



e-Newsletter

CalVans, California Vanpool Authority 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.

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.

The CalVans main office is located at:

**1340 North Drive
Hanford, Ca 93230**

CalVans also has satellite offices in Imperial, Kern, Monterey, Ventura, and San Joaquin County.

Counties Served by CalVans

San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial.

It Has Been a Busy Spring

As many of you know, we are working hard to provide vans to those that reserved vans for the Spring/Summer season. Everything we have has been put into service, even some older vans we were intending to get rid of. We had hoped that the funding for new vans would have arrived in time to have additional vans available for this season but we have had to make do with what we have.

Some of you have asked for vans but were not able to use them and have returned them. We will be contacting those who have vans that are not being used, asking for their return if they are not put into use. We have growers needing vans, those vans will be reassigned to them.

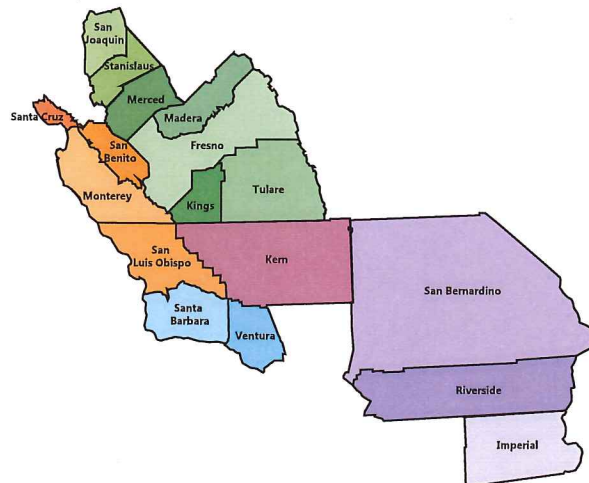
We are also pushing to make sure payments are coming in on a timely manner. **If you fall behind you run the risk of not getting new driver approved and or having your vans picked up.** Please call **Diana Huerta** in our accounting office if you have any questions regarding payment. Her contact information is:

✉ diana.huerta@co.kings.ca.us

☎ 559-852-4728

New Areas Added

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and San Joaquin Council of Governments have become members of CalVans. Farmworkers and growers in both of these counties can take advantage of the CalVans program. Both agencies offer vouchers of \$400 a month for any vanpool leaving or entering the County.



Approval Process for a CalVans Vehicle

There have been a number of new growers using our program and some confusion on the driver approval process. The process involves the following steps:

Submit a driver application form or a copy of the driver's license to our Hanford office. This should go to the following to individuals:

✉ Gloria Gonzales at gloria.gonzales@co.kings.ca.us

✉ Cecelia Marquez at cecilia.marquez@co.kings.ca.us

A copy of this should also be sent to the Transit Coordinator in your region.

Once it has been determined that the driver is over 25 years of age, has no more than two points on their driving record and has not been convicted of drunk or reckless driving in the past 5 years they will be approved for the Class B physical at one of our clinics.

Once they have passed the physical they will be approved to drive a van. Staff from one of our local offices will meet with the driver, fill out a driver agreement and walk them through what is required as a driver

If you're a Farm Labor Contractor you will need to submit the driver's FLCE application to the FDOL for approval. NOTE - If you are not an FLC your driver can begin driving the van.

DOL Update

For the next several months all FLCE applications will need to be mailed to the San Francisco office due to the large number of applications they are receiving. They are not taking appointments to review applications. All FLCE applications for CalVans drivers will still be given priority as long as the application packet notes that it is for a CalVans driver. Turnaround time is still generally less than two weeks. If you have any questions you can contact the DOL office at:

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

☎ 415-241-3505

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CalVans Receives CARB (California Air Resources Board) Funding

Thanks to those of you who submitted letters of support in the past on behalf of CalVans efforts to secure funds to purchase more vehicles. As many of you know, we are presently out of vehicles as the demand has exceeded our supply. The CARB funding provides \$6 million in funds to purchase 154 vans and provide outreach to the San Joaquin Valley. The vans are expected to start arriving the first week of July; approximately 45 of these vans are already spoken for.

The funding will also support marketing efforts targeted at farmworkers residing in the San Joaquin Valley. These include media events that will be held in farm worker communities. The outreach events will be held in the rural communities where farmworkers experience difficulty getting to agriculture employment sites.

AB 2006 – Agricultural Worker Clean Transportation Investment Act

AB 2006 is a bill that establishes a program for funding farmworker vanpools going forward. It's targeted towards low-income and disadvantaged communities. A summary can be found at:

➔ [http://www.calvans.org/sites/default/files/downloadable-pdfs/public-notices/AB%202006%20\(Eggman\)%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf](http://www.calvans.org/sites/default/files/downloadable-pdfs/public-notices/AB%202006%20(Eggman)%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf)

The bill has made it through the Transportation and Natural Resources Committees with full support of the committees and several organizations voicing their support. From a process standpoint, the bill will now move to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The Air Resources Board has tagged this bill as having a fiscal effect of \$150,000, which is enough to trigger the bill going on suspense.

What this means is that the Appropriations Committee chair, along with Assembly leadership, will evaluate the cost of this bill along with all of the other Assembly bills that have a fiscal impact/cost attached to them. Assembly Member Eggman will rank her bills in number of importance to her to the Appropriations Committee chair. We won't know whether the bill makes it off suspense until around May 23-25. If the bill gets off suspense, that means we are in good shape and it will move to the floor for a floor vote. If it does not get off suspense, that means the bill will have died and will not move forward in the legislative process.

We may be asking for additional letters of support in the future as the letters that were sent earlier were addressed to the Assembly not the senate. I will let you know as the Bill progresses

Drivers Can be Permanently Removed

Using CalVans does not mean you are trouble free. We try to cover everything, during orientation but sometimes drivers go out of their way to mess up. In the past we have found drivers charging for rides, purchasing beer on the way home and letting unauthorized driver drive the van. When these are discovered we

permanently remove the driver from our program, but we can't be everywhere. We expect you, your supervisor or foreman to help us and let us know when there is a driver that should be removed. All it takes is a call to our office and we will do the rest.

A recent court action following a fatal crash in 2015 points to the need for the grower to be aware of how workers are getting to work. The following three requirements were highlighted in the release put out by the Department of Labor:

- Exclusively hiring farm labor contractors that are transportation-authorized and that can legally and safely transport workers.
- Specifically discussing transportation in contract deliberations with farm labor contractors.
- Auditing the fields for compliance with federal labor laws at random times during peak harvest.

The full text of the news release can be found at:

➔ <http://www.calvans.org/sites/default/files/downloadable-pdfs/public-notices/DOL%20finding.pdf>

Bay Area Tolls

Over the past few months we've had vanpools traveling to the Bay Area. Many of the vanpools have been using the FasTrak in order to move quickly through the many bridge tolls. CalVans has been receiving the bills for the toll fees; we have informed the drivers and companies that we do not pay for the fee, any bill that we receive goes back to the company using the van. If you have vanpools going to the Bay Area please inform your drivers not to use the FasTrak if they do not have the pass. Below are a couple of links that have more information regarding the Bay Area tolls as well as how to apply for a FasTrak pass.

➔ <https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/what-mtc/bay-area-toll-authority-bat>

➔ <https://www.bayareafastrak.org/en/home/index.shtml>

Help Wanted in the Santa Maria Area!

CalVans is looking for an employee to work in the Santa Maria area. The ideal candidate is over 25, with a clean driving record. A vehicle will be provided as well as any necessary tools. The work will involve supporting CalVans vanpool drivers in the Santa Maria area, making sure they login to the vans correctly and submitting all required paperwork to the Hanford office. Light repair work will include cleaning vans and replacing batteries, windshield wipers and lights as needed. The position will be 40 hours a week with overtime as needed. The position will start at \$15 per hour and transition to a full time CalVans employee with retirement, medical benefits, holiday, vacation and sick leave benefits. Contact **Katie Anaya** in our Hanford office if you or someone you know may be interested in this position. The contact information is below:

✉ katie.anaya@co.kings.ca.us

☎ 559-852-2703

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EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



CECELIA MARQUEZ

cecelia.marquez@co.kings.ca.us
559.852.2757

I've been part of what is now known as CalVans since 2004, when it was still known as KART and then later KCAPTA. I started as a Transit Aide, doing minor repairs on the vans and helping out where needed. In 2006, I moved from working outside to working in the office as a Transit Assistant. I am the keeper of our new vehicle tracking system, Silent Passenger. If you've called at 6am it is very likely that I answered your call and forward your message to someone else (insert laughter). I've been living in Kings County pretty much all life; I have been married for 26 years, I have three wonderful sons and a beautiful grandson.

GLORIA GONZALES

gloria.gonzales@co.kings.ca.us
559.852.2746



I started with CalVans on November 5, 2002, transitioning from a Transit Aide to a Transit Assistant. I am the go to person when it comes to getting drivers approved and sending them on their way to get their physical. I am constantly updating our vanpool database, adding and removing drivers. I keep the Transit Coordinators on their toes, making sure that all paperwork is turned in before they hand over a van.



DIANA HUERTA

diana.huerta@co.kings.ca.us
559.852.4728

For the past 2 years I have been a member of the CalVans family. I started in reception and worked my way up to Account Clerk, where I mainly focus on billing the farm labor side of our program. My day to day work flow consist of; setting up new companies, collecting company vouchers, explaining the billing process to drivers and companies. If you're behind on payments chances are that I have given you a call in order to collect payments so that your van(s) don't get taken away. CalVans is a great program, that I wish would have been available for my father to use when he worked in the orange orchards, it is a reliable and safe way to get people to and from work.

LUZ RODRIGUEZ

luz.rodriguez@co.kings.ca.us
559.852.2713



I started in CalVans as a Transit Aide back in August 2007. I am currently part of the Accounting Department where I enjoy working in the farm labor side of our program. For the past 8 years, I have focused on billing, and collections for farm labor, I can honestly say that I love what I do. Both of my parents worked in agriculture, as a young girl in order to help my parents I also worked in the fields as well, getting up at the crack of dawn every summer. I know first hand how hard the work is, so that is why I take so much pride in my work and pride in the company I am part of, our mission is to provide safe vehicles for people to get to work and return safe to their families.

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