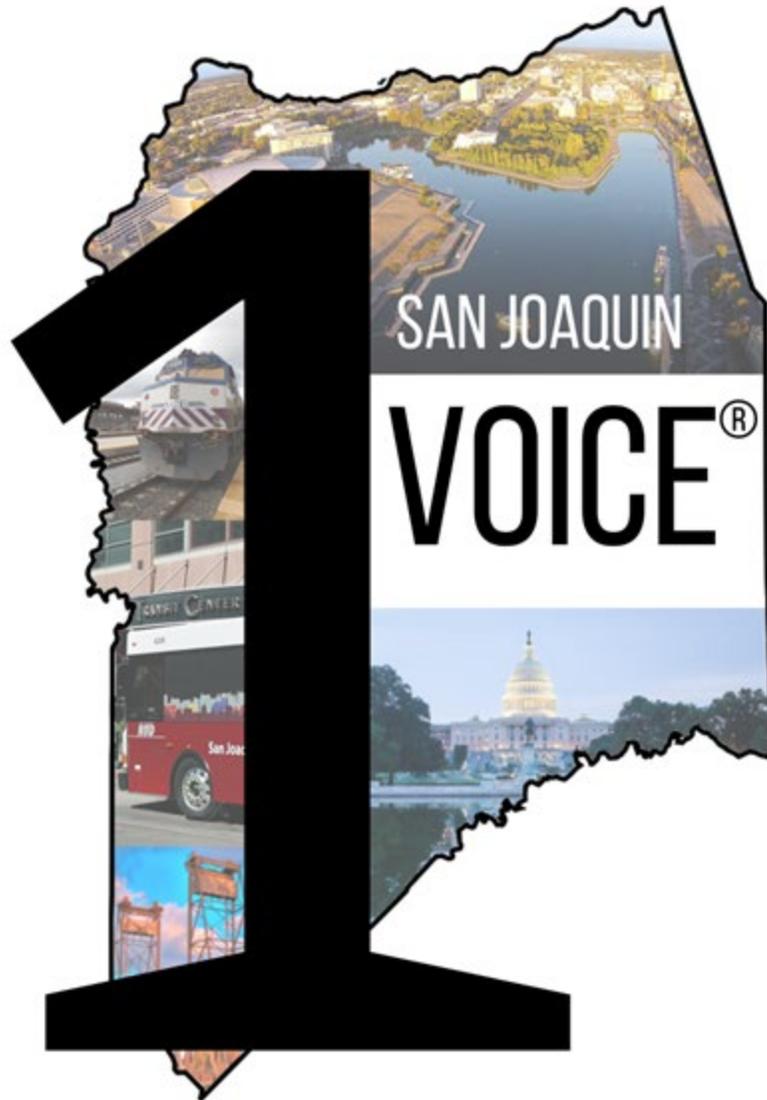


FY 2023 One Voice® Guidelines



SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

San Joaquin Council of Governments
FY 2023 One Voice® Program Guidelines
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A. Introduction

Background

San Joaquin One Voice® is SJCOG’s federal advocacy program for San Joaquin County that promotes projects, programs, and issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies typically through an annual trip to Washington, D.C.

With the return of federal earmarks and passage of transportation and infrastructure reauthorization legislation, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is pivoting the One Voice® initiative from advocating for reauthorization to elevating regional projects and maximizing funding success. As a result, projects being submitted to SJCOG for One Voice® support will need to ensure they’re clearly aligned with eligibility requirements for the new discretionary and federal earmark programs.

B. Project Evaluation Procedures

To increase competitiveness of the region’s projects, SJCOG has developed a process to review and evaluate project applications. The process includes determining project eligibility based on established criteria and an ad-hoc committee to review the applications. The committee will offer suggestions to improve applications to successfully receive federal funding assistance. Outlined below are the project eligibility criteria, the roles and responsibilities of the ad-hoc committee, and a description of the funding opportunities.

Project Criteria

To align with the newly passed legislative bills, SJCOG will publish a list of federal funding opportunities to be released in the current and near future fiscal years. Any public agency, the Port of Stockton, and all airports are eligible to submit one regional project application. Each application will specify which federal funding program(s) to which the sponsor is applying.

Below are the criteria by which the projects will be evaluated. Sponsors will be notified if a project application does not meet the criteria so that it can be modified.

- Be regional in nature and have a federal nexus.
- At or near completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for projects seeking ROW or construction funding. If not already cleared, the project sponsor will be asked to provide the anticipated clearance date and explain how the project status can be competitive for the federal programs (see application form for list).
- Be sufficiently developed to leverage federal assistance (shovel ready).
- Explain whether the sponsor is utilizing any formula funding for the project elements and detail how formula funds are being applied. If not utilizing formula funds, explain why formula funds are not being applied to the project.

- Projects should be targeted for appropriations in the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 budget or an upcoming notice of agency funding opportunity
- Demonstrated community support

Each jurisdiction will be limited to one regionally significant project. SJCOG will continue to sponsor projects such as SR 99/SR 120, as in the past.

[One Voice® Project Ad-Hoc Committee](#)

The committee's purpose is not to eliminate projects, but to review the submittals and identify framing strengths and weaknesses. Feedback will be forwarded to the sponsor. The sponsors will be asked to elaborate on the details of that part of the project. The process is designed to ensure the projects are presented to decision makers and legislative representatives in the most effective format that gives them the best chance for success in receiving federal funds.

Committee Membership:

- 1 or 2 members of the business community
- 1 SJCOG staff
- 1 CJ Lake
- 1 from San Joaquin County
- 1 each from San Joaquin Regional Transit District and San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
- All cities can participate on the committee

This committee will review applications. Suggestions to improve applications will be offered to project sponsors. This may be an iterative process to achieve the final application. The final project list is planned for either the February or March 2023 SJCOG Board meeting.

[Funding Opportunities](#)

There are new programs and newly authorized criteria for the programs in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. It is important that the projects SJCOG puts forward are regional in scope, have been vetted, and have a pathway through the funding opportunities available. The federal program sheets (Attachment A.) provide descriptions of each federal funding opportunity listed in the One Voice® Project Application Form.

C. Program Schedule

The tentative program schedule has been changed to align with the One Voice® Trip in May 2023. The schedule allows for the ad-hoc committee to meet twice prior to taking the final project list to the SJCOG Board. The schedule also allows for time to refine the project descriptions prior to the trip. Table 1 lists the program schedule through the February 2023 SJCOG Board meeting.

Action	Deadline
Call For Projects	11/1/2022
Projects Due	12/7/2022
Committee Applications to Evaluate and Make Recommendations	1/15/2023
Jan. Board w/ Draft Project List	1/26/2023
Feb. Board Mailout	2/16/2023
Feb. Board Meeting	2/23/2023

Table 1. Tentative Program Schedule