
'That Just Happened'

Recap of the Partnership Board Meeting, Friday, December 8, 2017

Board Chair **Vito Chiesa**, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, District 2, convened the 4th Quarter 2017 board meeting at the Stanislaus County Veterans Center in Modesto. Sponsors Kaiser Permanente, Manufacturer's Council of the Central Valley and Chiesa Ranch were acknowledged as generous hosts of the meeting.

Timely updates were given by California State Assemblymember **Heath Flora**, **Matt Rogers** from the office of US Senator Kamala Harris, **Eddie Mendoza** from the office of US Congressman Jeff Denham, **Dominic Farinha** from the office of US Congressman Jim Costa, and California Transportation Commissioner **Paul Van Konyenburg**.

Secretary **Karen Ross** from California Department of Food and Agriculture administered the Oath of Office to renewing board members **John Eisenhut** and **Andrew Mendoza**.

Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary for External Affairs, California Health and Human Services Agency, remarked on Valley Fever and left informational brochures.

Erik Cherkaski from the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, Partnership Secretariat, announced three events: Central Valley Ag Tech Funders Forum (Dec. 12), the Clean Transportation Summit (March 14-15) and the Manufacturing Summit (May 17).

Sarge Green from the California Water Institute presented an update on Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water systems. On the panel were **Boykin Witherspoon**, California State University, San Bernardino Water Resources and Policy Initiatives and **Juan Cano** of Self-Help Enterprises. ([Click here for the Self Help Enterprises Presentation.](#))

DeeDee D'Adamo of the California Water Resources Control Board and Secretary **Karen Ross** presented a fact sheet and discussed next steps for SB 623 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water.

Dan Leavitt of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Commission discussed the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding application. The board voted to approve support of the program and submit a letter of support on behalf of the Partnership.

During lunch, an electric vehicle ride and drive was presented by Valley Takes Charge! – a resource promoting electric vehicles from the Center for Sustainable Energy and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Kim Dolbow Vann, recently appointed State Director for USDA Rural Development, discussed efforts to bring broadband to rural California. She can be reached at kim.vann@ca.usda.gov

Jason Montiel from the Franchise Tax Board and **Lindsay Callahan** from United Way Fresno and Madera Counties presented on California's recently expanded Earned Income Tax Credit program. ([Click here for the presentation by Jason Montiel.](#))

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Programs, **Charles Pattillo** with the California Prison Industry Authority and the Prison Industry Board, **Stephanie Welch** with the CDCR's Council on Mentally Ill Offenders and **Nina Martinez**, CDCR's Office of Business Services. ([Click here for the presentation by Stephanie Welch](#) and [click here for the presentation by Nina Martinez.](#))

Lee Ann Eager, President/CEO of Fresno County Economic Development Corporation and **Tracy Tosta**, Fresno County EDC, presented on Global Trade and Investment. ([Click here for the EDC presentation.](#))

The next Partnership board meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2018 in Merced County.



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