2, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) One Voice delegation. We appreciate the demands on your schedule and are grateful for the time you have provided to learn about our region's priorities and projects, and to speak with us about the critical work you and your colleagues are doing in Washington, D.C.

Merced County, California, is home to a diverse population of 267,000 people and is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley—the world's most productive agricultural area. Nine of the nation's top ten agricultural-producing counties are in California, with seven located in the San Joaquin Valley including Merced County. Our county is also home to the University of California, Merced, the 10th campus in the UC system, and the first American research university of the 21st Century. Having opened its doors to students in 2005, the student population today exceeds 6,500 with nearly one-third coming from the San Joaquin Valley. The campus also leads the UC system in the percentage of students from underrepresented ethnic groups, low-income families and families whose parents did not attend college.

One Voice is a federal advocacy program comprised of local representatives, elected officials and staff who travel to Washington, D.C. annually to meet with legislators and agency staff to advocate for projects and issues of regional significance. The goals of the program are to:

- Communicate the region's legislative priorities clearly and succinctly;
- Obtain more federal funding for local projects;
- Advocate for legislation or policy changes that will benefit Merced County;
- Support our legislators by meeting with their peers and garnering wider support for projects and issues relevant to the Merced County region.

These advocacy trips are important to us as they give us the opportunity to share information about our local challenges, initiatives and projects and to build relationships and partnerships with policymakers and staff that will benefit the work we are doing to improve the quality of life in Merced County. Thank you again for your time. We look forward to working with you on these priorities.

Sincerely,



Stacie Dabbs
Interim Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments



Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) is an association of city and county governments working together to address regional issues and opportunities. MCAG's annual One Voice trip to Washington D.C. provides an opportunity for a delegation of local public and private representatives to meet with Congressional

representatives and federal officials to advocate for legislative solutions and funding for priorities and projects of regional significance. The following is a summary of MCAG's 2017 One Voice priority issues and projects.

TRANSPORTATION

Immediate Needs:

- **Goods movement funding**

What the Federal Government can do:

- **Continue funding FAST Act grant programs** including TIGER and FASTLANE with increased consideration for economically disadvantaged areas.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Immediate Needs:

- **Permanent supportive housing**
- **Market rate and affordable housing**

What the Federal Government can do:

- **Support funding for permanent supportive and affordable housing** to assist local partnerships in addressing the homelessness crisis.
- **Support funding for market rate housing projects** including those that offer affordable housing units in a downtown mixed-use development with transit access.
- **Continue to fund the Community Development Block Grant program**

PUBLIC SAFETY

Immediate Needs:

- **Police officers**
- **Police stations**
- **Safety equipment**

What the Federal Government can do:

- **Increase funding for COPS program**
- **Support funding for local public safety projects** including the construction of municipal police stations.
- **Provide funding for public safety equipment** such as radios, vehicles and weapons.

EDUCATION

Immediate Needs:

- **Access to affordable childcare**
- **Community center resources**
- **Student aid**

What the Federal Government can do:

- **Raise income eligibility limits for subsidized childcare programs** including HeadStart.
- **Increase funding for infrastructure projects** such as educational community centers, joint-use gymnasiums and playgrounds, and safe routes to schools.
- **Increase higher education student aid** to ensure low-income students have access to higher education opportunities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Immediate Needs:

- **Industrial parks**
- **Downtown revitalization**
- **Recreational sports facilities**

What the Federal Government can do:

- **Provide funding for industrial park feasibility studies** for local jurisdictions and regional partnerships between city and county governments.
- **Prioritize small and rural communities** in grant programs and policy flexibility to benefit downtown revitalization and economic development.
- **Make funding available for recreational facilities** such as community soccer and softball recreational facilities.

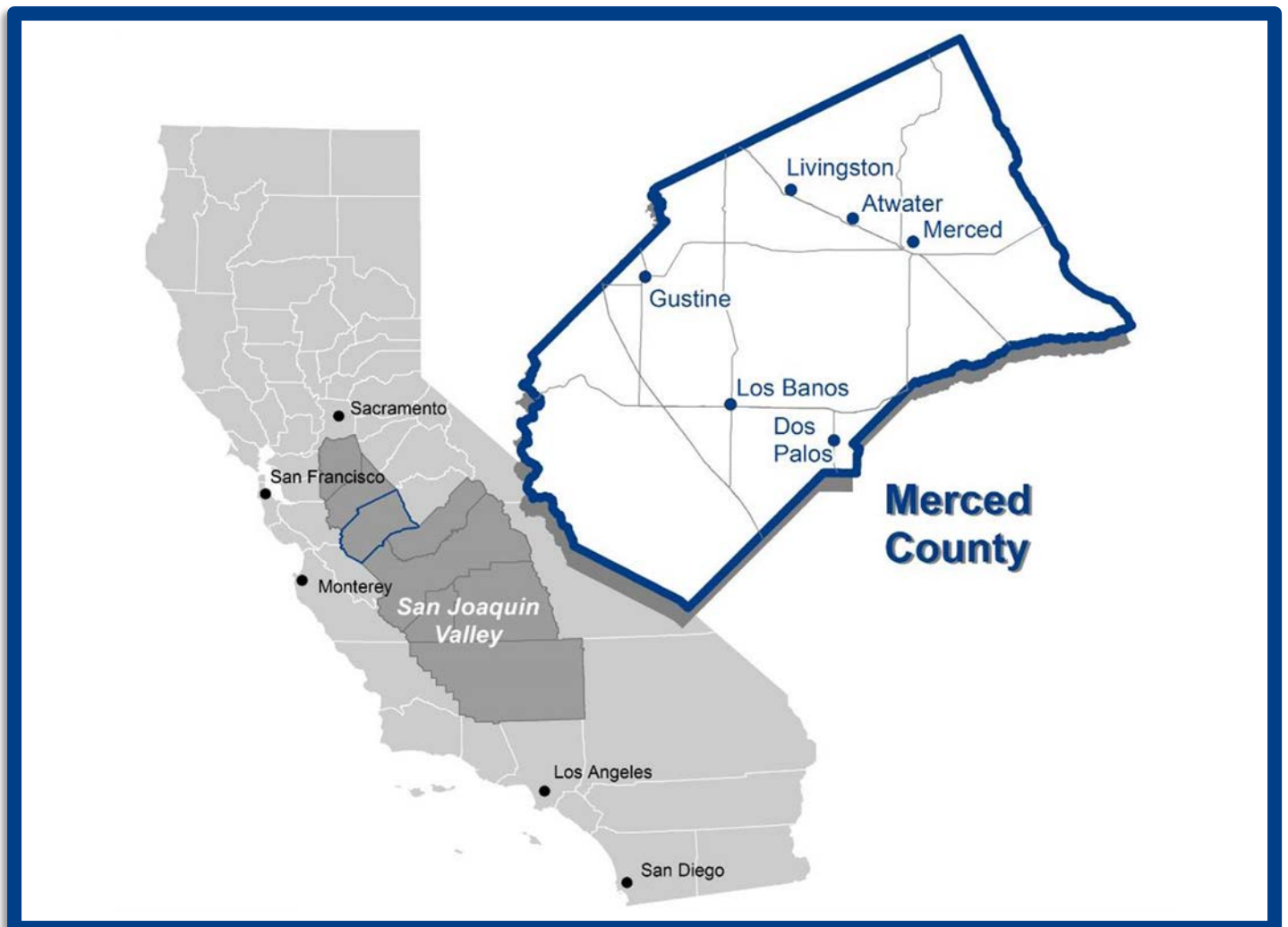
WATER

Immediate Needs:

- **Flood control**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Storage, quality, and reliability**

What the Federal Government can do:

- **Support alternative funding opportunities** including through USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, for the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project.
- **Provide funding for infrastructure projects** such as municipal wells.
- **Support additional storage capacity** for the San Joaquin Valley, as well as support federal resources dedicated to addressing the San Joaquin Valley's water quality, quantity and reliability issues.



2017 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

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