



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

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Friday, March 20, 2015 – 10am – 3pm

John W. Wells Youth Center  
701 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Madera, CA 93638

### MEETING MINUTES

#### I. Introductory Remarks

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Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Board Chair, addressed the board, staff, guest speakers and audience in the room and stated that even though the agenda is quite full, she expects to adjourn on time if not early.

#### II. Welcome California Partnership

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Madera Mayor Robert Poythress welcomed the Partnership board and all meeting participants to the John W. Wells Youth Center in Madera. Mayor Poythress thanked the Partnership for the hard work, time and effort and sacrifice for the betterment of Madera citizens.

#### III. Recognition of Our Sponsors

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The board recognizes and thanks our meeting sponsors: Madera County Supervisor Max Rodriguez, City of Madera and Mid Valley Disposal. The board appreciates the use of the beautiful facility and accommodating staff of the John W. Wells Youth Center in Madera.

#### IV. Convene Meeting

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The 2015 first quarterly meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was called to order at 10:10am by Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Board Chair. Introductions were made around the room.

Board Members present: James Aleru, Steve Bestolarides, Monica Blanco-Ethridge, Vito Chiesa, DeeDee D'Adamo, Randy Dodd, Lee Ann Eager, Bryn Forhan, Andrew Genasci, Pat Gordon, Harold Hanson, Genoveva Islas, Dorothy Leland, Luisa Medina, Billy Powell, Larry Powell, Mary Renner, Max Rodriguez, Secretary Karen Ross, Gary Serrato and Mayor Ashley Swearengin.

Advisory Board Members present were Jennifer Carlson, Larry Martin and Robert Tse.

Board Deputies present were Sharri Bender Ehlert, Cori Lucero, Albert Rivas and Jim Suennen.

#### V. Oath of Office

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Secretary Karen Ross administered the oath of office to newly appointed and reappointed board members. New Board members present for the oath were Elaine Craig, Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, John Eisenhut, Frank Gallegos, and Daniel Leavitt. Reappointed Board members present for the oath were Steve Bestolarides, Vito Chiesa, Randy Dodd, Lee Ann Eager, Bryn Forhan and Luisa Medina.

#### VI. Public and Board Comment

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There were no comments from the public. Secretary Ross suggested we pray for rain.

## **VII. Consent Calendar**

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Mike Dozier presented the consent calendar to the board and added that he has been elected President of the University Economic Development Association (UEDA).

The consent calendar was accepted as published.

## **VIII. UC Merced Expansion Effort**

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Board Member and UC Merced Chancellor Dorothy Leland, along with Vice Chancellor Michael Reese of UC Merced's Business and Administrative Services, presented a report outlining the UC Merced 2020 Project for expansion. The presentation depicted the campus space constraints.

UC Merced is already slowing growth despite the strong demand and must constrain growth without additional investment. Academic space is at capacity. The infrastructure is overburdened and there is currently a high housing demand. The proposed 2020 Project addresses these critical, existing needs. It remedies current space deficiencies by expanding facilities to manageable levels and positions the campus for growth from 6,200 students to 10,000 students in 2020. The plan calls for the University to own the land, buildings and set the standards for how the facilities will be maintained.

Vice Chancellor Reese described the process and timing for the proposed project in more detail. This approach will accelerate the process. Both Chancellor Leland and Vice Chancellor Reese answered questions from the board and from the audience. Detailed information concerning the project can be answered on the website: <http://2020project.ucmerced.edu>

The Partnership Board passed a resolution to support the 2020 Project at 11:02am. The motion was made by Bryn Forhan and Larry Powell and seconded by Billy Powell. The presentation and the Board's resolution can be found on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

## **IX. Manufacturing Panel Discussion**

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Board member Pat Gordon of JBT Corporation moderated a panel discussion on manufacturing in the San Joaquin Valley. He introduced the following panelists:

Jennifer Carlson, Executive Director, Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley. MCCV is a collective voice for manufacturing interests in the San Joaquin Valley. Ms. Carlson's presentation can be viewed on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

Mike Betts, President, Betts Company, discussed his report on Career Technical Education in the San Joaquin Valley. He spoke about the outcomes of the recent Manufacturing Town Hall meeting and emphasized the importance of attending the Manufacturing Summit on May 7, 2015 to be held in Fresno and Manufacturing Day in the fall. Mr. Betts' white paper can be found on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

Ron Heskett, President, Borga Steel Buildings and Components, offered his view of manufacturing in the Valley from his perspective as an experienced California manufacturing businessman and leader, describing a significant lack in manufacturing understanding.

For Career Technical Education (CTE), the board heard from the Manufacturing Production and Green Technology Academy. Lonnie Cornell, Associate Principal, and Amanda Moore, Learning Director,

presented the successes of the students at Ceres High School. The presentation can be found on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

Pat Gordon discussed JBT Food Tech's successful apprenticeship program. The presentation can be found on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

Mayor Swearingin acknowledged the volume of work it takes to put these programs together and thanked the panel of presenters for this work that benefits our communities.

The board participated in a discussion which included the subject of the lack of qualified workforce which was re-introduced by Larry Powell. Mr. Powell stated that the Workforce Act resulted in resources being taken away from San Joaquin Valley students.

Andrew Genasci asked the panel what the Partnership might do to support manufacturing Joaquin Valley. Mike Betts answered for the business community that to read the white paper, share and communicate back would be of help.

Before breaking for lunch, Secretary Ross administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed board member, Carlton Jones.

## **X. Lunch**

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Thank you again to our meeting sponsors for providing great, local Madera lunch catering.

## **XI. California High-Speed Rail Authority Update**

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The meeting was reconvened at 1:08pm for Board member Lee Ann Eager to moderate a panel discussion and presentation on California's High-Speed Rail project which is California's largest project at present. Ms. Eager introduced the following panelists:

Dan Richard, Chair, California High-Speed Rail Authority, spoke about the progress being made on the immense project overall.

Diana Gomez, Central Valley Regional Director, California High-Speed Rail Authority, described in more detail the work plan specifically for the Central Valley. The presentation can be found on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

Tony Oliveira, a consultant for the project, discussed his independent study and 176 page report. A link to Mr. Oliveira's full report on High Speed Rail and his presentation can be found on the Partnership website: [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

Before convening the meeting, Board Member Vito Chiesa was called upon to announce the board's recommendation to direct staff to be significantly engaged in California's water storage policies. The 2015 second quarter meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled on June 19, 2015, will have an update of the water storage situation.

## **X. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:49pm.