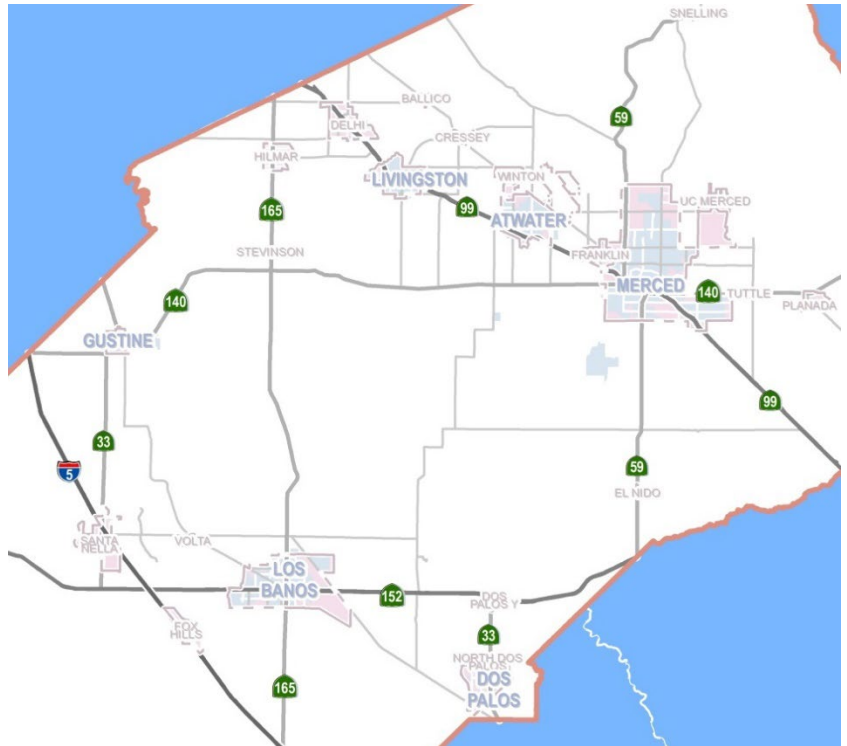


May 4-5, 2022

WATER



HOUSING



TRANSPORTATION



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



PUBLIC SAFETY





May 4, 2022

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 267,390 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 9,000 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 Guzman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.

Stacie Guzman
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 2022 One Voice priorities.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Infrastructure funding:** Seek funding opportunities for the Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1B and the Pioneer Road Complete Street project.
- **Passenger rail:** Support funding for all types of commuter rail in the San Joaquin valley.
- **Airport safety:** Investigate federal sources of funding to improve the infrastructure and safety of community airports.
- **Multi-modal hubs:** Explore federal support for the development of hubs that connect regional and local modes of transportation.
- **Downtown core:** Seek funding to rehabilitate transportation infrastructure located within communities seeking to redevelop and rejuvenate their downtown core.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Police officers and Fire fighters:** Support continued funding for public safety personnel retention, equipment, and training.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- **Historic Buildings:** Explore programs and funding opportunities related to the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings.
- **Community facilities:** Seek funding to develop and/or rehabilitate longstanding community recreational facilities.

UTILITIES

- **Broadband:** Seek funding to expand access to broadband infrastructure throughout the Merced County region.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

- **Permanent Housing Support:** Advocate for the development of long-term federal funding to support ongoing, day-to-day, local programs that address homelessness, not just one-time/start-up costs.
- **Affordable Housing:** Explore potential housing programs for homeless individuals as well as opportunities aimed at the development of affordable housing projects.

WATER

- **Drinking Water:** Seek opportunities to leverage federal dollars for the construction and replacement of drinking water conveyance infrastructure.



2022 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

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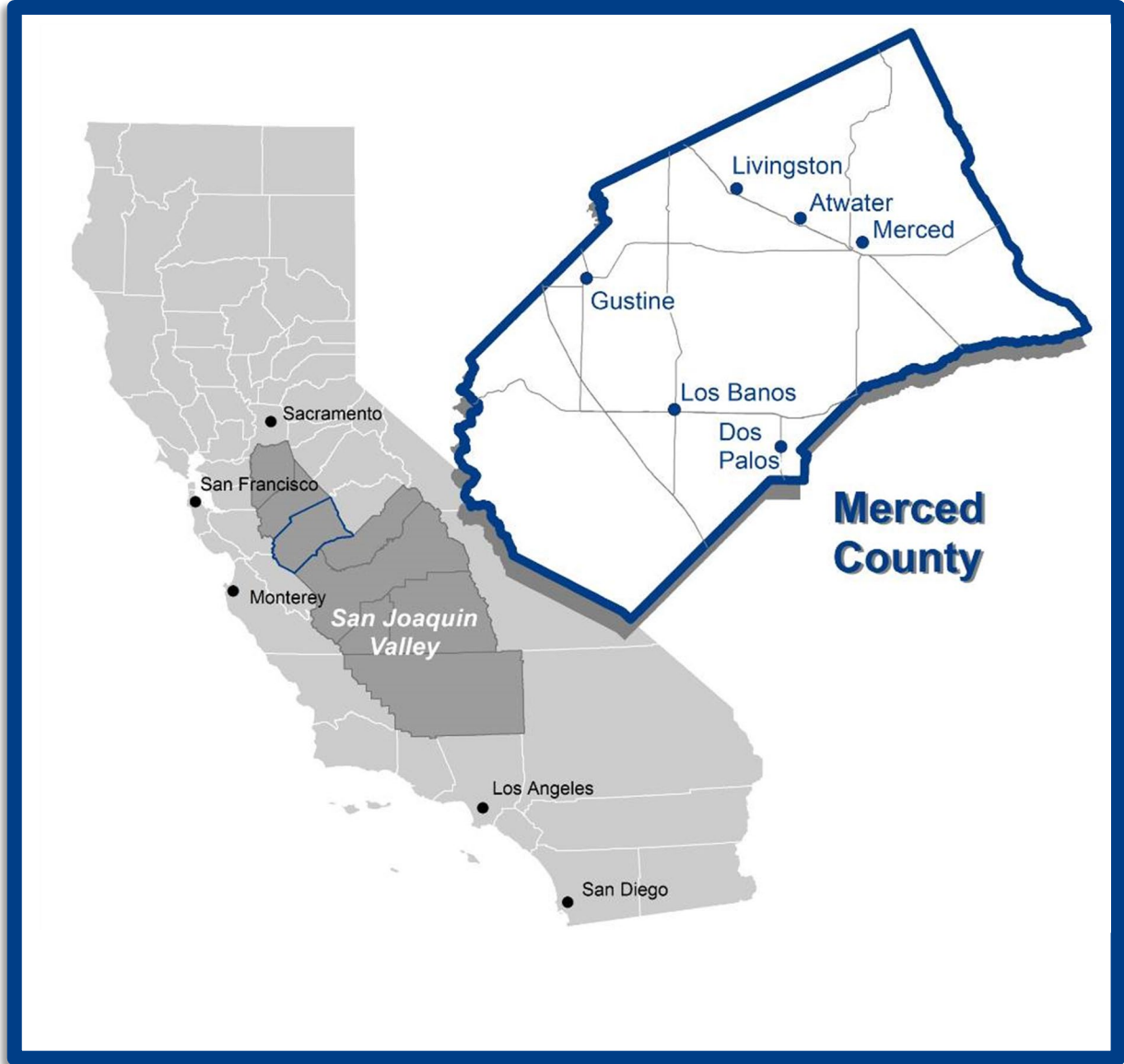
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Monterey

San Joaquin Valley

Los Angeles

San Diego

Livingston

Atwater

Merced

Gustine

Los Banos

Dos Palos

Merced County