

**Work Group:** Air Quality  
**Consultant:** Mark Keppler, Executive Director  
**Organization:** The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute  
**Quarter:** 1st 2009  
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### **Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

*Goal 1: Achieve U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for 8-hour ozone and PM2.5 by the current attainment date, or as soon as practicable thereafter*

No action taken.

*Goal 2: Encourage EPA adoption of tighter federal emission control standards*

No action taken.

*Goal 3: Implement incentive mechanisms to accelerate adoption of air quality mitigation technologies*

### **Diesel Incentives Exploration Working Group**

AQWG participated in a meeting with business and environmental representatives on Feb.17, 2009, in an effort to pursue additional programs/funding for incentives to reduce diesel emissions in the greater Central Valley.

### **Legislation**

AQWG continues to work on passage and implementation of state and federal legislation that will bring additional clean air incentive funding to the San Joaquin Valley (Valley), including funding mechanisms included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) enacted on Feb.17.

*Goal 4: Promote clean energy projects (with Energy Work Group)*

### **San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization**

AQWG continues to participate in meetings of the established San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO) and provide input as necessary. Staff has provided government affairs support in the area of federal legislation on clean energy, including clean energy funding mechanisms, such as the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program and the State Energy Program, in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) enacted on Feb.17.

*Goal 5: Improve transportation mobility and goods movement (with Transportation Work Group)*

AQWG consultants remain engaged in activities of the Transportation Work Group and the San Joaquin Valley COGs Regional Policy Council regarding goods movement plans and high-speed rail.

### **High-Speed Rail**

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) has been participating in a working group facilitated by the California High Speed Rail Authority to pursue construction of a higher-speed Altamont route connecting the Valley. With the passage of the HSR bond in November 2008, planning efforts are under way for the Altamont project. A Preliminary Project Description outlining the general project location, the purpose and goals of the project, the planning context within which the project is being developed, and a description of the general location and anticipated design elements of the project has been prepared by the consultants (AECOM) for review by the HSRA board in May 2009.

*Goal 6: Encourage "green" local government policies and sustainable communities*

No action taken

*Goal 7: Accelerate research on emission-reduction strategies and clean-air technologies, establishing the San Joaquin Valley as a leader in innovation*

No action taken

*Goal 8: Improve public understanding of air quality issues and solutions*

### **“The Maddy Forum” KFSR 90.7/Podcast**

The Maddy Institute created a public affairs radio program called “The Maddy Forum” broadcast on 90.7 KFSR. The weekly program features conversations about important public policy issues facing the San Joaquin Valley, and interviews with local leaders and elected officials. Shows this quarter have highlighted issues such as clean energy and the regional economic stimulus plan. We are planning a future show on the health implications of poor air quality.

### **Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)**

Continue to pursue a “dual path” to clean air by seeking the commercialization of new technologies as well as incentive mechanisms that will assist the Valley in accelerating the attainment of clean air standards to achieve by 2017.

Continue to work with the High Speed Rail Altamont Working Group on efforts to build a high-speed rail system connecting the Valley.

Continue to monitor progress on CARB’s regulations, such as Heavy-Duty In-Use Diesel Regulation and AB 32/Greenhouse Gas Regulations, and analyzing them for impacts on the Valley.

Work with members in the state legislature and Congress as well as a new Presidential Administration to bring focus on assisting the Valley and address its air quality challenges.

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

None to report at this time

### **If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly**

AQWG remains directly involved with legislators and their staff, conducting consistent legislative outreach. The Partnership and Interagency Task Force convene Valley district office staffers from both the Congressional and State delegations monthly in which AQWG attends and actively participates.