



e-Newsletter

CalVans, California Vanpool Authority Quarterly Newsletter

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Who We Are

The California Vanpool Authority (CalVans) is a public transit agency providing public vanpools to those electing to commute to work in a non-profit manner; this includes agricultural workers and non-agricultural workers. The service provided by CalVans is recognized by local, state and federal agencies as a safe and cost effective method of getting to work in a shared ride vehicle.

Introducing Silent Passenger

We are shifting to a new GPS system for tracking our vans. The **Webtech** system is being replaced with **Silent Passenger**. It provides the same tracking capabilities and new features. To begin using the system please contact our Hanford office **1-866-655-5444** to set you up in the system. This starts with receiving a registration email allowing set up of a company including a username and password.



How Can CalVans Help YOU?

If you would like to bring the benefits of CalVans to your operation, contact the California Vanpool Authority Toll-Free at **1-866-655-5444**.

CalVans operates Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on major holidays.

CalVans Growth

The past 6 months the number of vanpools and companies using CalVans has grown in the areas we serve. Keeping up with this growth has required opening new offices, adding more vehicles and more involvement with the DOL. CalVans is taking this growth in stride and continues the goal of providing excellent support services to help those who depend on CalVans for getting to and from work.

Our growth has taken us to San Joaquin and Riverside Counties, with our new members being San Joaquin Council of Governments and Riverside County Transportation Commission. The goal in San Joaquin County is to establish more vanpools in the Stockton, thus generating more Federal funds for Stockton’s transit system. Riverside County is seeking to establish CalVans program in the Coachella Valley for the benefit of farm workers living there.

The program continues to grow with the agricultural vanpool program growing the most. This is a result of cooperation with the US Department of Labor and shortage of farmworkers. Growers want to both attract and retain those workers they have. Where they do not have an adequate workforce, many growers are looking to the H2A. Using H2A workers involves an application to the EDD office showing that the growers have both housing and transportation in place. CalVans has established a simple qualification and approval process when growers propose the use of CalVans.

July 2017 Vanpools

COUNTY	VANS	GENERAL	AGRICULTURE
Monterey	138	7	130
Fresno	137	71	66
Tulare	94	84	10
Kings	67	64	3
Imperial	41	0	41
Santa Barbara	35	0	35
Kern	31	23	8
Ventura	26	4	22
Madera	25	1	24
San Luis Obispo	7	4	3
Merced	6	3	3
San Joaquin	4	0	4
TOTALS	611	261	349

The MOU we signed with the DOL last August created a legal pathway for contractors to secure drivers to drive CalVans vehicles without risk of violating DOL laws. This requires vanpool drivers working on behalf of or at the direction of a contractor to have secured a Blue card and be registered as a FLCE. This also requires that the contractor have an Orange card, be transportation authorized and have CalVans vehicles listed on the Orange card.

A number of you have stepped up and completed the process of getting your driver’s FLCE certified, while some are just now completing the process. As it has been almost a year since signing the MOU with the DOL, we will be reviewing the vanpools being used by contractors who have not gotten their drivers an FLCE blue card. Some may not need it as their employees may be operating the vanpool on their own without the involvement of their employer. Where we find a driver is working at the direction of his employer (FLC) we will pull the van until the employer has obtained a FLCE for the employee. Our goal is to have this review completed by the end of August. Note: growers who directly hire their employees are not required to obtain a FLCE for their employees.

Those needing to obtain an FLCE for their employees can contact one of the Farm Labor Certification Specialist at 415-241-3505 with questions. The FLCE application packet is to be mailed to:

National Farm Labor Certificate Processing Unit DOL - Wage and Hour Division
907th Street Suite 13-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

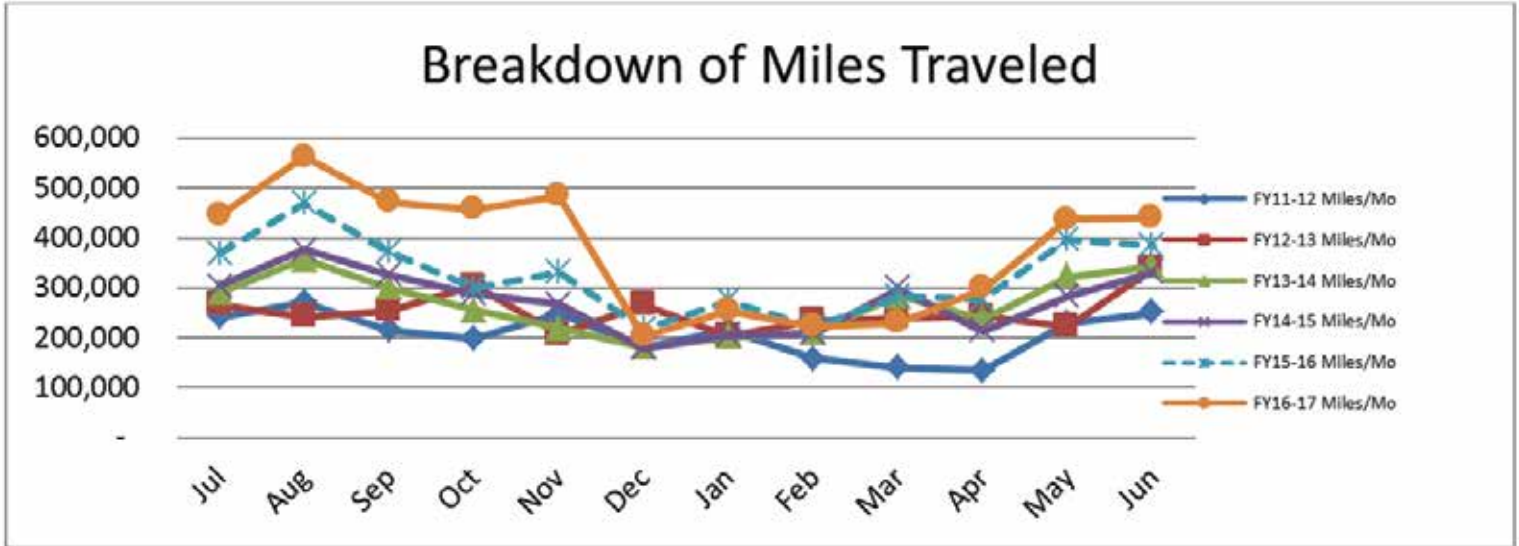
Please make sure your application notes that you are seeking certification for the CalVans program, otherwise the two week review process could become a six to seven week approval process. DOL Staff give priority to CalVans application and have been turning them around in one to two weeks.

Check out the Employer’s Story, **A Simple Process** to learn about the process with the DOL.

Demand is Up

The demand for vanpools has exceeded our supply, resulting in us turning down some of your requests for additional vehicles. For that reason we have been picking up vehicles that have been assigned but are not being used. We ordered an additional 110 vans this past winter and put back into service some previously retired vehicles.

The vans we order are lease purchased with the monthly payment coming from the fees we collect. We will be ordering additional vans in the future but have to be careful that our monthly fees cover the monthly lease payments. This would not be a concern if the vans were to operated for the entire year, but there is a slow down through the winter months. The following graph, showing total miles traveled each week, show this yearly trend:



Having Access to Vehicles in Imperial and Yuma Requires Some Advance Notice.

We are preparing for the shift to the Imperial/Yuma area and need your forecast on the number of vans you will be needing in the area.

The forecast needs to include the number of vans you are using now and what your needs will be when the work shifts. We also need to know if there will be any overlap in the work you are doing now and the work that will start in the South. The following example is what we are looking for and will help us determine what we need and where:

Company: _____

Number of vans being used now: _____ Date the work will end : _____

Number of vans needed in the South: _____ Date work will start: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

If you call and say you need 20 vans by October 1st and plan to keep the 10 vans you have now until November 15th, you will need a total 30 vans on October 1st.

Those who do not let CalVans know what they need risk not having vans this winter. We will attempt to meet all needs and place a priority on those who have been with us the longest.

Funding - Cap and Trade Update

CalVans Staff continues its efforts to secure outside funding to expand the farmworker vanpool program. Thank you to those companies that provided support letters in the past. It looks like the letters of support will secure us an additional \$3 million in funds to purchase up to 60 additional vanpools to

expand the program. With the extension of the Cap and Trade authorization, Staff is seeking to secure additional funds on an ongoing basis. We will be circulating a letter asking for signatures in support of these efforts.



Share your day with CalVans



Vans being moved from Imperial Valley to the Salinas Valley. Imperial Valley, Ca.



Vanpool 840 hard at work. Greenfield, Ca.



Our volunteer driver Sandra de la Mora, ready to head home. Imperial Valley, Ca.



First time volunteer driver, Jorge Villalobos. Salinas, Ca.



With Juana Manriquez and her vanpool 707. Imperial Valley, Ca.



With our friends from vanpool 925. Hanford, Ca.



Winners of our Facebook, "Share The Love" Challenge. Left to Right: Victor Sinohui FL 892, Norma Sanchez VP 236, Veronica Rodriguez FL 892.



Picking onions with vanpool 989. Huron, Ca.



Marino (middle) our Oxnard Transit Aide with two volunteer drivers. Santa Maria, Ca.



CALVANS

Driver Appreciation Day & Resource Fair

April 9, 2017 | 1pm - 4pm

King City Town Square | 200 Broadway St. | King City, Ca 93930



The CalVans Driver Appreciation Day and Resource Fair was held to recognize those volunteer drivers who have participated in the CalVans program. For their daily effort and sacrifice driving their co-workers to and from work in a safe and reliable manner. Over 100 people attended the event at the King City Town Square. At the event CalVans provided, food, fun, entertainment and different resources were made available for all of the attendees.

You can check out the videos and photos from the event by clicking the links below:

Video: <http://www.calvans.org/why-us/video-gallery> or https://youtu.be/-_TmmLhP06M

Photos: https://www.facebook.com/CalVansAgVanpools/media_set?set=a.1275201759259934.1073741829.100003103669895&type=3



AN EMPLOYER'S STORY

A Simple Process

This month CalVans would like to ask for feedback from those that have recently complied with the changes we previously announced regarding the collaboration with the Federal Department of Labor.

Effective August 8, 2016, Farm Labor Contractor (FLC) and

Farm labor Contractor Employee's (FLCE) are now able to become Transportation Authorized to drive a CalVans vanpool. This includes FLCs and FLCE's paid by their employers to transport workers. This is a big change from previous years. Those with an FLC or FLCE registration card can amend their current cards for use of a CalVans vehicle with the Federal Department of Labor (DOL) to drive a CalVans vehicle. CalVans will monitor driving records, pay for a Class B physical and provide insurance, vehicle maintenance and fuel.

Recently, CalVans staff interviewed Christina Shallanberger. Christina and her commitment to excellence stood out from the hundreds of other employer sponsored vanpools currently in use. Christina has been a pleasure to work with and is an excellent example of how simple the process between the DOL and CalVans can be, to help an employer comply with the current regulation. Christina was involved every step of the way during her DOL application process and was very well prepared. We would love to share who her employer is, but out of respect for their privacy, we will not divulge the company's identity.

For the 2017 season, this employer, prepared and applied for their local vanpool program Ride-On, as they had done previously. They saw no problem using this program as they had used this farmworker vanpool program in the past. When they submitted their H-2A petitions, they were denied by the California Employment Development Department's Workforce Services Division, citing "that CalVans was the only approved rideshare vanpool program" in the nation. The employer immediately reached out to CalVans and was referred to a Transit Coordinator. Staff provided her with all of the information she would need to get started, including links to all of the forms on the website and links to where she could get the paperwork to get drivers certified. This employer successfully registered all of her drivers and several back-up drivers in less than 4 days! "Georgina explained the agreement with the Department of Labor, explained that all applications coming from CalVans would be processed within weeks, not months. It was so fast, really, really fast."

The same process applies now and is still very simple. Both agencies continuously strive to provide interested parties the tools to make this process as seamless as possible. We will describe the steps to help get your employees into compliance, if you have not already done so. Unfortunately, if you as an employer have not already successfully processed or an amended FLC card for yourself and received a valid FLCE certification for your employees, specifically naming you as their employer on their registration card or if you as an FLC are not using the CalVans Transit Voucher for your employees, CalVans staff will stop further use of the vehicle. Please review the steps and call CalVans staff for questions and support.

If applying for FLCE (Blue Card) the following six items must be submitted with original signatures to the San Francisco address:

- A) Completed WH-530 application (Part I & Part III ONLY): <https://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh530.pdf>
- B) Fingerprint card: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/standard-fingerprint-form-fd-258-1.pdf/view>
- C) CalVans Driver Agreement – signed in **blue ink** by CalVans Executive Director
- D) CalVans Employer Acknowledgement Form – completed by employer & signed by driver
- E) Clear copy of the signed Class B Medical Examiners Certificate – replaces WH-515.
- F) Clear copy of the applicant's driver's license.

We will provide details about what happens BEFORE an employer can apply for their employees.

1. CalVans receives a copy for the potential drivers' license to be cleared by CalVans admin staff and the driver's contact information.
2. CalVans will accept:
 - a. Driver's over age 25, with 2 or less DMV points
 - b. No DUI, hit and run or reckless driving convictions in the past 5 years
 - c. Ability to pass a Class B Physical
3. If a driver passes the DMV clearance, they are referred to a local clinic to take a Class B exam.
4. If the driver passes the exam, the employer is now ready to initiate the application process with the DOL.

The employer can send documents A-F, noted above, to the San Francisco office, page 6 of the WH-530. If approved, the San Francisco office will return a scanned copy of the Driver Agreement and Employer Acknowledgement along with a copy of the drivers FLCE registration card back to CalVans. Only then may the driver pick up their van. Response times may vary, but DOL staff is committed to a prompt turnaround. Christina goes on to explain, that after getting everyone approved and employees had vehicle's issued, she created a template with all of the riders and driver names.

In order for Christina to make the weekly payment process efficient, she prints this form and a Transit Voucher weekly to provide to her employees for tracking trips. This employer customizes the CalVans Passenger Forms, complete with dates and locations and forwards completed forms to CalVans accounting staff.

Christina shared this with us towards the end of our visit, "This program is so helpful to us. Not only is it helpful for us as a farm labor contractor, to be able to supply labor, but it's saving our growers money. We have a couple FLC vans out there and they're expensive and with the volume that CalVans is able to provide, it keeps the rate lower. It saves us money. It saves our growers money. It's a win win for everybody!" We definitely agree with this statement. With safe roads and safe vehicles everyone wins.