



San Joaquin Valley “Final” Regional Economic Recovery Work Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the purpose of the “draft” and “final” Plans?

The Plans are intended to help identify and seize opportunities for economic recovery and sustainable growth. While not mandatory, the benefits of partnering with the state to develop a plan include opportunities to:

- Instill public confidence by demonstrating that the region has strategies to mitigate the impact of the current crisis and expedite regional recovery
- Demonstrate readiness and ability to utilize stimulus funds quickly and effectively
- Enhance accountability in tracking utilization of federal stimulus funding
- Leverage federal stimulus funds controlled by the State
- Receive bonus points for certain Proposition 1C housing bond applications and other requests for state housing funds
- Receive State assistance in identifying and applying for state and federal grants and in meeting federal regulatory requirements
- Receive State assistance with targeted outreach and education on new tax incentives available to businesses in the region
- Receive State assistance in leveraging new economic recovery and infrastructure financing tools

Additional project criterion was provided by the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH) for the “final” Plan. It is tasked with developing a statewide strategy and advocating for California at the national level for funding opportunities.

2) What are the additional project criteria that BTH specifically requested for the “final” Plan?

In addition to the project list we provided in the “draft” Plan BTH has asked that we highlight projects in the “final” Plan that meet the following criteria:

- Projects that have support from multiple organizations and agencies
- Projects that are regional or multijurisdictional (affect more than one city and/or county)
- Projects that cross over several categories, such as: Water, Energy, Transportation, Infrastructure
- Public/Private Projects – projects that leverage additional dollars other than public. BTH is looking to attract investor interest.

In addition, Secretary Bonner has asked that we include discussion on projects that could take advantage of the \$8 billion appropriated for high-speed rail-related construction, and suggestions for streamlining the environmental permitting process.

3) If I submitted a project, do I still need to look for other funding opportunities?

Absolutely. Participating in the regional plan is not an application for funding. We will continue to send out grant notices and information on stimulus funding as they become available; BUT if you see notices of funding availability that matches or meets your funding needs, please TAKE ACTION TO APPLY. We encourage you to forward that information along to any additional agencies you think may benefit. Additionally, we encourage you to stay on top of new grant opportunities and related news as well by consistently checking the following Web sites: www.grants.gov (you can sign up for daily alerts); www.recovery.gov (check the agency's Web site for targeted information by clicking on "Agency Progress and Resources"); www.recovery.ca.gov; <http://www.cacities.org/federalstimulus>; <http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/2009economicstimulus.htm>.

4) What happens to the projects that were submitted but were not within the BTH final criteria?

All projects are submitted to BTH, regardless. Those projects that meet the additional criteria are to be highlighted in the "final" Plan. Therefore, BTH will have the comprehensive list of submitted projects for planning purposes, as well as those highlighted.

5) When is BTH planning on making a funding decision?

A detailed time line has not yet been communicated. Moreover, BTH does not make the final funding decision. It is tasked with developing a statewide strategy and advocating California at the national level. Without regional collaboration, this task would not have been attainable or effective. The stronger the Economic Recovery Work Plan BTH presents on behalf of the state, the better positioned the Valley will be for funding opportunities.

6) Why is the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley taking the coordinating role?

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was established by Governor Schwarzenegger through Executive Order in 2006 to address the needs of the San Joaquin Valley. The Partnership's Board of Directors has representation from the eight-county region stretching from San Joaquin in the north to Kern in the south. There are 10 work groups: (1) Advanced Communications; (2) Air Quality; (3) Economic Development; (4) Energy; (5) Health and Human Services; (6) Higher Education and Workforce Development; (7) Land Use, Agriculture and Housing; (8) PreK-12 Education; (9) Transportation; and (10) Water Quality, Supply and Reliability. These groups also have representation from all eight counties and have been working together for two years on issues related to their topic. The areas of funding addressed in the Regional Economic Development Recovery Work Plan Guidelines established by BTH fall within seven of the work groups' scope of review. The Secretariat for the Partnership is

assigned the duty of coordinating the activities of the work groups and providing reports to the Partnership Board to assure compliance with the originally approved plan. BTH has recognized that the process for assembling and verifying projects and preparation of the Regional Economic Development Recovery Work Plan is best served through the Partnership.

7) We submitted projects to League of California Cities/California State Association of Counties or other lobbying organizations, why should we submit through this process?

This is a process requested by BTH to put together a plan to assist them in maximizing the impact of federal stimulus and other limited resources. It is not mandatory but it is highly suggested that you include your projects in the regional plan. If you have already submitted projects to other agencies, it should not be much more difficult to provide projects through this process. Consider it an insurance policy at the very least. Also, the difficult work in this process will reside in the work groups for review and verification and the Partnership Secretariat in preparing the Plan. We recommend that you continue your work efforts with other organizations to attract funding.

8) What are the benefits of this process?

- 1. Needs Assessment.** The Valley now has a needs assessment. It is not possible, of course, for every project to be funded. However, the Valley now has advocacy for future funding.
- 2. Communications.** The Partnership will broadcast funding opportunities through emails to everyone who submitted projects as well as notices of training or funding events.
- 3. Connectivity.** While the “draft” Plan was prepared on behalf of BTH, the “final” Plan will be shared with other state and federal agencies.
- 4. Collaboration.** To get the Valley’s fair share of funding, it is imperative to speak with one voice. This process showed that Valley cities, counties and agencies collaborate and are working together through the Partnership. Other regional work plans did not have this collaboration. The Valley’s “draft” Plan left a positive mark with the state due in large part to the collaboration and participation of Valley agencies involved.

9) Is it mandatory to go through this process?

No. BTH has made it very clear it is not mandatory. However, BTH also has made it clear that it is highly encouraged (see question #1 above).

10) How much money is available?

California has roughly \$44 billion in projects that are ready to start construction or place orders, which would generate nearly 800,000 jobs over the life of these projects. This includes:

- \$11.8 billion in energy and energy efficiency projects
- \$11 billion in investment in road, transit and rail construction
- \$4 billion in health care investment, including \$1.4 billion in health IT
- \$8.5 billion in water and sewer projects
- \$1.1 billion in school construction, broadband and career technical education
- More than \$5 billion in airport, park, public safety and other public infrastructure
- Over \$1 billion in low income housing projects, generating 90,000 jobs

11) What is the difference between the formula funding and discretionary funding?

Formula funded projects such as Community Development Block Grants and Housing and Urban Development grants are determined on a set formula and disbursed to the governmental entity directly from that federal agency. Discretionary funding is competitive and determined by the highest and best impact of the funding. For our purpose, we are considering discretionary funding in this process.

12) What is the difference between Group A, B, C projects?

Group A (formerly Tier 1). Projects for immediate funding (start within 180 days of June 1, 2009). They will be on a use-it-or-lose-it basis. In other words, if you are awarded the funding and cannot meet the deadlines for starting and completing the project, you will lose the funding.

Group B (formerly Tier 2). Projects that will start within two years of funding. [See BTH guidelines for examples of Group B projects.](#)

Group C (formerly Tier 3). Projects that may include support for Housing and Communities impacted by mortgage and financial crises. [See BTH Guidelines for examples of Group C projects.](#)

Glossary

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The federal spending and tax-cut plan intended to help stabilize state budgets and spur economic growth. The stimulus package commits a total of \$787 billion nationwide, and it will have a significant fiscal impact on California, which receives \$44 billion.

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH)

The California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH) is working with regional leaders to collaborate on identifying all opportunities and specific actions that will achieve the highest economic impact. Its operations address myriad issues that directly impact the state's economic vitality and quality of life including transportation, public safety, affordable housing, international trade, financial services, tourism, and managed health care.

Comprehensive List

List of all projects submitted to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Cross-Jurisdictional

A highly weighted criterion for the Highlighted Projects. To qualify as Cross-Jurisdictional, a project must physically take place in and impact multiple jurisdictions.

Highlighted Projects

Using BTH criteria, the Comprehensive List was filtered. Projects that met BTH criteria are explained in more detail within the Plan.

Regional Economics

Elected officials and public agencies from multiple cities and counties can forge the best possible solutions and provide the highest quality of services—supporting the efforts of the region's organizations, resources and individuals to thrive in this dynamic and competitive century.