

**Work Group: Energy**  
**Quarter: 1<sup>st</sup> 2009**

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### **Description of Activity**

Priorities of the Energy Work Group (EWG):

- Provide information and support to ensure that stakeholders in the San Joaquin Valley (Valley) were aware of energy-related funding opportunities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Provided information and assistance to help stakeholders access ARRA funding.
- Conduct marketing and outreach to increase the depth and breadth of stakeholder awareness and involvement in EWG and its activities.
- Continue operation of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO) as a vehicle and focal point through which the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) will implement the energy provisions of its Strategic Action Proposal.
- Continue work to implement EWG recommendations not directly related to the creation of SJVCEO.

Specific accomplishments during the quarter include the following. Relevant EWG objectives are noted in ***Bold Italics***.

- Submitted final report to the Partnership on its seed grant which enabled us to successfully establish the SJVCEO and begin its startup operation(***1A***)
- SJVCEO and EWG followed up on work coming out of the Farming Clean Energy Conference at AGTAC in Tulare, Nov. 5-6, 2009 (3A, B, C, D and E). More than 200 participants attended the conference, which explored actions needs to significantly increase clean energy investments in the agricultural sector in the San Joaquin Valley (Valley). SJVCEO drafted a grant to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is pursuing financial assistance from other sources to carry out the recommendations for moving forward as a result of the conference.
- The SJVCEO Board met on Jan. 29, 2009, in Fresno. (***1, 2, and 3***) The primary topics of discussion were the energy-related provisions of ARRA and opportunities that they presented for the Valley. (See attached minutes for the board meeting.) As a result of this meeting, SJVCEO staff began shaping value-added services that it could provide to help jurisdictions access these resources. In addition, staff developed plans for an April 2, 2009, Board meeting in Merced.
- SJVCEO presented and hosted a forum on Feb. 26 in Fresno on ARRA funding opportunities for the Valley. Over 225 people participated. On March 26, a follow-up workshop was conducted which focused on HUD and housing opportunities.
- SJVCEO continued efforts to secure sustainable funding for the organization. (***1A***)
- Responding to a call-for-projects from the Partnership, SJVCEO staff compiled a data base of shovel-ready clean energy projects throughout the region that were potential candidates for funding through ARRA. Initial results show that almost 300 projects totaling more than \$1 billion were submitted from 40-plus sources.
- EWG staff began outreach efforts to work with jurisdictions to help them pursue ARRA clean energy funding.

- GVC conducted a “Green Bus Tour” on Feb. 20, 2009.
- GVC has started a daily e-newsletter highlighting energy and planning issues in the San Joaquin Valley. Distribution is to more than 1,700 recipients.
- GVC is publishing an Energy Primer for local officials for distribution at its May 2009 conference to elected officials.
- GVC staff participated in an AB 32/SB375 strategy event in S. Lake Tahoe for ClimatePlan.
- GVC staff continues to meet with the Water Group Advisory Committee to discuss recommendations from group to the Partnership Board. GVC continues to work with the cities of Ceres and Modesto on a regional waste water plan and recently spoke to Modesto Bee Editorial Board on the subject.

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

- Undertake efforts to transition EWG efforts by the end of June 2009
- Hold at least one EWG/SJVCEO Board meeting (April 2).
- Present an AB 32 Forum (through GVC) in Merced in cooperation with Institute for Local Governments and Local Government Commission in April
- Continue to plan for the May 6-7 Annual GVC Conference [2020 Foresight] with several energy-related panels.

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

Our greatest challenge is not finding opportunities or support but rather sustainable funding.

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

- We coordinated efforts across the work groups to prepare the “shovel ready” list of clean energy projects to be considered for ARRA funding.
- We expect to coordinate future outreach with other regions for Climate Action Planning.

**The following attachments may be downloaded from the [Energy Work Group Document Library](#) located on the Partnership Web site:**

1. Minutes of the Jan. 29, 2009, SJVCEO Board Meeting