



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

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Friday, August 10, 2007  
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
Hanford Civic Auditorium

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Secretary Linda Adams, James Aleru, Mayor Alan Autry, Secretary Victoria Bradshaw, Marcelyn Buford, Secretary Mike Chrisman, Chair Connie Conway, Supervisor Kathleen Crookham, DeeDee D'Adamo, Dr. Frank Gornick, Jonnalee Henderson, Barry Hibbard, William Ing, Mayor Ferrell Jackson, Kirk Lindsey, Sunne McPeak, Luisa Medina, Mike Navarro, Pete Parra, Fred Ruiz, Lorraine Salazar, Paul Saldana, Stanley Simpson, Undersecretary Cindy Tuck, Eugene Voiland, Pete Weber.

**BRAC Liaison:** Carolina Simunovic

**Staff:** Ashley Swearengin, Carol Whiteside

### I. Convene Meeting

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Chair Conway and Deputy Chair Chrisman called the Board of Directors of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) meeting to order at 9:05 am.

### II. Introductory Remarks

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Chair Conway officially welcomed DeeDee D'Adamo and James Aleru to their first Partnership board meeting. In addition, Chair Conway announced that the Governor recently appointed "regional consortium" board members. The new members are: Dr. Frank Gornick representing Central Valley Higher Education Consortium; Paul Saldana representing Central California Economic Development Corporation; and Barbara Goodwin representing the San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government. Also welcomed by Chair Conway was Carolina Simunovic, liaison for the Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee (BRAC).

Board members introduced themselves followed by the introduction of the members of the public. Secretary Chrisman thanked the communities involved in the Partnership on behalf of the board and indicated that the Partnership is a high priority for the Governor.

### III. Review and Approval of Minutes

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Ms. Medina moved to approve the May 4, 2007, minutes and to ratify the Executive Committee actions. Ms. McPeak seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

### IV. Board Priorities

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Mr. Voiland summarized the three issues that the board identified as top priorities: 1.) Air Quality 2.) Water Quality, Supply and Reliability and 3.) Transportation. He encouraged the board to consider the specific actions that need to be advanced in each

area. For example, the barrier to reaching air quality attainment is Nitrogen Oxide (NOx). It is estimated that \$200 million per year is needed in funding to reach attainment. The transportation work group is focused on Highway 99, high speed rail, and goods movement, which are all projects that require significant investment. Developing an integrated regional water plan is the main focus of the Water Work Group. Without a unified Valley voice, we will not obtain the funding needed to complete these projects in a reasonable time frame. As Mr. Watson's letter to the board emphasizes, Mr. Voiland encouraged the board members to listen to the reports and then help decide what the board should take on in each area.

Mr. Voiland acknowledged there are other significant priorities outside of the three on today's agenda, including the methamphetamine problem and medical education. Ms. Medina expressed her full agreement of the top three priorities and urged the board not to overlook others such as the UC Medical School.

### **Air Quality**

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Mr. Weber reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Air Quality Work Group issues of reaching attainment.

Nature of Problem: The San Joaquin Valley is the perfect location for ozone creation and retention, both climatically and geographically. The critical path to ozone attainment in the San Joaquin Valley is through NOx reductions. Mr. Weber indicated that 80% of NOx is from mobile sources with more than 50% of those emissions from heavy-duty diesel trucks. A significant issue is the "legacy fleet" that traverses the Valley, consisting of diesel engine trucks, tractors and locomotives which have a long life expectancy.

Mr. Weber reviewed the history of the attainment deadline and updated the board on the Valley's "extreme" designation. An EPA approvable plan to reach attainment by 2013 (serious), 2017 (severe 15) or even 2020 (severe 17) is currently unavailable. With an extreme designation, the attainment deadline would be 2024 and would include the "black box." The "black box" refers to the gap in technologies needed versus technologies available to reach attainment.

Solutions to Problem: The Air Quality Work Group submitted 29 recommendations which have been accepted by the Air District. In addition, the work group has recommended a "dual path" approach, which focuses on accelerating the attainment using alternative approaches. The Air District and the Air Resources Board both have committed to this strategy. The goal is to shave as many years off of the 2024 date as possible.

An incentive program has been recommended to reduce the attainment gap of 99 tons per day by 40%. The three most impacting areas are: 1.) Fleet modernization, resulting in the reduction of 41 NOx tons/day; 2.) Accelerated rule-making, resulting in the reduction of 20 NOx tons/day; and 3.) Short sea shipping, resulting in the reduction of 20 NOx tons/day. With these incentives, it is anticipated that attainment will be reached within the deadline with the exception of Arvin and Sky Park.

Funding: Annual funding of \$500 million is required, estimating that the public sector will need to provide \$200 million (State-\$60 million, Federal-\$100 million and Local \$40

million) and the private sector another \$300 million. Progress continues in obtaining federal funding. Sen. Feinstein has requested \$15 million with half being allocated to the San Joaquin Valley, and Congressman Cardoza has included language in the Farm Bill to allow for \$150 million over five years, with an effort to direct those funds toward non-attainment areas. Sen. Boxer has similar language to progress the idea. On the state level, Prop 1B has funds available, with \$250 million pending in the 2007-08 assembly budgets. The San Joaquin Valley's "fair share" is 30% to 45% and is targeting \$60 million per year for five to six years. Local sources include the \$40 million from the Indirect Source Rule (ISR), which is being challenged by the Building Industry Association. Sen. Florez has a bill pending that would increase DMV fees, generating \$75 million per year. Other possible sources of funding that have been identified include: funds from a container fees bill, which was passed but vetoed; a toll road on H-99 and/or I-5; and the Community Clean Air Fund, a foundation set up by the Air District to collect donations to improve the air quality.

Discussion Encouraged/Action Planning: Mr. Weber encouraged the board to discuss maximizing support for achievement of the air quality objectives and invited additional ideas that should be explored.

Mr. Ruiz commented regarding the \$300 million needed annually from the private sector. He strongly encouraged tax incentives versus additional taxes to businesses or the community. He suggested that UC Merced could be helpful with the research needed on air quality technologies. Mr. Weber agreed that an innovative approach would need to be cost-effective and that tax incentives may not be enough.

Mr. Lindsey questioned Mr. Weber's source of interviews with trucking companies. He indicated that the vast majority of truck drivers are individual owner/operators who do not typically have a plan for the purchase of new equipment. Mr. Lindsey questioned whether or not that target audience could be kept local and cautioned that the main problem would not be getting fleet operators to turn over their inventory but getting the individual owner/operator to purchase a new truck. Mr. Weber referenced the triangular trade program and discussed the assumption that small fleet operators would turn over their 8- to 10-year-old trucks and receive the incentives to buy new, donating their older models to owner/operators. Mr. Lindsey questioned the effectiveness of this trickle-down effect based on his understanding that there are many more trucks in demand by the owner/operators than the fleet managers could donate. Mr. Weber agreed to follow up with Mr. Lindsey on this component of the plan.

Ms. D'Adamo restated that through her involvement with other successful incentive programs, the industry nuances are critical and continued input from sources such as Mr. Lindsey is important. Ms. D'Adamo commented on the comprehensive nature of the Air Quality Work Group presentation and pointed out that in the coming years, a very complex set of rules would be adopted by the Air District and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Although the extreme designation was not preferred, alternative solutions to reach attainment are not available. Meetings with some activist groups have been held to build consensus on the numbers. Without a unified front, it will be difficult to secure the funding needed to clean the air.

Mr. Hibbard offered caution concerning the toll road. Goods movement and logistics jobs are the manufacturing jobs of yesterday. He emphasized that industrial land is what

creates jobs and pointed to the voluntary emissions reduction project Tejon completed as an example. With \$500,000 in mitigation funds, 17 1950's ag engines were replaced and the industrial park created 5,000 jobs.

Mr. Weber informed the group of a partner program available called "Spare the Air" and encouraged any employers/employees to participate in becoming part of the solution. He also indicated that UC Merced will take part in a technology conference with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CARB to focus on technologies needed to reach attainment.

Mr. Saldana shared that in 2002 he was involved in dialogue with the logistics industry after noticing that a number of trucks dropping goods in Southern California were returning empty. Mr. Saldana indicated there may already be sufficient systems in place if an effective management mechanism was developed.

Secretary Adams stated the Valley's support for Prop 1B was very influential. Due to several efforts, trucks are eligible for funding, as well as all four corridors. Although the Governor has vetoed port container fees, Ms. Adams may be in a position to weigh in and negotiate. In addition, the CARB and State Consumer Services Agency are looking to bring gross pollutants off of the road through a smog check program.

Ms. Medina believes the Partnership should take a role in public education and sees a need to bring air quality issues to the public for engagement in problem-solving. She also has observed the failure to talk about the human cost in areas such as asthma, loss of school days and recommended the Partnership implement a public education campaign.

Mr. Parra inquired on the incentives regarding the private sector. The construction industry is concerned there is no existing technology available to meet the requirements. He questioned how it would be validated that incentives would be used to convert equipment. Mr. Parra requested this be taken into consideration when rules are being prepared.

Mr. Farrell requested the status of particulates coming from the Bay Area since the San Joaquin Valley is held to stricter standards. Ms. D'Adamo indicated that some changes and progress have been made; for example, smog check standards are now alike. A coordinating committee with Sacramento, the Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has been formed. The upwind contributors are doing the same in enforcement at this point.

Mr. Lindsey observed the lack of discussion regarding inland ports or the idea of utilizing trains in the Bay Area. He believes that short rail is more measurable and attainable than short sea shipping. Mr. Lindsey indicated the goods movement in the Valley doesn't exist in the State Goods Movement Action Plan. The plan is port centric and should have an amendment to include ag in goods movement which would qualify for funds. Mr. Lindsey stated his concern that rules in dealing with truck traffic seem to penalize domicile companies and are unable to touch interstate traffic. His concern is that local businesses may be unable to compete in this market.

Mr. Autry encouraged the San Joaquin Valley to go after every dollar possible. He stated that the Valley has no control over the trucks that continue to come through the Valley, especially now that the North American Free Trade Agreement has opened the roads up to Mexico. Mr. Autry recommended that the Valley take its destiny into its own hands and implement a user fee through a toll road system and get behind a bill to protect local truckers. He recommended the Partnership be innovative in solutions for a dramatic problem.

Mr. Ruiz restated the need to act now and showed support for the extreme designation and dual path approach.

Ms. Simunovic thanked Mr. Weber for his continued support for the air quality issues and commented that Earth Justice, an activist group, is filing an intervening lawsuit in support of the Air District's position over the ISR rule opposed by the BIA.

Undersecretary Tuck stated that the Goods Movement Action Plan does include the Valley, specifically ag commodities.

Mr. Weber commented on the extreme designation and that he wanted the board to understand that the Air District has approved the plan and that the EPA does not have other options available at this time, other than to approve the designation. He requested support of the dual path plan and suggested there may be an opportunity to support the path in Sacramento or Washington. Mr. Weber also welcomed suggestions on obtaining funds to assemble a goods movement plan. Mr. Weber indicated that protecting the ISR rule will be critical. He will consider bringing a resolution before the board at the next meeting supporting the dual path plan.

## **Water**

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Secretary Chrisman gave an overview of the State of California Bulletin 160, which is updated every five years and laid out over a 30-year period. He indicated that Bulletin 160 sets out the goals and objectives for water quantity, demands and usefulness and that it is a water planning tool. A major goal is to improve statewide water management systems and "tee up" regional water integration. Prop 1E and 84 provided programmatic and financial incentives.

The CalFed Record of Decision laid out a series of goals to meet the needs of the San Joaquin Delta, which 23 million people in the state of California depend on for water. The goals include ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, water quality, water supply and reliability. The focus of water conveyance is to maintain standards and move water effectively. The current system is not working, and the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force (Task Force), a high-level, independent group, is charged with taking the lead and making recommendations to the cabinet committee.

The strategic growth plan includes \$4.5 billion for surface and ground water storage components. The work of the Partnership can support this effort by making its views known and by keeping pressure on the Task Force to keep the priorities straight.

Kathy Wood, director of the San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and on loan from the Bureau of Reclamation, presented the Water Quality, Supply and Reliability update and PowerPoint. The IRWMP federal water plan

has been expanded to merge with the Partnership's activities. Ms. Wood has made presentations to several of the counties to further develop a plan to include all eight counties. It is anticipated that a regional water plan will be available by the end of 2008.

Ms. Wood gave an update on the Water Work Group's progress to date and reminded the board that this goal is closely related to quality of life and requires forward thinking, predicting and meeting the demands of the population in an innovative and collaborative process. By developing a regional water plan, the Valley will be in a competitive position when it comes to funding.

Jim Tischer, California Water Institute, gave an overview of the Governor's comprehensive water plan in Senate Bill 59. He indicated that all of the work being done on a local, regional and a statewide basis are interconnected. Several factors, including climate change, air temperature, precipitation, and sea level rise, will affect water supplies, demands, quality and flood management ecosystems. A two-thirds chance of catastrophic disaster is predicted in the next 50 years. The Strategic Growth Plan proposes a \$5.95 billion investment to ensure reliable water supplies. In addition, Mr. Tischer compared Senate Bill 59 to Sen. Perata's Water Plan, which includes \$5B but is mostly focused on ground water storage.

Mr. Tischer presented a resolution requesting support from the Partnership Board in support of a comprehensive water plan and urging the Legislature to work with the administration to pass a comprehensive water package and put that package before voters in 2008.

Ms. D'Adamo acknowledged the hard work and vision in integrating the water plan seamlessly into the Partnership goals. She inquired whether Sen. Perata's plan allowed the region to successfully come up with a solution. Secretary Chrisman indicated that discussions are currently under way regarding the right kind of storage necessary and that the points discussed today are well taken.

Ms. Whiteside asked about the completion date for the integrated water plan. Ms. Wood stated that a conceptual plan will be finalized by December 2008; the final plan will be a consolidation of all efforts. The Valley-wide plan will go forward. As other local districts are finalizing their plans, they will be incorporated into the final. The intention is for the document to be a dynamic and living plan.

Secretary Chrisman restated that with the Task Force in place, there is a plan to have this on the November 2008 ballot, recognizing there is a whole series of moving parts. Ms. McPeak recognized Secretary Chrisman's efforts in moving this goal forward and applauded his persistence. She also indicated that Secretaries Bonner, Kawamura and Chrisman are part of the Task Force and on the same timetable with the Governor's Executive Order. Ms. McPeak noted the handouts contained a document, which Mr. Voiland was instrumental in publishing in 1998, with recommendations from the business community based on all the facts of a water solution in one package. Mr. Voiland suspects the Delta is one of the most studied water bodies in the world and indicated the data have been available for a long time. He stated it is now time to act. Secretary Chrisman also acknowledged that those involved know the Delta is not sustainable. Mr. Voiland suggested the recent levy issues involving Hurricane Katrina showed the impact, and he strongly supports what has been assembled and brought to the board today. Mr.

Weber moved to approve the resolution. Ms. D'Adamo seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Ing abstained.

## **Lunch Break**

### **Transportation**

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Mr. Lindsey gave an overview of the Transportation Work Group's top three priorities and announced the next meeting will be September 14.

Highway 99: Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans District 6 Director, presented a status report on State Route 99 and reviewed the importance of Prop 1B funding passed in November 2006. It is important to know that State Route 99 is the only state route identified with a specific allocation of funds. The business plan element of the San Joaquin Valley Route 99 Master Plan identifies 67 projects grouped into four improvement categories: 1.) freeway conversion – 4 projects; 2.) Capacity increasing – 25 projects; 3.) Major Operational Improvements – 34 projects; 4.) New Interchange – 4 projects. An update of each category was given by Mr. Dougherty. Currently 62% of the corridor satisfies the minimum six-lane requirement. Another 16 miles is under construction which will bring that figure to 46%. With the additional bonds, another 43 miles will be upgraded leaving two projects remaining to reach 100% compliance with the plan.

Mr. Lindsey pointed out that the \$1 billion in Prop 1B was set aside for a \$6 billion need. The projects Mr. Dougherty indicated are not yet completed, by design, because of funding. Mr. Lindsey requested Mr. Dougherty consider adding dates to the projects not yet in the queue. He added that new State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) augmentation funds will soon be available and may have an impact on the remaining projects. Mr. Lindsey recommended that the Valley take an aggressive approach in obtaining interregional funding.

Ms. McPeak stated the importance of protecting the rights-of-way along the 274 miles of State Route 99. Mr. Dougherty indicated this is not an issue for the projects either partially or fully funded at this time. However, the remaining projects have yet to be reviewed. Ms. McPeak suggested the cities and counties get involved as well to protect the land surrounding the future expansion of State Route 99. Alan McCuen, with Caltrans, stated they are currently working with city planning and Public Works directors and the planning community, but would welcome additional support. Ms. McPeak suggested that Caltrans, California Transportation Commission (CTC), and the Partnership communicate out to cities and counties in this effort asking for continued vigilance and cooperation to get the master plan completed. Ms. McPeak requested the board keep in mind that the funding/finance group had a discussion with the congressional delegation and that a 40% federal split was discussed. Ms. Whiteside would like to put this topic on the agenda for the Councils of Governments (COGs) and have them report on the status.

Mr. Lindsey indicated that Caltrans was asked to take on a daunting task with State Route 99 and has delivered a fantastic product doing everything the Partnership has asked of them. Mr. Dougherty stated they are currently working with local metropolitan planning organizations; a time line will be produced in a few months. Mr. Dougherty offered to submit a progress report at the next Partnership Board Meeting.

Ms. Whiteside announced that wireless is now available at rest stops in Tipton and Turlock.

High Speed Rail: Mr. Lindsey recapped the High-Speed Rail (HSR) special session held on August 9. The consistent theme was that the Partnership represents the Valley with one voice and it was important to remain unified from one end of the Valley to the other. Lt Gov. Garamendi participated in the special HSR session. Also attending was Congressman Costa, who has been involved with HSR for 20 years. Diligent efforts are being made in Washington D.C. Funding for this budget year was discussed, as well as alignment issues and land use.

Mr. Lindsey outlined the funding issue for HSR: the original request of \$113 million was reduced to \$15 million as it sits in the budget now. If approved, it will be transferred out of funds for inter-city rail (ICR). The challenge, if funds are taken from ICR, is the opposition there would be from within the rail systems. Mr. Lindsey suggested a potential funding source for the HSR may be the Public Transportation Account (PTA) CTC money. Currently, \$77 million is available. If \$15 million was taken to backfill ICR, it would eliminate any argument from within the rail industry. An additional \$5 to \$10 million could be taken to invest in HSR with the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) ensuring it is specifically used for San Joaquin Valley work. Mr. Lindsey requested thoughts from the board on pursuing this option. Mr. Lindsey believes this option is good for the Valley and would have a dynamic impact if it comes to fruition.

Ms. McPeak agreed this is a creative suggestion for obtaining the essential base funding. She commented that both passenger rail and HSR have different functions but both are equally valuable. This funding would jump-start HSR development in the Valley. The next step is to accelerate legitimate capital expenditures such as engineering and rights-of-way that would potentially be paid back.

Goods Movement: Tony Boren, deputy director of the Council of Fresno County Governments, presented the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Plan, reviewing the background and acknowledging that goods movement has been studied for years. Mr. Boren recognized that the Valley has not been a primary focus in past conversations and that goods movement discussions have been very port centric. He emphasized that Highway 99 is the main street of California and a primary goods movement network. This requires the Valley to work together in the coming years since the population is estimated to increase by 168% by the year 2050. The San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Plan is a work-in-progress and is designed to be user- friendly in conveying information to the public. Mr. Lindsey stated his appreciation for the plan and wanted to know which entity would be approving the final document. Mr. Boren indicated that the COGs would oversee the plan, with support from Caltrans, and would present information to the Partnership. Mr. Boren requested buy-in from the Partnership.

Ms. Whiteside commented that the overall integration will be through the Blueprint Planning Process. She stated the need for the plan's completion in order for the Valley to be competitive when applying for funds. Mr. Lindsey commented there is a great funding opportunity with the air quality component.

Mr. Lindsey observed there are less box cars on trains now more than ever resulting in more intermodal (container) cars and, therefore, more truck driving. He would like to see

anticipated decreases in short-line truck traffic reflected in the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Plan.

Mr. Voiland restated the complexity of the three top priorities just put on the table and questioned the next generation of priorities, opening up the discussion to the board. Ms. Swearingin indicated that an additional matter is how the board wants to advance priorities. It was at the board's request that a detailed presentation of the highest, top three priorities be reviewed, ensuring that significant items are being identified and advanced according to the strategic action plan.

Ms. Medina again restated her support of the top three priorities and added that the issues integrated well with one another. Chair Conway commended the presenters and was encouraged by the information and work of the strategic action plan. Mr. Ruiz commented that the prioritization is important to the board allowing them to become educated and to better understand the approach and process of the work groups. Mr. Ruiz recommended the same approach be taken for the next board meeting, taking the next three priorities and receiving detailed presentations.

Ms. McPeak moved that the board accept the high-speed rail option as a working premise and that the board empower the executive committee to further this course of action. Ms. McPeak further moved that the work group reports be accepted. Mr. Parra seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Weber suggested the board address how to engage in advancing the next top three priorities. Chair Conway requested the board first listen to the work group presentations, with the understanding that the information presented will assist the board in selecting the next top three priorities.

## **V. Work Group Reports – Updates on Progress, Challenges**

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Ms. Swearingin provided an overview of the work group presentations. The Energy Work Group is focusing their detailed presentation on the progress of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO). The remaining Work Group Conveners will present updates limiting their comments to one highlight and one "lowlight."

### **Energy**

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Ms. Henderson made opening remarks regarding the Energy Work Group and Secretary Kawamura's enthusiastic support of their efforts. On June 7, Secretary Kawamura hosted a meeting in Sacramento bringing 50 industry and government leaders together to discuss energy opportunities. These efforts have been coordinated with the '25 x '25 meeting, a group committed to 25% renewable energy use by the year 2025. The meeting resulted in 30 people signing a commitment to get more involved with the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO). The '25 x '25 group is interested in using the San Joaquin Valley to bring their national goals to a regional level. The Valley was chosen because of the infrastructure in place and will be used as a model. This project will bring visibility to the San Joaquin Valley and potential funding sources as well.

Rollie Smith, HUD, presented an update on the SJVCEO, which was developed for planning and coordination to support clean energy in the Valley. Mr. Smith requested

that the board approve the articles of incorporation and the by-laws so the SJVCEO could file the 501 (c)(3) status paperwork. Mr. Smith also asked that the board approve the appointment of board members as presented. Mr. Smith commented specifically regarding the nomination from the Central California Economic Development Corporations (CCEDC). The CCEDC was asked to reconsider their Fresno-based nomination of Steve Geil after the Partnership Board encouraged SJVCEO leadership to ensure its board was geographically diverse. Mr. Lindsey moved to approve. Mr. Saldana commented he would approve with the condition that Mr. Geil was appointed as the CCEDC's nomination, stating he is an appropriate candidate and does in fact represent the Valley. Mr. Lindsey encouraged labor unions to be represented on the board. Secretary Chrisman agreed the SJVCEO would find a union representative to serve on the board. Ms. McPeak seconded the motion to approve the articles of incorporation, the by-laws and the roster of SJVCEO Board of Directors, including Mr. Geil. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Lindsey commented on the work by Secretary Kawamura to secure ag loans and acknowledged that his work tremendously benefited the Valley. Ms. Henderson commented on the tie down regulations and acknowledged the work that Ms. D'Adamo, Congressmen Cardoza and Costa did involving the Farm Bill. Ms. D'Adamo was encouraged to see the specialty crops coming together throughout the state and very pleased with the House Bill which includes \$1.7 billion for specialty crops. Mr. Weber commended Congressmen Cardoza and Costa for their speeches delivered on the floor of the House and encouraged the board to read them. Mr. Lindsey encouraged the board to write a letter to the congressmen thanking them for their efforts.

### **Higher Education and Workforce Development**

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Secretary Bradshaw stated the most important role of the Secretaries is to make sure the San Joaquin Valley is at the table when decisions on policy or budget are being discussed. She recognized that this is beginning to happen.

The Labor and Workforce Development Agency is conducting statewide training focused on determining how to forecast jobs. All eight San Joaquin Valley counties are included in the training.

The Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group, through the Central California Workforce Collaborative, has been focused on implementing the \$1 million State Workforce Investment Board grant. Six areas will be applied in developing an infrastructure to align the demands and skill sets needed. Ms. Salazar and Secretary Bradshaw presented the six areas: 1.) Conduct an occupational analysis of key jobs in target industries. 2) Develop a Web-based inventory of vocational training and "gap analysis." 3.) Create a "just in time" training fund. 4.) Address workforce supply on a regional basis – WorkKeys Certificate. 5.) Address workforce supply on a regional basis – Certified Assessment Centers for Manufacturing. 6.) Align vocational and career technical education with target industries.

Secretary Bradshaw again stated that the challenge is the significance and amount of work to be done. She does feel, however, the resources are available to complete the work.

Ms. McPeak recognized the crossover issues between the HEWD and K-12 work groups regarding computer literacy and standardized skills. She recommended the two work groups confer on that topic. Secretary Bradshaw also indicated that the State of California was to be the lead on a Department of Labor grant on computerized clerical training for the nursing programs.

### **Economic Development**

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Mr. Simpson indicated the Economic Development Work Group has met twice and they are championing incentives to make businesses successful. Mr. Saldana elaborated that the strategic action plan, including a regionwide map of incentive programs, is scheduled for completion in August. Through the seed grant, the work group visited Los Angeles and conducted a marketing program. Mr. Saldana reported the lowlight in his opinion also is a great opportunity to address tourism. A marketing strategy meeting of key partners is scheduled for September.

### **K-12**

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Lee Anderson, chair of the association of county superintendents for region 7, commended the Governor, Mayor Autry, and the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute for their work on the K-12 Work Group. He recognized that education is viewed as a "different animal." Within the eight-county region, there are approximately 800,000 students, 1,100 schools and 200 school districts, resulting in more than 1,000 elected officials making policy and budget decisions with input from constituents. They are currently in the midst of a six-year standards-based reform and already see reform working. Some schools in the San Joaquin Valley have nearly doubled performance levels.

Marcy Masumoto, Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute at California State University, Fresno, highlighted the English Language Learner Academy (Academy) launch on August 9. Representatives from 16 school districts across the eight counties are involved. The Academy focuses on the principles of learning best practices. It is unique because it offers a combination of mentoring and coaching components to work with principles and administrators.

Participation in the work group meetings has been an issue, and stakeholder expansion needs to be included. Sustainability is a concern; there is a need to look for further funding.

Mr. Lindsey suggested engaging with stakeholders through the County School Board Association and questioned if equalized funding is an issue the Work Group needs to address. Mr. Anderson noted it is not a priority for the work that involves the Partnership; however, it does focus on the education side. He commented that 2008 will be the "Governor's Year of Education." Mr. Lindsey suggested that once an agenda was developed for equalized funding, the Partnership would consider supporting their efforts. Mr. Anderson added that career technical education also is a top priority, and he would be pleased to present the Partnership Board with a list of policies that would benefit from its support. Ms. Medina inquired about the Year of Education and its priorities. Secretary Bradshaw stated it is based on vocation and career education and that the Governor is backing his statements with funding opportunities.

Ms. Swearingin stated the Partnership is looking for a recommendation from the Valley county superintendents of education for a regional consortia board seat. Mr. Anderson announced that the nomination was shortcoming.

Ms. Simunovic inquired about the process of moving forward on the Partnership goals regarding student involvement. Mr. Anderson stated that none are in place, and extensive involvement is not foreseen. Ms. Masumoto added that while students are not involved in the work group meetings, many projects include student input. Josh Franco, a member of the audience, said there is an opportunity for involvement with students from the Leadership Academy. His student efforts at UC Merced continue, and he suggested to the board that outreach on "My Space" be considered as there is student interest in the work of the Partnership.

### **Health and Human Services**

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Mr. Navarro reviewed the Health and Human Services Work Group (HHS) goals as they pertain to the Central Valley Health Policy Institute. He commented on the struggle for recruitment of health care practitioners in establishing the UC Merced Medical School. A business plan for funding the center is finished and a coalition meeting is set for September to launch the coalition. The Central Valley Nursing Education Consortium is to be established. Six hundred students were turned away because of capacity issues in Fresno City alone. This demonstrates that a desire is there; but the training and facilities do not exist and staffing is a large problem. An online component is now available; a report on the success will be made at the next board meeting. Needs of the uninsured will be addressed and the status reported. The work group also will explore models for delivering health services through telemedicine. UC Merced and UC Davis are leading this effort.

Ms. Medina reviewed the work group goals as they pertain to the Social Welfare Evaluation Research and Training Center (SWERT). A highlight of the work that SWERT has accomplished is the meth recovery project. SWERT has been busy making presentations to stakeholders and recruiting for the advisory council throughout the region. Another highlight is the seed grant HHS received.

Ms. Medina reported on behalf of HHS the challenge of the lack of competitiveness in the Valley involving grant sources.

### **Advanced Communications Services**

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Ms. Whiteside reported that the plan developed by the Advanced Communications Services Work Group (ACS) has been impacted by additional resources now available. For example, the plan indicated ACS would look at and access broadband; but that effort is now led by the broadband industry and housed at California Emerging Technologies. Another example is the telehealth and telemedicine component which UC Merced will address through its seed grant. ACS is reviewing Caltrans' policy and sees an opportunity to lay conduit in the construction phase. The computer literacy work continues with the K-12 Work Group.

A highlight for ACS, reported by Ms. Whiteside, is the recent graduation of the Pixley project students and the subsequent award of computers. In addition, a robotics class and competition are scheduled. Training for local government officials has created some barriers along with new infrastructure that requires a better understanding.

## **Land Use, Ag and Housing**

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Mr. Hibbard introduced the components of the regional plan which have similar underlying factors with the Air Quality, Water and Transportation work groups. This involves reduction of trips, mobility, neutral paces, water linkages, Highway 99 and HSR. The Land Use, Ag and Housing Work Group (LUAH) has been charged with designing things not planned or developed for nearly 10 years. BRAC is the primary vehicle for this plan; roundtable meetings are being held to bring local entities and constituency together.

Mr. Smith updated the board regarding the nonprofit housing trust through the COGs and the blueprint process. The California Coalition for Rural Housing is providing incentives for local housing funds, working with 62 cities that want small growth housing. Ten cities are part of the regulatory reform process.

## **VI. Blueprint Regional Planning Process: Update**

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Ms. Simunovic reviewed the significance of the process and the third meeting held in July 2007. She reviewed the schematic handouts for the Blueprint Regional Planning Process. Marjie Kirn, deputy director of Merced County Association of Governments, demonstrated the major integration of the Partnership work and the blueprint plan. The process is being completed, and they are obtaining support for implementation. Ms. Kirn stated they are optimistic regarding the time frame even though each county is facing issues.

Nathan Magsig, City of Clovis councilmember, reported on the legislative process as it relates to the Blueprint Planning Process and the importance of having cities, COGs, counties and others working together. AB32 was signed by the Governor in 2006 to reduce green house emissions back to 1990 levels. Mr. Magsig reviewed the highlights of SB375 (Steinberg), which is in appropriations now and ties into the Blueprint Process. Mr. Magsig also reviewed AB 1253 and AB842 stating that all of the efforts have been paying off.

Ms. Simunovic reviewed the calendar of events for meetings and the two summits planned for January and Spring 2008. The California Regional Progress Report was reviewed and progress was discussed.

Ms. McPeak was pleased to see the San Joaquin Valley consistently represented, in a collaborative way, more than any other region. Ms. Whiteside said this is the beginning of a statement, drafted to give a sense of what the Valley is about. Mr. Magsig agreed that the attempt is to have a statement reflect the vision of the region but to maintain the identity of each county. This statement is still being developed in conjunction with the counties. Chair Conway recognized that some counties are currently redrafting their general plans and was interested to know if this work was being incorporated. Mr. Magsig indicated that the conversations are under way; however, the vision is not to have the blueprint statement involved at the micro level where the county general plans are focused. He stated that the local COGs will approve the final result after elected officials have commented.

Ms. Whiteside recommended that a detailed report on the blueprint process be made to the Partnership Board at the February 2008 meeting, after the January blueprint summit.

## **VII. Partnership Seed Grants**

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Allysunn Williams, Secretariat representative, recapped the seed grant process which allocated \$2.5 million to 14 awardees that were competitively selected through a bidding process. Ms. Williams indicated that the majority of the seed grants have been fully executed and returned to the awardees. She referred to the board packet which contained a comprehensive update on the status of the work.

Ms. Williams highlighted the SWERT seed grant focused on meth recovery. Lt. Col. Swann, representing law enforcement, has engaged with HHS and will be meeting on September 7 with the advisory council. Self-Help Enterprises has established water projects in rural areas and is inputting information into the IRWMP with the Water Work Group. The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium launched the first "College Place" in Fresno County, a community-based center focused on non-traditional students. There is interest from Madera County and junior colleges in Merced and Modesto for additional sites.

## **VIII. Legislative Affairs**

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Kathryn Stevens, Secretariat representative, reviewed the legislative overview handout included in the agenda package. Ms. Stevens indicated that several bills were vetted through the process which was approved at the Partnership Board Meeting in March. Ms. Stevens gave an overview and status report on the following items:

- Partnership Endorsed State Legislation: AB 27; AB 575, AB 1223; AB 1129; AB 1403; AB 1455.
- Action taken by the Executive Committee: SB 23. High-Speed Rail; Proposition 1B; Proposition 1C; Proposition 84.
- Federal Issues/Legislation: H Con Res 157; Farm Bill: HR 1600 and S 1458; HR 2498; HR 6.

Ms. Stevens concluded her presentation by giving an overview of the federal budget process and announced that the legislative staffer meetings continue on a monthly basis in conjunction with Mr. Smith's Federal Interagency Task Force meetings. Ms. Stevens encouraged participation at these meetings adding that they have been very engaging and helpful. Ms. Swearingin commented on the enormity of the Partnership's scope of work and the growing coalition of the staffers.

## **IX. Annual Meeting and Report**

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Richard Cummings, Great Valley Center representative, announced that the annual meeting, the Partnership Summit (Summit), will be held October 4 in Visalia. The Summit is designed to update the community on the activities of the Partnership and release the annual report. In addition, there will be two complementary events surrounding the Summit. On October 3 and 4, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) will conduct its conference. BizTalk will be held October 5. A joint lunch is planned on October 4 with the Partnership and the Air District. Mr.

Cummings estimated that 300 participants will be available to go to work group sessions and engage in a Q&A on the Partnership.

Mr. Cummings expects to have a draft of the annual report prepared for Executive Committee review by August 24 and wants to go to press by September 18. The report is limited to 60 pages with appendices for more updates.

Ms. Whiteside suggested that each county take responsibility for getting a certain number of participants to the Summit. She reminded the board that the report would likely reflect baseline data; the Web site will be customized to allow for updates on an ongoing basis. Mr. Weber indicated the Air Quality Work Group would commit to having 100 participants at the Summit. Ms. Whiteside added that each participant would be charged \$35 for a ticket to the event; scholarships are available. Ms. Whiteside elaborated on the structure of the Summit; it is not intended as a board meeting but an event designed to inform the community. Ms. Swearingin offered to send an electronic "save the date" announcement, once developed by GVC, to those in the Secretariat's database.

#### **X. Report from the Secretariat**

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Ms. Swearingin reviewed the activities for the upcoming quarter. She recapped the progress made by the work groups, the engagement of work group conveners, getting stakeholders re-engaged in the Partnership and that mechanisms are now in place. Next quarter, the sustainability of the Partnership will be advanced.

The Secretariat hired Michael Lukens as new Communications Director to execute the next phase of communications for the Partnership. There will be additional outreach on local levels. A daily news briefing is distributed and is a great tool to remain on top of issues at a daily glance.

Ms. Swearingin also reviewed the recently appointed regional consortia board directors and anticipates more being added in the next quarter.

#### **XI. Public Comment**

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No public comments were made.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

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Chair Conway provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley at 4:20 p.m.