



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.

Subsidies Are Available

There are voucher or subsidies in some areas that driver can apply for that will reduce the weekly cost of a van. For example, if a van has a \$400 monthly subsidy, the bill sent to the driver each week will be reduced by \$100. The driver/van needs to be entering or leaving a county or city providing the subsidy. The driver will need to complete the application and may need some help in doing so. The following agencies are providing subsidies in the amounts shown.

AGENCY	AMOUNT
San Joaquin Council of Governments	\$400
Stanislaus Council of Governments	\$150
Merced County Association of Governments	\$400
Fresno Council of Governments	\$600
City of Visalia	\$300
City of Porterville	\$400
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority	\$400
Riverside County Transportation Commission	\$400

Cashflow

We want to apologize if it seems we are pestering you for payment but we operate on a tight margin during the summer. With everything out and repairs happening, it is important that payments get to us promptly so that we can in turn pay our bills. As I may have mentioned in the past, the billing is in two parts. The first part falls on the drivers to submit their Payments Sheets and Vouchers. We don't care how they get to us, but until we get them we cannot invoice you. Sometimes driver don't realize the importance of sending in there Payment sheets each week and they fall behind. Some of you have solved this problem by collecting them yourself and forwarding them to our Hanford office, this is probably the best way to insure timely invoices. If you fall behind we will stop approving drivers until you catch up. We may also require a deposit when you start back up for the next season. Please call if you have any questions on the billing process and thank you for sending your payments promptly.

DOL Activity

The DOL has been active in transportation sector over the past year. A number of growers have been cited where accidents occurred and the driver was not authorized to transport. They have indicated that they working to identify other who should not be transporting workers.

I would like to say that we are not like the other guy, but we need your help in making sure the driver approved to drive a van is in fact driving the van. There are times when we find a driver sharing his log-in code and allowing someone else to drive the van. This is a serious violation, when we find it we will drop the driver from our program. Sometimes when we visit a van we will find items that need repair that have gone unreported. If a driver does not call us we do not know that the step needs repaired or the turn signal light is out. These are items that are priority to us and will be fixed as soon as they are reported. Please help us by making sure only an authorized driver is driving a van and that items needing repair are being reported. Share this information with you foremen to avoid a breakdown and/or losing an approved driver.



Visit CalVans

Please accept an invitation to come visit our main office in Hanford, Ca. We invite any grower or contractor who would like to know about our operation to set up a meeting with us. If you're have questions regarding billing, the process of applying for a van or just want to stop by and say hello, our doors are always open.

To set up a meeting call our office at **866-655-5444** we are open Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, we look forward to hearing from you.

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Winter Preparation Is Underway

We are receiving vehicle requests and reservations for this fall and winter, some even for next spring. We appreciate the heads up on what needs to be assigned where. This past summer we ran short and did our best to meet everyone's needs. Those vans that were returned were quickly given out to those who had previously requested them.

We have 170 new vans arriving over the next 5 months. They are being outfitted with a fuel saving XLhybrid kit that promises to reduce fuel consumption by 25%. Unfortunately this kit will replace the spare tire. This kit is required in order to qualify for the CARB funding being used to purchase the vehicles.

This year we are looking for a more detailed list of what your vanpool needs may be. Even though we are receiving more vans, we anticipate running out again next summer. What we need from you is an excel form showing number of vans by month and by regions for the entire year. Some of you may be estimating as you may not have contracts, please give us an idea of what you may need. We'll put your needs together and come up with a master plan of what we need this winter and next summer. A chart like the one below is more or less what we're looking for (**Chart A**).

Increase in Cost

Our vehicles are experiencing excess wear as they are moved between regions and contractors. Not so much a case of abuse, although there is some of that, it is the fact that they are towing trailers, starting and stopping throughout the workday, with riders entering and leaving the van on a regular basis. We have some newer vans with less than 50,000 miles that need floor redone and the seats replaced or recovered.

Over the past 6 years we have seen the total miles traveled by all vans increase in the summer months but stay fairly constant in the winter months. This is great when all the vans are out but not so much when they are parked in the winter. The costs we incur in the winter has increase as the fleet size has grown, meaning we need to recover more per vehicle when they are being used in the summer month. For this reason we will be increasing our mileage rate from \$1.25 per mile to \$1.35 per mile effective October 1st of this year. **Graph A** plots the total miles traveled per week from July to June for each of the past 6 years.

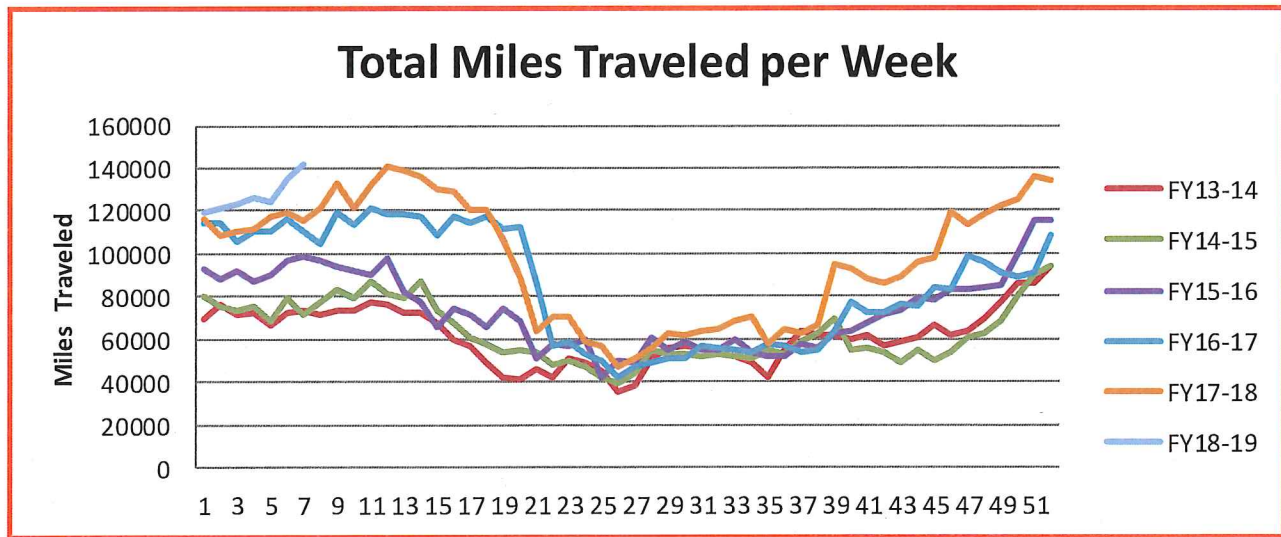
The \$1.35 per mile provides the following:

- Monitoring of driver's DMV records
- Remote routine service
- Credit card for fuel purchases
- Ten million dollar insurance coverage
- Ability to pull a trailer
- The ability to see and track your vehicle
- Tool box for carrying tools
- 24 hour on-call service
- Provisions for carrying two water containers

Chart A

AREA	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Yuma	12	12	12	12	12	12							12	12	12
Ventura							8	8	8	8	8	8			
Stockton							4	4	4	4	4	4			

Graph A



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A DRIVER'S STORY

From Texas to Cali



Volunteer driver Vernica Oviedo in front of her van.



Parlier Migrant Center, housing

From a small rural town in Texas, every year without fault for the past 21 years Veronica Oviedo, her husband and son make the trip to California's Central Valley. From April thru October they work the harvest, during that time they live at the Migrant Center in Parlier, whether it's out in the field or packing house, they never miss the season. Veronica who comes from Nuevo Leon, Mexico started to come to the Central Valley for work way before she met her husband. In Mexico together with her brothers and sisters they'd work the land with her father and mother. After one of her uncles became ill and needed surgery her father paid all of his medical expenses, leaving him with no money. Soon after it was decided that the family would accompany her aunt, who was already familiar with the work migration, they'd all join her for work, in order to help her father build up his savings again.

For the past 10 years Veronica and her husband have been CalVans volunteer drivers. This year Veronica's husband stayed in Texas, he found year round employment. Although Veronica says that in Texas, especially in the community she lives, jobs are scarce and they don't pay very well "It sounds ugly but Texas has a very low minimum wage and the area where we live you can only get jobs at Walmart, Family Dollar or Dollar Tree, those stores give you less than 20 hours a week." The money she and her husband make in the months they are in the Central Valley is more than enough for them to live comfortably in Texas, they're paying off their house and their son attends school there.

This year Veronica started the season a little late, "Everyone started to call me to see if I was able to get the van." Word got around that CalVans didn't have any more vans and the people who depend on Veronica to get the van were a little scared, they might not have a way to getting to work and would have to go back to their old ways. "Before people would go in their own cars, amongst themselves they would ask who has room [in their car] to secure a ride. We had a crew with 10 cars; it was very difficult because sometimes we had to move the cars, so half of the people would have to stop working to move their cars." With the van everyone is comfortable and easier to move around the field, causing less congestion.



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EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



CARMEN MORA

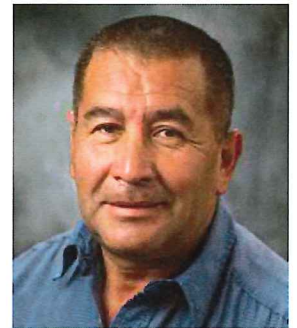
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I've been a Transit Coordinator with CalVans since 2009 in Monterey County. It's a privilege to be part of such a wonderful program whose main focus is the safety and well being of their customers. As a Transit Coordinator I assign vans to new and returning drivers, attend outreach events, making sure that all drivers are up to date with payments and other paperwork. I love working with the agricultural community and provide them with safe and reliable transportations, so that at the end of the day after a long day or working hard, they can go home to their families.

HECTOR ALDACO

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I joined CalVans back in 2007 as a Transit Aide, since then I've been traveling all over California as the organization grew, from Ventura, Woodland, and El Centro. I've met a lot of different people and I'll have to say that is one of the things I enjoy most about my work. I have settled in the Greenfield office in Monterey County where I am a Transit Aide II, I enjoy working with the community; our customers are amazing and hardworking people, I pride myself in the work we do and customer service we provide.



LOUIS PELAYO

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I've been happily employed with CalVans for approximately 3 years as a Transit Aide. This is one of the few jobs I've had that I can honestly say I look forward to going in on a daily basis. I enjoy working on cars as a hobby so this position allows me to learn new skills and keep old ones in practice. For about 4-5 months out of the year I enjoy the cool fresh weather of Monterey County. The rest of the year I reside and work in the area of Yuma, AZ/El Centro, Ca. In either location, I get much satisfaction in insuring our customers are in safe reliable vehicles and that we are readily available to assist if the need arises.



EMILIA SANCHEZ

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I started with CalVans the first week of February 2018, it's been about 8 months and it still seems like it was yesterday. My duties require me to do things I never imagined myself doing; for example, changing a lightbulb, switching out batteries, amongst other things. I am very happy with my job and co-workers, I am thankful that I am part of an organization such as CalVans and being part of such a great team.



MARIO TORRES

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559.410.2350

I've been part of the CalVans team for a little less than a year. I've enjoyed every minute of it, most of the work I do as a Transit Aide is outside work, minor repairs on the vans, the view and weather in Monterey County is great. My co-workers are supportive and very knowledgeable; every day there is something new to learn, not just from staff but from our customers as well. I hope to grow and better myself in the organization for years to come.

