

May 10-11, 2023

WATER



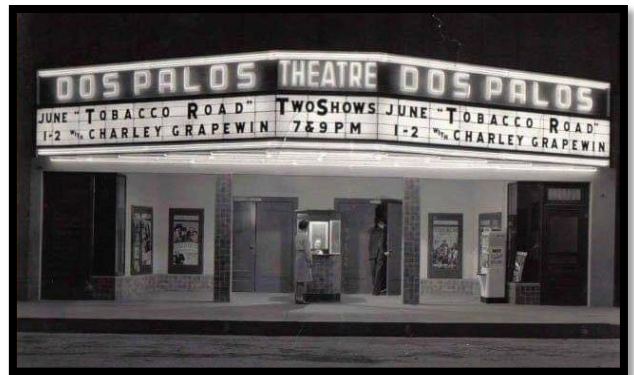
TRANSPORTATION



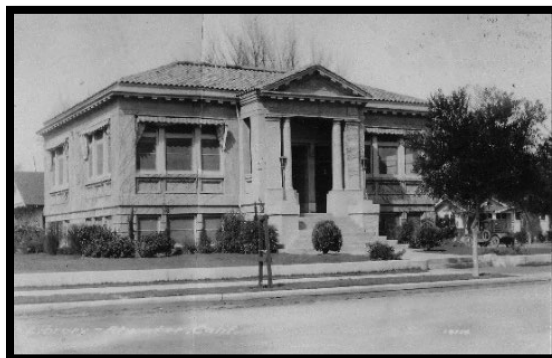
HOMELESSNESS



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



PUBLIC SAFETY





May 10, 2023

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 286,461 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 2023 One Voice priorities.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Infrastructure funding:** Ensure continued investment in rural regional projects that are critical to the safe and efficient movement of goods and people, including the Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1B, State Routes 59 and 99, and the Pioneer Road Complete Street project.
- **Passenger rail:** Support funding for all types of commuter rail in the San Joaquin valley.
- **Airport safety:** Seek expedited administrative review processes and funding opportunities for community airport infrastructure improvements.
- **National Parks:** Pursue dedicated federal support for public transit systems into and within National Parks and establish policy whereby those traveling into National Parks using public transportation services are not charged a gate fee.
- **Pedestrians and Bridges:** Seek funding for safe and accessible pedestrian and bridge infrastructure in local neighborhoods.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

- **VASH:** Advocate for additional Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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

WATER

- **Drinking Water and Wastewater:** Seek opportunities to leverage federal dollars for the construction, treatment, and replacement of drinking water and wastewater conveyance infrastructure.
- **Flood Control:** Support streamlined permitting processes for creek maintenance as well as funding for water storage and flood control projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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



2023 ONE VOICE DELEGATION

CITY OF MERCED

Mayor Matt Serratto

***MCAG Board Chair**

serrattom@cityofmerced.org

Councilmember Sarah Boyle

boyles@cityofmerced.org

Jennifer Flachman, Public Information Officer

flachmanj@cityofmerced.org

MERCED COUNTY

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, District 3

daron.mcdaniel@countyofmerced.com

Supervisor Scott Silveira, District 5

scott.silveira@countyofmerced.com

Raul Mendez, Chief Executive Officer

raul.mendez@countyofmerced.com

CITY OF ATWATER

Mayor Mike Nelson

mnelson@atwater.org

Councilmember Danny Ambriz

dambriz@atwater.org

Lori Waterman, City Manager

lwaterman@atwater.org

CITY OF GUSTINE

Mayor Pat Nagy

pnagy@cityofgustine.com

Councilmember Jim Bonta

jbonta@cityofgustine.com

CITY OF DOS PALOS

Mayor April Hogue

Mayor28@cityofdp.com

CITY OF LIVINGSTON

Mayor Jose Moran

jmoran@livingstoncity.com

Councilmember Jatinder Mann

jmann@livingstoncity.com

Christopher Lopez, Interim City Manager

clopez@livingstoncity.com

CITY OF LOS BANOS

Mayor Paul Llanez

Paul.llanez@losbanos.org

Josh Pinheiro, City Manager

josh.pinheiro@losbanos.org

MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director

stacie.guzman@mcagov.org

Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director

nav.bagri@mcagov.org

Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager

mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org

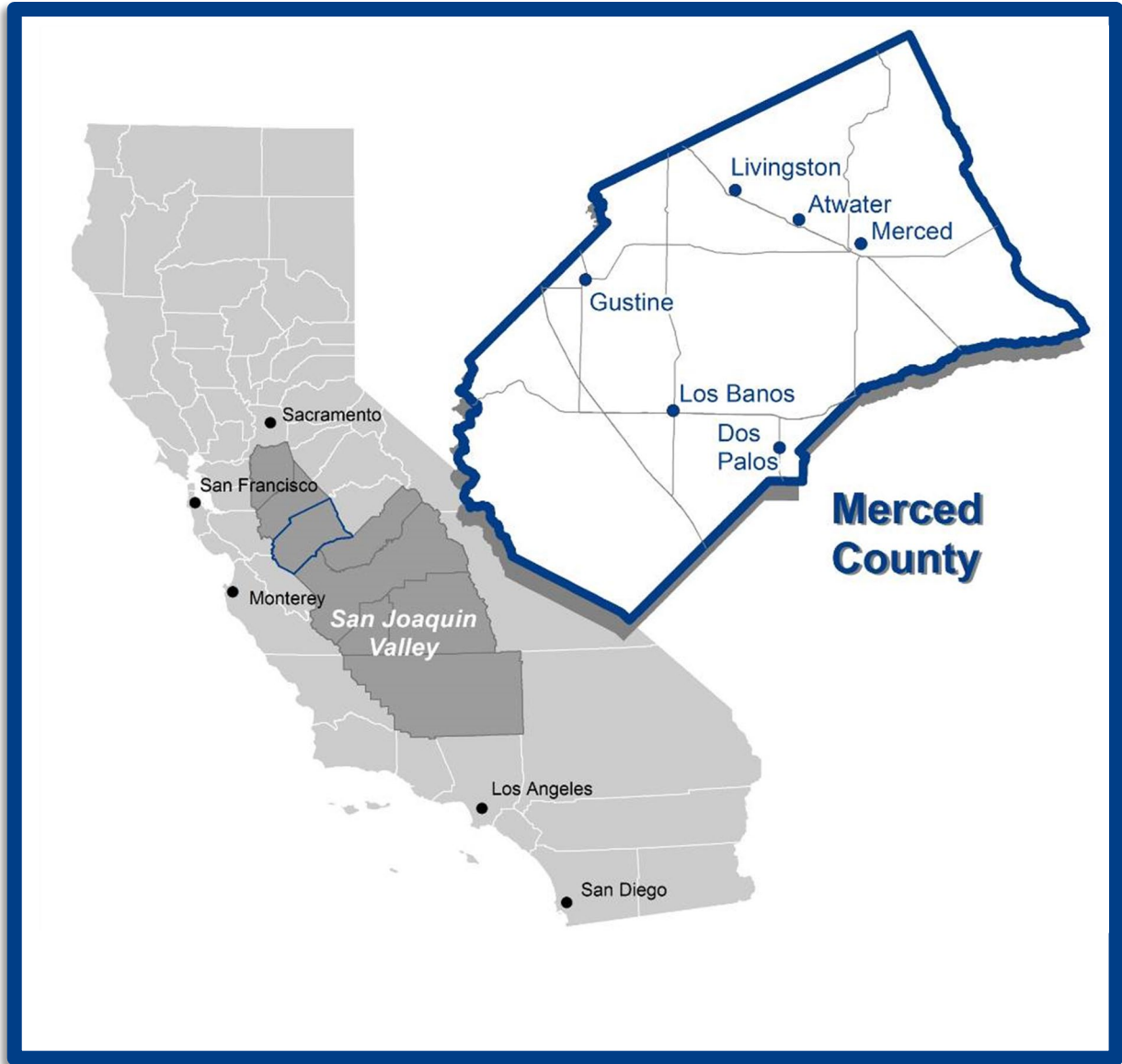
Elizabeth Forte, Dir of Planning & Programming

elizabeth.forte@mcagov.org

TOWNSEND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ben Goldeen

bgoldeen@townsendpa.com



Sacramento

San Francisco

Monterey

San Joaquin Valley

Los Angeles

San Diego

Livingston

Atwater

Merced

Gustine

Los Banos

Dos Palos

Merced County