

**Spotlight: Kings County Association of Governments (from the March 2016 CSDC Network News)**

*Kings County Association of Governments has been involved with the California State Data Center (SDC) network since 1991 and is currently one of the 36 affiliate agencies within the SDC network.*

Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) is a state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a federally-recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization. Since its origin in 1967, KCAG has continued to serve in a regional planning capacity for our five-member agency jurisdictions. In the last ten years, KCAG has worked collaboratively with the other San Joaquin Valley planning agencies on many Valley-wide-focused regional efforts.



*Chris Lehn, Regional Planner, MPH*

Some KCAG activities include:

- Developing and monitoring the Regional Transportation Plan, which identifies the policies for a wide variety of transportation goals and objectives for the region.
- Developing and monitoring the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Kings County in accordance with SB 375. The Sustainable Communities Strategy, as a component of the Regional Transportation Plan, must demonstrate the integration of transportation and land use planning strategies and how our region will meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets as determined by the California Air Resources Board.
- Developing and monitoring the Federal Transportation Improvement Program, a four-year program of financially-constrained transportation projects. Projects may include transit, highway, bicycle or pedestrian.
- Distribution of federal and state transportation funds. Federal programs include the Regional Surface Transportation Program, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program and the Transportation Enhancement Program. State transportation funding programs include the Local Transportation Fund and the State Transit Assistance Fund.
- Administration of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program, which reimburses our member agencies for costs incurred in the removal of abandoned vehicles in violation of local ordinances. This program is funded by an additional \$1 vehicle registration fee, exclusively for Kings County.
- Preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan for Kings County. The Plan details the numbers of housing units at all income levels that member agencies must plan

for in their respective Housing Elements as part of their General Plan.

- KCAG works closely with regional planning agencies in the San Joaquin Valley air basin, collaborating with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District on policies and strategies to help the region meet or work towards public health air quality standards.

#### About KCAG Staff

KCAG has been an affiliate agency for the California State Data Center since 1991. Chris Lehn is the lead affiliate center staff for KCAG. She graduated from California State University Fresno with a Master's Degree in Public Health. She also earned Bachelor of Science Degrees in both Geography and Social Sciences during her time at Fresno State. Chris began working with KCAG in 2004 and has been working on affiliate data activities since 2006.

One of the challenges and frustrations that Chris has heard over the years is how difficult it can be to retrieve information in American FactFinder. The American Community Survey has been a tremendous tool in her opinion to help provide more recent key demographic information. Looking to the future, she believes that making an ever-growing amount of demographic data readily available to the public will be one of the greatest challenges and areas for opportunity.

Outside of work, Chris adores spending time with her family, including her two sons, ages 22 and 2. Due to their ages they have been lovingly nicknamed "man-child" and "baby-child." She also enjoys taking day trips to the Central Coast, streaming TED talks, listening to audio books (until the kiddo gets bigger, then back to reading books), and strives to take multiple yoga classes a week. She is also very close to her extended family members, who have been farming in the Kings County region going back to when the Tulare Lake was the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. Chris looks forward to planning several European vacations in the future and hopes to visit the United Kingdom counties among many others.