



CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Annual Report 2008



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley



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www.sjvpartnership.org

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

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California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

December 2008

Dear Governor and Members of the Legislature,

On behalf of the board of directors of the Governor's California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, we present the second Annual Report, which encompasses 12 months of Partnership activities. This report begins where our Annual Report of September 2007 concluded and covers Partnership activity through September 2008.

When the Partnership began its current work with the board renewal and reorganization by Executive Order S-22-06, the task before us was exciting, yet daunting. The Partnership board and staff were charged with building cooperation across jurisdictions and fostering collaboration between the Valley's business, government, non-profit and community sectors, all with the mission of improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for those that call the San Joaquin Valley home.

We have seen movement toward this mission with the efforts during the Partnership's second year, which have focused on building upon the foundation that was established during our momentous initial year and moving to establish structure and strategies that will maintain the regional cooperation that is so greatly needed to improve the San Joaquin Valley's economic vitality and quality of life.

Projects that are particularly significant are those that have put aside jurisdictional interests and politics to bring forth results in the interest of the region. For example, Partnership accomplishments include: establishing a list of regional trade corridor priority projects for the California Transportation Commission, developing regional consensus and acting in unison on high-speed rail routes, and promoting a regionwide integrated water management plan. Also this year we have seen the growth of new regional entities and resources from the Partnership work groups, such as the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization and the San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust. These unprecedented moves toward regional cooperation support the San Joaquin Valley as it develops a stronger, united voice.

The Partnership board would like to thank the Secretariat staff at California State University, Fresno, as well as the staff of the Great Valley Center, and all those interested and engaged residents of the San Joaquin Valley who have participated in this unprecedented, regional effort to make the future of the San Joaquin Valley stronger.

Thanks are also due to local and regional agencies, nonprofits, and those in the private sector who have given support through in-kind and financial contributions. Finally a sincere thank you to the California Business, Housing and Transportation Agency and the Valley's legislative representatives who have given unfailing attention to bringing the interests of the Valley to the state and federal stage.

The voices and efforts of every individual, organization, and institution that have participated in this endeavor have been critical in moving the San Joaquin Valley forward, together, toward a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Connie Conway in black ink.

Connie Conway, Supervisor
Tulare County
Board of Supervisors

Handwritten signature of Fritz Grupe in black ink.

Fritz Grupe, Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer
The Grupe Company

Handwritten signature of Mike Chrisman in black ink.

Mike Chrisman, Secretary
California Resources Agency

December 2008

Dear Governor and Members of the Legislature:

During these difficult economic times, it is more critical than ever that the public and private sectors use their limited resources as wisely as possible to address the challenges that we all face. That's why the work of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is so important to our region and our state.

For the past two-plus years, hundreds of community and business leaders, government officials, educators, policymakers and residents from all walks of life from the eight-county San Joaquin Valley and beyond have worked together like never before to find and implement solutions that will improve the quality of life for all in the region. The Partnership Board has paid particular attention to three priority areas: air quality; transportation; and water quality, supply and reliability.

As you will find throughout this annual report, the Partnership is taking bold and innovative steps in a number of areas, and we've been able to make progress on multiple fronts. We're seeing more transportation dollars invested into our region; significant progress toward implementing a region-wide integrated water management plan and comprehensive water solutions that meet the long-term needs of the Valley and the state; a keen focus on working to improve student achievement by helping Valley education leaders deal more effectively with students who are learning English; a coordinated Valley-wide approach to workforce development; the creation of housing and energy organizations to coordinate regional efforts on those important issues; and major steps forward in the Blueprint Planning process to deal with land use issues, just to name a few. The list could go on and on.

It is important to note that our progress has not been made as a result of spending significant amounts of money. The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley has operated on a modest investment from the state -- \$5 million in the fiscal year 2006-07 budget, half of which was used as seed funding for 14 projects as directed by the Strategic Action Proposal. The seed grant projects, in turn, have leveraged more than \$5 million in non-state funding, meaning the state's investment has helped raise significant private sector funding for these worthwhile projects.



The Partnership has helped move the Valley forward in dealing with economic, environmental and social issues because so many have embraced the spirit of regionalism and collaboration. It is clear that the regional approach is the right approach for the Valley. Almost all of the issues we face don't recognize jurisdictional boundaries. Water, air, transportation, education, energy, housing, economic and workforce development – all cut across city and county

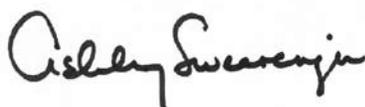
lines and need to be addressed from a regional perspective. Through a consensus-building process, the Partnership has become an assembly that permits the Valley to speak with a unified voice to elected officials and policymakers.

Time after time, parochial interests are being set aside to pursue regional interests in the Partnership's work. A few tangible successes through our collaborative approach are important to recognize:

- The Valley formed a partnership with northern California to effectively compete for the \$2 billion provided through Prop 1B for infrastructure improvements along trade corridors with a high volume of freight movement. In an unprecedented effort, all Valley counties joined together to promote a few priority projects, putting aside their individual needs, in order to obtain funding for vital regional projects. Together, the coalition secured over \$824 million for regional projects adopted by the CTC. This included the adoption of five Valley infrastructure improvement projects totaling more \$205 million.
- The Air Quality and Transportation Work Groups worked together to ensure that the high-speed rail system serves the needs of the entire San Joaquin Valley. The Partnership worked toward successful passage of AB 3034, legislation that specifically identified the Altamont Corridor connecting the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area as a high-speed segment eligible for funding under the proposed \$9 billion bond. The language was included in the high-speed rail bond passed by voters on Nov. 4.
- Stakeholders from a range of public and private sector interests – urban, rural, agriculture, business, environmental – have joined forces on two Partnership-related entities: The San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization and the San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust. The Clean Energy Organization already has formed a partnership with the national 25x'25 Alliance in which the Valley will serve as a 25x'25 Alliance pilot project to focus on the renewable energy potential of the Valley. That project could result in benefits for the entire state of California.

Of course, the Partnership has also benefitted from the Valley's work ethic. We have seen an incredible amount of people putting in an extraordinary amount of effort through the Partnership's 10 Work Groups, Seed Grant projects, and other Partnership-related entities. Substantial amounts of the people involved in the Partnership are volunteering their time and talents to improving the quality of life in the Valley, and they are truly making a difference. Thanks to their efforts, the promise of the Partnership is being fulfilled in communities throughout the Valley.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be redoubling our efforts to change the economic future and overall well-being of the Valley. We also will be working to establish a sustainable structure for the Partnership, one that will allow for full implementation of the 10-year Strategic Action Proposal. We continue to face difficult challenges in the Valley, but the Partnership has put the Valley on the road to success in crafting a vision of the San Joaquin Valley that no one has previously thought possible.



Ashley Swearingin, Secretariat

***Office of Community and Economic Development
California State University, Fresno***

Introduction	8
• Executive Summary	8
• History of the Partnership	8
• A Year in Review: Highlights of Accomplishments	11
Progress Reports for Work Groups and Seed Grant Recipients	12
• Overview	12
• Economic Development	13
<i>Central California Marketing and Cluster Development</i>	14
<i>Building Investment and Entrepreneurship in the SJV</i>	14
• Higher Education and Workforce Development	16
<i>A Community-Based College Center</i>	17
• PreK-12 Education	17
<i>English Language Learner Leadership Academy</i>	18
• Transportation	19
<i>Metro Rural Loop Corridor Preservation Feasibility Study</i>	19
• Land Use, Agriculture and Housing	20
<i>Farmland Conservation Model Program</i>	20
<i>Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin</i>	21
• Air Quality	22
<i>Air Quality Education in Environmental Justice Areas</i>	24
• Water Quality, Supply and Reliability	25
<i>Regional Water Plans Integration and Recycled Water Usage</i>	26
<i>Sowing Seeds for Community Health</i>	27
• Energy	27
<i>Growing Clean Energy Capacity in the San Joaquin Valley</i>	28
• Health and Human Services	29
<i>Methamphetamine Recovery Project</i>	30
<i>San Joaquin Valley Health Enterprise Zone Project</i>	30
• Advanced Communications Services and Information Technology	31
<i>Valley Telehealth Partnership</i>	32
Administration Report	33
• Meetings and Participation	33
• Communications	33
• Annual Summits	34
• Legislative Report	34
Measuring Progress	35
• Primary Statistical Indicators	36
• Partnership for the Assessment of Communities	42
Financial Report	
• Budget and Expenditures	43

Executive Summary

Cooperation, collaboration and inclusion were the key watchwords for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley as it moved into full implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal during the past year.

Over the course of the past 12 months, hundreds of community and business leaders, government officials, educators, policymakers and residents from all walks of life from the eight-county San Joaquin Valley and beyond have contributed to the Partnership's unprecedented efforts through Partnership Board meetings, the 10 Work Groups, and other entities and events.

The Partnership's activities from October 2007 to September 2008 are reported as an overview by each work group, and 16 statistical indices reflecting progress and/or the need for continued investment of time and resources. Also included is an update of the collaborative effort of faculty at University of California, Merced, University of the Pacific, and California State University, Fresno. A 10-year, community-based study has been designed and piloted to better understand the local level experiences in six communities within the Valley.

The administrative report describes the activities of the Board of Directors, participation of the Partnership's 10 Work Groups, and the coordination, collaboration and communication between these leaders and the Valley's stakeholders. State and federal elected officials are also engaged to address policy issues.

The financial summary illustrates the budget and actual expenditures by the Partnership's Secretariat, sub-contractor and work groups.

While the accomplishments of the Partnership are highlighted in this report and a solid foundation for the long-term priority strategies and investments has been laid, the challenges for future work must also be acknowledged.

"The strength of California is tied to the economic success of the San Joaquin Valley."

Governor
Schwarzenegger

Continuing in the long term may be hindered by a lack of funding. Strengthening the coordination across and among the work groups continues to be necessary. And keeping the key stakeholders and the public informed and engaged is more critical than ever. However, as this document demonstrates, the Partnership's efforts are being realized and positive change is afoot.

History of the Partnership

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was established by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger through an Executive Order (S-05-05, June, 2005) to focus attention on one of the most vital, yet challenged, regions of the state.

In October 2006, the Partnership delivered their recommendations to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of the San Joaquin Valley in a 97-page Strategic Action Proposal – The San Joaquin Valley: California's 21st Century Opportunity. In November 2006, the Governor, with a second Executive Order (S-22-06), renewed the Partnership and directed that the hard work of implementation begin. Additionally, the Governor and the legislature provided five million dollars to begin this unprecedented regional effort. These documents are available online at

www.sjvpartnership.org

The Strategic Action Proposal is a framework for action and has been informing the efforts of 10 work groups since early 2007. Members of the Board have acted as conveners for each of the 10 work groups, working with assigned staff, consultants, and vital partners. The work groups' goals, objectives, and action plans are integrated into six major initiatives that promote the 3Es:

1. Grow a Diversified, Globally Competitive Economy Supported by a Highly Skilled Workforce

2. Create a Model K-12 Public Education System
3. Implement an Integrated Framework for Sustainable Growth
4. Build a 21st Century Transportation Mobility System
5. Attain Clean Air Standards
6. Develop High-Quality Health and Human Services

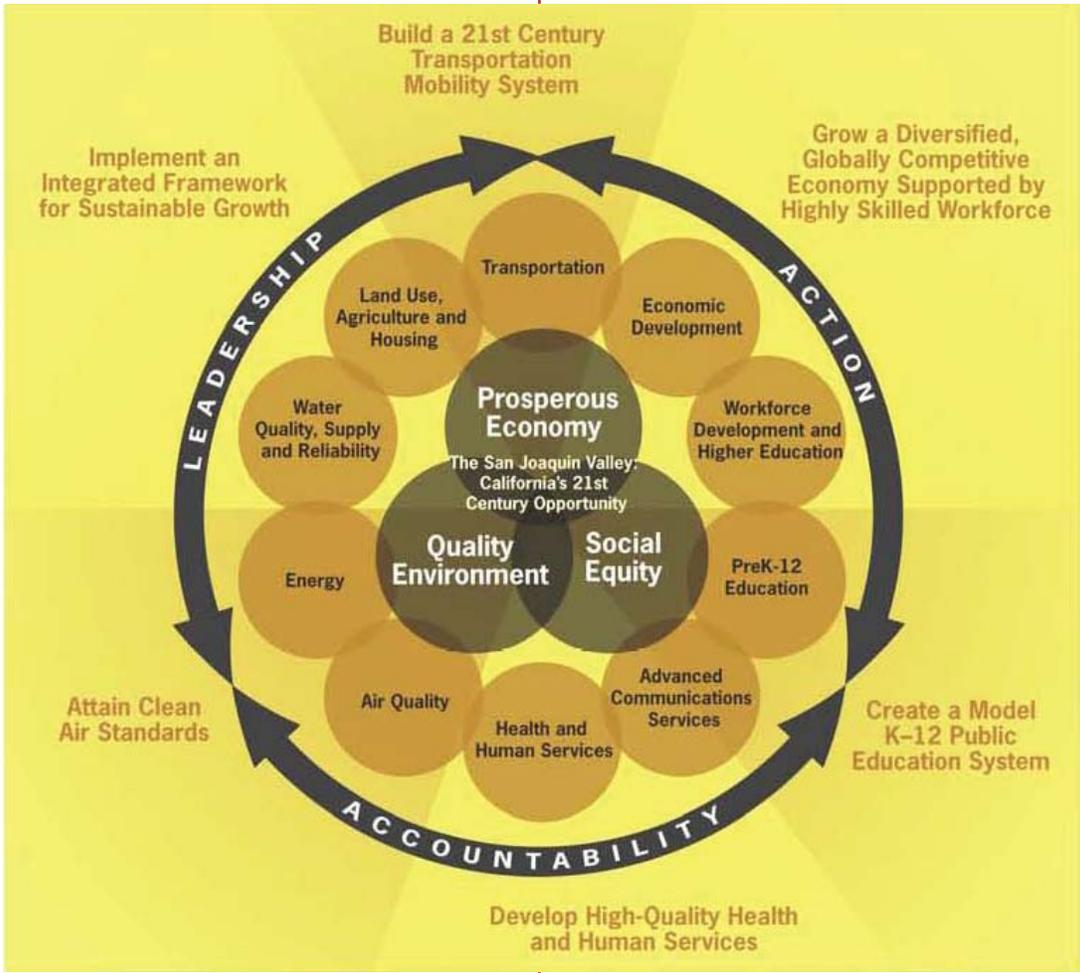
The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is pleased to present its 2008 Annual Report in accordance with Section 4(d) of **Executive Order**

The overall goal of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is to achieve sustainable growth and quality communities through:

Prosperous Economy
Quality Environment
Social Equity

S-22-06. This is the second of an annual series of reports to the Governor, the Legislature and the public that will track the performance and progress of the Partnership in its efforts to improve the economy and well-being of California's fastest growing region, the eight county San Joaquin Valley.

This report is the public accountability for illustrating how the Partnership in the last year has brought together public and private leadership to drive action to realize the vision of the San Joaquin Valley as California's 21st Century Opportunity.



A Year in Review: Highlights of Accomplishments

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's spirit of regionalism has produced results in a number of areas as the Partnership implements its 10-year Strategic Action Proposal.

Through a consensus-building process, the Partnership has become an assembly that permits the Valley to speak with a unified voice to elected officials and policymakers. Time and again, parochial interests are being set aside to pursue regional interests in the Partnership's work.

In fact, the Valley's commitment to speaking with one voice was never clearer than in developing and supporting a "hot list" of trade corridor projects submitted in 2007 to the California Transportation Commission. (The Partnership has worked diligently for continued acknowledgement by the state to identify the Central Valley as a significant trade corridor.)

Even though counties like Fresno, Madera and Merced would not directly receive funding from the trade corridor projects, their leaders wholeheartedly supported the projects because of the regional benefits. The result: more than \$205 million in additional funding for Valley transportation projects.

Other recent major Partnership successes include:

- Launching the **San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization** and national partnership with the National 25 x '25 Initiative. The Valley will serve as a demonstration project to focus on the renewable energy potential of the Valley;
- Developing consensus in the region on **high-speed rail routes and goods movement** projects;

Time and again,
parochial interests
are being set aside
to pursue regional
interests in the
Partnership's work.

- Creating **Careersinthevalley.com**, a one-stop Web site that is designed to link employers, job seekers, and vocational training programs throughout the Valley;
- Working with the California Air Resources Board to ensure the Valley is included in the **Non-Port Truck Modernization Program**;
- Founding the **San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust** to help jurisdictions achieve their housing goals;
- Promoting a regionwide integrated **water management plan** and comprehensive water solutions that meet the long-term needs of the Valley and the state;
- Through its Transportation and Advanced Communications Services work groups, working with Caltrans, the Public Utilities Commission, and the California Emerging Technology Fund to facilitate agreements with industry on how to ensure ubiquitous **broadband wireless internet access** for Valley residents;
- Working to improve student achievement by helping Valley education leaders deal more effectively with students **who are learning English**;
- Renaming the K-12 Education Work Group to PreK-12 Education Work Group to recognize the **importance of preschool** to the overall education efforts;
- Connecting Valley legislators and social service agencies and providers to address prevention, education, treatment, and **long-term recovery efforts related to methamphetamine** and other substances;
- Working with a Valley coalition to help establish a **medical school** at the University of California, Merced.

The Partnership has taken on the monumental task of achieving substantive improvement in 10 core areas, most of which are interdependent: advanced communications systems; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services; higher education and workforce development; land use, agriculture and housing; PreK-12 education; transportation; and water quality. The focus of each of the Partnership's 10 work groups is on action and implementation of a 10-year Strategic Action Proposal. Where previous efforts to improve the Valley may have focused on one or two of these core areas, the Partnership is committed to advancing goals and objectives in all 10 areas.

Seed Grants are funds intended to jump-start major initiatives set forth in the Partnership Strategic Action Proposal that will result in significant immediate impact or will lay a solid foundation for long-term priority strategies and investments. The expectation is that the Seed Grants will attract other partners and investors and facilitate new ways for existing organizations to improve regionwide collaborations.

Challenges

The following work group progress reports highlight recent major Partnership successes. However, success does not always come easily and cannot be celebrated without acknowledging the many obstacles to the work, some of which have been overcome and some of which still need to be addressed in future efforts.

Travel distance can be a problem for some communities to have representation at various work group meetings. Some meetings rotate around the eight counties, while other groups may consider options like video or telephone conferencing in order to increase participation. Alternative means of delivering information, such as multimedia, to interested parties are also being explored.

Among these challenges is the ability to maintain a sense of region across the eight counties, while preserving local control by elected officials and valued participation by residents. Political difficulties always arise in discussion of certain issues which may be considered controversial in some circles (such as local land-use topics), so information can be offered as an option, not a recommendation.

For some work groups, the greatest challenge is not in finding opportunities or support but rather sustainable funding.

And lastly, cooperation and communication are key challenges in continuing the effort to bring "buy in" from all the stakeholders in the entire region. Some work groups reported that while feedback from the general public on various community and public meetings was very positive, they would have liked greater turnout at events.

Economic Development

Mission: Implement creative and collaborative solutions to regionwide infrastructure challenges, focus on the growth of target industries with comparative advantages, and promote the region as a business and tourist destination.

The Economic Development Work Group was tasked with assessing the need for a regional financing authority for infrastructure. The Central California Economic Development Corporation worked with each city and county (70 jurisdictions) to gather 5-year Capital Improvement Budgets. The Work Group also partnered with the League of Cities to educate members on the Partnership's goals in gathering the information.

Information and maps were compiled from all incentive zones in the Valley to develop a joint marketing brochure to be used to market the San

Joaquin Valley as a business location. As a result of interviewing San Joaquin Valley Enterprise Zone managers, an issue paper was written identifying improvements still needed in the Zones and was presented at a Partnership Board meeting in June. The entire eight-county region has worked together to market the new brand, "Central California...Center Yourself," through national meetings with site selectors, trade shows and a vibrant marketing plan.

An online directory of support organizations called Start Run Grow was created and details organizations that assist business in each county. See www.valleybizconnect.org.

Future Priorities

The Economic Development Work Group will continue to look for funding or an entity to assimilate the Capital Improvements Plans (CIP) information and determine the need for



Photo courtesy of Central California Economic Development Corporation.

a regional financing authority or other vehicle to assist with infrastructure, especially in rural areas. An entrepreneurship draft action plan is under way in order to plan for long-term funding, increasing risk-capital in the region, and increasing investment worthiness of Valley business. Future activities also include holding a regional stakeholders meeting around Valley tourism issues. *For more information: www.californiacv.com*

Central California Marketing and Cluster Development ~ Central California Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC)

\$225,000

The Central California Economic Development Corporation is a regional marketing organization, formed in the late 1980s to promote job creation and business retention in all eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley. By collaborating and cooperating with and between the various economic development agencies within those counties, a unified voice for attracting new business and industry to the region has been created.

This project has focused on various “cluster” industries that have great potential in the Valley, including agri-businesses such as food processing, agricultural technologies and biotechnologies, manufacturing, supply chain management and logistics, health and medical care, and renewable energy businesses. CCEDC has strengthened its national marketing efforts regarding the value of doing business in the Valley, with the objective of stimulating economic growth. In addition, outreach to state legislative members to explain how important the Valley’s economic growth is to the entire state has commenced.

Building Investment and Entrepreneurship in the San Joaquin Valley ~ Golden Capital Network and Pacific Community Ventures

\$225,000

The activities of this Seed Grant are designed to foster a dynamic business climate to encourage and support entrepreneurs and promote business incubation.

A number of workshops have been produced and delivered in multiple venues. The equity education workshops are geared toward introducing entrepreneurs to Venture Capital and Private Equity as a potential method of funding



Photo courtesy of Central California Economic Development Corporation.

the growth of their business. This education for entrepreneurs helps them decide if equity is right for their business and to learn about participating in the equity fundraising process.

Second, the Entrepreneurship Level One Training workshops is a series designed to provide entrepreneurs with an overview of the key issues that should be addressed when starting a small business, such as business idea feasibility, finances needed, target market and skills relative to running a business. Entrepreneurs learn what questions to ask before investing valuable resources, such as time and money, into a potential business idea.

A successful executive education workshop was delivered in partnership with the Central California Small Business Development Corporation and UC Merced, titled “Hiring and Retaining Key Staff.” The interactive workshop focused on how to develop a hiring process that works to bring outstanding people on board and ensure their goals align with the company goals. It also explored ways to create a company where the best people want to stay and help the company grow by becoming peak performers.

Other valuable workshops have been held for regional stakeholders in developing infrastructure to support entrepreneurs and business expansion. Business development professionals, educators and representatives from state and local elected officials participated.

Golden Capital Network (GCN) also organized and executed the first New California 100 Awards Conference and Banquet, honoring many business owners from our region. During the conference, numerous angel and venture capitalists and industry experts participated on eight panels with in-depth content intended to educate entrepreneurs on investment trends and preferences.

The seed grant was the impetus for the University of the Pacific to take a lead role in the establishment of the San Joaquin Angels, an early stage investment group. 50 business executives are now members of the group and have reviewed over 100 requests for start-up funding.

Higher Education and Workforce Development

Mission: Expand higher education opportunities and develop the workforce preparation infrastructure to support sustained, long-term economic vitality.

Higher Education

The Higher Education section of the work group continues to work on the expansion of access to higher education by increasing the accessibility of resources necessary for valley youth to progress to institution of higher education, and gain a better understanding through research as to what barriers to higher education need be addressed to increase the college-going rates.

A specific activity that addressed issues of higher education in the valley include the development of a community-based college access center, where residents can go to increase their knowledge about what resources are available and receive direct support in the college selection, application, and financial aid processes. The Work Group also organized a regional research group that assessed the current college going culture and produced a report titled “Why Access Matters.” The Work Group is also examining the barriers to valley students transferring to four-year universities and developing an action plan to address the issues.

Workforce Development

The Workforce Development section of the work group continues, through its relationship with the Central California Workforce Collaborative (CCWC) working diligently to develop and begin implementation of a regional demand driven work force system.

The work group has specifically addressed these issues through the completion of a regional assessment, where 2,700 employers in the San Joaquin Valley provided information on employment needs, hiring requirements, and salary information. This assessment will help in the evaluation of employment options in the region in support of targeted industries.

The Work Group has also adopted the WorkKeys Work Ready Certificate as well as the WorkKeys Profiling for employers. Both tools allow employers and job seekers to be better matched with the needs of each other. The Work Ready Certificate shows employers that job applicants have the ability to learn the job through certifying applicants with established knowledge required in applied math, reading and locating information. The WorkKey Profiling system allows local businesses to establish skill standards for jobs that can be utilized as a baseline for hiring.

One of the most exciting accomplishments this year is the launch of Careersinthevalley.com, which allows universal access to local and regional employment studies, career guidance information, training programs, and job opportunities, thereby simplifying and integrating all information needed to facilitate employment for both employer and job seekers.

Future Priorities

The Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group's future priorities related to higher education include the development of a system to link and track students from preschool through college as well as developing a transfer model that would be

able to be shared Valleywide. Priorities related to work force development include building upon the regional assessment and thoroughly analyzing the employment and training gap to work with the public education system to develop new or increase vocational training in targeted sectors based on employer feedback from the employment study. The work force development focus is also working on developing a working relationship with the California Employment Training Panel, strengthening the relationship, and sharing resources among additional work groups, such as economic development to move closer to the goal.

A Community-Based College Center ~ Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC)

\$200,000

The College Place targets non-traditional college goers in easy-to-access community locations and help them navigate the college application and financial aid, career exploration and the transfer process. This year the College Place provided 600 residents with college going info and has been funded \$150,000 to maintain the program beyond the seed grant period.

www.collegenext.org/college_place/



Photo courtesy of Central California Economic Development Corporation.



PreK-12 Education

Mission: Implement policies and programs through public-private partnerships to ensure equal access to educational opportunities and resources for all children that will improve academic performance.

The PreK-12 Education Work Group has dedicated a lot of time and energy this year to discussing their broad agenda, identifying divergent interests, and focusing on priority initiatives that were determined by the work group stakeholders to be approachable and potentially achievable with the available resources.

In order to streamline the goals of the work groups, several special meetings with the Partnership Board, the Secretary of Education and key education leaders were held to clarify and identify priorities that were amenable to all participants. As a result of these meetings the work group's focus was streamlined to three major priorities: English Learners, Pre-Kindergarten and Post Secondary Pursuits (college-going and career preparation). Also resulting from these special meetings was the renaming of the K-12 Education Work Group to PreK-12 Education Work Group to recognize the importance of preschool to the overall education efforts in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Partnership Board took an active role to support the streamlined priorities of the work group with the passage of a resolution in support of Multiple Pathways to Success for Post Secondary Options and the passage of a PreK-12 Reform Initiative Resolution identifying priority initiatives aligned with the Governors Committee on Education Excellence recommendations and requesting the San Joaquin Valley to be an early adoption site for initiatives that are consistent with the recommendations.

This past year the PreK-12 work group has also made great strides in laying the foundation that will allow the work group to continue to make an impact in the future. These foundational projects include such accomplishments as developing a framework to address developing a college going culture across the region, working with higher education and work force development work



group to developed and implement a pilot data systems project with California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS), West Hills Community College District, and school districts to participate in shared data systems to facilitate the transition of students from secondary to higher education, and finally establishing communications tools, such as an electronic newsletter and regular regional meetings, to fully engage those interested in the work of the Work Group.

Future Priorities

Much of the work group's efforts have gone toward convening the first regionwide Exemplary Practices in Education Conference: Achievement Gains in our San Joaquin Valley on January 13, 2009. This conference will highlight schools, districts and programs that are making a difference in student achievement, and will focus on priority areas that are consistent with the focuses of the work group including: English Learners, Pre-Kindergarten, College-Going, Career Education, Data Systems, Computer Literacy, Math and Reading, Teacher and Administrator Training, Collaboratives and Partnerships in Education.

The conference, along with the continuing work of the work group, will bring together education, business and community leaders to address priorities in PreK-12 Education and build upon success to cultivate change.

English Language Learner Leadership Academy ~ Fresno County Office of Education

\$250,000

The English Learner Leadership Academy provides specialized training and support to education leaders from public schools designated as Program Improvement K-12 schools, especially those whose second language students have difficulty meeting state-mandated standards for economic growth.

Throughout the year the English Learner Leadership Academy has continued to meet with school administrators from all eight counties to train them on effective English Learner instruction, curriculum, and intervention strategies. At this time, Fresno County Office of Education has developed a regional plan to continue the English Language Learner Leadership Academy for a second year.



Transportation

Mission: Build innovative transportation systems to increase travel choices and improve mobility, regional and state goods movement, air quality, and economic prosperity.

High-speed rail was a major focus of the Transportation Work Group this year. The Work Group raised the profile of high-speed rail planning and increased public discussion around the routes for the proposed service, potential benefits to the Valley, and after the Pacheco Pass route to the Bay Area was chosen, how the Altamont Pass corridor could be improved so that a system of feeder routes could be developed.

Highway 99 continued to be a focal point of the Work Group. An economic impact study of the proposed Interstate designation was begun this year, as well as CalTrans reporting on the cost of making it into an Interstate.

Other topics examined were the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint process, short haul rail, and challenges with the size of trucks on county roads that deliver agricultural products to markets in and beyond the Valley. The Work Group discussed the role of its efforts in relation to the Councils of Government (COGs) and established a sense of where the Work Group could make a unique contribution to transportation planning in the region.



Future Priorities

The Transportation Work Group will continue to focus on high-speed rail since the bond was passed in November, as well as short haul rail and agricultural transportation issues, and facilitate broader community engagement in transportation planning. They will also develop criteria for regionally significant projects and seek additional sources of funding, including private-public partnerships.

Metro Rural Loop Corridor Preservation Feasibility Study ~ City of Fresno Planning and Development Department

\$125,000

The Metro Rural Loop is a conceptual idea to link the various cities located within the Fresno-Madera Metropolitan Area by a multi-modal transportation corridor. It is an innovative regional development approach envisioning a multi-modal, multi-city, and multi-county transit-oriented transportation corridor system that would directly and efficiently link the development of 14 incorporated cities in Fresno and Madera Counties, and define one of the most significant, sustainable, effective, and attractive smart growth-oriented regional metropolitan areas for the future of California.

The Metro Rural Loop (MRL) Feasibility Committee prepared for and hosted a multijurisdictional workshop, which included topics on regional cooperation, MRL history, project status, conceptual corridor priorities and “clicker” results on MRL topics from attendees at the workshop.

The 2050 MRL land use model run was finalized, which was then chosen as the Blueprint scenario for Fresno County with specific revisions requested by the Fresno Blueprint Roundtable Committee. Each of the four counties (Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare) has included MRL components in their recommended Blueprint scenarios.

Land Use, Agriculture and Housing

Mission: Support and promote regional consensus on future land use through the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Plan process that identifies appropriate areas for growth and economic development, contributing to the conservation of important agricultural land and natural resources and advancing the sustainability of the region.

The Land Use, Agriculture and Housing Work Group (LUAH) is central to the long range land use, resource conservation and transportation planning efforts of the region. The foundation of their work continues as new tools, goals, and guidelines are created.

The Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee (BRAC) has facilitated regional planning consolidation and is currently developing, adopting, and then implementing appropriate land-use and housing guidelines. Collaboration between LUAH and Blueprint also includes continuing discussions regarding guidelines for new cities and the optimal size of communities for cost-effectiveness and self-sufficiency, and the best geographic areas for this to occur. Many members of LUAH have contributed to individual county Blueprint visioning sessions.

The San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust was founded as a California Public Benefit Corporation to help jurisdictions achieve their housing goals. LUAH is working with the Trust on a comprehensive, coordinated regional housing strategy. The Trust will be part of the tool box for the Blueprint and the implementation in communities. This kind of coordination is vital to the process to avoid duplication and maximize everyone's efforts.

Future Priorities

Much of the LUAH Work Group's future priorities are impacted by the passing of the high-speed rail bond, which coincides with the Transportation and Air Quality Work Groups' priorities. Future work between LUAH and Blueprint includes the creation of a tool kit for planners with model ordinances and design guidelines.

Farmland Conservation Model Program ~ Fresno County Council of Governments

\$200,000

The Fresno Model Farmland Conservation Program (MFCP) project includes three basic tasks: 1) Identifying and mapping characteristics that make farm and ranch lands strategic resources for agriculture. This will result in a gradation of values, not hard and fast lines. 2) Documenting and analyzing current trends affecting agricultural lands, as well as public policies, market forces and other factors that contribute to them. 3) Selecting a coordinated set of policies and techniques that will effectively conserve the most strategic farmland for agricultural use while accommodating urban growth.

A Strategic Farmland Map for Fresno County was completed. The final map was accepted by the Model Farmland Conservation Program Advisory Committee. The American Farmland Trust, the consultant, solicited and incorporated feedback from different stakeholders in developing the Strategic Farmland Map. This has produced information and data that could be used on other projects such as the Fresno County component of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, and creates a process or methodology to define and identify strategic farmlands throughout the rest of the San Joaquin Valley that could be used in future Partnership studies.





Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin ~ Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP)

\$125,000

Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP) has held multiple meetings to continue information-sharing, collaboration, and consensus-building efforts among multiple partners. This year of activities will culminate in the delivery of Mitigation Bank (Conservation Bank) site recommendations to Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), and the development

of a Comprehensive Integrated Outreach and Fundraising Plan to guide outreach and implementation of TBWP's priority conjunctive use land and water conservation projects located in Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties.

TBWP Planning and Project Implementation Team (PPIT) completed the Council of Fresno County Governments Measure C Riparian-Wildlife Corridor Survey and Report and continues efforts to secure funding for similar reports in Kings and Kern Counties to leverage land use planning opportunities encouraged under the terms of this Partnership Seed Grant.

TBWP has also been instrumental in conversations with California State Parks planning staff and California State Parks Tehachapi District staff regarding State Park site opportunities in the Tulare Basin. Other meetings, especially regarding the acquisition of sensitive and threatened species upland habitat and important wetland habitat in Goose Lake, resulted successfully in agreements to collaborative parcel appraisal with Wildlife Conservation Board and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation officials.

www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org



Air Quality

Mission: Enable residents to enjoy healthy air by removing the adverse impacts of poor air quality and improving the quality of life.

During the past 12 months, the Air Quality Work Group (AQWG) has continued to focus on providing education, encouraging regulation, and implementing incentive mechanisms for air quality mitigation technologies, in particular those that have significant potential to accelerate emissions reductions as soon as possible.

Education

The AQWG helped coordinate the Traffic Congestion, Highway Safety & Air Quality Conference held in January 2008 in Fresno. Stakeholders from around the state were convened to discuss the potential for Short Sea Shipping (SSS) on the Pacific Coast. Those in attendance included ports throughout California, the Longshoremen, State Transportation services, and local and state government officials. Efforts currently underway include the creation of a request for proposal (RFP) so that the SSS study can be completed.

Additionally, the AQWG helped the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District launch its Healthy Air Living initiative, aimed at encouraging Valley residents to adopt air quality mitigation practices into their everyday lives.

Regulations

The Partnership took a “support” position on two significant and controversial air quality rules. The landmark Indirect Source Rule was approved by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The Off-road Construction Equipment rule was approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in a 6-4 vote, with both San Joaquin Valley board members voting in support of the rule.

The AQWG participated in multiple CARB workshops related to the proposed Heavy Duty In-use Diesel Regulation and served as a convener of Valley truck operators and CARB. The Work

Group continues to play an important role in development of a rule that achieves the desired environmental objectives in a way that is viable for the San Joaquin Valley economy. The AQWG has also participated in evaluation of new diesel emission technologies.

Incentive Mechanisms

The AQWG has played an important role in the generation of new incentive funding sources which could generate in excess of \$160 million/year when fully implemented:

- Proposition 1B: In the first round of funding, the Central Valley received 25% of the available funding. After allocation for administrative costs, the San Joaquin Valley will receive approximately 21%, or \$52.5 million. This is the minimum allocation expected in each of the remaining 3 rounds of funding. Proposition 1B also designates \$200 million for the Lower Emission School Bus Program to replace old, high-pollution school buses and to retrofit middle-aged diesel buses with CARB-verified pollution control equipment. The San Joaquin Valley has been allocated a total of \$39 million over four years.
- AB118 ~ The Alternative and Renewable Fuel Vehicle Technology Program: Administered by the California Energy Commission, this program offers \$120 million in grant funding for eligible projects. The amount of this funding that will be applied to San Joaquin Valley projects is undetermined.
- Diesel Emissions Reductions Act: AQWG worked with Senator Feinstein to obtain a line-item allocation of \$5 million under this act.
- HR 2419 ~ Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, aka “the Farm Bill”: After over a year of advocacy from the AQWG and others, the Farm Bill became law and included \$150 million (\$37.5m for each fiscal years 2009 - 2012) to “provide payments...to producers to implement practices to address air quality concerns from agricultural operations and to meet Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements.” A substantial portion of the

new air quality funding provided through the Environmental Quality Innovation Program's (EQIP) Conservation Innovation Grants program is expected to directly assist farmers in California's San Joaquin Valley. The Valley's share of this funding should total approximately \$20-25 million/year.

- Indirect Source Rule: Aimed at reducing sprawl, this rule is expected to generate approximately \$16.5 million per year in air quality mitigation fees.
- AB 2522 (Arambula) ~ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Vehicle License Fees: This bill, passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, was the top legislative priority for the AQWG in 2008. It authorizes the SJVAPCD to raise DMV fees by \$23, with proceeds to be dedicated to air quality mitigation. When fully implemented, this will yield approximately \$60 million/year for the San Joaquin Valley.
- S 3496 (Boxer) ~ Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation Act of 2008: As a result of dialogue between Senator Boxer and representatives from the AQWG and the SJVAPCD, Senator Boxer introduced S 3496, which would allow the Administrator of EPA to designate areas within the San Joaquin Valley as Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zones that would be eligible for grants to replace or retrofit vehicles and engines to reduce air pollution. The bill was passed by a Senate subcommittee and is awaiting action by the full senate. Appropriations under this bill



will be initiated after authorization is received.

- SB 974 (Lowenthal) ~ Port Investment Bill. The AQWG advocated for inclusion of the San Joaquin Valley as a recipient of funding under this bill. In his message vetoing this bill, Governor Schwarzenegger cited the lack of benefits to the San Joaquin Valley as a major reason for his veto.
- High-speed Rail System: The most significant of these initiatives advanced in 2008 was the amendment of the high-speed rail bond on the November 2008 ballot. The Air Quality and Transportation Work Groups worked together to ensure that the high-speed rail system serves the needs of the entire San Joaquin Valley. The result was the creation of the Altamont Working Group which is currently pursuing the construction of a higher-speed commuter system linking the entire Valley in cooperation with the California High Speed Rail Authority, and the successful passage of AB 3034 (Galgiani). Under this bill, the Altamont Corridor is included as a segment for construction as well as high speed rail connectivity to Sacramento, which is expected to result in an 8% reduction of ozone pollution in the San Joaquin Valley.

Future Priorities

While the federal and state fiscal challenges make it less likely that funding will be available for air quality improvement programs as outlined in the Partnership's Strategic Action Proposal, the AQWG will continue to maintain momentum by monitoring progress on CARB's regulations, pursue a "dual path" to clean air by seeking the commercialization of new technologies as well as incentive mechanisms, and effectively engage all the stakeholders in work group activities.

Air Quality Education in Environmental Justice Areas ~ The Maddy Institute

\$250,000

This year the Maddy Institute continued implementation of a pilot project aimed at reducing air pollution in the environmental justice communities of Arvin, Avenal and Parlier.

The Valley Clean Air Now's (CAN) Tune In-Tune Up Program was established to reduce mobile source pollutants generated by older, out-of-tune cars. The initial data from the first two events reported 683 cars tested with an 81% failure rate, with the total approximate cost of repairs to be \$202,987. Early results indicate a cost effectiveness of \$1,524 per ton of reduced exhaust emissions.

The grant also provided for outreach regarding fireplace/lawn equipment retailers. This work has been completed and the results will be included in the Seed Grant Final Report.

Third, the grant provided for the development of "green government" operations and practices in these three cities. This on-going work includes planning meetings regarding clean air technologies, identifying funding experts, identifying key city officials, initiating discussions with city officials regarding "air quality" as a scoring criterion on local government procurement contracts, and conducting three one-day "Greening Your City" workshops on the Air District's Indirect Source Rule, including "air quality" in procurement processes and funding opportunities.

Water Quality, Supply, Reliability and Environmental Restoration

Mission: Ensure a reliable, adequate quality water supply to sustain a high quality of life, and a world-class agricultural sector, while protecting and enhancing the environment.

During the past 12 months, the Water Quality, Supply, Reliability and Environmental Restoration Work Group (Water Work Group) has engaged with the San Joaquin Valley water community, elected officials, federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and disadvantaged communities to implement the water-related recommendations contained in the California Partnership Strategic Action Proposal.

The Water Work Group, with support from the California Water Institute staff, has been proactively engaging with the water community and public interests in the region to develop an equitable and sustainable water policy that meets the needs of all eight counties. A significant accomplishment this year was the Water Policy

Working Group resolution that was adopted by the Partnership Board in June. This substantive resolution conveys a unified sense of actions needed to improve the health and reliability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Water Work Group also participated and collaborated with fellow Partnership Seed Grant recipient, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, in their environmental restoration and enhancement activities, especially to assist with water plan goals of riparian corridor and wetland habitat preservation and enhancement for flood control, water storage and potential groundwater recharge capacity building.

Other accomplishments include provision of facilitation support for existing and emerging Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups to develop and implement function water management plans (South Sierra IRWM, Tulare Basin JPA, Mariposa RCD IRWM, Kern County IRWM). The Work Group also provided facilitation support for disadvantaged communities to proactively engage with IRWMs to improve water quality and supply reliability issues.



Future Priorities

The critical need for an integrated water plan that benefits all eight counties continues unabated as California struggles with an expected third year of drought in 2009, which has the potential for being one of the most severe drought years in California's recorded history (Drought Water Bank Overview). The Water Work Group will continue to engage with the San Joaquin Valley water community, cities and counties, and the public to develop a unified vision for water policy in the eight-county region that effectively integrates across resource and governmental boundaries. The Partnership provides a very effective forum for effecting those actions.

The Partnership has been quite effective at connecting the dots between respective Work Groups and the ongoing Blueprint city and county planning efforts in all eight counties. These actions must be strengthened and enlarged so rural and urban water planning considerations are viewed as two sides of the same coin and fully integrated for the benefit of all. The most meaningful example is to ensure that urban expansion plans do not pave over the best groundwater recharge areas and cut off a water supply option that will become increasingly valuable in the future.



Regional Valley Water Plans Integration And Recycled Water Usage ~ California Water Institute (CWI)

\$150,000

The California Water Institute implementation team and consultants have come together very well and made excellent progress working with local water agencies who already have Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP) underway. The CWI work plan is to proactively engage with IRWMP early adopters to develop a consolidated San Joaquin Valley IRWMP Framework in both the Tulare Lake (Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties)

and the San Joaquin River (Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties) Hydrologic Regions. Additionally the CWI team will be the liaison and provide necessary tools to other water community members and groups in both basins that desire to either start new IRWMP's or engage with existing IRWMP's. The San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Version 1.0 was released for comment on October 1, 2008 and is scheduled to be delivered to the California Partnership Board of Directors by December 15, 2008.

www.californiawater.org

Sowing Seeds for Community Health ~ Self-Help Enterprises (SHE)

\$100,000

This project has completed many activities that support the Partnership's objective of assisting communities in securing funds to provide water that meets state and federal drinking water standards. Since the inception of the Partnership seed grant contract, SHE has committed \$96,641.31 in seed money funds to directly benefit disadvantaged communities with water quality issues.

Services provided and activities completed includes:

- completion of community surveys in Seville (Tulare County) and Fairmead (Madera County),
- prioritization of communities in relation to drinking water health issues and community incomes,
- preparation and submission of applications for funding from the California Department of Public Health's State Revolving Fund (SRF) on behalf of Hardwick, Pixley, Souls Tract, Richgrove, and Seville,
- assistance in engineering procurement for Buttonwillow, Fairways Tract, Ponderosa and Tooleville water project designs,
- additional preliminary engineering work for Frazier Park, Matheny Tract and the Weldon area,
- assistance for Buttonwillow and Kern County in reviewing their application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds,
- assistance to Arvin to complete a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document that was needed to provide an emergency replacement water supply for the community, and
- participation in several San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP) to ensure that small disadvantaged community clean water supply and funding opportunities are covered in each of these Plans.

Energy

Mission: Promote energy use efficiencies and adoption of clean, renewable energy technologies to ensure a reliable supply, grow the economy, and improve air quality.

During the past year, the Energy Work Group has continued to focus on supporting efforts to successfully establish and operate the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO), and conducting marketing and outreach to increase stakeholder awareness and involvement in energy opportunities in the Valley.

The Energy Work Group's major efforts have been concentrated on the SJVCEO. However, further achievements of the Work Group include:

- developing a baseline of EnergyStar residences in the Valley and model green building ordinances,



- commencing work on energy primers for local policy makers,
- developing web links to inform the public about clean vehicles,
- promoting and supporting training on EnergyStar and green buildings,
- developing a comprehensive database of green building activity and policy opportunities in the region, and
- collaborating with local Building Industry officials and "Build-It-Green" to achieve a uniform adoption of standards within the San Joaquin Valley.

Growing Clean Energy Capacity in the San Joaquin Valley ~ San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)

\$125,000 (King's River Conservation District)

With financial support through a Partnership Seed Grant, and other support from the Energy Work Group, the SJVCEO was successfully created, incorporated, and launched. Founded by a large and geographically diverse Board that was approved by the Partnership, the SJVCEO held its first meeting in September, 2007. To significantly increase the level of clean energy activities in the Valley, the SJVCEO has established four priority areas of focus and is supporting work to:

- 1) help “green” the 62 cities and eight counties in the Valley,
- 2) increase production of fuels from renewable sources;
- 3) ensure that future electric power needs in the Valley are met through renewable resources; and
- 4) support and help grow a “green” energy workforce in the Valley.

Initial accomplishments toward these goals include: a) signing a Memo of Understanding with the National 25 x 25 Initiative to establish the Valley as a demonstration region for renewable energy, b) beginning projects in four cities (Arvin, Fresno, Stockton, and Visalia) and Tulare County, and c) hosting two major energy conferences - one focused on energy policy and the other on clean energy opportunities in the agriculture sector.

The principal challenges for future work will be to obtain adequate levels of sustainable funding and to set and maintain the right level of focus for its strategic actions.

www.sjvcleanenergy.org

Future Priorities

The Energy Work Group will continue its efforts to inform stakeholders of green building and related policy opportunities and develop an energy policy primer for jurisdictions. They will strive to meet the continuing challenge of fully engaging the entire region in the Work Group and SJVCEO's activities, including diverse sectors such as small understaffed communities, while at the same time developing specialized, local strategies to achieve AB 32 goals as they are developed.



Health and Human Services

Mission: Achieve improved health status and well being by promoting healthy lifestyles, nurturing safe communities, providing timely access to necessary health care and social services, and embracing the cultural diversity of the region.

Recognizing the critical need to train and retain physicians in the San Joaquin Valley and building on growing support, Congressmen Dennis Cardoza (CA-18) and Jim Costa (CA-20) convened a meeting to foster support for establishing a medical school at UC Merced. The result of the meeting was the establishment of The Valley Coalition for UC Merced Medical School. The Valley Coalition is made up of San Joaquin Valley leaders including individuals involved with the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and who are committed to the development of a medical school at UC Merced. The goal of the group is to develop a medical school at UC Merced that builds on the campus' health sciences research base, leverages partnerships with UC Davis and UC San Francisco, and utilizes existing healthcare facilities in the Valley for clinical training. Obtaining support from the UC Board of Regents for UC Merced to continue planning and securing financial support from Valley businesses and individuals are among the coalition's milestones. Work Group consultants from the Central Valley Health Policy Institute (CVHPI) were invited to join the Valley Coalition, and it was decided to leverage advocacy efforts for the medical school by joining forces.

On May 14, 2008, the University of California Regents' Committee on Educational Policy and Committee on Health Services unanimously authorized UC Merced to proceed with the next phase of planning for a School of Medicine. The next phase of planning for the campus involves developing curriculum, planning for the infrastructure, and seeking faculty review and approval of the curriculum and the new school. UC Merced's objective is to submit a full proposal and business plan by the end of 2009. The Work Group's outreach plans will continue to be significant to increase awareness and regional



support for the medical school, and will need to coincide with the planning work that UC Merced officials are doing.

The Health and Human Services Work Group remains a part of and involved in the Children's Health Initiatives to expand health coverage to children, specialty care initiatives to address health professional shortages in the region and remains vigilante to health access legislation and other activities specific to the needs of the uninsured.

The human services component of the Work Group has been led by the Seed Grant to Social Welfare Evaluation Research and Training Center (SWERT) (see more below).

Methamphetamine Recovery ~ Central California Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center (SWERT)

\$150,000

The Methamphetamine Recovery Project, an 8-county collaborative project focused on education, prevention, treatment and sustainable recovery, obtained grass-roots perceptions about programs and services through public meetings in all 8 counties.

SWERT hosted a legislative forum in March 2008 at the University of the Pacific in Stockton and a teleconference site at West Hills College in Lemoore. The event provided legislators with a

picture of the human impact of drug and alcohol abuse and the consequences of inadequate prevention and treatment resources.

Additionally, SWERT continues to support the California Welfare Directors Association and California Department of Social Services in efforts to establish a pilot project in a Valley county for implementation of AB340. Relative Placements is a project intended to increase the placement of children with relatives when they are removed from parental homes due to abuse or neglect.

A report of Valley indicators for consideration by policy and fiscal decision-makers is in progress to be released in the spring of 2009.

San Joaquin Valley Health Enterprise Zone Project ~ Central Valley Health Policy Institute
\$125,000

The SJV Health Enterprise Zone Project has focused on developing a comprehensive policy framework to provide the basis for four proposed models that address the need to increase the health professional workforce in the San Joaquin Valley. An extensive interview process was conducted with providers, physician recruiters, economic development and business consultants, state and federal agency and legislative staff, and representatives from workforce development organizations. These models are more inclusive of the various sectors involved in addressing health professional shortages than may have been originally conceptualized. An attempt has been made to address the feasibility of implementing these models in the context of the state's current "fiscal emergency." The hope is that these strategies will effectively increase and improve access to primary, specialty, and sub-specialty health providers in the San Joaquin Valley. The draft

of "San Joaquin Valley Health Enterprise Zone Concept Report: A Policy Framework for Addressing Health Professional Shortages in the San Joaquin Valley and Proposed Models for Action" has been submitted to the Central Valley Public Health Partnership for review and comment.



Advanced Communications Services and Information Technology

Mission: Facilitate the deployment and utilization of advanced communications services and information technology throughout the region.

The Advanced Communications Services and Information Technology (ACS) Work Group has been focused this year on broadband internet penetration in the San Joaquin Valley. There is now about 95% coverage and access is no longer the major reason why people in the Valley are not able to use the internet. Only communities under a 5,000 population which are away from major roadways are without fibre internet and many of those are able to have local transmission systems

or receive satellite internet service. The challenge now shifts to access to computers and technology and training people to use them.

The Pixley pilot project moved into two new arenas this year. The first was Pixley Connect, in which teenagers were trained to install and repair computers so they would be able to serve as information technology (IT) resources for the town's residents. The Connectors were given a laptop computer in recognition of completing the 10 week course. This past summer the focus added economic development, such as encouraging the growth of home-based businesses based on new computer and IT skills. Another cohort of adults, largely Spanish-speaking mothers of teenagers, graduated from the 16-week computer training program and received a computer.





Future Priorities

The ACS Work Group will continue to work on the last 5% of the San Joaquin Valley without access to broadband internet. Increased focus will be on initiatives to significantly increase information technology and computer training programs - both in the number of people who are trained, as well as the languages in which they are offered - and to fund additional programs to provide reduced-cost computers and associated equipment to rural residents and/or at-risk populations.

Valley Telehealth Partnership~ University of California, Merced, School of Natural Sciences **\$250,000**

Major new opportunities in telemedicine for California were realized during this past year. The University of California system was awarded a large grant from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create a Valley Telehealth Partnership (VTP). This project includes funds for statewide site assessment for telemedicine, development of connectivity and implementation plans for a large number of potential telemedicine sites in California. The statewide coordination of this project is being managed by the University of California

Office of the President (UCOP). The planning and development of the VTP has resulted in a new way of thinking about telemedicine for the Valley and how UC Merced can most effectively leverage its telemedicine resources to support the eHealth Centers to be implemented during this seed grant funding period. Activities that leverage these new partnerships and collaboration to maximize opportunities with the FCC and those of the Seed Grant funded network are under way.

Six sites have been selected from among those that were identified to be high priority in the Project's regional assessment and connectivity plan:

- Mercy Hospital Family Care Clinic, Merced, Merced County (end user)
- United Health Center, Kerman, Fresno County (end user)
- San Joaquin General Hospital, French Camp, San Joaquin County (mixed use: both end user and provider)
- Sierra Kings Hospital, Reedley, Fresno County (end user)
- Castle Health System, Atwater, Merced County (specialty provider site)
- Oildale Community Health Centers - National Health Services, Inc, Bakersfield

Meetings and Participation

The Partnership's Board of Directors meets quarterly at locations throughout the region. In 2008, the Board met in Fresno in the first quarter, Madera in the second quarter, and Merced in the third quarter. In previous years, the Board also has met in Bakersfield, Visalia, Hanford, Stockton, Tulare and Fresno. Additionally, the Board held a special session on PreK-12 education in Lemoore to begin work on a long-term plan to reform the region's education system by addressing real opportunities and challenges.

Each regular Board meeting includes updates on the three priority issues identified by the Board: air quality, transportation, and water supply, quality, and reliability. In the past year, the Board also has received in-depth presentations from various work groups to allow input from the full Board. Since the start of the Partnership, each of the Partnership's 10 Work Groups have provided in-depth presentations to the Board on their efforts.

Each of the Partnership's 10 Work Groups also meet at least on a quarterly basis to address the challenges in their particular areas. The work groups are bringing together previously independent groups and organizations to develop solutions to common sets of challenges. In addition, the work groups also have begun to coordinate and communicate with each other to address their mutual issues. For example, the Higher Education and Workforce Development, Economic Development and PreK-12 Education Work Groups are working with one another to focus on tying together education and the workforce development system with economic development efforts.

The Partnership's focus on cooperation, collaboration and inclusion also is the foundation for the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization and the San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust, two entities created by the Partnership to address critical energy and housing issues facing the Valley. In addition, the Partnership's 14 Seed Grants rely on participation from a broad range of stakeholders to move toward accomplishing their goals.

Communications

The media outreach strategy has resulted in significant editorial support for the Partnership's efforts throughout the Valley. The Partnership has received considerable media attention for its work on air quality, water, education, energy, transportation, and high speed rail issues.

The Partnership also is working with The Maddy Institute, a public affairs institute based at California State University, Fresno, on "**The Maddy Forum**," a weekly 30-minute public affairs program that highlights the efforts of the Partnership's Work Groups. The show airs on 90.7 KSFR Radio. The Partnership also is working with KVPR public radio in Fresno on a series of shows that highlight the Partnership's efforts.

In early 2008, the Partnership unveiled a **new and improved Web site (www.sjvpartnership.org)** that features a content management system that allows work groups more access and control to communicate and share documents. The individual work group sections have been expanded to include overview, action plan, announcements, and document library pages. The site also features an interactive overview chart that demonstrates the work and interdependencies of the initiatives within the Partnership and an interactive map that demonstrates the massive undertaking by showing the collaborative partners by county area.

The Partnership also has been the topic of a number of **presentations** to groups throughout the Valley and beyond. Some particular presentations of note include a presentation by California State University, Fresno President John W. Welty at the Coalition of Metropolitan Universities conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as presentations at the Great Valley Center's annual meeting and the Leadership California conference.

The Partnership produces a **monthly electronic newsletter** that is sent to more than 2,500 stakeholders. It highlights the successes of the Partnership and includes updates on the progress of the Work Groups, important dates, and a features section that profiles people connected to the Partnership and showcases impacts of the Partnership's work.

The Partnership also produces the **Partnership News Briefing**, a daily overview of news stories, information and events related to Partnership priorities and activities. It is sent to key stakeholders, leaders, and media throughout the Valley to keep them abreast of policy issues and the Partnership's efforts related to those issues.

Annual Summits

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley held its first Annual Summit at the Visalia Convention Center on Thursday, October 4, 2007. Mark Drabenstott, Director & Research Professor at RUPRI Center for Regional Competitiveness at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and former official with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, was the keynote speaker. An expert in rural regional development and the economy, Dr. Drabenstott presented a series of strategies that would help the region become more globally competitive while retaining its culture and identity.

The first Partnership Annual Report was presented and distributed at the 2007 Summit, and each of the 10 work groups provided breakout presentations on their work to date.

The summit was held concurrently with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Annual Conference allowing attendees and exhibitors to participate in both events. More than **450 people attended** the event. Coordination enhanced attendance and allowed for a coordinated effort on facilities, catering and securing audio-visual services.

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley will hold its second Annual Summit on December 11, 2008 at the Stockton Grand Hotel in Stockton, California.

Legislative Report

The Partnership holds monthly meetings involving work group representatives and representatives of state and federal elected officials to address important policy issues. The Partnership played a significant role in a number of legislative successes that benefit the Valley:

High-Speed Rail. The Air Quality and

Transportation Work Groups worked together to ensure that the high speed rail system serves the needs of the entire San Joaquin Valley. The result was the creation of the Altamont Working Group, which is currently pursuing the construction of a higher-speed commuter system linking the entire Valley in cooperation with the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and the successful passage of AB 3034 (Galgiani). Implementation of the high speed rail is expected to result in an 8% reduction of ozone pollution in the San Joaquin Valley.

Trade Corridor Improvement Fund: The Valley formed a partnership with northern California, called the Northern California Trade Corridors Coalition, to effectively compete for the \$2 billion provided through Prop 1B for infrastructure improvements along trade corridors with a high volume of freight movement. In an unprecedented effort, all Valley counties joined together to promote a few priority projects, putting aside their individual parochial needs, in order to obtain funding for vital regional projects. The Partnership's Transportation Work Group played a key advocacy role in promoting the Valley projects, testifying at California Transportation Commission (CTC) hearings and weighing in with the Cabinet. Together, the Coalition secured over \$824 million for regional projects adopted by the CTC.

Incentive Funding: The Air Quality Work Group has played an important role in the generation of new incentive funding sources which could generate in excess of \$160 million/year when fully implemented. Highlights include passage of AB 2522 (Arambula), which authorizes the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to raise DMV fees by \$23 and use the proceeds for air quality mitigation. In addition, a substantial portion of the new air quality funding provided through the Environmental Quality Innovation Program's Conservation Innovation Grants program is expected to directly assist farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. The Valley's share of this funding should total approximately \$20-\$25 million per year.

In the 2006 Strategic Action Proposal of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, sixteen key primary indicators of well-being for Valley residents were identified in order to easily measure progress and provide public accountability for progress. These indicators are to be reported annually.

To supplement the statistical indicators, a Partnership for the Assessment of Communities (PAC) has been formed by a team of researchers from three universities in the region to measure change in real communities as the work of the Partnership proceeds. Aggregating data across this large region often obscures what is happening to real people in their homes and neighborhoods, so the additional longitudinal research in select communities will contribute valuable local level data.

Primary Statistical Indicators

The following set of graphs display the current San Joaquin Valley performance as well as the goals for improvement to be reached by 2016, ten years after the Partnership was initially formed. These economic, education, environment and natural resources, health, land use, housing, and transportation indicators serve as macro level measurements of well-being. The graphs also display comparative data for California and other regions where relevant.

While the selected goal indicators are not meant to be exhaustive or evaluative, they provide feedback to the Partnership over time to adjust course if necessary in order to achieve the Partnership's vision for the San Joaquin Valley. It is important to note, however, that the goals may not be achieved because of external factors outside the control of leaders in the San Joaquin Valley or the State of California.

ECONOMIC

- ↑ Average per Capita Income (\$)
- ↑ Median Household Income (\$)
- ↓ Families below Poverty Line (%)

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

- ↓ Average Unemployment Rate (%)
- ↑ High School Graduation Rates (%)
- ↑ Population with Bachelor's Degree or Beyond (%)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- ↓ Number of Days per Year that Exceed State Standards for Ozone Levels
- ↓ Electricity Consumption per Capita (kWh)
- ↓ Residential Water Consumption per Capita (gallons per day)

LAND USE

- ↑ Land Use Efficiency: People per Urban Acre
- Acres of Land in Agricultural Use

TRANSPORTATION

- ↓ Daily Vehicle Hour of Delay (% change)

HOUSING

- ↑ Housing Affordability Index (% of first time buyers able to afford median-priced home)

HEALTH

- ↑ Primary Care Physicians (per 100,000 people)
- ↓ Population Reporting Asthma (%)

CRIME AND SAFETY

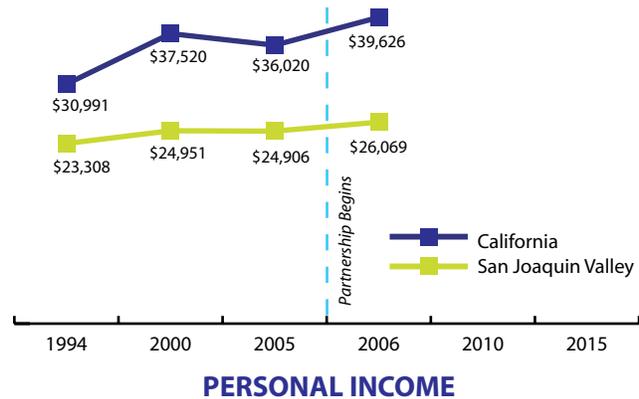
- ↓ Violent Crimes (per 100,000 people)

Per Capita Personal Income for the San Joaquin Valley and California

Goal: Meet or Exceed on State Rate by 2016

Per capita personal income is the average annual income per individual in a community or jurisdiction. Regions with a higher per capita income tend to have more education, recreational, and entertainment opportunities. Per capita income is often seen as the major indicator of a region's economic health.

Source: US Department of Commerce, California Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE), 2006 Edition

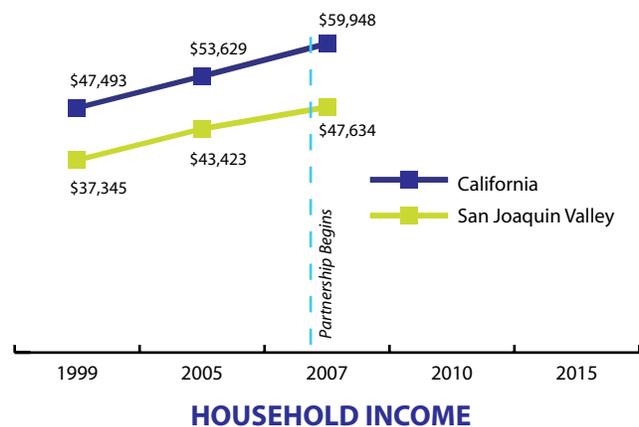


Median Household Income for San Joaquin Valley and California

Goal: Achieve or Improve on State Rate by 2016

The median household income is the level at which half the household incomes are higher and half are lower. The figure is considered an appropriate representation of household economic status in the region because it is not dramatically affected by unusually high or low incomes.

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2000, 2005, 2007

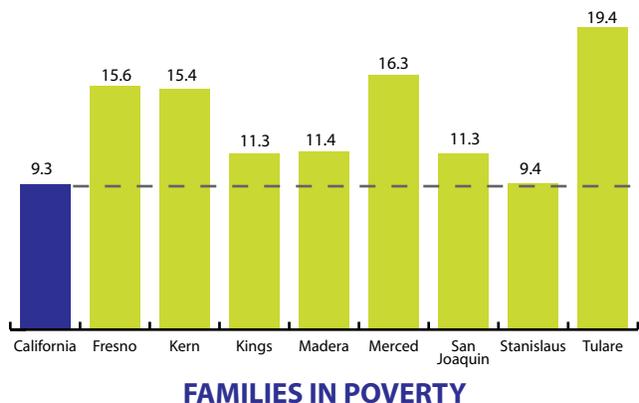


Percentage of Families Whose Income is Below the Poverty Level in San Joaquin Valley Counties and California (2007)

Goal: Achieve or Improve on State Rate by 2016

A family is considered to be below the poverty level if their total income is less than the standard threshold the Census Bureau has set for the household measure of need. The more households that are living below the poverty level in a community means more individuals who are living without the essentials for a minimum standard of well-being and life.

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

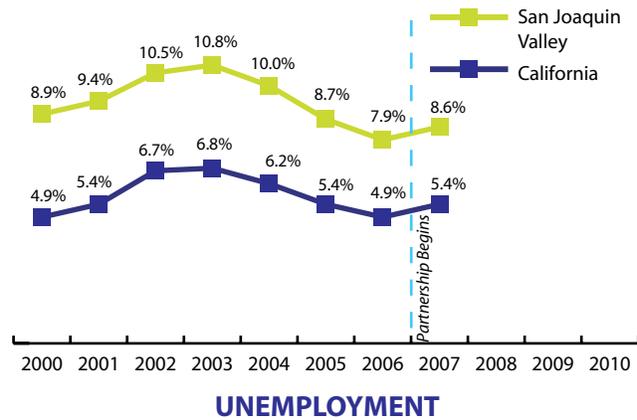


Annual Unemployment Rate for the San Joaquin Valley and California

Goal: Achieve or Improve on State Rate by 2016

The unemployment rate measures the percentage of workers 16 and older who are not working or are working less than full time and who are actively seeking employment. High unemployment means there are more workers seeking work than there are jobs available and can result in great competition for existing jobs, potentially leading to lower overall wages.

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division

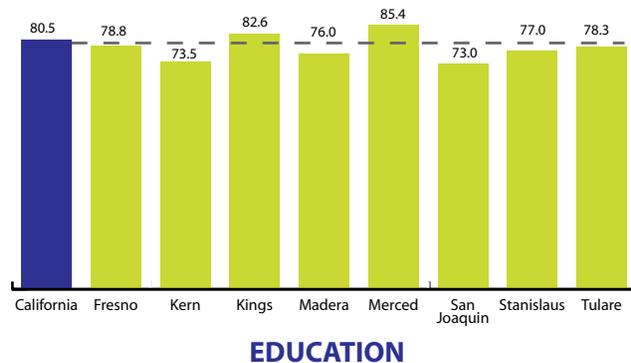


High School Graduation Rates in San Joaquin Valley Counties and California (2006-07)

Goal: Achieve or Improve on State Average by 2016

High school graduation rates are determined based by the National Center for Education Statistics definitions, the total graduation rate divided by the graduation rate plus the total number of dropouts from grades 9-12. High school graduation is a minimum requirement for entry into the labor force increasing the likelihood of economic success.

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit

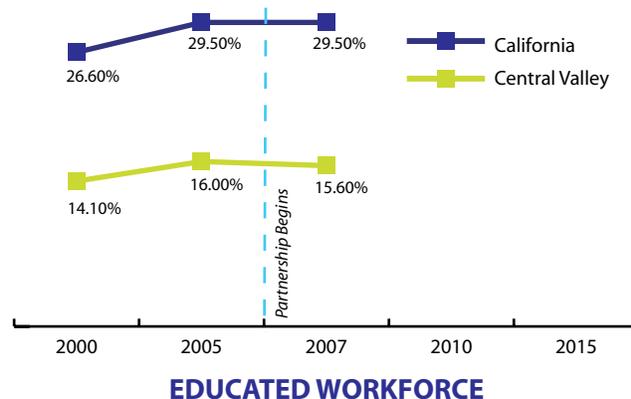


Percentage of Population Over the Age of 25 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the San Joaquin Valley and California

Goal: Increase College Graduation Rate by 20% by 2016

The need for technical knowledge is increasing, making higher levels of education a necessity for individuals to be competitive in the workforce. Those with a bachelor's degree have access to higher paying jobs with greater stability. According to the US Census Bureau high school graduates can expect, on average, over an adult's working life to earn \$1.2 million, the average for those with a bachelor's degree increases to \$2.1 million during their lifetime.

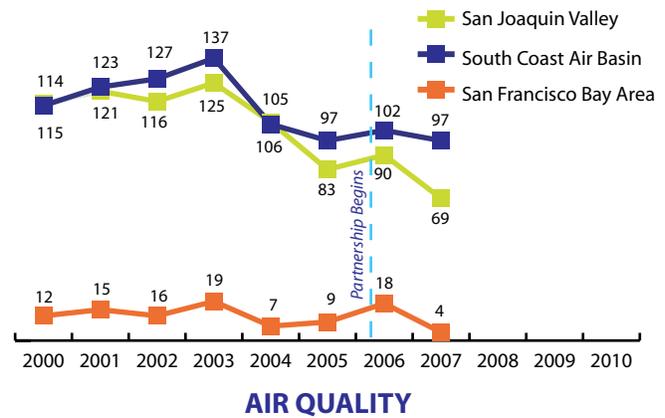
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey



Number of Days That Exceed State Standards for Ozone in the San Joaquin Valley, San Francisco Bay Area and South Coast Air Basin

Goal: Achieve EPA Ozone Standards by 2013

Ozone ten to twenty-five miles above earth forms a protective layer but ozone at ground level damages living things and makes it difficult for people to breathe. Ground level ozone levels are measured by gauging how many parts per million (ppm) of ozone people are exposed to. The state standard for ozone is determined at the amount of ozone that can be in the air without causing harm. The state standard is exceeded when ozone levels surpass 0.09 ppm and 0.07 ppm for 1-hour and 8-hour standards respectively.

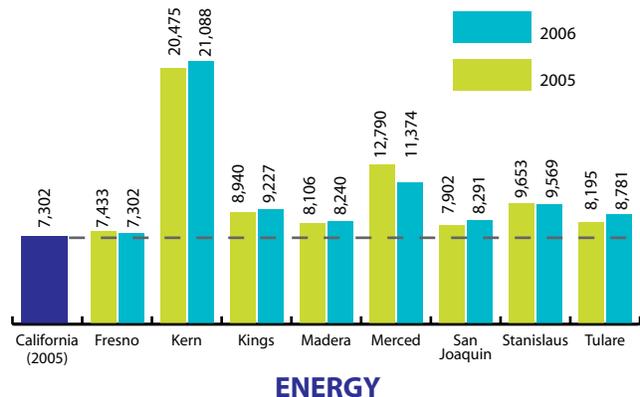


Source: California Air Resources Board Almanac 2008: Air Basin Trends and Forecasts

Electricity Consumption (kWh) per capita in the San Joaquin Valley Counties and California

Goal: Improve on State Average in Efficiency by 2016

Electricity consumption for residential and nonresidential accounts have been included. Most energy in the San Joaquin Valley comes from traditional, limited resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas. The growing population in the San Joaquin Valley means the amount of energy available per person will continue to decrease requiring more renewable energy sources, increased efficiency, and conservation to sustain the current quality of life.

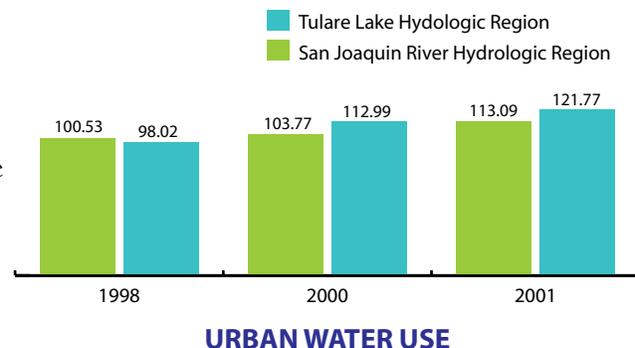


Source: California Energy Commission

Applied Urban Water use in Gallons per Person per Year for the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake Hydrological Region

Goal: Reduce Consumption by 10% by 2016

Urban water use is a measure of water used for residential use, industrial use, commercial use, and energy production. With significant population growth expected in the San Joaquin Valley demand for water will also increase. Water is essential to life in the Valley and conservation and efficient use of water allows water supplies to stretch farther and reduces the amount of energy used for pumping and treating water.

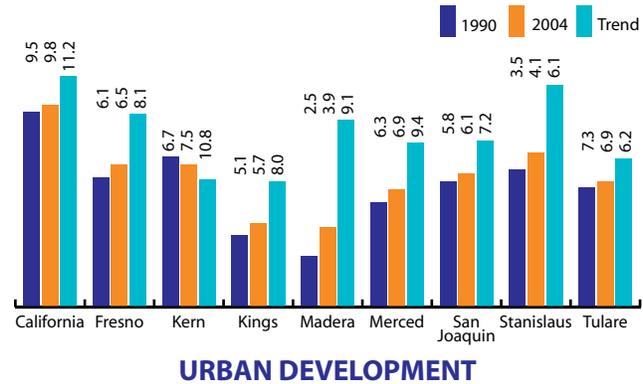


Source: Department of Water Resources

People per Urban Acre in San Joaquin Valley Counties and California

Goals: Increase Density by 15% in 75% of Communities by 2010

One way of showing the efficiency of farmland conversion is by measuring people per acre of urban land. This is calculated by dividing the total area of urban and built-up land by the urban population. The Valley's increasing population will almost inevitably convert high quality farmland into residences, shopping, schools, workplaces, and roads. Knowing what land is best suited for development, agriculture, and species habitat can inform land-use choices.

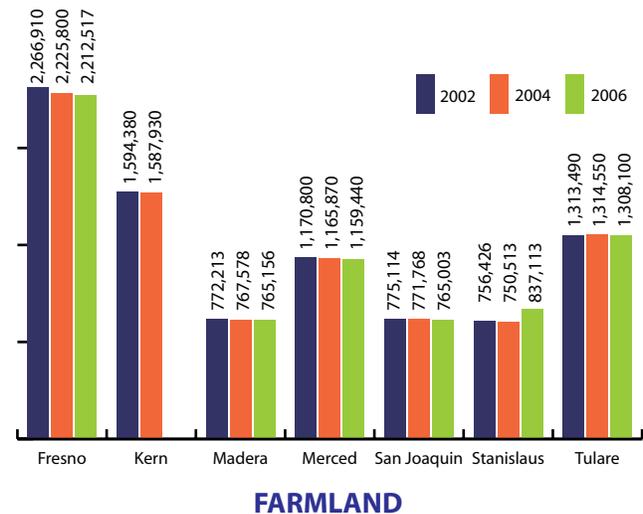


Source: American Farmland Trust (2007)

Acres of San Joaquin Valley Land in Agricultural Use By County

Goal: Maintain Current Levels

The graph includes prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance and grazing land. While irrigated and prime farmland is often urbanized, grazing land and other soil resources may be added to production. Irrigated and prime farmland is an irreplaceable resource in the San Joaquin Valley and the conversion of agricultural land has the potential to change the San Joaquin Valley's historical economic base.

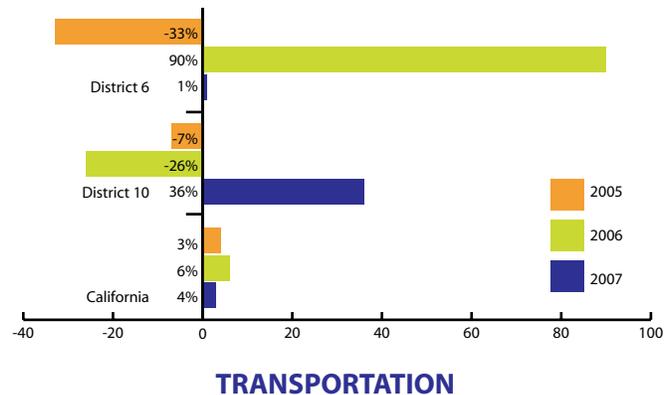


Source: California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

Transportation Mobility: Percentage Change in Daily Vehicle Hour of Delay for the San Joaquin Valley and California

Goal: Decrease or Remain Lower in Hours of Delay than State Average

Mobility refers to time and cost of transportation. Being that private vehicles are the main means of transportation in the San Joaquin Valley and vehicle miles traveled are increasing for the region, hours of delay is a good indicator to represent transportation mobility. Percentage change in daily vehicle hours of delay measures the amount of time it takes to travel a freeway during peak times compared to the time it takes to travel the same distance at 35 miles per hours.



Source: CalTrans 2007 State Highway Congestion Monitoring Program (HICOMP) Report

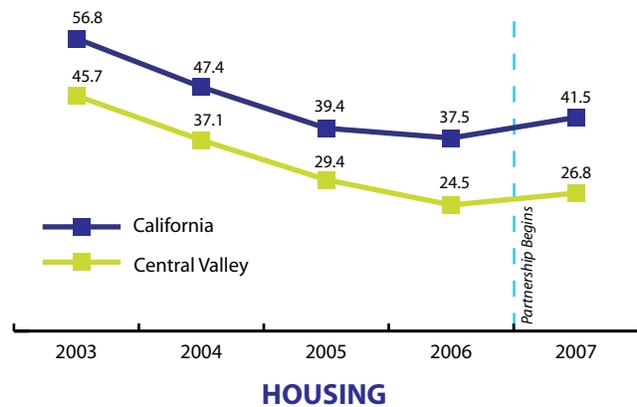
* District 10 includes counties outside the San Joaquin Valley. Total counties in District 10 include Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Alpine.

Percent of First Time Buyers That Can Afford To Purchase a Median Priced Home in the San Joaquin Valley

Goal: Meet or Exceed National Average by 2016

First time buyers that can afford to purchase a median priced home are those whose monthly principal, interest, taxes and insurance costs are less than 40 percent of the household's total income. The figure takes into account the significant changes that have taken place with mortgage financing such as first time buyers' likelihood to pay less for the down payment and finance with an adjustable rate mortgage. Home ownership helps ensure that residents have a long-term vested interest in their community and the appreciation of property can promote upward mobility.

Source: California Association of Realtors®

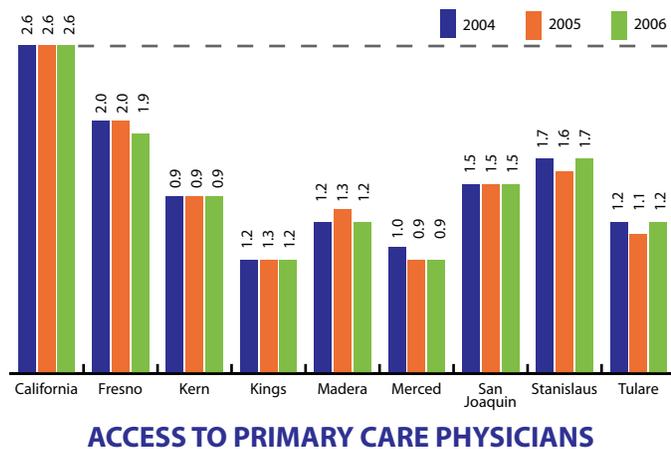


Number of Physicians per 1,000 People for San Joaquin Valley Counties

Goal: Meet or Exceed State Average by 2016

Primary care physicians are primarily responsible for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of common chronic conditions. When there is limited availability of physicians in a region people are less likely to seek preventive care and more likely to go to a local emergency room or urgent care center for acute symptoms and health conditions.

Source: RAND California Statistics; Health Care Financing Administration, Medicaid Statistics Branch

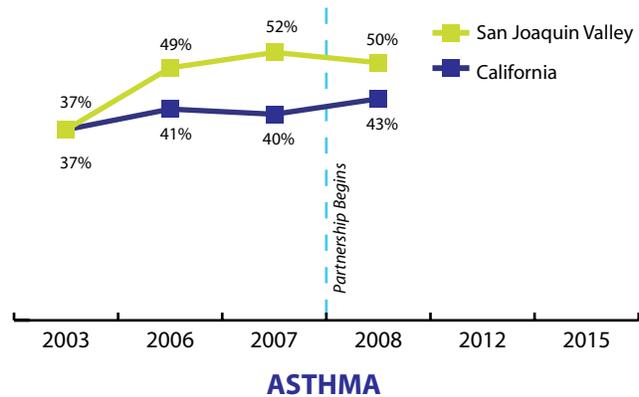


Percentage of Population in the San Joaquin Valley and California Reporting They or a Family Member Have Asthma

Goal: Achieve or Improve on State Average by 2016

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory lung disease characterized by recurrent episodes of breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, or chest tightness. Living with asthma adversely affects the quality of life and is the leading serious chronic disease of childhood. Studies have demonstrated that reducing exposure to environmental triggers can reduce the frequency and severity of asthma symptoms.

Source: Public Policy Institute of California - (Central Valley Survey 2003, 2006, Statewide Survey 2007, 2008)

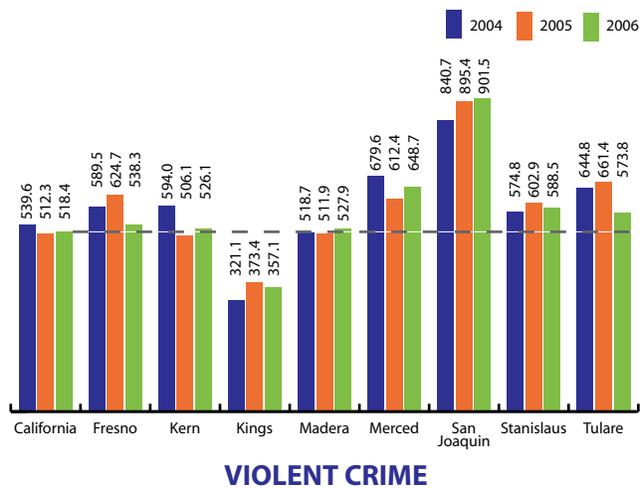


Violent Crimes per 100,000 People in San Joaquin Counties

Goal: Achieve or Improve on State rate by 2016

Violent crimes include homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Crime affects a community's safety and sense of security. Violent crime undermines a community's quality of life by creating a climate of fear and mistrust.

Source: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center



Partnership for the Assessment of Communities

In 2006, the Partnership for the Assessment of Communities (PAC) was created as a metric-tracking component for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's Strategic Action Proposal. PAC is composed of scholars with professional backgrounds in several disciplines, including anthropology, political science, and sociology, and belong to three different research and educational institutions in the San Joaquin Valley.

PAC Research Team:

- **Dr. Antonio Avalos**, Professor of Economics, California State University, Fresno
- **Dr. Robin Maria DeLugan**, Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Merced
- **Dr. Marcia Hernandez**, Professor of Sociology, University of the Pacific, Stockton
- **Dr. James Mullooly**, Professor of Anthropology, California State University, Fresno
- **Dr. Dari E. Sylvester**, Professor of Political Science, University of the Pacific, Stockton
- **Dr. Simón Weffer**, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Merced

In 2007 the PAC research team began to collect key indicator data for select Central Valley communities to be used by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The 10-year longitudinal community-based study will measure and track changes in quality of life and related community factors, such as volunteerism, civic participation and community engagement. The dynamics are being monitored in both urban neighborhoods and unincorporated rural communities and will access valuable local level data that is often hidden in regional studies.

The communities included in the pilot phase of the study include:

- **El Dorado Park** in the City of Fresno (Fresno County)
- **South Merced** in the City of Merced (Merced County)

- **Pixley** (Tulare County)
- **Planada** (Merced County)
- **Riverbank** (Stanislaus County)
- **Midtown Magnolia Region** in Central Stockton (San Joaquin County)

For the second year of the pilot study Orange Cove, in Fresno County, was substituted for Pixley. By including rural and urban areas, the study addresses a range of living environments, diverse populations and social, economic and political conditions.

The methodology of the PAC research is both quantitative and qualitative. The study monitors changes to the following strategic indicators: crime and safety, economic conditions, education, environmental and natural resource issues, healthcare access and availability, housing, stability of residence and transient rate, transportation, well-being, community participation, and civic involvement.

In 2007, the PAC research team began to structure its qualitative measurement tools, which include questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. An ethnographic survey is conducted with residents of the targeted communities along with information collected from members of community organizations serving targeted communities. For the second year of data collection, local public health agencies were added.

During the 10-year study, PAC plans to return on an annual basis to the target communities being studied to provide a forum to report current findings, as well as solicit community input on what issues are prominent and how to address the issues each community is facing. This process allows community input and feedback to shape the research. Findings from the PAC research project will continue to be distributed in multiple venues throughout the course of the research study.

The time span of the project will result in a representative understanding of the community-level experience within the region. Because the project's utility depends on long-term tracking, the PAC team is seeking additional funds to continue its work.

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Budget Summary

The Governor and Legislature approved an appropriation of \$5 million in the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley for implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal.

Of the \$5 million appropriation, a total of \$2.5 million was allocated to 14 Seed Grants to implement the Strategic Action Proposal. They are expected to fully expend their grants by

the end of the contract period (December 31, 2008). The remaining \$2.5 million was budgeted for management personnel and consultants, community outreach, communications, annual reports, and annual meetings.

This financial summary represents expenditures by the partnership through October 31, 2008 based on a two year budget that concludes June 30, 2009. The variances between actual expenditures to date and budgeted amounts reflect the fact that approximately two-thirds of the time allotted for this effort has passed.

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Total Expenses	\$5,010,404	\$4,059,395	\$951,009
Seed Grants	Budget	Actual <i>(expected by 12/31/08)</i>	Variance
	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,00	\$0
California State University Fresno - Office of Community and Economic Development	Budget	Actual <i>(as of 10/31/08)</i>	Variance
	\$1,676,404	\$1,101,670	\$574,734
Secretariat and Lead Executive	\$500,000	\$324,824	\$175,176
Staffing for Work Groups & Related Energy	\$913,000	\$598,573	\$314,427
<i>Air Quality</i>	\$181,000	\$138,982	\$42,018
<i>Economic Development</i>	\$140,000	\$83,753	\$56,247
<i>Energy</i>	\$68,000	\$34,580	\$33,420
<i>Health and Human Services</i>	\$142,000	\$41,748	\$100,252
<i>Higher Education and Workforce Development</i>	\$83,000	\$65,750	\$17,250
<i>K-12 Education</i>	\$149,000	\$134,000	\$15,000
<i>Water</i>	\$150,000	\$99,760	\$50,240
Annual Reports	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Meetings	\$0	\$0	\$0
Communications and Outreach	\$150,404	\$94,497	\$55,907
Seed Grant Staff Support	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Indirect	\$63,000	\$33,776	\$29,224
Great Valley Center	Budget	Actual <i>(as of 8/31/08)</i>	Variance
	\$834,000	\$457,725	\$376,275
Program Partner	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staffing Work Groups & Related Energy	\$207,000	\$147,569	\$59,431
<i>Advanced Communications Services</i>	\$50,000	\$22,139	\$27,861
<i>Energy</i>	\$57,000	\$48,121	\$8,879
<i>Land Use, Agriculture and Housing</i>	\$50,000	\$41,567	\$8,433
<i>Transportation</i>	\$50,000	\$35,742	\$14,258
Annual Reports	\$300,000	\$164,771	\$135,229
Annual Meetings	\$200,000	\$51,231	\$148,769
Communications and Outreach	\$40,000	\$28,415	\$11,585
Indirect/Operating Costs	\$87,000	\$60,760	\$26,240



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

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