

CALIFORNIA VANPOOL AUTHORITY

Board of Directors

1340 North Drive * Hanford, California 93230
(559) 852-2711

Meeting Date: November 9, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Kings County Association of Governments
CalVans office at 1340 North Drive, Hanford, CA 93230

This Meeting may also be attended at the following locations:

- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, 24580 Silver Cloud Court Monterey, CA 93940; 115 Monterey Salinas Hwy, Salinas, CA 93908
- Fresno Council of Governments, Chicano Youth Center, 1515 E Divisadero, Fresno CA 93721
- Imperial County Transportation Commission, 1405 N Imperial Ave, Suite 1, El Centro, CA 92243 and 128 W. 5th Street, Holtville, CA 92250
- Kern Council of Governments, Conference 1401 19th Street, Board Room, Bakersfield, CA 93301
- Madera County Transportation Commission, Citizens Business Bank, Room 101, 2001 Howard Road, Madera, CA 93637
- Merced County Association of Governments, Conference Room, 369 West 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340
- Riverside County Transportation Commission, Sunline Transit offices, 32505 Harry Oliver Trail, Thousand Palms, CA 92276
- San Joaquin Council of Governments, 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang CA 93463
- Tulare County Association of Governments, Conference Room, 210 N Church St., Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291
- Ventura County Transportation Commission, Conference Room, 950 County Square Drive, Suite 108, Ventura, CA 9300

The call in number for this meeting is 1-866-244-8528, Password 574681

Please note that the Brown Act requires that Board members calling in do so from one of the locations noted above. Please contact Ronald Hughes the Executive Director at least 72 hours before the meeting date and time if you plan on calling in from another location.

A person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 may request the Authority to provide a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in any public meeting of the Authority. Such assistance includes appropriate alternative formats for the agendas and agenda packets used for any public meetings of the Authority. Requests for such assistance and for agendas and agenda packets shall be made in person, by telephone, facsimile, or written correspondence to Ron Hughes, at the office of the California Vanpool Authority, at least 48 hours before a public Authority meeting.

A G E N D A

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	CALL TO ORDER	
	Roll Call – Clerk of the Board	
2.	PUBLIC COMMENT (Unscheduled Appearances)	
	The public may address the committee on any item relevant to the authority. To comment on an agenda item, speakers should notify the staff member at the meeting location, when the agenda item is announced. The staff member will indicate whether speakers are to make their comments before or after any staff comment or report. Public comment shall precede discussion of the item by the committee. Comments by individuals and entities will be limited to five minutes or as may be reasonable as determined by the conducting officer.	
3.	Consent Items	Action
	A. Minutes of September 14, 2017	
	B. List of Surplus vehicles	
4.	System Update	Information
	A. Farmworker vans ridership trends	
	B. Cap & Trade, Low Carbon Transportation Project Allocations	
	C. Discussions with San Bernardino Council of Governments	
	D. Marketing and Outreach Efforts	
5.	Approve Agreement with Riverside County Transportation Commission	Action
6.	Approve partnership with Self Help Enterprise in Visalia	Action
7.	Adjournment	

Attachments:

Item Page Description

- A. 7 Board Minutes of September 14, 2017
- B. 10 Summary of California Farm Labor 2017 Meeting
- C. 15 Pages from Fiscal Year 2017-18 Funding plan for Clean Transportation Incentives
- D. 20 Agreement with Riverside County Transportation Commission

STAFF REPORT

3. Consent Items

A. Minutes of September 14, 2017

The attached minutes from the last meeting are ready for approval, pending any changes from the members.

4. System Update

A. Farmworker Ridership Trends

Last month Staff was part of a panel convened to discuss the emerging role of H-2A workers in California's agricultural sector. The discussion covered the lack of available farm workers as well as the displacement of those farmworkers who have traditionally worked the fields.

Staff looked at our operation to see what part the H-2A program played in the use of vans by farmworkers. Staff surveyed the 377 vanpools in operation last month and found that 96 or 25% were transporting H-2A workers. In addition, Staff also found that 322 or 85% of the vanpools received an employer voucher that covers the cost of transportation. Both the transportation of H-2A workers and the use of employer vouchers is something that has occurred over the past several years. The trend towards use of H-2A program will continue due to the labor shortage.

When the farm worker vanpool program was created it was argued by some advocates for farm workers that the employers should pay for transportation not the farm workers. Staff responded that the program was an option for farm workers not a mandate that employers pay for transportation. Ironically, a large number of employees are now getting a free ride through vouchers provided by their employers, not because they have too, but because it makes economic sense. They want to ensure an adequate work force while ensuring compliance with Departments of Labor regulations. Over the first four months of FY 16-17, employers have paid over \$2.1 million towards their employees transportation cost. This is money their employees would have had to pay if not for the vouchers provided by their employer. The use of vouchers will increase as employers seek to both retain and attract those workers that are here.

A report summarizing items discussed at the meeting is attached.

B. Cap & Trade, Low Carbon Transportation Project Allocations

In FY 16-17 there was \$3 million set aside for agricultural worker vanpools in the San Joaquin Valley. California Air Resource Staff will be conducting an RFP process in the next several months for awarding the funds. As CalVans is the only provider of farm worker vanpools in the San Joaquin Valley, it is anticipated that we will be receiving the funds.

The FY 17-18 funding plan identifies an additional \$3 million for agricultural worker vanpools in the San Joaquin Valley. These funds will go through the same process and may be advanced to be included in the RFP being prepared for the FY 16-17 allocation. The funds will require a 25% local match and should result in the acquisition of up to 150 farm labor vanpools. These will be needed as the program has grown by more than 100 vans over the past year and is project to grow by the same rate or more next year. We have had to put back into service some vans that were slated to be disposed of.

The vehicles being funded are 15-passenger GMC vans with the addition of an XL Hybrid kit that will result in fuel saving of approximately 25%. The on-board battery will recharge through the vehicle's braking system and use the stored energy for acceleration. They will work similar to Toyota Prius.

Attached are excerpts from the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Funding Plan noting where the farm worker vanpool funding is noted.

C. Discussions with San Bernardino Council of Governments

Staff met with San Bernardino Council of Governments staff to discuss the possibility of joining CalVans as a member. The agency is looking a providing the residents of San Bernardino County with additional vanpool options. San Bernardino Council of Governments staff liked the fact that CalVans NTD reporting would result in additional transit funding for their agencies. They will review the option and getting back to us.

D. Outreach and Marketing Activities

September/October

9/29 Kern County Fair - Shared our booth with Kern COG

9/30 Tune In and Tune Up –Porterville

10/14 Tune In and Tune Up-Merced

10/18 Farmworker Appreciation Event-Dinuba

10/18 FRC Resource Fair -Mecca

Great event! Many people interested in the program, some had heard of CalVans but still had a great crowd to share our program with

10/21 Premium Packing Luncheon

CalVans recognized five of our drivers that are currently driving with Premium Packing. Assembly member Anna Caballero (30th District) attended the event and gave a certificate of recognition to our drivers. She was very impressed with what our drivers had to say about the program.

Premium Drivers

Dario Sauza Olvera

Luis Godinez Islas

Anastasio Gutierrez Hernandez

Jose Luis Antonio

Jose Manuel Mendoza Avila

Pictures of the CalVans drivers with Assembly member Anna Caballero.



5. Approve Agreement with Riverside County Transportation Commission

The attached agreement between Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and CalVans is for providing \$400 monthly vouchers to CalVans vanpools entering or leaving Riverside County, with the exception of the eastern Riverside area (the Coachella Valley). There is a similar agreement for this area funded by Sun Line Transit. The agreement is similar to the one that CalVans has with the cities of Visalia and Porterville.

There is no fiscal impact to CalVans other than the processing of applications. General vanpools will receive a \$400 discount in their monthly bill, with the discount being recovered from RCTC. Farmworker vanpools will receive a discount of \$100 per week as they are billed on a weekly basis.

Staff is recommending that the Director be authorized to sign the agreement.

6. Approve partnership with Self Help Enterprise in Visalia

Two years ago, both Self-help Enterprise and CalVans applied for an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program Grant. Neither agency scored high enough for funding as the application process was weighted towards projects that provided both housing and transportation. The following year both agencies submitted a combined application for two projects that included apartment complexes as well as one vanpool vehicle at each. Both projects were funded, receiving about the highest score possible.

This year Self-Help Enterprises is preparing two applications of the same nature with vanpools again being part of the package. This year, however, the applications include twenty vanpools per project site instead of one. This increase is a result of conversations Staff had with AHSC Staff who thought it was a good idea to increase the number of vanpools being asked for.

One of the projects would be in Goshen and the other is the City of Patterson. The Patterson City project can only move forward if Stanislaus COG became a member of CalVans. Staff has met with Stanislaus COG in the past and forwarded a letter from Self-Help Enterprise asking that they consider joining CalVans.

Staff is recommending that CalVans partner with Self-Help Enterprise as they prepare and submit an application for two housing projects.