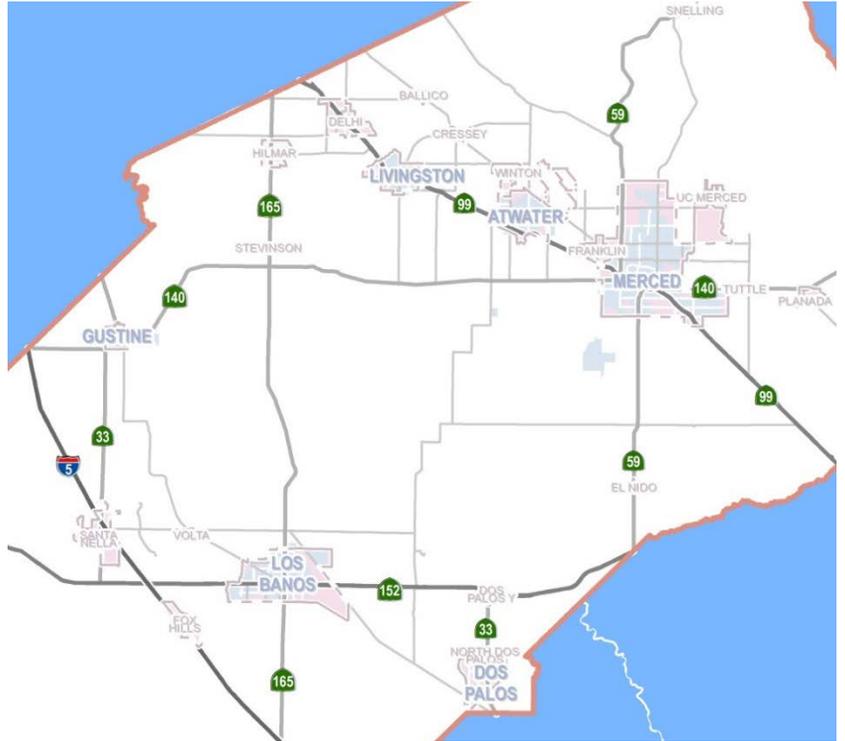


May 1-2, 2019

VETERANS



HOUSING



TRANSPORTATION



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PUBLIC SAFETY





May 1, 2019

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 272,600 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 8,500 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 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacie Dabbs".

Stacie Dabbs
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 federal legislators and officials to advocate

for legislative solutions and funding for programs and projects of regional significance. The following is a summary of MCAG's 2019 One Voice priorities.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Infrastructure Funding:** Seek funding opportunities for the Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1B and completion of the Campus Parkway through the UC Merced campus from U.S. route 99 to UC Merced. Develop funding priorities for rural regional projects that will enhance local goods movement corridors (ex. Applegate overcrossing, Pioneer Road).
- **Passenger Rail:** Support funding for all types of commuter rail in the San Joaquin valley.
- **Autonomous Vehicle:** Investigate federal sources of funding to promote local autonomous vehicle program development.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Police and Fire stations:** Provide public safety capital funding for the construction of police and fire stations.
- **Fire Fighters:** Support continued funding for fire fighter retention, equipment and training.

VETERANS

- **Health Care, Education, and Benefits:** Explore and discuss programs related to Veterans' health care, housing, education, and benefits as well as capital infrastructure funding aimed at consistent delivery of these benefits to the region's veteran population.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Industrial Parks:** Provide funding to conduct feasibility studies for regional industrial parks.
- **Small/Rural Communities:** Provide grant programs and policy flexibility to address economic development needs of small/rural communities.
- **Wireless Infrastructure:** Advocate for the stay of proposed FCC rules infringing on local municipalities' ability to oversee the safe installation of wireless infrastructure on publicly owned property.
- **Municipal Recreational Facilities:** Provide funding for community recreational facilities.
- **Public Art and Beautification Programs:** Provide funding support for public art and municipal beautification programs.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** Support funding for permanent supportive and affordable housing to assist local partnerships in addressing the homelessness crisis, and Senator Dianne Feinstein's "Fighting Homelessness through Services and Housing Act".
- **Affordable and Market Rate Housing:** Support funding for market rate housing projects including those that offer affordable housing units in a downtown mixed-use development with transit access.

2019 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

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