

Fresno Council of Governments (Robert Phipps)

Madam Chair and Board members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Robert Phipps, executive director with Fresno Council of Governments. Fresno COG supports this imperfect but necessary SIP and wishes to thank CARB staff for working closely with metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies and our Air Pollution Control Districts to develop this innovative solution to a problem first introduced at the Federal level, which hamstrings your Board and California residents collectively.

This creative, compromise solution will help continue ensuring progress toward our collective goals toward cleaner air, while simultaneously providing a means through which our residents may continue to work to address their No. 1 social issue of our times: affordability.

While the San Joaquin Valley clearly has additional progress to make, our air quality has improved significantly over the last 20 years, and our continued transportation investments will help keep it moving in the right direction. Funding incentives such as Farmer and Clean Car will assist that effort greatly.

Again, Fresno COG encourages you to approve staff's thoughtful and reasonable recommendation, and thanks you for your time and consideration