



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday, December 11, 2015 – 10am – 3pm

California State University, Stanislaus
Mary Stuart Rogers Educational Services, Rm 130
One University Circle
Turlock, CA 95832

I. Convene Meeting and Introductory Remarks

The meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was called to order by Deputy Chair Luisa Medina at 10:05am.

Board Members present were: James Aleru, Lynne Ashbeck, Panorea Avdis, Monica Blanco-Ethridge, Vito Chiesa, Elanie Craig, DeeDee D'Adamo, Randy Dodd, Diana Dooley, Frank Gallegos, Mike Gallo, Andrew Genasci, Carole Goldsmith, Genoveva Islas, Carlton Jones, Dan Leavitt, Luisa Medina, Andrew Mendoza, Joe Oliveira, Francisco Ramirez, Mary Renner, Max Rodriguez, Luis Santana and Gary Serrato.

Deputy Board Member Jim Houston was also present as well as Advisory Board Members Diane Howerton, Larry Martin and Robert Tse.

Also in attendance were county supervisors and representatives from throughout the San Joaquin County who were invited to hear the presentation on CalFresh Employment and Training.

The board welcomed back past board members Pete Weber, Fritz Grupe, who attended to present agenda items with Phyllis Grupe and Sunne McPeak.

II. Recognition of Sponsors and Dignitaries

The board recognized and thanked sponsors City of Turlock and California State University, Stanislaus.

Board Member and Supervisor Vito Chiesa welcomed all to Stanislaus County and Turlock, the most progressive city in the County. Supervisor Chiesa introduced Dr. Joseph F. Sheley, President of California State University, Stanislaus, and Gary Soiseth, Mayor of Turlock.

Dr. Sheley welcomed the board and guests and spoke to the board about the importance of the connection between higher education and economic development and common good in the San Joaquin Valley. He has worked to graduate more students into the labor force and help to keep them in the Valley to promote more investment in the area.

City of Turlock Mayor Gary Soiseth welcomed the Board to Turlock and discussed the recently acquired thirty thousand acre foot per year groundwater agreement and the area's challenges which include quality drinking water for disadvantaged communities. The City of Turlock is also working to

improve the roads and develop land suitable for manufacturers coming to town and therefore adding a great deal of quality jobs.

Mike Dozier presented Mayor Soiseth with the Annual Kudo Award for Job Creation for Streamlined Permitting in Turlock. They put together a business park to put the environmental in place for faster processing. This was the first of six awards - presented earlier in the program to accommodate Mayor Soiseth's schedule - the remainder scheduled for lunchtime presentation.

III. Oath of Office

Supervisor Vito Chiesa administered the oath of office to newly appointed board members Mike Gallo of Joseph Gallo Farms in Merced and Francisco Ramirez of the Hanford City Council. Panorea Avdis of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) was also welcomed as a new board member.

IV. Public and Board Comment

At the suggestion of Board member Lynne Ashbeck, a moment of prayer and reflection was observed in honor of the four individuals who perished in the crash of the Medevac helicopter during a patient transfer from Sierra View Medical Center in Porterville to San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield.

Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), the Partnership Secretariat, was recognized for receiving the National Award of Excellence from the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) at the annual summit in Anchorage, Alaska. OCED's San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center received the Excellence in Community-Connected Campus Award. Ismael Herrera, Associate Director at OCED explained the process of application and was honored to represent the Partnership and the San Joaquin Valley.

Luisa Medina announced the launch of the statewide campaign of the first State Earned Income Tax Credit. It will benefit California's working families, increase use of federal EITC and increase the availability of free tax preparation services. For more information on the California EITC, people were encouraged to contact Jim Suennen at Jim.Suennen@chhs.ca.gov or visit the website at www.CALeitic4me.org

Phyllis Grupe from Community Partnership for Families called attention to her organization in San Joaquin County that has worked diligently to train trainers for its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. This program has brought \$40,000,000 to San Joaquin County. The board and public were encouraged to contact the organization at www.cpfjsj.org for information on how to produce similar outcomes.

V. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar was presented to the board by Mike Dozier. Lynne Ashbeck moved to accept the consent calendar as published. Frank Gallegos seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Water Update

Mike Dozier introduced Pete Weber, Fritz Grupe and Sunne McPeak, founding Board members of the Partnership and current Conveners of the California Water Fix Coalition, to present a water update. Mr. Weber discussed that planning and permitting is just a start and that more action needs to take place now to make strides on the issue. Institutions need to be far more focused on outcomes. Storage and conveyance is the backbone system of the state.

Mr. Grupe emphasized the seriousness of the drought and that the water table has been over-drafted by 80 million acre feet. The snowpack was at just 5% of the average last year and 30% of all water in California comes from the snowpack. Only 15 of the last 50 years had heavy rainfalls. If the water is not captured in those times it's a big problem. We need more surface storage and we need to do better for the underground water recharge. We don't have a system for this and it's necessary to have a plan in place. We need storage, reuse and conservation.

Ms. McPeak discussed the importance of leadership in dealing with the water challenges in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the state. She believes that the entire agriculture industry and \$2 billion economy is at risk. We need the storage to capture the water to get it back into the ground and the facilities to recharge groundwater.

Questions posed from Board members Carlton Jones and James Aleru about service fees paid and non-delivery of water were answered by Ms. McPeak and the panel.

Mr. Grupe told the board and guests that it is believed that if the Valley were unified on a solution than everything could fall into place. Luisa Medina tied up the discussion by stating that the Partnership should play a critical role in the education of these water issues in the future.

VII. CalFresh Employment and Training

A report on CalFresh Employment and Training and the Fresno Bridge Academy was presented by Peter Weber, Fritz Grupe, Board member Luis Santana of Reading and Beyond and Nikki Newsome, Fresno Bridge Academy Program Manager.

Mr. Weber described the program which has had a tremendously beneficial impact on Fresno County families without any expenditure of county funds. There are 92 federal programs to address poverty in the United States and people have difficulty navigating the services. The CalFresh program is neighborhood-based, enrolls the whole family and has great success helping families with career and family navigators that stay with a family for 18 months. The program is focused on outcomes and cost effectiveness.

The powerpoint presentation explained by Nikki Newsome can be accessed on the Partnership website at www.sjvpartnership.org.

Phyllis Grupe spoke to the Partnership about the work she has done with Community Partnership for Families. Since 1998 the program has been working to provide resources to families of the San Joaquin Valley to overcome poverty.

VIII. Lunch

During lunch, a breakout session was available for representatives from the eight counties to hear the details of the Bridge Academy and how to bring the program benefits to their own areas. This presentation can be found on the Partnership website www.sjvpartnership.org.

Mike Dozier presented the 2015 Partnership Annual Report to the members of the board. The report is broken out into three sections: Infrastructure Development, Sustainable Planning and Job Creation. Within each section a workgroup has provided a report and list of accomplishments for the year.

Under the category of Infrastructure Development two awards were presented, the first to ICWT/WET and another for CalVans. The San Joaquin County COG and City of Reedley General Plan Update received the award under the Sustainable Planning category and California Community Colleges and City of Turlock for Job Creation. This presentation can be found at the Partnership website www.sjvpartnership.org.

IX. Strategic Session/Recommendations

Mike Dozier reported on the Partnership Strategic Efforts and 2016 goals. The Partnership Priority goals have been identified as: Water Quality and Supply, Higher Educations, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding, San Joaquin Rail Services, Regional Industry Clusters Initiative and Broadband. Six white papers were included in the board meeting packet along with the Summary and Recommendations. A powerpoint and the Summary and Recommendations may be found on the Partnership website www.sjvpartnership.org.

The next step is a Partnership Action, to adopt the six strategic goals with priorities. The Board Secretariat will work with the goal leaders to address priorities and set up meetings as necessary, identify any funding potential to address the goals and develop metrics for each goal and report back to the board on a quarterly basis.

There was a discussion initiated by Board member Genoveva Islas about the reintroduction of public health as one of the priorities. It was proposed that a white paper be developed to flush out this issue. Mike Dozier will take action to provide this paper before the next Partnership meeting.

Secretary Diana Dooley moved and Mary Renner seconded that the items be adopted.

X. Broadband/Regional Consortium

Sunne McPeak, President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) gave an update of the Broadband Consortium and CETF which has been working to close the digital divide, bringing access to high speed internet service to 80% of households in California. The poor, the elderly and the lower income households are still lagging far behind although there is remarkable progress being made. The CETF presentation can be found on the Partnership website www.sjvpartnership.org.

Ms. Medina proposed that a motion be made for the Partnership to develop a letter of support for the program Internet for All Now to provide more affordable internet service. The motion was made by Lynne Ashbeck, seconded by Vito Chiesa and passed by the Board. The secretariat for the Board will develop the letter.

Robert Tse, USDA State Broadband Coordinator, shared his report on FirstNet, a high-speed nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety entities. Mr. Tse proposes two action items: first, that the Partnership provide direct input into state FirstNet strategy as it is developed, and second, that the Partnership seek FirstNet or OES consultations with San Joaquin Valley stakeholders at a future meeting. The FirstNet presentation can be found on the Partnership website www.sjvpartnership.org.

XI. Partnership Strategic Efforts: Water

Sarge Green, Program Director from California Water Institute, presented the recommendations and proposals for the Partnership Strategic Effort on Water. Mr. Green reminds the Board that there will have to be a many new agreements and contractual arrangements to allow people to work together. People will need to rise to higher levels of coordination. We'll need to know how to move forward on the sustainable groundwater management act.

The Summary and Recommendations can be found on the Partnership website www.sjvpartnership.org.

Vito Chiesa commented on efforts being made to gain a basin-wide solution and broaden the discussion.

Pete Weber had a question and observation for Sarge Green regarding Proposition 218.

XII. Public and Board Comment

Vito Chiesa encourages everyone present to spread the word of the meeting.

There were no other public or board comments.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.