

# Public Vanpools Leading the Way



## CalVans Celebrates First Anniversary

Formally established one year ago, CalVans assumed the vanpool program from the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA), which operated the program for over 10 years. Now a national model, CalVans serves over 5,400 vanpool riders utilizing over 460 vans. This unique public transit agency daily transports workers to and from work safely and affordably with a \$7.7 million, user-funded annual budget.

### Program Inception

In 2001, after Caltrans announced plans to discontinue employee vanpools, a Corcoran State Prison employee asked the KCAPTA Board for help. The Board agreed to provide a vanpool if riders paid 100 percent of vanpool-related costs, thereby launching the program. The same year, KCAPTA expanded to include vanpools for agricultural workers in response to a tragic accident near Five Points in 1999 that resulted in the death of 13 farmworkers. The expansion was funded by a one-time grant using state and federal funds.

### Agricultural Workers Transportation Program (AWTP)

The success of KCAPTA's farmworker vanpool pilot-project led the state to establish and fund the AWTP in 2006, which funded a total of 17 projects from Napa to Ventura counties. Two programs currently remain in operation, KCAPTA as CalVans and San Luis Obispo's Ride-On. Other projects either never moved forward or were, at their request, integrated into KCAPTA.

Given the large size of the operation and the desire for representation from all service areas. KCAPTA management in 2010 proposed establishing a new transit agency to assume operation of the vanpool project. With a well-established organizational structure and Board of Directors, individual member agencies now have the option to join or discontinue membership with CalVans while program operations remain stable and reliable.

### Funding

From its inception, the vanpool program operated on revenue collected from passengers or grant funds. In addition to passenger revenue, CalVans has generated Federal Transit Administration, Section 5307 funds for many of the cities in its service area.

### California Vanpool Authority

The progress and impact in moving California residents who continue to search for a safe and affordable means of getting to work.

#### Board Members representing each agencies:

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Fresno Council of Governments

Kern Council of Governments

Kings County Association of Governments

Madera County Transportation Commission

Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency

Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

Tulare County Association of Governments

Ventura County Transportation Commission

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The 1999 accident caused the governor to look at ways that farmworker transportation safety might be improved.



As a public transit agency, CalVans reports all transportation data to the National Transit Database (NTD) system, which apportions federal funds to cities with public transit systems. The compilation of NTD data also allows member agencies to sort and report passenger information, and provides data for reporting efforts to meet the greenhouse gas reductions mandated by AB32. CalVans vanpools traveled 7.7 million miles and provided 1.6 million trips, resulting in a VMT (vehicle miles traveled) reduction of 63 million miles, representing an annual reduction of 27,000 tons of GHG (greenhouse gas equivalents).

### Agricultural Grower Participation

Agricultural growers whose workers depend on the system welcome CalVans because it gives farmworkers great latitude to travel where they want to seek work and employers the ability to provide safe, accessible transportation to their employees. Because each vanpool is a public transit vehicle, growers are able to provide workers vouchers to subsidize their rides. Currently, over 900 farmworkers receive vouchers that cover all or part of their daily cost.

### General Public Vanpools

What started with one vanpool for state employees has expanded to over 300 general public vanpools serving state and federal employees, teachers, students and others. These vanpools typically maintain regular destinations and schedules while those of farmworkers vary widely with the seasons.

### Technology Improvements

CalVans has established a cloud-based system for tracking drivers and vans.

#### The system allows

- full-time monitoring of the driver and his/her location,
- real-time reporting to support van maintenance,
- ability to send bills to each driver using the onboard GPS system, and
- phone and messaging capabilities for communicating with or between each vanpool.

### Challenges and Future Outlook

As one of the few public transit agencies advocating for the use of public vanpools, CalVans continues to work closely with Caltrans, CHP and the Federal Department of Labor to address local issues.

Frequent inquiries regarding enlarging or duplicating the program arise within and outside California. Future growth and sustainability of CalVans will depend on its continued close collaboration with vanpool users, employers, and support of its member agencies and communities throughout California.

For additional information or questions contact:

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In 2002 farmworkers were added to those who could secure a vanpool from KCAPTA. Because of the separate funding and concern with the various state and federal labor transportation laws, KCAPTA staff developed additional monitoring requirements of farmworker vanpools to minimize risk. This monitoring continues today as CalVans seeks to ensure the safety of those being transported and the continued success of the program.

