connect
collaborate
advocate

California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

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Photo/David Guy

California Partnership
for the San Joaquin Valley
2015 Annual Report

Kern Street, Tulare/Courtesy Tulare County Association of Governments

Secretariat

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Fresno State

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

FRESNO STATE
Community and Economic Development

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California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

Letter to Governor Brown

Dear Governor Brown and Members of the Legislature:

We proudly present to you the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. This report begins where our 2013-2014 Annual Report concluded and covers in detail the numerous efforts that the Partnership has made throughout the past year.

We again want to thank the administration, in particular, Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary-Community Engagement, Health and Human Services Agency, and Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary, Office of Governor Brown, for their assistance in filling vacant Board positions and working with the Board and stakeholders on issues of concern for the San Joaquin Valley. We want to thank our Board members for their commitment to the Valley by serving on the Board. Many of them greatly contributed to the continued success of the Partnership, and we honor and appreciate their contribution and countless hours of volunteer work. We are happy to welcome eight new members who came on the Board in the past year.

The Partnership continues to build on already established programs and initiatives to connect and collaborate with public and private sector partners throughout the Valley to address the economy and environment and social equity. This year the Board focused on all things water –addressing groundwater legislation, water quality and preparing for future capital water projects. The Board also addressed the rejuvenation of manufacturing as a key to the prosperity of the regional economy. In July, the White House and Department of Commerce designated a 28-county region, which includes the San Joaquin Valley, as an Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) focusing on Food and Beverage Manufacturing. The Partnership Secretariat is the lead applicant and point of contact for the region. Partners include Chico State, Valley Vision (Sacramento) and the Central Sierra Economic Development District. The designation means that entities within the region may receive preference when applying for federal funding that impact Food and Beverage Manufacturing.

In addition to the IMCP designation, the Partnership continues to be engaged and focused on the San Joaquin Valley Regional Industry Clusters Initiative (RICI). Now in its third year, RICI connects workforce and economic development professional, community colleges, universities, and nonprofit/professional organizations with businesses in Manufacturing, Energy, Water Technology, and Agriculture (MEWA) as well as Health and Wellness. The inaugural Manufacturing Summit was held in Fresno in May, with more than 400 in attendance and 45 exhibitors on display. Energy held two events during the year as well focusing on best practices and opportunities for energy savings. The Water Cluster held their Summit in March, which attracted 277 attendees.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium (RBC), established in 2012, is a Partnership initiative dedicated to accelerating the deployment, accessibility, and adoption of broadband within the San Joaquin Valley. RBC completed the second year of its three-year California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) “Get Connected! San Joaquin Valley” Grant ($600,000). The program’s mission is to expand and advocate for broadband adoption in the San Joaquin Valley’s underserved urban and rural communities. To date, more than 1,700 new Internet adoptions have been documented in the San Joaquin Valley and 4,378 adults have been trained in Digital Literacy.

The Partnership Board of Directors would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat staff at Fresno State and all Valley stakeholders which have engaged in this regional effort. We would like to thank local and regional agencies, nonprofits and those in the private sector that have given support through in-kind and financial contributions.

We would like to thank the James Irvine Foundation for its financial support. The Irvine Foundation renewed its two year commitment to the Partnership in 2013-2014, and continues to be the only direct, specific funding received by the Partnership. We applaud its foresight for investing in this worthwhile effort. We also want to thank everyone who has contributed their time and expertise to our 10 work groups.

Valley residents and partners should be encouraged by the connection, collaboration and advocacy in the past year. By working together to achieve the Valley’s potential as California’s 21st Century Opportunity, the Partnership continues to craft and implement a vision of the San Joaquin Valley which was not previously thought possible.

Mayor Ashley Swearengin
Partnership Chair
City of Fresno

Secretary Karen Ross
Partnership Deputy Chair
California Deparatment of
Food and Agriculture

Ms. Luisa Medina
Partnership Deputy Chair
Development Director,
Central California Legal Services

CONTENTS

Letter to Governor Brown 2

Program Leadership & Partners 6

Board of Directors 6

Work Group Partners 7

Secretariat 7

Executive Summary: Secretariat 8

Administration Report 8

San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative 8

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium 8

San Joaquin Valley Regional Industry Clusters Initiative 8

Central Valley AgPLUS 9

Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity Grant 9

Annual Report and Summit 10

Personal Income 11

Median Household Income 11

Sustainability of the Partnership 12

Looking Ahead 12

Infrastructure Development 12

Sustainable Planning 12

Job Creation 12

Financials 13

Infrastructure Development

Water Quality, Supply & Reliability 15

Kudos:
International Center for Water Technology, Fresno State 16

County Water Table Depth 18

Spotlight:
'Human right' to water declared in California 20

Energy Consumption 26

Energy 27

Automotive Travel:
Miles Traveled Daily 29
Vehicle Hours of Delay, Daily 29

Kudos:
CalVans 30

Advanced Communications Services 31

Sustainable Planning

Air Quality 33

Kudos:
City of Reedley 34

Air Quality:
Days Exceeding State 8-Hour Ozone Standard 36

Asthma:
Percent of Population Ever Diagnosed with Asthma 36

Sustainable Communities 37

Farmland:
Total Harvested Acreage 38
Total Harvested Acreage, Annual Percent Change 38

Spotlight:
Valley projects awarded 13 percent of $122 million in state funds 40

Urban Development 42

Housing 43

Kudos:
San Joaquin County 44

Families in Poverty 45

Violent Crime Rate 45

Access to Primary Health Care 46

Health & Human Services 47

Job Creation

PreK–12 Education 49

Kudos:
California Community Colleges, Office of the Chancellor 50

High School Graduation Rates 52

Higher Education:
Percent of Population with Bachelors Degree or Higher, Over Age 25 52

Higher Education & Workforce Development 53

Higher Education 53

Workforce Development 54

Spotlight:
A 'first' for manufacturing industry in the San Joaquin Valley 56

Kudos:
City of Turlock 58

Economic Development 59

Employment:
Number of People Employed 60
Annual Percent Change 60

Unemployment 61

Fresno State Partners

San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center 63

Community & Regional Planning Center 65

University of California, Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network 66

Central California iHub 67

Vision Statement 68

Data compiled by:
Center for Economic Development
California State University, Chico

Program Leadership & Partners

Board of Directors

Ashley Swearengin
Partnership Chair
Mayor of Fresno

Secretary Karen Ross
Partnership Deputy Chair
California Department of Food & Agriculture

Luisa Medina
Partnership Deputy Chair
Central California Legal Services

Secretary Anna Caballero
California Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency

Secretary Diana Dooley
California Health & Human Services Agency

Secretary Brian Kelly
California Transportation Agency

Secretary John Laird
California Natural Resources Agency

Secretary David Lanier
California Labor & Workforce Development Agency

Secretary Matthew Rodriquez
California Environmental Protection Agency

James A Aleru
James A Aleru, CPA

Lynne Ashbeck
Community Medical Centers

Steve Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Monica Blanco-Etheridge
Liaison, California Workforce Investment Board

Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Elaine Craig
Representative, Central California Workforce Collaborative

DeeDee D'Adamo
Liaison, California Water Resources Control Board

Amarpreet Dhaliwal
Mayor of San Joaquin

Randy Dodd
Adventist Health - Central Valley Network

Lee Ann Eager
Representative, California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation

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Frank Gallegos
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Andrew Genasci
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Carole Goldsmith
West Hills Community College District

Pat Gordon
JBT Corporation

Harold Hanson
Bakersfield City Council

Genoveva Islas
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Carlton Jones
Tulare City Council

Daniel Leavitt
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Dorothy Leland
Representative, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium

Andrew Mendoza
Kaiser Permanente Central Valley

David Nelson
A.G. Spanos Companies

Joe Oliveira
Gustine City Council

Suzi Picaso
Milan Institute

Billy Powell
Representative, San Joaquin Valley Labor Organizations

Larry Powell
Representative, San Joaquin Valley Superintendents of Schools

Mary Renner
Representative, Central Valley Health Network

Max Rodriguez
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Luis Santana
Reading and Beyond

Gary Serrato
Fresno Irrigation District

Ted Smalley
Tulare County Association of Governments

James Tague
Gazelle Transportation, Inc.

Board Advisory

Jennifer Carlson
Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley

Diane Howerton
UC Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network

Glenda Humiston
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Laurence Martin
Ernest & Julio Gallo Winery

Robert Tse
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Courtesy Tulare County Association of Governments

Work Group Partners

Advanced Communications Services

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium
Eduardo Gonzalez, Project Manager
Office of Community & Economic Development Fresno State

Air Quality

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director

Economic Development

California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation
Jennifer Faughn, President
Strategy One

Energy

San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
Courtney Kalashian, Associate Executive Director
Paul Johnson, President
Paul Everett Johnson & Associates

Health & Human Services

Office of Community & Economic Development Fresno State
Karmjot Grewal, Program Manager

Higher Education & Workforce Development

HIGHER EDUCATION
Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
Fresno State
Barbara Hioco, Executive Director

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Central California Workforce Collaborative
Elaine Craig, Executive Director
Madera County Workforce Investment Board

Housing

San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative
Monica Palmiera, Program Specialist
California Coalition for Rural Housing

PreK–12 Education

Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute
Fresno State
Virginia Boris, Executive Director

Sustainable Communities

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council
Andrew Chesley, Executive Director
San Joaquin Council of Governments

Water Quality, Supply & Reliability

California Water Institute Fresno State
David Zoldoske, Director
Sarge Green, Program Director

Secretariat

Office of Community & Economic Development Fresno State

Mike Dozier
Executive Director

Marianne Collins King
Associate Director, Operations

Ismael Diaz Herrera
Associate Director, Funding

Shelby Gonzales
Finance Director

Erik Cherkaski
Fiscal Assistant

Jenna Chilingerian
Program Coordinator

Eduardo Gonzalez
Project Manager

John Gonzalez
Project Assistant

Karmjot Grewal
Program Manager

Marcia Martin
Communications Coordinator

Emily Pasquarelli
Administrative Assistant

Felipe Perez Perez
Project Assistant

Jena Rodriguez
Communications Assistant

Wilma Satterberg
Fiscal Analyst

David Vazquez
Project Assistant

Executive Summary: Secretariat

The Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State (OCED) is uniquely positioned as the Secretariat for the Partnership to serve the region and align university resources with San Joaquin Valley initiatives. OCED programs, communications and key relationships with internal and external stakeholders provide a platform for leveraging those resources. Partnership activities for the period July 2014 through June 2015 are highlighted in the next section.

Administration Report

San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative

The Partnership Secretariat serves as the co-administrative lead of the San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative (Collaborative), a 501c3 regional collaboration of public and private housing experts and stakeholders from the eight-county region that serves as a forum to identify, discuss, and address housing issues and challenges. In the past year, the Collaborative organized the region's third annual Affordable Housing Summit in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Housing California, and California Coalition for Rural Housing. The event took place at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, with 175 attendees. This year's event brought the region together with experts throughout the state to discuss regional strategies to address the Valley's housing challenges. The Collaborative is interested in serving the needs of the region, in particular, with affordable housing projects now that funding assistance is unavailable as a result of the discontinuation of redevelopment agencies.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium (Consortium) received funding from California Public Utilities Commission to bring broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities in the eight-county region. The Consortium is receiving $150,000 a year for three years. Over the past year, the Consortium partnered with Verizon Wireless to install a new cell tower in Cutler-Orosi. The project's primary purpose is to expand broadband access in rural areas to promote the widespread deployment of the One-to-One Computer Program by the Cutler-Orosi Unified School District. The Consortium documented 850 new Internet adoptions in the San Joaquin Valley and trained more than 3,500 parents in Digital Literacy classes. The Consortium partnered with Fresno County Housing Authority in 15 project funding applications, $50,000 each, to bring Internet adoption and digital literacy to urban and rural housing authority complexes. Projects will serve well over 2,000 Fresno County Housing Authority residents. Each resident that completes the eight-week Digital Literacy class will receive a new or refurbished computer.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Industry Clusters Initiative

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Industry Clusters Initiative (RICI) got its official start in February 2013, with team members engaging champions for the seven identified clusters: Agriculture, Clean Energy, Health & Wellness, Logistics, Manufacturing, Public Sector Infrastructure, and Water Technology. RICI is directed by the OCED staff. The economic and cluster analyses and the partner/stakeholder engagement process provides a platform for the evolution of the Valley's cluster initiatives; a framework to align initiatives and resources to capture value chain opportunities; and articulation of OCED's role to lead or support the clusters.

The Manufacturing Cluster hosted a Manufacturing Town Hall Meeting in February 2015. More than 100 manufacturing businesses and public service providers attended. The Cluster also hosted the 1st San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Summit on May 7, 2015, at the Fresno Convention Center. 45 vendors and 12 breakout sessions were offered for more than 400 participants, who came from throughout California, for the opportunity to share new ideas in a focused setting and find solutions to issues including employment and training, research, regulatory compliance, import and export, and funding.

The Water Technology Cluster hosted the Blue Tech Valley Water Summit on Mar 5, 2015. The sold-out event provided the 277 water constituents in the private, public, and academic sectors the opportunity to collectively explore and discuss new innovations and developments and trends relating to current water issues.

The Ag Cluster met with Fresno County Food System Alliance which decided to be part of the Ag Cluster umbrella. They are working toward an a agricultural manufacturing collaborative with the other RICI clusters to create career technical education programs for San Joaquin Valley students.

The Clean Energy Cluster held a Clean Tech Open on August 22, 2015, with 45 participants. Clean Tech Open helps clients accelerate sustainable innovation and awards scholarships. Previous awardees attended the event and discussed future plans to pursue careers in alternative fuels and energy.

The California Healthcare Foundation, which is providing some support to the California Department of Health and Human services, approached the Health and Wellness Cluster to assist with funding the cost of software that opens up data for public use of health care applications and the development of applications that make use of available data to derive economic and/or social value.

Central Valley AgPLUS

The Partnership led a collaborative effort that brought together four regions (San Joaquin Valley, Greater Sacramento, Northern California, Central Sierra), encompassing 28 counties, to apply for an Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) designation. OCED led this effort in partnership with Chico State, Valley Vision, and Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority. The Central Valley AgPLUS objective is to advance the region's agriculture-related manufacturing economy transforming raw goods into value-added products, and aligning effectively with other OCED activity currently under way. Central Valley AgPLUS was selected for IMCP designation in July 2015 and now joins a cohort of 24 IMCP National Communities selected from across the nation. Partnerships with Chico State and UC Davis are growing, and new partnerships will form as a result of IMCP designation.

Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity Grant

In 2013, California Workforce Investment Board awarded the Valley one of five Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity (RICO) grants totaling $158,013. This award utilized the California Energy Commission AB 118 Alternative and Renewable Fuel Vehicle Technology program. The RICO-II project began with three focus areas - biofuels, electric vehicle, and natural gas; but commitment and momentum was ultimately highest among those associated with the development of the San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle Partnership (SJVEVP).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

FRESNO STATE
Community and Economic Development

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SJVEVP conducted four employer meetings, counting participation of representatives from 39 private companies, 22 public agencies, and 13 community partners, including San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization, Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, Kern Community College District, San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition, Kern Economic Development Corporation, Collaborative Economics, and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Moving forward, SJVEVP will focus its efforts on expanding the electric vehicle (EV) market, installing additional EV infrastructure, and ensuring a new generation of employees is being trained to service EVs and EV charging stations in the Valley.

RICO II addressed SJVEVP priorities of increasing the availability of EV charging stations by installing additional infrastructure at workplace host sites. $49,424 of RICO II funds was dedicated to installation of EV charging stations at two workplace host sites strategically located near the region's main trade corridor (SR-99), and situated in the central and southern sub regions of the Valley where EV charging stations are most scarce. Recipient sites are Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation Downtown Business Hub and Kern Community College District Weill Institute. Each received four Level 2 EV charging stations accessible to the public at large.

RICO II was successful in attracting additional investments to support its regional efforts. California Energy Commission (CEC) issued $146,999 to support continued coordination of SJVEVP and to implement EV modules at high school campuses throughout the region. Nissan issued $16,000 to regional partners to supplement CEC's investment. Six new jobs were created to further EV market development activities under SJVEVP - two with San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition, four with Schneider Electric.

Annual Report and Summit

The 2014 Partnership Annual Report, which covered July 2013 through June 2014, was printed and distributed at several Partnership events and meetings and to its network of funders, partners and stakeholders. The Partnership hosted the Annual Summit in September 2014, which highlighted the activities of the Partnership over the past year.

Photo/Dora Stephanie

Personal Income

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per capita income is calculated by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, by dividing its estimate of total personal income by the U.S. Census Bureau's estimate of total population. Per capita income in the San Joaquin Valley region was $34,659 in 2013, the latest year with reliable data. This was $13,775 less than the state average that year. Per capita income in the San Joaquin Valley region is consistently lower than the state average.

Median Household Income

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

In the San Joaquin Valley region, median household income has increased every year since 2001, peaking in 2007 at $47,109. Median income decreased every year from 2008 to 2011, and has increased in 2012 and 2013. Per capita income grew during the period 2008 to 2011 but median income decreased, which indicates that the economic recovery was more beneficial to residents with higher income during that time period. Median household income is where half of the area's households earn more and half earn less; it is estimated annually by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sustainability of the Partnership

Another year of building partnerships based on trust and credibility throughout the San Joaquin Valley has put the Secretariat and the Partnership in prime position to help lead the Valley toward regional solutions. Through collaboration and its unique regional structure, the Partnership continues to quickly apply for complex grants that require cross-boundary programs and several regional partners. The Secretariat has dedicated staff searching for funding opportunities and building relationships with local, state and national funders. This approach has proved to be successful as the James Irvine Foundation, U.S. Economic Development Administration, California Workforce Investment Agency, and U.S. Department of Agriculture have invested in the Valley and more importantly have entrusted the Partnership's Secretariat to implement the funded programs. Additionally, the Secretariat staff has furthered the Partnership's mission focusing on the three E's (equity, environment, economy) while creating funding opportunities. The San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center (SJVRDC), an initiative of the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, has entered into contracts throughout the Valley to conduct Parent University classes, provide grant-writing classes, and develop community-based economic development strategies.

Looking Ahead

Throughout this report, future priorities are illustrated for the 10 Partnership work groups, and OCED initiatives such as SJVRDC, Community and Regional Planning Center, and San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium. The board and the Secretariat continue to set priorities which are linked and leveraged with complementary initiatives providing clear leadership and blazing the path for others to follow. Those initiatives are: infrastructure development, sustainable planning, and job creation

1 Infrastructure Development

Increased attention and investment in the San Joaquin Valley's infrastructure is needed to ensure the Valley can meet future demands of population growth and economic prosperity. These include water supply and reliability, goods movement, high-speed rail, and the expansion of broadband access throughout the Valley. New developments in these core areas are continuous and will remain priorities for the Partnership moving forward.

2 Sustainable Planning

Creating a healthier, safer, more prosperous tomorrow requires planning today. Integrating smart growth principles into our communities' planning products and processes will create more transportation choices, walkable neighborhoods, equitable affordable housing, and greater economic competitiveness within the region; undoubtedly influencing future development patterns which embrace smart growth and promote the three Es of sustainability: greater social equity, a strong and competitive economy, and a healthy environment.

3 Job Creation

By strengthening our regional industry clusters, developing our workforce skills and streamlining regulation, business will develop, higher paying jobs will surface, and the Valley's economy will flourish. This will take several years to come to fruition; however, by partnering with the Valley's Central California Workforce Collaborative, Central Regional Consortium of Community Colleges, California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation, and other local, regional and statewide agencies, the Valley is positioned for success.

Financials

The Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State is able to sustain administration and coordination of the Partnership by leveraging funds from Fresno State and the James Irvine Foundation; grants from state and federal agencies assist with meeting the goals of the Partnership and its work groups.

2014-2015

$52,099
Fresno State

$210,922
James Irvine Foundation

$704,347
Other Sources

$100,204
California Public Utilities Commission
San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium

$110,000
U.S. Economic Development Administration
University Center grant
($26,000, Lyles Center)

$54,991
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farmers Market Promotion Program
($22,044, Markets)

$154,332
California Workforce Investment Board
Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity II grant (3)
($81,495, Partners)

$107,122
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership grant
($77,800, Partners)

$116,161
California Emerging Technology Fund
Get Connected! San Joaquin Valley
($26,962, Partners)

$15,482
Fresno Regional Foundation
Environmental Grant:
Walking and Bicycling Audit Program

$37,230
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Business Enterprise Grant (2)
($5,303, Partners)

$8,825
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pathways to Rural Economic Progress grant

$48,250
San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center
Service agreements which served as match funding for CETF and PREP

infrastructure development

Increased attention and investment in the San Joaquin Valley's infrastructure is needed to ensure the Valley can meet future demands of population growth and economic prosperity. These include water supply and reliability, goods movement, high-speed rail, and the expansion of broadband access throughout the Valley. New developments in these core areas are continuous and will remain priorities for the Partnership moving forward.

Courtesy Tulare County Association of Governments

Water Quality, Supply & Reliability

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.

California Water Institute
Fresno State

David Zoldoske, Director
Sarge Green, Program Director

Year-In-Review

California Water Institute (Water Institute) at Fresno State was created to provide education, research, and analysis of policy issues involving water resources, including water quality issues and integrated regional water management planning. The Water Institute facilitates the efforts of the Partnership's Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group (Water Work Group).

Water Institute staff continued to participate in local, regional, and statewide efforts geared toward developing sustainable solutions to San Joaquin Valley water needs and issues. The needs became acutely apparent as the water year entered into another year of intense drought.

Winter 2014-2015 concluded with the lowest Sierra mountains snowpack, since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Above: Kings River Bridge Replacement, Dinuba (completed August 2014)

kudos

Photo/Geoff Thurner

Blue Tech Valley Business Support Services
International Center for Water Technology, Fresno State

Key Partner:
Water and Energy Technology Center, Fresno State

Innovation is a key component of growing a business. To assist, International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) and Water and Energy Technology Center (WET Center) have joined forces to provide the services growing companies need.

Current Culture H2O and BioFiltro are two up-and-coming companies in the San Joaquin Valley. Both are members of the WET Center and receive business support services from both the WET Center and ICWT. Jobs are created as these companies grow.

Current Culture H2O currently has 13 employees and is looking for a larger building in the Fresno area. The company plans to hire 8 to 11 employees in the upcoming year.

BioFiltro has recently hired five new employees and completed its first commercial-scale water treatment facility at a dairy near Hilmar. In addition to hiring full time employees, building the new facility employed dozens of construction workers.

Not just small companies can use the help to have a big impact on job creation.

Above: Guillermo Valenzuela gives instruction about WiseConn technology and how it's used on the Fresno State farm, to participants of a Center for Irrigation Technology workshop. WiseConn has created an app that helps automate, manage and control irrigation and fertigation (fertilizing through the irrigation system). WiseConn is a recent "graduate" of the WET Center.

PureSense is a WET Center startup company and was acquired by Jain Irrigation, an established manufacturer based in Fresno. Ten new employees were hired as part of the acquisition.

In addition to assisting WET Center members, ICWT and the WET Center have developed a Technology Innovation Evaluation (TIE) committee that evaluates and makes recommendations for the next steps for growing their companies.

The TIE committee has brought attention to the Fresno area as the place to evaluate new water technology and to start or grow your company.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

records have been kept with only six percent of normal. The low snow pack resulted in the continued loss of surface water supplies to the eight San Joaquin Valley counties and increased reliance on groundwater in the Valley areas that had access to such supplies.

The groundwater conditions also continued to reflect the drought with depth to groundwater elevations reaching new lows; in some cases, 100 feet below previous records.

While the groundwater system in the Valley is very large (breadth and depth), the lowering of the water table left many near surface wells high and dry. The result was the loss of water by thousands of small domestic water well users, especially those in rural Valley communities.

Many agricultural and municipal wells had to be reconstructed or replaced to chase down to the lower water levels, further exacerbating the losses by others.

One interesting impediment to increased well replacement activity and, hence, which further impacts some well operators, was not enough licensed well-drilling companies to meet the drilling demand. This created waiting lists of up to a year in many areas of the Valley.

The result of the drought and especially the impact on groundwater compelled new actions in California and, thus, new challenges and opportunities for the Water Institute and Valley counties.

In September 2014, the California legislature completed a new "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act." With the governor's signature, a new era in water management began. The new law mandates local agencies to develop "sustainability plans" in designated groundwater basins; failure to do so will bring state representatives into an area to manage the resource.

The plans must design solutions to avoid "undesirable results" including continued overdraft of groundwater. The law brings groundwater regulation up to level of surface water management which was adopted one hundred years earlier (1914 v. 2014). The Partnership convened an agenda item to present and discuss this change at its December 2014 meeting. Part of the presentation included a summary of the groundwater ordinance adopted by Stanislaus County which the Water Institute facilitated.

Similarly, Merced County sought to develop an ordinance and successfully completed theirs in March 2015; that process also was facilitated by the Water Institute. Both ordinances address local groundwater issues and are compatible with and have the capacity to allow the counties to implement the new groundwater law, if necessary.

The front line of implementation of the new law is with public water agencies, but counties are the backstop and both have specific responsibilities identified in the law. The importance to the Partnership is that the adopted policy of supporting "integrated regional water management" now has an additional important tool available to assist with ongoing regional water management strategies.

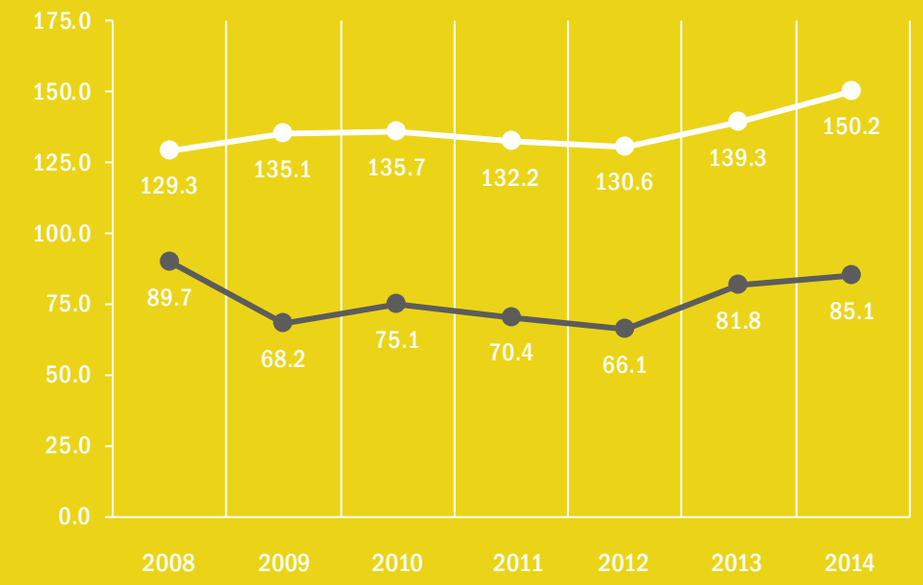
The groundwater law brings to the table additional participants that have not necessarily contributed to the regional dialogue or water management solutions - individual well owners and groundwater users that are not within the scope of any other local water agency.

In November 2014, the electorate passed a new "water bond" which offers the opportunity to finance a number of water management strategies including, for the first time in decades, investment in storage strategies. The storage strategy includes the specific opportunity to complete the work needed to construct facilities that have been under scrutiny for some time, including Temperance Flat dam on the San Joaquin River.

The bond pays for the "public benefits" if and when such facilities find a local sponsor that can match the public investments.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

County Water Table Depth



Source: California Department of Water Resources, California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

Water table depth is used to measure the sustainability of water usage. Groundwater depth statistics, reported by the California Department of Water Resources, are based on water well tests that include recordings of water depth. Only wells with at least one reading per year between 2008 and 2014 were included. Due to the sustained drought, the groundwater depth has been lower than previously; although groundwater levels rose in 2011 and 2012, indicating more water, but have receded in 2013 and 2014.

*Constant wells are wells measured at least once each year, for these purposes for the time period 2008 to 2014

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The Water Institute participated in numerous other efforts to support the Partnership's water strategies including, but not limited to; testimony to the State Legislature on bills and actions of interest to the Valley, mostly in reaction to the ongoing drought; investments and strategies to meet the needs of rural, disadvantaged community drinking water systems; efficiency programs for agricultural water use through the Institute partner organization, the Center for Irrigation Technology; and numerous reviews of potential new technologies to treat and make water available for all uses.

The treatment of drinking water and brackish water has received special notice by many inventors and their supporters, and they have visited the Water Institute to seek third-party analysis and support.

While the ongoing drought has been punishing the water situation in California, the attention has brought numerous policy, institutional, and technical changes and opportunities to the San Joaquin Valley; it appears the next year will continue that path.

Photo/Dora Stephanie

Spotlight

Photo/The Chronicles Group, Inc

‘Human right’ to water declared in California

On a hot summer day in June, 35 people got first-hand knowledge of poor water conditions while touring some of the San Joaquin Valley’s disadvantaged communities. Local elected officials and community, regional, state and federal representatives made stops in East Porterville, Lemoore, Hanford, and Springville, communities that face multiple challenges in providing a reliable safe drinking water supply.

The Partnership Board meeting in Hanford on the following day delved into the drinking water challenges and potential solutions. Challenges recognized by the California Legislature.

In 2012, California enacted Assembly Bill 685, declaring the Human Right to Water and stating the goal that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water, adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

Achieving the goal of the Human Right to Water will prove challenging, especially for small water systems in disadvantaged communities, including those in the San Joaquin Valley.

Many rural areas in the San Joaquin Valley are served by small water systems wholly dependent on groundwater wells, whether private domestic or operated by a public water system.

Due to the drought and groundwater overdraft, many of these wells have run dry, forcing impacted residents to use bottled water and community shower facilities.

Some residents have received assistance with household storage tanks. The June 2015 tour included demonstrations of various treatment technologies that might help to address some of the challenges, including point of use, reverse osmosis and optimized ion exchange.

In addition to water supply challenges, the San Joaquin Valley also faces water quality challenges.

The Valley has the highest rates of drinking water contamination and the greatest number of public water systems with Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations in the state.

The most common contaminants found in the region’s water supply are arsenic, nitrates, coliform bacteria, pesticides, disinfectant byproducts, and uranium.

While these contaminants are found in water throughout the Valley, the effects are felt particularly hard by the 1.36 million Central Valley residents who live in communities that are 100 percent reliant on contaminated groundwater (State Water Resources Control Board, AB 2222 Report, 2013).

This contamination can be caused by either naturally occurring sources or human-caused sources, such as the application of fertilizers and pesticides on irrigated agricultural land or large-scale animal feed operations.

In addition to the challenge of groundwater contamination in the Valley, many of these communities face technical, managerial and financial constraints common to communities served by small water systems.

These small water systems are often dependent on contaminated sources and face other challenges such as old, leaking distribution systems.

Addressing these problems requires certified operator and engineering support that the communities often lack, undermining the communities’ ability to successfully supply reliable, safe drinking water.

The communities are often further challenged by their lack of financial capacity to maintain these systems, since water rates may be too low to provide adequate water treatment for contaminant removal.

Raising rates to accomplish this goal is not feasible in many disadvantaged

Above: 2,500-gallon household water tank located at a residence in East Porterville. The water tank, provided by Tulare County’s Household Tank Program, includes piping materials to connect the tank to the home allowing residents access to running and heated water.

communities given their financial constraints.

Although funding for infrastructure improvements is available through the State Water Resources Control Board and other state and federal agencies, these sources of funding cannot be spent on ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Furthermore, the agencies’ ability to fund the capital improvements is compromised if the community cannot afford to operate and maintain the improvements such as water treatment systems, since public funding should be used for stranded assets.

This situation leaves many disadvantaged communities unable to move forward to address their drinking water problems.

For some water systems or private well owners, the best solution may be consolidation with a larger public water system. The California Safe Drinking Water Act gives the State Water Board various responsibilities and duties related to public water systems.

Recently passed legislation, Senate Bill 88, authorizes the State Water Board to order consolidation with a receiving water system where a public water system or a state small water system within a disadvantaged

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community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

The law also authorizes the State Water Board to order the extension of service to an area that does not have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water so long as the extension of service is an interim extension of service in preparation for consolidation.

The State Water Board is required to conduct an initial public meeting and a public hearing and to make specified findings prior to ordering consolidation or extension of service.

Funding in Prop 1, the Water Bond approved by California voters in November 2014, will help to address some of the conditions highlighted during the tour on that hot day in June.

The Bond authorizes $7.545 billion for state water supply infrastructure projects, such as public water system improvements, surface and groundwater storage, drinking water improvements, surface and groundwater storage, drinking water protection, water recycling, and advanced water treatment technology, water supply management and conveyance, wastewater treatment, drought relief, emergency water supplies, and ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration.

The Prop 1 bond funds will be distributed through a competitive grant process overseen by various state agencies.

The State Water Board will oversee in coming years the disbursement of Prop 1 funds as follows: $260 million for Safe Drinking Water, $260 million for Wastewater treatment, $625 million for water recycling, $200 million for storm water management, and $800 million for groundwater sustainability.

The State Water Board has a single point application tool called FAAST to assist users.

Other drought related funding opportunities include grants and low-interest loans through the State Water Board, Office of Emergency Services, Department of Water Resources, and other state and federal agencies.

The State Water Board recently established the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions to address drinking water and wastewater, and financial and technical assistance needs for these California communities.

To further the goals of the Human Right to Water, the State Water Board will continue to focus on solutions to challenges faced by disadvantaged communities.

Photos/The Chronicles Group, Inc

Phil Chandler, managing director, Ionex SG, (left) presents findings of nitrate levels in groundwater and drinking water in Springville, Calif., as he leads a tour of the nitrate-removal treatment facility at Triple R Mutual Water Company.

Source: Chandler, Phil. "Safe Drinking Water in the San Joaquin Valley." Meeting Presentation, June 19, 2015

Approval to start groundwork for the nitrate treatment system (left) at Triple R Mutual Water Company in Springville was granted May 2014. The project employed local subcontractors with installation completed October 2014. The system went online full-time January 2015 and continues through 2017.

Source: Chandler, Phil. Safe Drinking Water in the San Joaquin Valley. Meeting Presentation. June 19, 2015

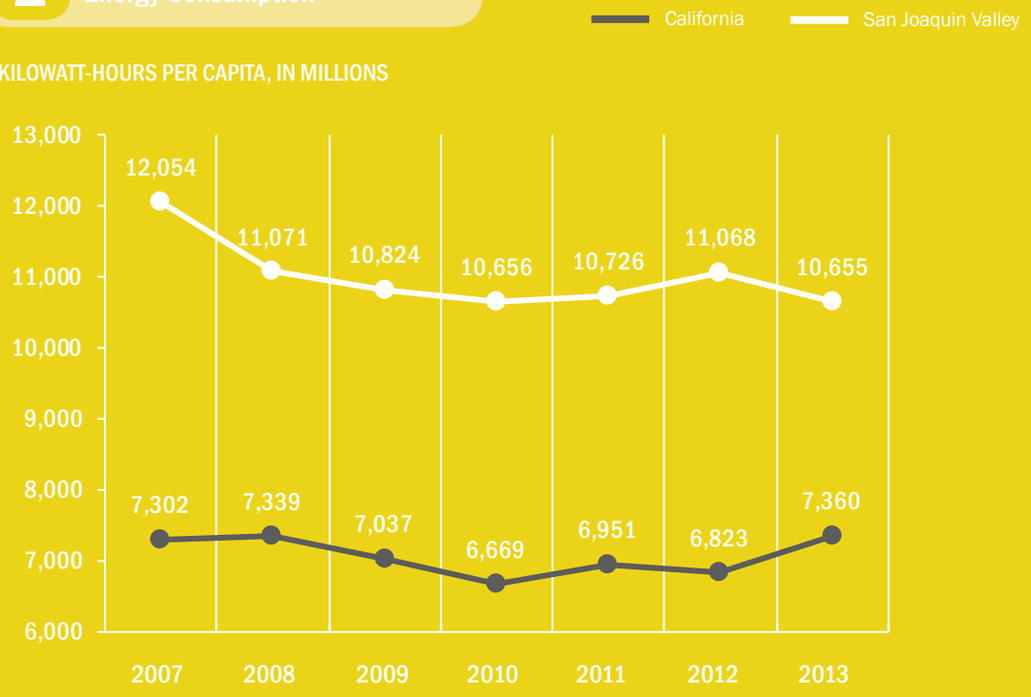
Chandler shows the tour an example of brine which requires responsible disposal to avoid increasing salt discharge to public sewers or it can further increase the salinity in aquifers. A regeneration process developed by Ionex dramatically reduces brine-disposal frequency and costs.

Source: Ionex SG LLC.News Release. Ionex Introduces Breakthrough Treatment Technology to Remove Nitrates from California's Drinking Water - With Near-Zero Waste. MarketWired.com. July 7, 2015

Photos/The Chronicles Group, Inc

Photo/Dora Stephanie

Energy Consumption



Source: California Energy Commission; U. S. Department of Finance

The California Energy Commission estimates annual electricity use by county, based on electricity delivered to local providers and data submitted by larger providers like Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison. Electricity consumption is calculated on a per-person basis and accounts for both residential and commercial use. Per capita electricity consumption in the San Joaquin Valley region is consistently higher than the California average. In general this would be expected due to the region's hotter summers and colder winters than California's more populated, temperate coastline. In 2013, the San Joaquin Valley region electricity consumption was 10,655 kilowatt hours per capita, compared to the state electricity consumption of 7,360 kilowatt hours per capita.

Photo/Office of Community and Economic Development

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.

San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization

Courtney Kalashian, Associate Executive Director
Paul Johnson, President
Paul Everett Johnson & Associates

Year-In-Review

California Public Utilities Commission places energy efficiency (EE) as the number one resource to meet California's energy needs. Other resources that contribute to state energy needs are demand response, renewables, and grid reliability.

The San Joaquin Valley has embraced EE and to deliver EE programs to rural and underserved communities has worked in partnership with the region's Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company. IOU local government partnership programs have become one of the most effective and reliable channels of program delivery, and have matured to be viable and respected entities that have increased the amount of public purpose energy dollars returning to Valley customers.

Valley Innovative Energy Watch is a partnership that offers comprehensive EE services and technical assistance to residential, small commercial, large commercial and municipal customers. Services include EE audits, retrofits, retro commissioning, rebates, education and training; the development of community outreach, integrated marketing efforts and workforce development programs; and the California Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan.

Other local government partnerships working for EE in the region are Great Valley Center, County of Madera, Fresno Energy Watch (City of Fresno and Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County) and Kern Energy Watch (Kern Council of Governments). Though these partnerships work autonomously, together they have established Valley Energy Efficiency Partners. As a result, the entire region is able to maintain independent operations of the partnerships and capitalize on a shared resource model. Each partnership excels in one or two particular areas: municipal services, workforce development, policy planning, residential retrofits. Increased cost effectiveness now exists in their programs as well as regional access to EE program.

Fresno Energy Watch, a public service program offered by PG&E and its partners, educates utility customers in energy efficiency and provides a way to save energy through the direct installation of energy efficient measures. In 2014, Fresno Energy Watch completed 4,157 residential EE assessments in Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno and Madera counties through the PG&E-funded Energy Tune-Up program. Central Valley Energy Tune-Up is managed by the City of Fresno and operates in Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. The program also provides municipal water energy nexus trainings and performs nonresidential energy assessments for businesses. In 2014, more than 80 assessments were completed for businesses ranging from municipal to private industry.

The San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Cluster, held the Clean Tech Open on August 2014. The Clean Tech Open helped clients accelerate sustainable innovation. The company's i3 market intelligence platform, which tracks more than $7

Opposite: Hybrid vehicle showcased at unveiling of electric vehicle charging stations at the Downtown Business iHub in Fresno.

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billion of deal flow annually across more than 23,000 clean technology companies, allows subscribers to find, vet, and connect with entrepreneurs, efficiently building an innovation pipeline. Clean Tech Forums brought the i3 platform to life by convening thought leaders and innovators around diverse themes in innovation.

On June 2, 2015, the Clean Energy Cluster hosted Tools and Solutions to Help Jurisdictions Deal with Energy and Water Challenges which showcased new developments and best practices for local governments, to conserve energy and water resources while improving local economy and air quality. The focus was on helping to plan and seek funding for energy and water policies and programs.

In 2013, California Workforce Investment Board awarded the Valley one of five Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity (RICO) grants totaling $158,013. This award utilized the California Energy Commission AB 118 Alternative and Renewable Fuel Vehicle Technology program. The RICO-II project began with three focus areas - biofuels, electric vehicle, and natural gas; but commitment and momentum was ultimately highest among those associated with the development of the San Joaquin Valley Electric Vehicle Partnership (SJVEVP).

SJVEVP conducted four employer meetings, counting participation of representatives from 39 private companies, 22 public agencies, and 13 community partners, including San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization, Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, Kern Community College District, San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition, Kern Economic Development Corporation, Collaborative Economics, and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Moving forward, SJVEVP will focus its efforts on expanding the electric vehicle (EV) market, installing additional EV infrastructure, and ensuring a new generation of employees is being trained to service EVs and EV charging stations in the Valley.

RICO II addressed SJVEVP priorities of increasing the availability of EV charging stations by installing additional infrastructure at workplace host sites. $49,424 of RICO II funds was dedicated to installation of EV charging stations at two workplace host sites strategically located near the region's main trade corridor (SR-99), and situated in the central and southern sub regions of the Valley where EV charging stations are most scarce. Recipient sites are Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation Downtown Business Hub and Kern Community College District Weill Institute. Each received four Level 2 EV charging stations accessible to the public at large.

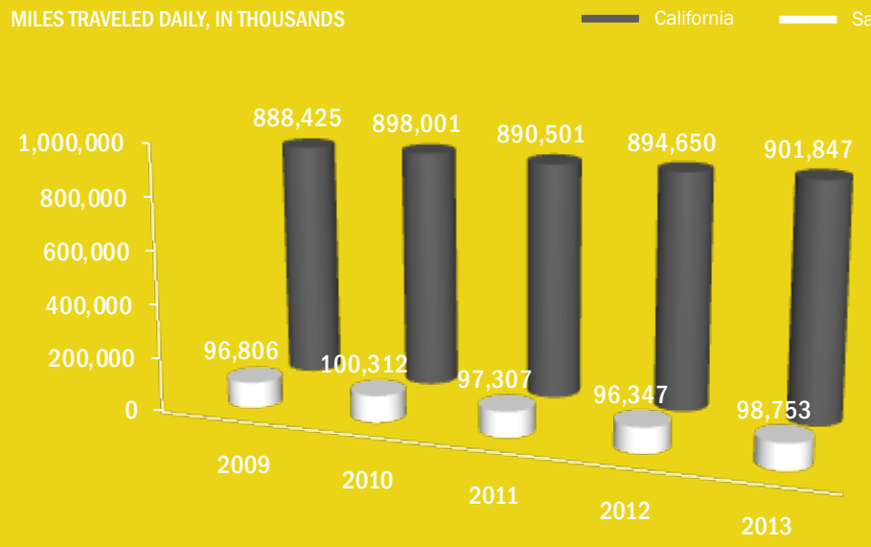
RICO II was successful in attracting additional investments to support its regional efforts. California Energy Commission (CEC) issued $146,999 to support continued coordination of SJVEVP and to implement EV modules at high school campuses throughout the region. Nissan issued $16,000 to regional partners to supplement CEC's investment. Six new jobs were created to further EV market development activities under SJVEVP - two with San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition, four with Schneider Electric.

Below: Electric vehicle charging stations unveiled at the Downtown Business iHub in Fresno.

Photo/Office of Community and Economic Development

Automotive Travel

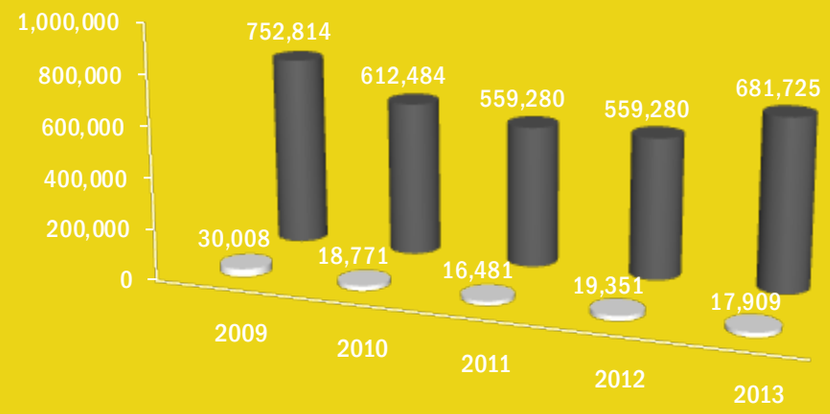
MILES TRAVELED DAILY, IN THOUSANDS



Source: California Department of Transportation

Above figures include all public road mileage from all jurisdictions within each county.

VEHICLE HOURS OF DELAY, DAILY AVERAGE



Source: California Department of Transportation

Methods for capturing data changed dramatically beginning 2009; comparison to previous data would not be accurate.

The California Department of Transportation provides traffic volume estimates and includes all public mileage from all jurisdictions, including state highways and urban and rural designations. Each year, Caltrans takes measurements on the ground and calculates various traffic estimates. Vehicle hours of delay estimates show the amount of time lost due to traffic congestion. Over the past five years, vehicle hours of delay decreased both in the San Joaquin Valley region and the state of California.

kudos

Photo/CalVans, www.calvans.org

Greenhouse Gas Reductions Contributions
CalVans

Key Partner:
California Vanpool Authority

Established in 2001 with one van in Kings County, CalVans provides a vanpool program that is run by a regional authority and that covers many of the state's most productive agricultural areas, including the San Joaquin Valley, the Imperial Valley and the Salinas Valley. CalVans began as an attempt to improve farmworker van safety. Farmworkers remain the main participants and along with correctional officers make up about 80 percent of the program's total van use. CalVans is sponsored by the California Vanpool Authority.

With a proven track record and hundreds of vans travelling millions of miles a year throughout California, CalVans has produced substantial greenhouse gas reduction benefits. In fiscal year 2013-2014, the program saved the state 80.6 million vehicle miles travelled. That equates to a reduction of more than 28,000 tons of greenhouse gases.

These environmental achievements have allowed CalVans to reap the benefits from California's increasing focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming. Earlier this year, CalVans was awarded $3 million in cap-and-trade money to be used in the 2015-2016 fiscal year that began July 1. The funds are enough to purchase 80 vans to add to the 482 currently being operated by the multicounty agency. CalVans expects the majority of these new vans to be fully electric.

Growers have become worried about workers potentially leaving the San Joaquin Valley as a result of drought. As a result, many growers are providing vouchers to workers who use them to cover the costs of riding in a CalVans van. This helps farmers build worker loyalty and ensure that those employees stick around - and stick with them. About 50 percent of agricultural workers in the program are receiving vouchers from growers to offset some of the vanpool costs.

CalVans saves participants a substantial amount of disposable income. In Kings County, it is estimated the program keeps an additional $7.2 million in riders' pockets compared to what they would be spending if they were all driving their own vehicles to and from the work site.

As an added benefit, CalVans draws down more federal funding for local transit agencies like Kings County Area Public Transit Agency. Federal money flows to agencies that log the most transit miles. CalVans, technically a government program, logged 1.7 million miles in Kings County in fiscal year 2014-2015. CalVans mileage generated $1.3 million for Kings County's public transportation system which can be used for operational costs or for buying new buses.

Source: Nidever, Seth. "Vanpool program bags $3 million grant." Hanford Sentinel 2 September 2015.

Advanced Communications Services

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

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium

Eduardo Gonzalez, Program Manager
Office of Community and Economic Development
Fresno State

Year-In-Review

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium (SJVRBC) is administered by the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, through the Partnership Advanced Communications Services Work Group. For the past three years, SJVRBC has promoted ubiquitous broadband deployment and advanced broadband adoption in unserved and underserved areas throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

In its last year of grant funding from California Public Utilities Commission, SJVRBC continues to bring broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities in the region through the network of consortium members strategically chosen on the basis of prior experience with delivering networked telecommunications, digital literacy programming, and broadband advocacy.

All activities carried out during this last year of programming focused on

- promoting accessibility and utilization of broadband in targeted underserved and unserved communities and populations
- expanding and replicating successful model programs to increase access to broadband and information technology to bridge the digital divide
- accelerating deployment of broadband infrastructure through telemedicine and telehealth technology

As a part of these efforts, quarterly meetings were held with stakeholders to provide updates on the status of desired outcomes of broadband in the Valley and its three broadband work groups: Infrastructure, Telehealth, and Education.

Stakeholders invited to participate were members of the public and private sectors, including government agencies, telecommunications providers, and industry associations; economic development corporations and business development centers; local educational agencies and institutions of higher education; health delivery organizations; community-based and nonprofit organizations; and accessibility advocates.

SJVRBC generated local support for the approval of AB1262. Approved in September 2015, AB1262 transfers $5 million to the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account. AB1262 helps provide funding for SJVRBC to achieve its goal by executing these deliverables within five major activity areas:

- expedite provision of broadband access in all areas of the San Joaquin Valley
- promote accessibility and adoption of broadband in targeted unserved and underserved communities and populations
- expand and replicate successful model programs to increase broadband access and bridge the digital divide
- accelerate deployment of broadband infrastructure through telemedicine and telehealth technology
- work with neighboring regional consortia to ensure the development of cohesive intra-regional infrastructure

Suggestions by SJVRBC members were submitted to the President's Interagency Broadband Opportunity Council, to leverage current federal assets for telecommunications infrastructure in rural communities to expand connectivity, relays and access points, and implement broadband rural accessibility for Agtech, telemedicine, and distance learning capabilities.

Courtesy City of Clovis

sustainable planning

Creating a healthier, safer, more prosperous tomorrow requires planning today. Integrating smart growth principles into our communities' planning products and processes will create more transportation choices, walkable neighborhoods, equitable affordable housing, and greater economic competitiveness within the region; undoubtedly influencing future development patterns which embrace smart growth and promote the three Es of sustainability: greater social equity, a strong and competitive economy, and a healthy environment.

Air Quality

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

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director

Year-In-Review

Last year was marked by significant achievements with respect to summer ozone and tremendous winter particulate challenges due to unprecedented weather conditions.

The San Joaquin Valley has continued its significant progress in reducing summertime smog. Valley residents have experienced a reduction in exposure to levels above the federal 8-hour ozone standard by more than 90 percent. 2014 was the second consecutive year the Valley had zero violations of the 1-hour ozone standard and, if trends continue, 2015 will be another noteworthy summer for air quality.

Achieving these milestones is remarkable given that the Valley experienced strings of triple-digit temperatures, which are ordinarily conducive to high smog levels.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) sent a second request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to officially designate the Valley as attaining this critical

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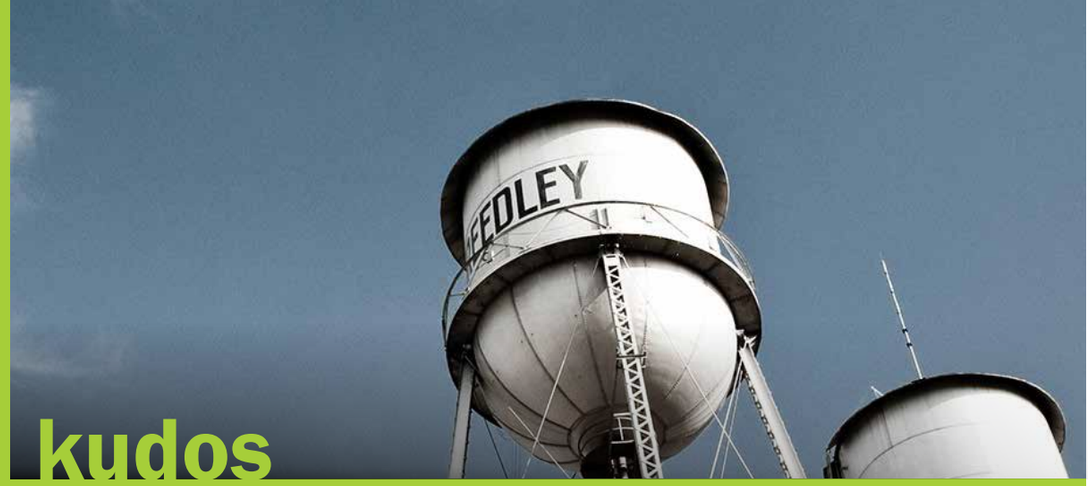
Above: Dry Creek Trailhead, Clovis



kudos

Courtesy City of Reedley

City of Reedley General Plan Update
City of Reedley

In February 2015, Reedley City Council approved City of Reedley General Plan Update 2030. Key components of the Plan are future growth patterns, groundwater management, and farmland conservation.

The City's actions include:

- Selected a realistic sphere of influence which minimized the premature conversion of 633 acres of agricultural lands.
- Made policy decisions based upon technical studies such as the Groundwater Pumping, Recharge, and Consumptive Use Report which provided detailed understanding of groundwater resources and projected future consumptive use patterns.
- Completed 29 policy/legislative initiatives directly supporting the goals of the Plan
- Purchased land and is designing additional groundwater recharge facilities to balance water production and recharge
- Currently developing its first Climate Action Plan scheduled to be completed in late 2015.
- Shall reduce its consumptive water use by 15 percent by 2030, regardless that it has the lowest per capita consumption of water, per the State of California.

The City of Reedley is fully engaged in enacting policy and legislative initiatives to ensure a livable, vibrant, thriving, "smart" community, based upon sound environmental stewardship.

These bold initiatives have guided the design and eventual approval of the Kings River Village Project, which stands out as a regional model for design, walkability, higher density housing options, and office and retail centers, all of which create a sense of place and serve as an employment center. Kings River Village also incorporates bio swales for groundwater management, water conservation, and both passive and active park space.

For Reedley, this is no dream but a blueprint, not a concept but an inventory of tangible objectives to be executed over time.

Doing this kind of visionary city-building for the benefit of all people has exemplified the spirit of Reedley, and what could be in the central San Joaquin Valley.

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standard that has been the focus of our efforts for more than two decades.

If it weren't for exceptional weather conditions, the Valley would have a similar success story with respect to wintertime particulate matter. As Valley residents, we are all painfully aware of the devastating impacts the drought has already had on our economy and the quality of life in Valley communities. Air quality was another victim of the unprecedented drought conditions we faced. Despite record low levels of particulate pollution emitted by Valley businesses and vehicles, these abnormal weather conditions led to extremely high levels of ambient particulate concentrations not seen in the Valley in over a decade.

The adoption and implementation of the new residential wood burning program in 2014 was by far the most significant legislative action taken by the Air District's governing board. The amendments achieve vast reductions in dangerous wood smoke emissions by significantly curtailing the use of older, dilapidated devices, while rewarding Valley residents who have invested in cleaner wood burning units with more wood burning days.

The Air District also invested more than $7 million to assist Valley residents in transitioning to cleaner devices. This rule and incentive program continues to be one of the least costly and most health-protective measures, reducing pollutants when and where most needed.

Looking to the future, the pollution from Valley industries, businesses, farms and vehicles are at historic low levels. While we can take pride in and appreciate the sacrifice by Valley businesses and residents that have made this possible, the challenges ahead may prove to be the most difficult ones yet in our journey toward meeting the federal air quality standards.

Key areas of focus for the coming year are as follows:

New Attainment Plans
In response to federal mandates, the Air District has begun the work on developing four new attainment plans for ozone and particulate matter. Meeting these new standards will require a great deal of innovation and transformative measures impacting all sectors. As we pursue this work, the Air District will look for and facilitate full public participation in crafting these plans.

Modernizing the Federal Clean Air Act
Since its adoption, the Clean Air Act has led to significant improvements in air quality and public health benefits throughout the nation. However, after more than 20 years since the last amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990, our experience shows that many well-intentioned provisions are leading to unintended adverse consequences. The antiquated provisions of the Clean Air Act are now leading to confusion, and the lack of updated Congressional directive has rendered courts as policymakers.

In the coming year, the Air District will work with Congress and the executive branch to advance legislative or administrative changes that eliminate confusion, and enhance economic and technological feasibility while strengthening the health protective core of the act.

Residential Wood Burning
Building on the success of the Burn Cleaner program in 2014, the Air District will continue to invest in efforts by Valley residents to upgrade their older wood burning devices. This will again be done through cooperative action with the Valley hearth retailers.

Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Air Quality Data
With the successful launch of the web-based Archived Air Quality System, the Air District will launch a groundbreaking new tool which will upgrade the existing Real-Time Air Advisory Network system to provide every Valley resident with real-time air quality information for their neighborhood.

Cap-and-Trade Funding
In collaboration with Valley stakeholders, the Air District will work to ensure the Valley receives its fair share of funding given the disproportionate number of disadvantaged communities.

We must remain mindful of the significant challenges that remain in meeting health-protective air quality standards. As the Air District moves forward, with the help of Valley stakeholders, it will continue to work to see greater air quality improvements throughout the Valley while balancing public health with economic prosperity.

Air Quality

Source: California Air Resources Board

Air quality is the general term used to describe various aspects of the air that plant, animal, and human populations breathe. The California Air Resources Board reports this data by site, grouped into counties and air basins. Air quality standards are set at both state and federal levels. The number of days exceeding the California 8-hour Ozone standard is used here because it indicates how often the amount of pollutant in the air exceeds a threshold set by the state. The San Joaquin Valley air basin consistently has over 100 more days exceeding the 8-hour standard than the San Francisco Bay Area air basin. Over the past 10 years, the San Joaquin Valley air basin and the Greater Los Angeles air basin have similar air quality, with a 10-year average of 130 days per year exceeding the 8-hour standard.

Asthma

Source: California Health Interview Survey

The California Health Interview Survey is a survey of health conditions and risk factors in California and asks respondents if they have ever been diagnosed with asthma. The results are about one in six, or 16.7 percent, adults in the San Joaquin Valley region report ever having been diagnosed with asthma. This is 2.6 percentage points higher than the asthma rate of the state of California.

Sustainable Communities

MISSION: Build innovative transportation systems to increase travel choices, improve mobility, bolster regional and state goods movement, improve air quality, and facilitate economic prosperity. Support and promote regional consensus on future land use through the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Roadmap's smart growth principles. Identify appropriate areas for growth and economic development, while protecting the natural resources and sustainability of the region.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council

Rob Terry, Principal Regional Planner

Fresno Council of Governments

Year-In-Review

San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council (RPC) was established to discuss and build regional consensus on issues of importance to the San Joaquin Valley eight-county region. RPC includes these regional planning agencies: San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stanislaus Council of Governments, Merced County Association of Governments, Madera County Transportation Commission, Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), Kings County Association of Governments, Tulare County Association of Governments and Kern Council of Governments. RPC consists of two elected officials from the boards of each regional planning agency (RPA) and the executive director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

RPC works on transportation, air quality, and other Valley-wide issues to improve the quality of life for Valley residents.

Each RPA continued work on its Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) including development of growth scenario alternatives. SCS is part of each county's RTP and integrates transportation, land-use, and housing policies for achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions as required by Senate Bill 375. Extensive resources were expended for modeling, community outreach, environmental reviews, and technical analysis related to establishing a greenhouse gas target for the Valley. This work effort is coordinated with the California Air Resources Board (http://www.valley-visions.org). As of September 2014, each RPA adopted an SCS/RTP or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS). The California Air Resources Board will review and approve the SCS/RTP or APS for each county. San Joaquin County has been approved.

The Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC), established at the staff level at each RPA, is responsible for tracking legislation and exchanging pertinent information that may be crucial in developing a support/oppose/amend position for each RPA. VLAC coordinates annual eight-county Valley Voice advocacy trips which have proven to be very effective. Each year, Valley Voice trips are planned to Washington, D.C., and Sacramento. For 2014-2015, the trip to Washington, D.C., was in October 2014, and Sacramento in March 2015.

The annual Fall Policy Conference was in October 2014 in Visalia and hosted by the Tulare County Association of Governments. Each year, the conference offers a productive opportunity for staff, elected officials and other leaders to learn from one another, network, and share information about activities going on at both state and federal levels. In addition, the event hosts the annual Blueprint Awards, which highlights and celebrates projects and individuals in the Valley which embrace the 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles in their design and/or function.

As part of the Blueprint process, Fresno COG developed Valley IMPACS, a Valley-wide fiscal

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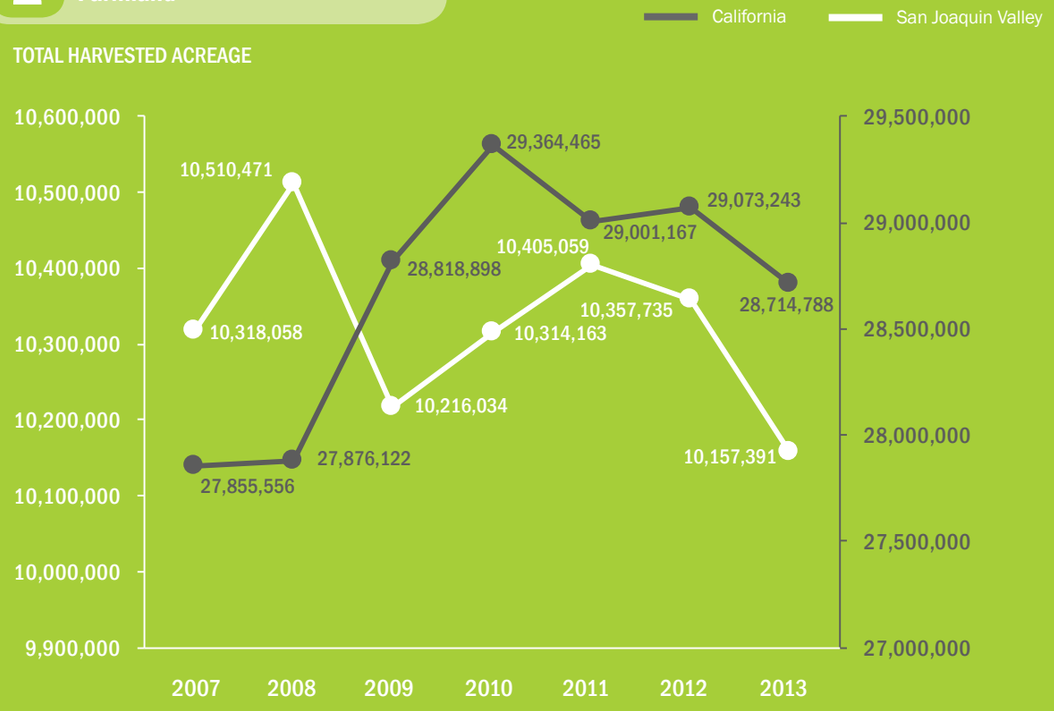
Farmland



Harvested acreage of agricultural land is reported by the County Agricultural Commissioner to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Commissioners are required to base estimates on a local survey. However, there is no consistent methodology for estimating harvested acreage from county to county, or from year to year. Therefore, large shifts are possible, especially when a new agricultural commissioner is appointed. Over the past eight years in the San Joaquin Valley region, the total harvested acreage has fluctuated between 10.16-10.51 million acres; the most productive year was 2008 with 10.51 million harvested acres and the least was 2013 with 10.16 million acres. From 2012 to 2013, the San Joaquin Valley region harvested acreage decreased 2.0 percent, compared with the state decrease of 1.2 percent. In the San Joaquin Valley region, agriculture is a major economic engine and has become a source of community and regional identity. Additionally, agriculture is an environmental factor and so productive land must be sustainably managed. The amount of land used for agricultural production can be affected by trends such as water availability and long-term urban land conversion.

TOTAL HARVESTED ACREAGE, ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE

Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture, County Agriculture Commissioners Data

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

impact assessment tool used to measure the fiscal sustainability of development projects. Valley IMPACS is available on the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Toolkit website (toolkit.valleyblueprint.org/tool/fiscal-impact-analysis), and is available for open-source use by any interested agency and/or individual. This tool will help local planners and elected officials determine the long-term fiscal impacts of development proposals.

Fresno COG conducted an Infill Housing Study that analyzed the feasibility of infill development in Fresno and the Valley; the final report was delivered in August 2014. Example projects found in the Valley, and the various challenges in infill development from a higher-level, have been utilized in various capacities such as grant applications, support letters, and comment letters to the Strategic Growth Council and Caltrans, to highlight the opportunities and constraints for such developments in the Valley. As a reference, the final report can be found at valleyblueprint.org/san-joaquin-valley-infill-development-analysis.html.

San Joaquin Valley Greenprint Phase II activities began in August 2014 with the formulation and release of a Request for Proposals for consultant services and consequent acquisition of the consultant Mintier-Harnish.

The first stage of the Greenprint process compiled information describing the lands, waters and living resources of the Valley's region and the trends affecting them. Resource management challenges and opportunities were identified and documented; and extensive work and GIS mapping was completed.

Phase II will build on and extend the work completed in Phase I. It will conclude with the development of a guide for resource management, including examples of strategies and tools used elsewhere, which governments, businesses and communities can self-select to address economic and resource objectives. A significant component of Phase II is the development and implementation of a pilot projects program. The purpose is to demonstrate how agencies can use the Greenprint mapping tools and information development in Phase I in local and regional planning.

Photo/Dora Stephanie

Spotlight

Photo Credit/Brian L. Frank, The Wall Street Journal

Valley projects awarded 13 percent of $122 million in state funds

At the end of June 2015, California's Strategic Growth Council announced awards for the first round of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, which is funded through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) cap-and-trade auction proceeds.

Overall, 28 projects were awarded funds totaling $122 million. Four San Joaquin Valley projects were selected for awards totaling $16,216,535, approximately 13 percent of the $122 million allocated.

Hotel Fresno
The Hotel Fresno Apartments development consists of converting the vacant commercial Hotel Fresno building located in the City of Fresno into a new multifamily residential rental housing development with 79 units. Forty of the units will be designated as affordable units, 38 units will be market rate, and 1 unit will be reserved for an on-site manager (which will also be restricted to 60 percent of area median income). Upon completion, the Hotel Fresno Apartments development will consist of seven floors of apartments, common areas and office space on the ground floor, and construction of a required new parking garage with 81 parking spaces located adjacent to the hotel building site. Total award: $4.8 million.

19th Street Senior Apartments
The 19th Street Senior Apartments will be a 63-unit senior affordable development located in Bakersfield. There will be a detached 63-space parking structure for the residents with a connecting skybridge. This development is located next to several City parks and the RiverWalk. Total award: $2.6 million.

Anchor Village
Anchor Village located in downtown Stockton will serve low-income veterans and individuals with mental illness. The currently vacant infill site is located within a short walk (1/8 mile) to four San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) bus stops, and the RTD Downtown Transit Center is located 1/2 mile away offering 34 bus lines. The project will be comprised of 51 units, approximately 8,000 square feet of community space, 23 parking spaces, and 68 secure, indoor bike parking spaces. The community area is designed for social interaction, including social service office space, community space, fitness equipment, and bike storage and repair facility. The outdoor spaces will include a garden and seating area. Total award: $5.9 million.

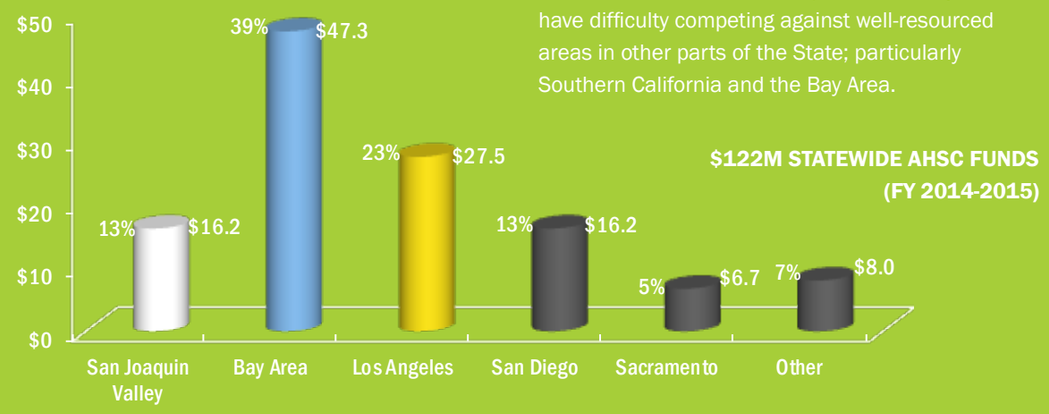
CalVans Vanpool Expansion Project
The Vanpool Expansion Project will be targeted toward providing farmworkers located in rural areas with a van to travel between home and work. Residents in these areas generally lack access to reliable public transportation, a reliable vehicle and often do not have a driver's license. Total award: $3 million

▪ ▪ ▪

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program is poised for a major expansion in the second round, with available funding expected to be $400 million statewide. Funding for the GGRF programs overall is expected to be approximately $2.2 billion in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Total funding to date from the GGRF to Valley communities by major funding category is as follows:

- Transportation and Sustainable Communities Funding – 27 projects for a total of $24.7 million. This accounts for 6.7 percent of the total statewide funding.
- Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding – 75 projects for a total of $21.8 million. This accounts for 47 percent of the total statewide funding.
- Natural Resource and Waste Diversion Funding – 8 projects for a total of $5.4 million. This accounts for 10.7 percent of the total statewide funding.



$122M STATEWIDE AHSC FUNDS (FY 2014-2015)

It is anticipated that as the funding grows larger, the Valley will have difficulty maintaining its current percentage or representative share of total funds awarded for the following reasons:

Capacity to Apply
Complexity of the program, application process and selection criteria, technical analysis required, and the quick turnaround for new cycles require significant applicant resources to develop project partnerships, be apprised of program guidelines, and ultimately submit complete and competitive applications.

Threshold Issues- Unqualified or Discouraged
Project Readiness- As a result of scarce financial resources and "shovel ready" projects, the Valley will not have a sufficient inventory of prospective projects at the level of development currently required by the program.

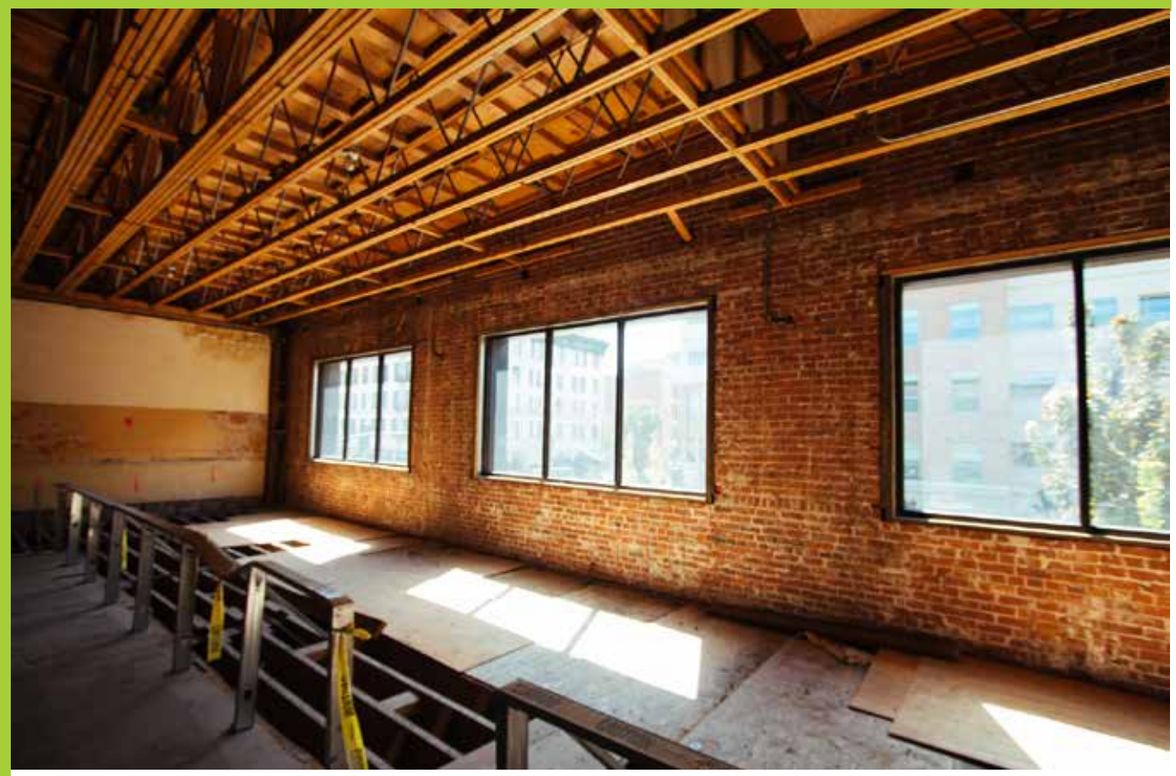
Leverage Requirements- Without local financial resources of lucrative developers, the Valley will have difficulty competing against well-resourced areas in other parts of the State; particularly Southern California and the Bay Area.

Urban Development

Source: California Department of Conservation

Every two years, the California Department of Conservation conducts aerial land surveys in agricultural areas to determine how much farmland may or may not be replaced by other uses over time. The most common land use conversion is from agriculture to urban developed land. The Center for Economic Development at California State University, Chico converted urban land acreage values to persons per urban acre, to measure the efficiency housing population in new urban lands. Traditionally, San Joaquin Valley region urban development has been suburban and exurban in nature – large homes with large yards spread out over vast land areas. This is why current persons per urban acre (6.08) is so much lower than in California (9.50). San Joaquin Valley region communities have been successful at increasing urban densities since about 2002. For example, between 2010 and 2012, new urban development increased by 7.6 persons per acre; still lower than California but higher than existing Valley urban densities.

Newberry Building, Stockton/Courtesy Ten Space



Housing

MISSION: Increase, preserve and improve the supply of affordable and workforce housing in the San Joaquin Valley, defined as the eight-county region including Merced, Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, and San Joaquin.

San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative

Monica Palmiera, Program Specialist
California Coalition for Rural Housing

Year-In-Review

The San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative (Collaborative) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization formed as a regional entity to specifically address housing issues in the eight-county region of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Collaborative not only serves as a much-needed forum to discuss regional challenges and strategies to address the Valley's long- and short-term housing goals; it also serves as an invaluable tool for the region to organize as one voice when communicating with state and federal policymakers and regulatory agencies

The Collaborative is governed by a board of directors and operates as a joint partnership between the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State and California Coalition for Rural Housing.

In November 2014, the Collaborative hosted the 3rd Annual San Joaquin Valley Affordable Housing Summit "Impacting Communities with Collaborative Community Development."

Nearly 150 stakeholders came from across the region and state to Stockton to participate.

Breakout sessions addressed:

- California's Pioneering Cap-and-Trade Program: Strategies to Gain the Competitive Edge in the San Joaquin Valley
- Innovative Strategies for Encouraging Homeownership
- Safe Homes Together: Code Enforcement and Community Revitalization
- Integrating Health and Housing: Bridging Gaps and Creating New Partnerships
- Active Design: Building Healthy Housing and Complete Streets
- Financing Strategies to Make Affordable Housing Work
- Connecting the Dots: Land-Use And Opportunity in the San Joaquin Valley

"Healthy Communities in the San Joaquin Valley" featured a panel of state, regional, and local agencies to discuss coordinating diverse aspects of community development into the concept and creation of affordable housing. The Summit ended with an overview of Housing Elements and the year in advocacy efforts, followed by a call to action.

The day's discussion was organized around coordinating diverse aspects of community development into the concept and creation of affordable housing.

Goals and Objectives

With feedback from the 2014 Affordable Housing Summit, the Collaborative set the following specific goals and objectives for 2015.

Goals

- Fill gaps in capacity by hosting resource-sharing events and conversations.
- Show how to leverage funds for several grants to make projects come to life.

Objectives

- Education and Technical Assistance: ensure jurisdictions understand housing programs and as a result, the Housing Collaborative can act in an advocacy role based on issues and opportunities that emerge from the education and technical assistance processes
- Convene: bring stakeholders together around housing issues and programs by activating the Affordable Housing Summit attendees and supporters
- Change the Narrative: think and speak of the Valley as a "new frontier" that is "abundant" with opportunity

kudos

Photo/Nate Beal

San Joaquin Sustainable Communities Coalition
San Joaquin Council of Governments
ClimatePlan

Key Partners:
American Farmland Trust
American Lung Association in California
Campaign for Common Ground
Catholic Charities-Dioceses of Stockton
Defenders of Wildlife
Jose M Hernandez Reaching for the Stars Foundation
Lao Family Community Empowerment
NAACP (Stockton Branch)
Randy Hatch
LaCresia Hawkins

The San Joaquin Sustainable Communities Coalition in San Joaquin County was created as a result of California Senate Bill 375, 2008.

SB375 required each Metropolitan Planning Organization statewide to include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of a long-range transportation planning document, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Enter ClimatePlan. Founded in 2007 by a group of 11 nonprofits and instrumental in the passage of SB375, ClimatePlan advocated for strong and meaningful implementation of its requirements.

It was through the direction of ClimatePlan that the San Joaquin Sustainable Communities Coalition was formed in San Joaquin County.

The Coalition became a trusted collaborative partner for the San Joaquin Council of Governments in the development of its 2014 RTP/SCS.

Above: Altamont Commuter Express, Pleasanton. Full photo credi: By Nate Beal . Originally posted to Flickr as the ACE. Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Commons.

The Coalition is a collection of advocates and community organizations - environmental groups, faith-based organizations, public health advocates, education leaders; and business, planning and building professionals -primarily from San Joaquin County.

Membership was open and inclusive; however, a core group of organizations and individuals met regularly through successful coordination efforts by ClimatePlan.

These organizations joined together for the expressed purpose of advocating for a strong and thorough Sustainable Communities Strategy for San Joaquin County and beyond, for the whole San Joaquin Valley.

Each contributed its own substantial leadership and unique expertise creating a synergistic, dynamic organization integral in the development of the first Sustainable Communities Strategy in San Joaquin County.

In recognition of its efforts, the Coalition received the 2015 Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award. The Blueprint Awards program is sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, Central Section of Cal Chapter APA, Association of Environmental Professionals - Central Chapter, and the Community and Regional Planning Center at Fresno State.

Families in Poverty

For the past eight years, the percentage of families in the San Joaquin Valley region living below the poverty* line is more than 1.5 times the California percentage. In 2013, 20 percent of families in the San Joaquin Valley region lived below the poverty line, compared to 12.6 percent of families in the state of California.

Source: American Community Survey

*Poverty status, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, is determined for each family household such that either everyone in the household is considered to be in poverty or no one. If a family's total income is less than the poverty threshold, then that family is considered to be impoverished. Other characteristics used to determine household poverty status include the number of people, number of related children under age 18, and whether the head of household is over age 65. Poverty thresholds do not change geographically, although they are updated annually for inflation using the consumer price index.

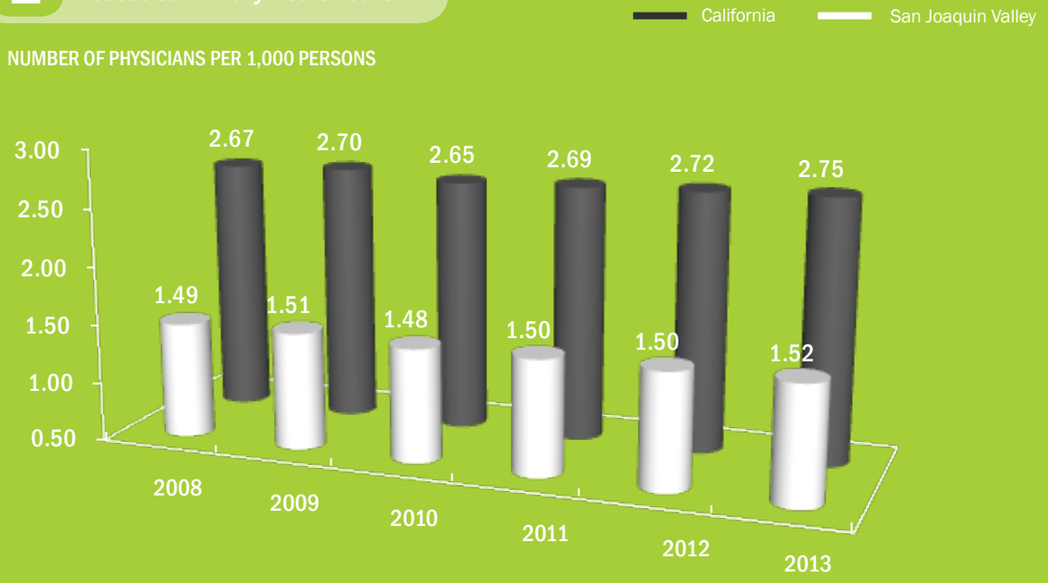
Violent Crime Rate

In 2012, the San Joaquin Valley experienced the highest violent crime rate* since 2006 with a 7 percent increase occurring between 2011 and 2012 from 573.5 to 613.9. Though the San Joaquin Valley experienced a decrease in the violent crime rate in 2013 by 8 percent to 563.3, it still had a higher violent crime rate than the state of California that same year with 167.7 more violent crimes.

Source: California Department of Justice

*Violent crime rate comprises four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The California Department of Justice estimates the number of violent crimes by calculating the total number of violent crimes committed per 100,000 persons living in the region.

Access to Primary Health Care



Source: RAND California Statistics

RAND California provides data on the number of licensed primary care physicians by county. Using the number of physicians per 1,000 people enables us to make meaningful regional comparisons. The San Joaquin Valley region hosts fewer physicians per 1,000 people than the state. Over the past 10 years, the San Joaquin Valley region rate has remained steadily at 1.5 physicians per 1,000 people, whereas the California rate has increased from 2.5 to 2.7 over the same time period. In 2013, the rate in Fresno County was 1.9, whereas the rate in Kings County was 0.9, demonstrating the variance found even within the San Joaquin Valley region. The data provided does not indicate why there are fewer physicians per 1,000 people; although possibilities include fewer physicians looking for work within the San Joaquin Valley region, fewer people regularly visiting a physician, or a capacity issue making it more difficult to schedule an appointment with a physician.

Family Health Care Network, Park Village, Goshen/Courtesy Self-Help Enterprises

Health & 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.

Office of Community & Economic Development
Fresno State
Karmjot Grewal, Program Manager

Year-In-Review

The Health and Human Services Work Group (HHS) acts as the Health and Wellness Industry Cluster, formed in response to the San Joaquin Valley Regional Industry Clusters Analysis. The report indicated the Health and Wellness Industry Cluster was the second largest and most rapidly growing in the San Joaquin Valley. HHS includes public and private health care administrators, workforce professionals, educators, nonprofits and consultants.

The Health and Wellness Industry Cluster reached a consensus that it would be more effective working through a Health and Wellness Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee outlined regional initiatives and priority actions, particularly the development of a “white paper” to identify funding opportunities.

The draft concept paper for future funding focuses on achievements in multicultural care in the Valley: access, quality, and choice. It outlines the goals for having a conference where health service providers are celebrated for their successes.

While attention is often focused on the extraordinary barriers to public health and resource constraints on health care professionals facing the region, there have been few opportunities to recognize and celebrate the region’s practice innovations and successes in adapting evidence-based approaches.

The advisory committee participated in the Reaching Out to Aspire Doctors (ROAD) for the San Joaquin Valley pre-medical conference. ROAD for the San Joaquin Valley is a comprehensive and collaborative pre-medical conference currently for undergraduate students at Fresno State and University of California, Merced. The conference provides aspiring doctors with the information, resources, networking, and hands-on skills essential to achieving their educational goals with the hope they will return to the Valley to provide culturally responsive care.

The Health and Wellness Industry Cluster is working on a new statewide project funded by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) Free the Data initiative. This effort seeks to bridge the divide between local communities and California’s health data.

The goal is to ensure meaningful and relevant use of this data in the Fresno region, with the idea that this can be replicated across the state.

California Department of Health and Human Services (CHHS) with help from CHCF has created an Open Data Portal to host all of the publically available health data in California

Three pilots to explore the use of this data are being funded in three locations, including Fresno, where roundtable discussions will take place. The roundtable discussions invite educators, researchers, reporters, officials, and innovators to discuss potential uses and improvements of the health data available through the CHHS portal.

This project is ongoing through 2015; data that is collected will be used to help fund the development of applications that would make use of the available medical data to derive economic and/or social value. All of these efforts are powered by California’s health data.

job creation

By strengthening the San Joaquin Valley's regional industry clusters, developing our workforce skills and streamlining regulation, business will cultivate, higher paying jobs will surface, and the Valley's economy will flourish. Partnering with the Valley's Central California Workforce Collaborative, Central Regional Consortium of Community Colleges, California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation, and other local, regional and statewide agencies to achieve this, the Valley is positioned for success.

Courtesy Betts Company

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.

Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute
Fresno State
Virginia Boris, Co-Director

Year-In-Review

During academic year 2014-2015, San Joaquin Valley schools were challenged to enact a wide variety of changes. California's Common Core State Standards for English/language arts and mathematics were fully implemented from kindergarten through grade 12. This new curriculum challenged classroom teachers to raise the rigor and relevance of their daily lessons, deepen student thinking, expand student writing, and infuse technology into the classroom experience.

For the first time, the state required students to participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System. This new state test is administered online and requires students to demonstrate their learning through multiple-choice, constructed response, and open problem-solving questions. Schools will receive performance data this fall and use the information to improve instruction and better serve the needs of all students.

Outside the classroom, school districts learned to develop budgets and deploy resources using Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). As part of LCFF, school districts are required to develop, adopt, and annually update a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan using a template adopted by the State Board of Education.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 51

kudos

Photo/Eduardo Gonzalez

Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy
California Community Colleges, Office of the Chancellor

Key Partners:
California Workforce Investment Boards
California Economic Development Corporations
Regional Community Colleges
California Employment Training Panel
California Division of Apprenticeship Standards
California Employment Development Department
California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
California Department of Education

Career Technical Education is experiencing a shift from stigma to acceptance in California's community colleges. We think it's because of Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy – innovation in job training and bridging the skills gap.

Among the activities of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the programs of the Division of Workforce and Economic Development bridge the skills and jobs mismatch and prepare California's workforce for 21st century careers.

The Division serves as administrator for several streams of state and federal funds, including Governor's Career Technical Education Pathways Initiative (SB70), Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, and Proposition 98 dollars for Apprenticeship, Economic & Workforce Development (EWD), and Career Technical Education (CTE).

Above: Students from Duncan Polytechnic High School attend the 2015 Manufacturing Summit on May 7 in Fresno, to learn more about the manufacturing industry career path.

The Division collaborates with employers, organized labor, local communities, and their community colleges through programming supported by these funds to close the skills gap and to foster successful student completion. The strategy for Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy is a four-pronged framework to respond to the call of our nation, state, and regions to close the skills gap.

1. Give Priority for jobs and the economy
2. Make Room for jobs and the economy
3. Promote Student Success
4. Innovate for jobs and the economy

For more about Doing What MATTERS, visit doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

In recognition of the vast changes our schools are experiencing, Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute (CVELI) in cooperation with county offices of education and other educational organizations, created professional learning experiences and support for educational leaders at all levels - superintendents, district office officials, principals, leadership teams and teacher leaders.

Rural Schools Network: Supporting Our Valley's Superintendents
Superintendents from 22 school districts participated in CVELI's Rural Schools Network during the 2014-2015 school year. Rural Schools Network brings the resources of the university to small district superintendents and facilitates a network of sharing among all network members. Six regional meetings featured classroom visitations, focused presentations and job-alike dialogues. High-interest topics included technology in the classroom, raising the rigor of problem-solving in mathematics, serving English learners, building relevancy in the curriculum and promoting reading. This work impacts more than 12,000 Valley students. Fresno County Office of Education and Lozano Smith Attorneys at Law are two vital partners in this work.

Middle Leaders Program- Cohort Three
Five years ago, Fresno Unified School District Superintendent Mike Hansen requested that CVELI offer training for classified and certificated district leaders in key middle management roles at school sites or district offices. In response, CVELI launched its Middle Leaders Program - a two-year seminar series designed to address critical leadership topics particularly relevant to the unique challenges of leading from the middle. Program themes include teambuilding, followership, trust-building, dealing with difficult people, coaching up those you lead, and addressing workplace micro-inequities. More than70 middle leaders have already graduated; cohort three includes 38 people from six Valley school districts.

Lead Teacher Training
Last year, Rural Schools Network superintendents reported that teacher leaders were critical to the development and implementation of 21st century classrooms. Although teachers had extensive training in curriculum and instruction, they lacked formal training in leadership. CVELI offered four training seminars in critical leadership topics: teambuilding, motivating adults, leadership during change, and dealing with difficult people. Sessions will be repeated in the upcoming school year.

Leadership Team Training: Building Capacity for Instructional Improvement (BCII) Project
CVELI is the first educational organization in the United States to offer comprehensive internal coherence (IC) leadership team training, to reinvent school culture by expanding the role of teacher leaders, increasing organizational transparency, and focusing on a schoolwide instructional focus. Healthy organizations, including schools, have a high level of IC - the shared belief they can conquer any barriers to achieve priority organizational goals.

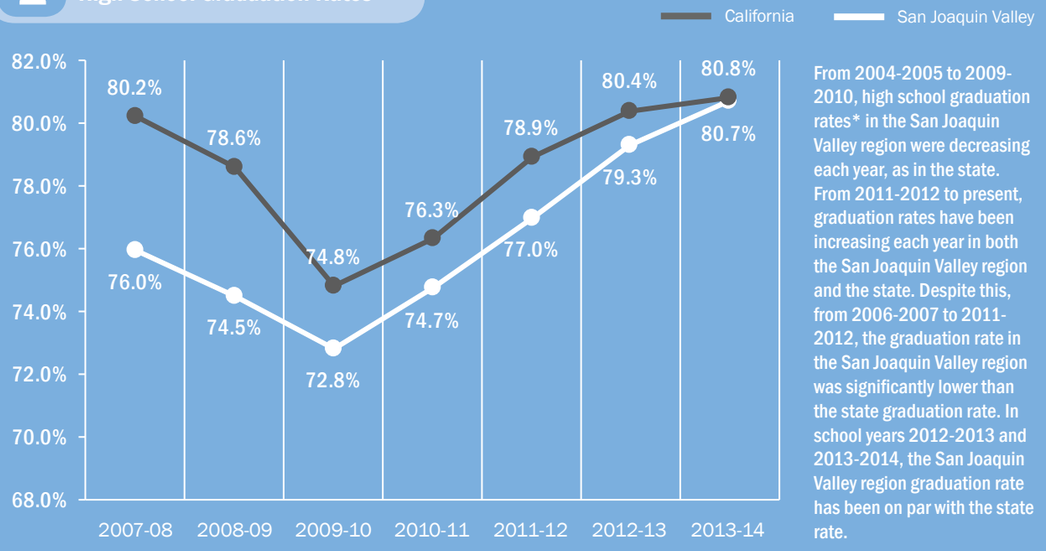
For the past decade, Dr. Richard Elmore, Harvard Graduate School of Education, has provided student IC. This work culminated in the design of an18-month training for principals and their leadership teams. From 2013-2015, CVELI piloted Dr. Elmore's training with six high-poverty schools in the feeder pattern of Clovis East High School. Because of the pilot's success, CVELI will expand the IC leadership team training and will launch in our Valley where so many children grow up in high-poverty homes.

Last spring, CVELI hosted a breakfast for superintendents and other Valley educational leaders to learn more about CVELI's Building Capacity for Instructional Improvement (BCII) Program directly from the participating leadership team members. Harvard has researched this work and will be publishing a book and articles. CVELI will start a new cohort of BCII schools this fall. The Cowell Foundation has been a significant partner in this BCII work.

Exemplary School Conference
Each year our Valley's PreK-16 educational leaders gather at CVELI's Exemplary Schools Conference. The inclusion of pre-school and university scholars is unique for local educational events. On Oct 22, 2015, Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno Pacific University and CVELI will host its sixth annual conference. Keynote speakers Bob Marzano and Darrell Scott will focus on how leaders create school cultures that can help awaken the passion for learning in students. Their joint presentation will explore research-based strategies to enhance teacher-student and peer relationships.

Looking Forward
CVELI will continue to expand and refine its efforts to enhance the lives and academic outcomes of Valley students.

High School Graduation Rates



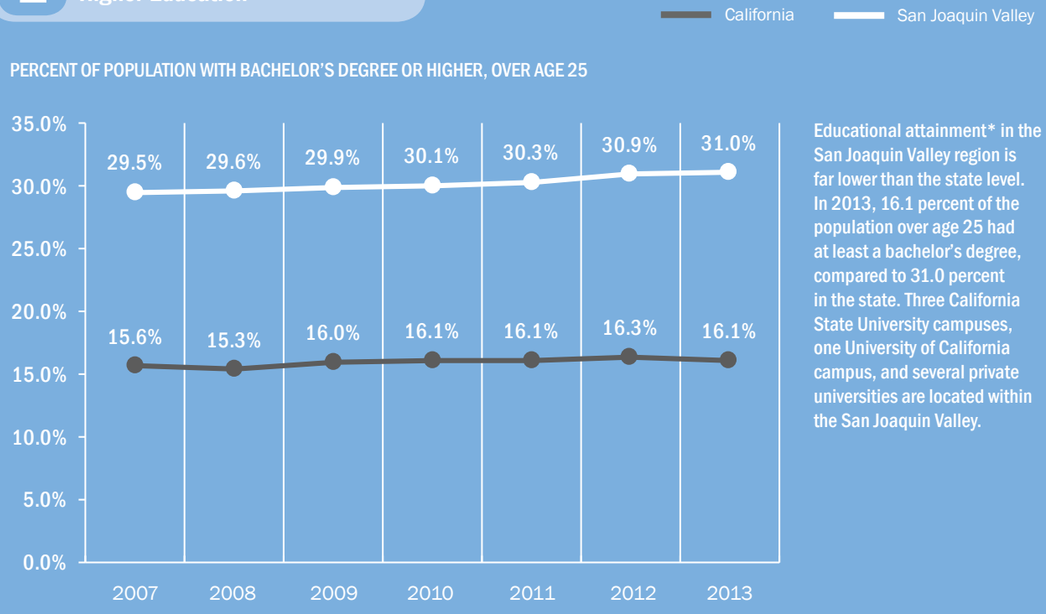
From 2004-2005 to 2009-2010, high school graduation rates* in the San Joaquin Valley region were decreasing each year, as in the state. From 2011-2012 to present, graduation rates have been increasing each year in both the San Joaquin Valley region and the state. Despite this, from 2006-2007 to 2011-2012, the graduation rate in the San Joaquin Valley region was significantly lower than the state graduation rate. In school years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, the San Joaquin Valley region graduation rate has been on par with the state rate.

Source: California Department of Education, Education Demographic Office

*High school graduation rates are calculated by the California Department of Education, based on the National Center for Education Statistics definition. It is the total number of graduates divided by the sum of the number of graduates and dropouts (this includes the dropouts from all four years of high school). Beginning in school year 2009-2010, the Department of Education began taking student migration into account in its graduation rate calculations.

Higher Education

PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER, OVER AGE 25



Educational attainment* in the San Joaquin Valley region is far lower than the state level. In 2013, 16.1 percent of the population over age 25 had at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 31.0 percent in the state. Three California State University campuses, one University of California campus, and several private universities are located within the San Joaquin Valley.

Source: American Community Survey

*Educational attainment is he highest level of education achieved by individuals living in the region.

Higher Education & Workforce Development

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

Higher Education

Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
Fresno State

Barbara Hioco, Executive Director

Year-In-Review

Three-Year Strategic Plan

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC) board of directors embarked on an update to the strategic plan. The new 2014-2017 plan focuses on four overall goals: (1) Strengthen and promote a collective regional voice that advocates for higher education in the Central Valley; (2) Continually reinforce and nurture a college-going culture in the Central Valley; (3) Lead efforts to improve student success and completion of post-secondary educational goals; and (4) Develop new partnerships and leverage existing relationships to support CVHEC goals.

This plan provides the consortium with a blueprint for work throughout the Central Valley that will lead to an increase in access to higher education opportunities and the attainment of degrees and work-based certificates by people living in the service area.

Lumina Foundation Community Partnership for Attainment

In collaboration with Fresno Compact and Fresno Area STRIVE, CVHEC partnered in writing a successful grant application submitted to Lumina Foundation for a Community Partnership for Attainment (Foundation) grant. This prestigious grant is a cradle-to-career initiative that includes CVHEC, California State University, Fresno, Fresno Pacific University, State Center Community College District, and Fresno, Clovis, Central and Sanger unified school districts

The focus will be to connect the work of local educational institutions and community organizations to improve postsecondary readiness and access, increase persistence and retention in postsecondary institutions, and increase certificate and degree completion rates over the next two years.

Lumina's focus on community-based attainment began because of the Foundation's recognition that community-based networks are well-suited to play a role in institutional planning and can provide the implementation and coordination necessary to create impact at state and federal levels, to improve the nation's higher education system to better serve its students.

These key players, led by CVHEC, will work closely with Lumina and national thought leaders, to develop a customized action plan focused on reaching attainment goals to increase the percentage of high-quality credentials held by community residents. The collaborative effort connects participating cities with significant technical and planning assistance, data tools, flexible funding, and the ability to customize attainment plans best suited for each community's needs and the well-being of its residents. Local leaders directing this work represent a range of sectors from higher education, K-12, employers, human services, religious, and a variety of other community-based organizations.

The overall effort connects to Goal 2025, Lumina's national goal to increase the percentage of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates, and other credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. Progress toward the goal will be measured by credentials earned after high school including certificates, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees held by local residents. The cities selected will work with Lumina through 2016 to expand and deepen the work they have demonstrated in advancing postsecondary attainment agendas.

Complete College America Alliance

CVHEC became the first consortium in the United States to be invited by Complete College America to become a member of its "Alliance of States." The Alliance now includes 35 states whose governors

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pledge that their higher education institutions will put in place the five “Game Changers” that will help all students succeed in college. California is not yet an alliance member; but based on its past and current work, Complete College America offered CVHEC this unique and outstanding opportunity to join the Alliance as a consortium. The Game Changers are:

- Performance Funding
- Corequisite Remediation
- Full-Time Is Fifteen
- Structured Schedules
- Guided Pathways To Success

Established in 2009, Complete College America is a national nonprofit with a single mission - work with states to significantly increase the number of Americans with quality career certificates or college degrees and to close attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented populations. There is a strong partnership between Complete College America and Lumina Foundation which will greatly benefit CVHEC as it works to implement both the Lumina Community Partnership for Attainment goals and objectives, and the Complete College America Game Changers with CVHEC participating institutions.

The need for this work is compelling. Between 1970 and 2009, undergraduate enrollment in the United States more than doubled, while the completion rate has been virtually unchanged. The completion rate in the Valley is even lower than the national rate. Progress has been made in giving students from all backgrounds access to college; but the need is to now focus on the all-important job of helping them achieve a degree.

College Next! Boot Camps
CVHEC was one of five organizations to receive funding for college readiness in 2014 when Fresno Regional Foundation awarded $25,000. Combined with a grant from Walter S. Johnson Foundation, CVHEC was awarded $95,000 to fund College “Boot Camps” to help area high school students develop knowledge about getting into college and succeeding, as well as become trained ambassadors for College Opportunity at their respective high schools. The boot camp experience lets students fine-tune college applications through an instructed completion of a college admission essay. Academic advisors and mentors are on-hand to answer questions and advise students.

The overall objective of boot camps is to establish an ongoing integrated and coordinated communitywide approach for increasing the Valley college-going rate, improve career and college readiness programs in the Valley, make better use of resources by coordinating and integrating programs, and impact more students.

Funding allowed CVHEC to host two residential camps in 2014, one in summer and one in winter at Fresno State. The four-day agenda included motivational speakers, college and university admission presenters, career assessments/exploration, and exposure to student life and university atmosphere. Data is collected, and a follow-up with participants is issued as they complete high school and enroll in college. A few highlights from the follow up of the first cohort includes:

- 100 percent of student ambassadors will be on track to enroll in college with minimum remedial coursework required
- 90 percent of student ambassadors participating in college-going activities will be on a college-going program of study
- 75 percent of students in the high school program will be receiving academic supportive services at the college they are attending, to increase their retention and graduation rates

The students were from 16 different high schools - Central, Mendota, Kerman, Firebaugh, Clovis, Fowler, Farmersville, Washington Union, Madera, Sanger, Sunnyside, Selma, Parlier, Edison, Laton, Coalinga, Hanford.

California State University Stanislaus hosted a College Next Boot Camp in June 2015.

Workforce Development

Central California Workforce Collaborative

Elaine Craig, Executive Director
Madera County Workforce Investment Board

Year-In-Review

Central California Workforce Collaborative (CCWC) is a partnership between the workforce investment boards (WIBs) and represents the San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Kern/Inyo/Mono, and Mother Lode counties.

California Workforce Investment Board Slingshot
CCWC continued planning phase work for the Slingshot project, with Madera as planning phase grant lead. Approximately $1 million will be infused into the San

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Joaquin Valley to fund several strategies. Fresno will serve as lead in collaboration with partners from community colleges, economic development, and employers in the manufacturing and construction/trades industries, to facilitate the needs of industry-related training, credentials/certificates, and career pathways, reciprocity of existing curriculum, and prior learning assessment and credit.

Proposition 39 Pre-Apprenticeship Support, Training and Placement Grant
Funds originally awarded to five of the WIBs have been expanded to include several additional WIBs in the CCWC, with Fresno as lead. The first cohort has been trained in Madera, in electrical, plumbers, pipefitters, sheet metal, ironworkers and truck drivers. Future cohorts will be scheduled by the other funded WIBs.

Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program
Several WIBs received funding and successfully implemented the program for veterans who were provided training and supportive services from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company Power Pathways program for bridge to utility line workers in gas and/or electric.

Additional funds have been allocated to Fresno as the lead with future trainings to be through the pre-apprenticeship model.

Jobs-Driven National Emergency Grant
CCWC received funds distributed to all WIBs, with Madera as the lead. Funds are specific to long-term unemployed dislocated workers with 30 percent of funds to be expended on work-based learning.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
CCWC and its participating WIBs began review of the newly enacted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIO) signed into law by the president in July 2014. This review included the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the opportunity to comment prior to the final regulations from the U.S. Department of Labor.

WIO replaces the Workforce Investment Act and provides continued opportunity to assist jobseekers, youth and employers in our respective communities. Implementation begins July 1, 2015, and includes requirement for regional as well as local strategic plans. CCWC and the respective counties and WIBS have been designated as a region, with the exception of Mother Lode County.

Photo/Cary Edmondson

45 exhibitors were on display at the Summit giving participants an opportunity to learn about manufacturing-related business in the Valley

Photo/Eduardo Gonzalez

Spotlight

A 'first' for manufacturing industry in the San Joaquin Valley

"Many of the wounds inflicted by the 'Great Recession' have already healed, with employment and consumer spending surpassing pre-recession peaks." This was the encouraging report by Beacon Economics, presented by founding partner Christopher Thornberg, at the first Manufacturing Summit in the San Joaquin Valley.

Good news to the 400 manufacturers, executives, and innovative solution providers that came together on May 7, 2015, from all eight Valley counties. They gathered to discuss the critical issues affecting today's manufacturing organizations and to find ways to prepare a ready workforce and, specifically, to gain a skilled labor force for the manufacturing industry in the Valley.

Paul Menig, founder and CEO of Tech-I-M, drove home this fact: "If you're not growing, you'll eventually shrink and die." Menig said. "If you're not continuously improving your manufacturing operations, you'll do both as you spiral downwards."

To improve manufacturing operations, he reinforced the need for a skilled labor force and how to grow one. Remedial training of workers in the office and factory is not the best way, Menig said. The basics need to be taught in school-project management for an understanding of cause and effect; and it needs to begin at elementary school level with a goal for lifelong learning.

More than 50 high school students in ROP (regional occupational programs) geared toward jobs in manufacturing are getting their start. Students from five regional high schools took the opportunity to get to know more about the manufacturing industry and Valley manufacturers such as Blue Dolphin Design Engineering from Central California and Central Plastics & Manufacturing from the Mother Lode, as well as Pav-Solar from Kern and Tulare counties.

These are just a few of the 45 exhibitors that created a corridor of businesses and demonstrations at the Fresno Convention Center. Others represented education, business services, international trade, supply chain and operations management, and steel and metal suppliers.

A majority of Summit guests were private sector manufacturers and business owners who took advantage of experts in the fields of international trade, manufacturing training and education as well as job creation. Representatives were on hand from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, highlighting how to qualify for California Employment Training Panel funding to support training programs that increase employee skills and performance.

3D printing demonstrations throughout the Summit were enhanced with learning experiences about emerging 3D printing technologies, its return on investment, and where today's companies are using the technology.

Overall, the Manufacturing Summit helped

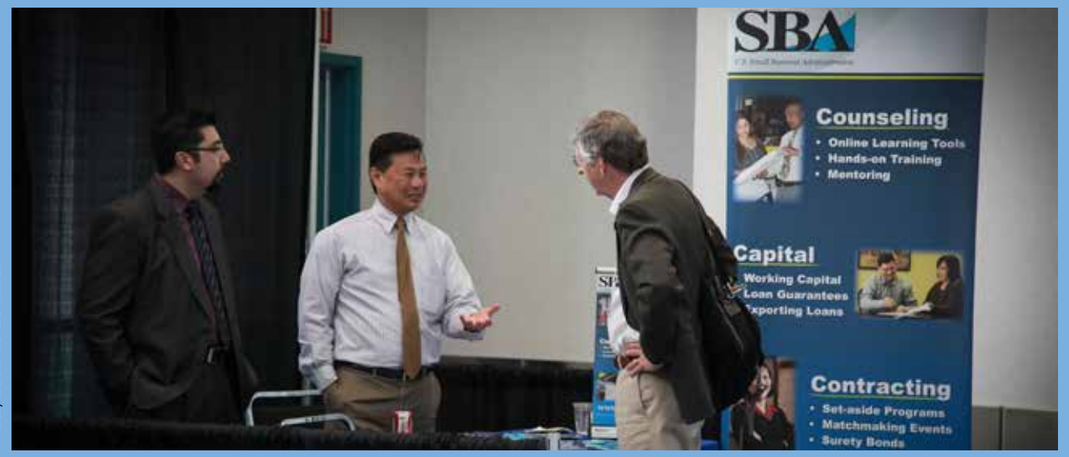
- identify growth opportunities, requirements, and priorities defined by the region's employers;
- outline areas of investment that will advance the regional manufacturing ecosystem;
- and define the ongoing collaboration between employers and community partners, including the leveraging of resources to implement sustainable manufacturing priorities in the Valley.

Planning has already begun for next year's summit on March 3, 2016.

The Manufacturing Cluster, part of the Regional Industry Clusters Initiative (RICI), is bringing a strong, unified voice communicating with regional, state and national entities on issues impacting the manufacturers in the San Joaquin Valley. It is an opportunity for Valley manufacturers to share new ideas in a focused setting and network with other industry partners for collaboration, which helps manufacturers find solutions for the industry's challenges - employment and training, research, regulatory compliance, import and export.

The Summit was made possible by RICI with its goal to support improved regional economic performance, sustainability, and shared opportunity for Valley residents, businesses and communities.

RICI is a collaborative initiative of California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, administered by the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State.



Photo/Eduardo Gonzalez

kudos

Courtesy Whiting-Turner Construction

Streamlined permitting paves way for construction, operation of Blue Diamond Almond Growers facility
City of Turlock

Above: Blue Diamond Almond Growers Facility, Turlock

The City of Turlock has been recognized for its successful implementation of the Westside Industrial Specific Plan (WISP) paving the way for development of an "Agri-Science Cluster."

While Specific Plans are not new tools, the City has engaged in practices that streamline the development process for approving new agricultural businesses that thrive in the Central Valley.

Economic development benefits were celebrated in Turlock with the grand opening of a 200,000-square-foot Blue Diamond almond processing plant that brought 300 new jobs to Turlock.

The WISP created the city's Turlock Regional Industrial Park, encompassing 2,615 acres. Approval of the WISP was concurrent with a certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR), making Turlock ready to welcome developments like Blue Diamond's new almond processing facility.

Other organizations, such as U.S. Cold Storage, Hilmar Cheese and the expansion of others such as Sensient and Cozy Shack (Land O'Lakes) also have taken advantage of this process.

By adopting the WISP, the City of Turlock planned and invested in infrastructure that is friendly to agri-business, from truck circulation to wastewater facilities to proximity to a new energy plant; environmental impacts of potential new industrial uses were studied in the EIR that was adopted with the Specific Plan. With the Master Plan and environmental approval already completed, the City was able to issue entitlements and complete the project-level environmental review for Blue Diamond within roughly 10 weeks of the application.

Since the Master Plan was already completed, the City was able to immediately create a joint construction team during the building permit review and construction phases of the project.

The City's expedited plan review process as well as a phased issuance of building permits kept the project moving. Operation of the first test line took place within a year and three days of the issuance of the building permit, which was made possible by the Master Plan process performing a streamlining function.

In addition to thoughtful planning, the City has made an earnest effort to improve the customer service experience of those who do business with Turlock by putting its employees through cutting-edge training designed to enhance team work, customer service skills, and to empower employees with the capabilities needed to effectively work with customers and co-workers.

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.

California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation
Jennifer Faughn, President
Strategy One

Year-In-Review

California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation (CCVEDC) was formed in the 1980s by the professional economic development organizations serving the counties in California's Central Valley.

Together with Valley-wide partners, CCVEDC presents Central California as a highly desirable location for expanding companies seeking the advantages of an environment that is rapidly growing and rich in resources.

Its marketing outreach program "Central California... Center Yourself" continues to provide a competitive marketing advantage by taking its message on the road for face-to-face contact with businesses and site selectors around the nation.

The entire region works together to market its brand through national meetings with site selectors and at trade shows and through its website and marketing plan. 2014-2015 results are: 43 regionwide proposals produced for companies considering locations, site tours by companies considering locations, and 515 new industrial-based jobs.

Regional information addressing cluster-oriented site selection is maintained and updated for use as marketing collateral and includes cluster industry data, businesses, and wages; real estate updates such as annual statistical review of the market and new deals; state-of-the-art trade show booths; incentives guide; large-building availability list; and maps.

At the WestPack Trade Show in February 2015, CCVEDC met with 159 companies interested in the San Joaquin Valley and reached out to 529 companies in the Food Processors and Suppliers Association. Successes include a major Agribusiness company that will employ up to 400 people in five years.

In 2015 meetings with 26 legislators, state officials and consultants, Central Valley representatives discussed the need for incentives in areas with high unemployment, regulatory reform, and tax increment financing.

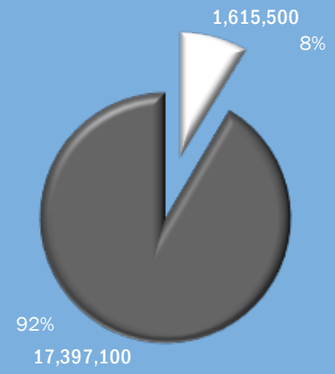
CCVEDC has a very aggressive broker contact program which netted close to 900 face-to-face contacts in 2014-2015. Broker trade missions were conducted nationwide at brokerage firms in Southern California, Dallas, the Bay Area, Sacramento, and New York, with more than 174 site selection professionals.

Each mission with site selectors, brokers and tenant representatives discusses the value of doing business in Central California. Missions to the Bay area and Southern California netted 75 new jobs and two locations for the Central Valley, including an agribusiness company and a call center.

Employment

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED

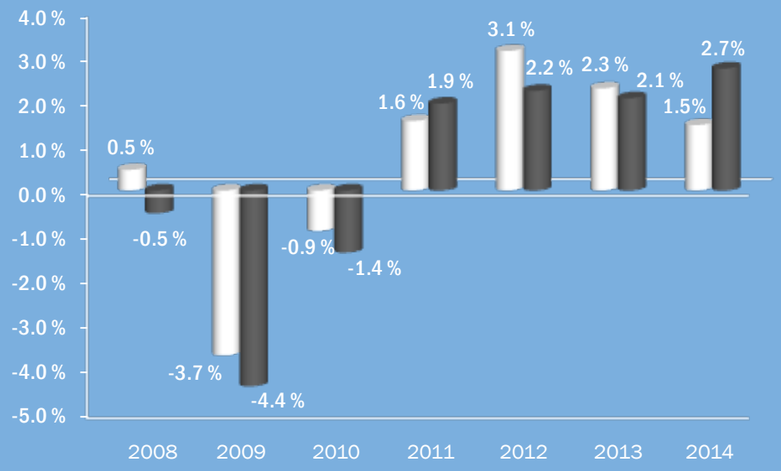
Year	San Joaquin Valley	California
2008	1,557,200	16,883,400
2009	1,499,500	16,141,500
2010	1,485,900	15,916,300
2011	1,509,100	16,226,600
2012	1,556,400	16,589,700
2013	1,592,100	16,933,300
2014	1,615,500	17,397,100



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division

Employment includes all individuals who worked at least one hour for a wage or salary, were self-employed, or were working at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business or on a family farm. These individuals must have been employed during the week which includes the 12th day of the month. The annual average is the mean average of the 12 months in the calendar year. Individuals who were on vacation, on other kinds of leave, or involved in a labor dispute also counted as employed. Employment is the primary indicator of the economic situation of workers living in the San Joaquin Valley.

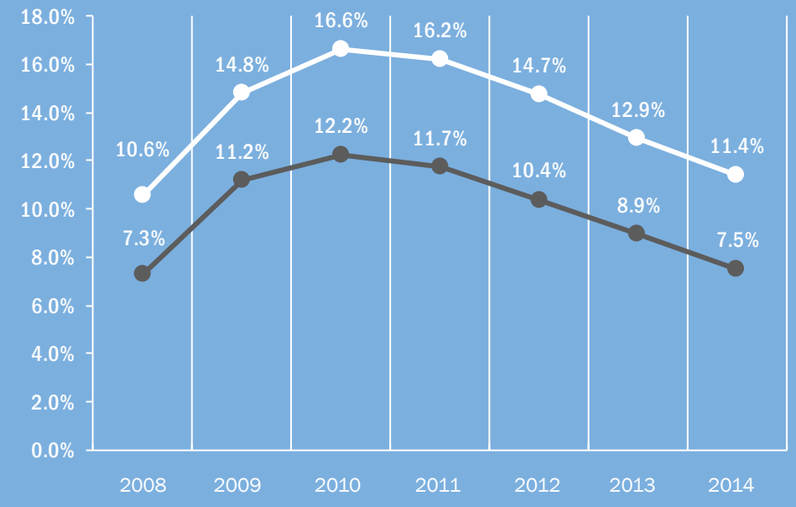
ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division

Since 2011, total employment increased each year in both the San Joaquin Valley region and in the State. By 2013, the Valley recovered all employment it had lost prior to 2011 and by 2014 was flourishing with over 1.6 million employees Valley-wide. However, for the first time since 2011, employment in the San Joaquin Valley increased at a rate slower than that of California as a whole (1.4 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively). It also is noteworthy that California grew at a quicker rate in 2014 than it did in 2013 while the growth rate in the San Joaquin Valley slowed.

Unemployment



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division

Unemployment is defined as the number of people who are not working at least one hour per week for pay and are not self-employed but are available to work and are actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is the unemployed percentage of the total labor force (employed plus unemployed). Data is estimated at the place of residence and reported by the California Employment Development Department primarily from data collected by the U.S. Current Population Survey. The San Joaquin Valley region unemployment rate is consistently higher than the California rate, peaking in 2010 at 16.6 percent. Since 2010, the unemployment rate in the San Joaquin Valley has been decreasing, and was 11.4 percent in 2014. Although the number of employed people has been increasing, the number of unemployed people also has been increasing. Many jobs in the San Joaquin Valley region are based in the agriculture industry, with seasonal variance in employment.

Photo/Eduardo Gonzalez

Photo/Eduardo Gonzalez

fresno state partners

The Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) at Fresno state, Secretariat of the Partnership, is an on-campus division dedicated to aligning the university's intellectual capacity and innovation-driven economic development initiatives to improve the competitiveness and prosperity of the region. It does so through a variety of ways including: economic development innovations, community development, and connecting the University and the community. In doing so, OCED is able to leverage the Partnership for greater regional benefit.

San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center

San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center (SJVRDC) continues to serve as the Partnership's liaison to the region's rural cities and unincorporated communities. SJVRDC provides a "one-stop hub" for rural residents, small businesses, municipalities, special districts, school districts and nonprofits, to access information, resources, services and experts in specific subject matter.

Aside from connecting rural stakeholders to a regional network of more than 40 on- and off-campus partners, SJVRDC provides a variety of services aimed at building the local capacity and improving the quality of life for the rural communities it serves.

Whether immersing low-income residents in digital literacy training, delivering technical assistance to small businesses, helping municipal staff understand the fundamentals of economic development, or training nonprofits in grant writing, SJVRDC facilitates self-sufficiency for rural stakeholders in the San Joaquin Valley. During 2014-2015, SJVRDC provided technical assistance to one tribe, seven rural special districts, nine school districts, 15 rural nonprofits, and 18 rural cities. SJVRDC participated in more than 268 community events throughout the region. The SJVRDC website is now available at www.sjvrdc.org.

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Above: SJVRDC facilitated a partnership between Biola Community Development Corporation and Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering Construction Management Program, to have students produce a feasibility study for implementing ADA compliance measures at the BCDC Thrift Store. Demolition and construction site work was completed fall semester 2015.

Pictured left to right: Alice Rocha, Northern California Community Loan Fund; Frank Holguin, Construction Management Program student; Phillip Cervantes, Biola Community Development Corporation; Lloyd Crask, Construction Management Program faculty; Tou Thao, Construction Management Program student; and Ismael Herrera, SJVRDC Director.

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To obtain its own level of sustainability, SJVRDC implemented a model of social enterprise that allows it to generate a modest level of revenue while keeping its services accessible. To date, service agreements have generated $321,190 of unrestricted revenue.

These flexible dollars have allowed SJVRDC to leverage an additional $322,968 in competitive state and federal grant funding that required match contributions. Since its establishment in 2010, SJVRDC has generated $644,158 in total income.

Pathways to Rural Economic Progress- San Joaquin Valley
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Community Development Initiative
Project Period: Oct 1 2011 - Sep 30 2014
Project Amount: $175,105
OCED/SJVRDC: $72,960
Completed economic development and housing capacity development and training in 16 rural communities.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium
Source: California Public Utilities Commission
Project Period: Jan 1 2012 - Jun 30 2015
Project Amount: $450,000
OCED/SJVRDC: $443,175
Regional coordination of broadband deployment and adoption; particularly infrastructure, telehealth and digital literacy in the region's rural communities.

San Joaquin Valley Get Connected!
Source: California Emerging Technology Fund
Project Period: Jul 1 2013 - Jun 30 2016
Project Amount: $600,000
OCED/Partnership: $30,000
Digital literacy training and broadband adoption. SJVRDC coordinated the delivery of more than 190 digital literacy training workshops to over 3,500 parents in the region; creating 8 part-time jobs along the way. It successfully facilitated broadband subscriptions for more than 1,200 residents in communities with low levels of adoption, particularly rural areas.

San Joaquin Emerging Online
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Enterprise Grant
Project Period: Aug 15 2013 - Aug 14 2014
Project Amount: $40,000
OCED/Partnership: $30,000
Completed small business technology integration training in the City of San Joaquin. A total of 10 jobs created/retained, $65,000 of capital infused into community and 4 new businesses started.

Orange Cove Emerging Small Businesses
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Enterprise Grant
Project Period: Aug 6 2014 - Aug 31 2015
Project Amount: $50,000
OCED/Partnership: $20,000
Small business technology integration, Chamber of Commerce capacity building, and "Buy Local" campaign development and implementation in Orange Cove.

Fresno County Rural Farmers Market Initiative
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Market Promotion Program
Project Period: Sep 30 2014 - Sep 29 2016
Project Amount: $99,010
OCED/Partnership: $33,000
Development, implementation and promotion of local farmers markets in the rural communities of Biola, Firebaugh, and Mendota.

Pathways to Rural Economic Progress – San Joaquin Valley
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Community Development Initiative
Project Period: Oct 1 2014 - Sep 30 2017
Project Amount: $152,492
OCED/Partnership: $60,998
Economic development and housing capacity development and training in 17 rural communities.

StreetsAlive: A Walking and Bicycling Audit Program
Source: Fresno Regional Foundation, Environmental Grant Cycle
Project Period: Dec 9 2014 - Dec 11 2015
Project Amount: $39,880
OCED/Partnership: $39,880
Technical assistance program to promote and support walkable and bicycle-friendly communities in the rural cities of Avenal, Mendota, Orange Cove, and San Joaquin. The program consists of community workshops, audit days, and peer learning exchanges.

Fresno State Small Business Development Center
Source: UC Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network
Project Period: January - December (every year)
OCED/Partnership: $36,154
Facilitate technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners, particularly in the region's rural communities, in the areas of business planning, technology integration, marketing, cottage food operation and financial administration.

Courtesy City of Turlock and EAH Housing

Community & Regional Planning Center

The Community and Regional Planning Center (CRPC) is a joint venture at Fresno State between the College of Social Sciences, Department of Geography and City and Regional Planning, and the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED).

CRPC is designed to serve the San Joaquin Valley as a clearinghouse for planning-related knowledge and is committed in providing highly innovative, real-world learning experiences to prepare students to become leaders in the field of community and regional planning in the Valley.

Through Fresno State faculty, students and public and private sector partners, CRPC:

- Develops and delivers technical assistance to cities, addressing issues such as affordable housing, smart growth and land use planning, economic development, community engagement, and sustainability.
- Supports planning-related knowledge and innovation through disseminating resources and best practices.
- Encourages peer learning, data analysis and research, and incubating and testing new ideas for sustainable development and resource conservation in the Valley.

StreetsAlive: A Walking and Bicycling Audit Program
StreetsAlive is a technical assistance program to promote and support walkable and bicycle-friendly communities in the rural cities of Avenal, Mendota, Orange Cove, and San Joaquin. The program consists of community workshops, audit days, and peer learning exchanges.

Urban and Regional Transformation Cohort at Fresno State
The URT Cohort is a diverse group of faculty members that works to develop research and strategies that support urban and regional transformation in the Valley. CRPC organized Cohort meetings and events, including: a four-part speaker series, "Central Valley Families in Transformation," a GIS workshop for community development professionals; and "Sustainable Planning: From Research to Practice," a Fresno State panel, at the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's Fall Policy Conference.

Community Activities

- Coordinated and hosted the 2014 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Ceremony at the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Fall Policy Conference. Blueprint Awards recognize and celebrate projects throughout the Valley that reflect smart growth principles
- Partnered with the San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center to form Westside Neighborhoods Network, a coalition of community stakeholders from Westside communities in Fresno County
- Facilitated communitywide GIS workshop, "Application of GIS in city and regional planning," basic GIS techniques useful in planning practice
- Represented OCED, CRPC and Fresno State at 10 Regional Planning Agencies Director's Meetings, monthly transportation and land-use development meetings with the directors of the San Joaquin Valley Council of Governments

A priority for the coming year is to secure funding for regional planning efforts through grants and service contracts. Moving forward, CRPC will continue to build partnerships with Valley planners, and engage university staff to gain a deeper understanding of planning needs.

Above: Avena Bella Housing Community, Turlock

Courtesy UC-Merced SBDC Regional Network

University of California, Merced

Small Business Development Center Regional Network

The University of California, Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network (UCM-SBDC), hosted by UC Merced, provides business assistance in Central California, which covers a geographic area of 51,000 square miles, spanning from the Eastern Sierras to the Central Pacific. San Joaquin Valley counties represented are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

UCM-SBDC's host institutions include California State University, Fresno-Small Business Development Center (Fresno State-SBDC), California State University, Bakersfield-Small Business Development Center (CSUB-SBDC), California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB-SBDC), Cal Poly SBDC for Innovation, and The Alliance in Stanislaus County-Small Business Development Center (Alliance SBDC). The UCM-SBDC mission is to provide entrepreneurs and small businesses with high-quality education, consulting, support for innovation, access to information and tools necessary to build successful sustainable businesses.

UCM-SBDC experienced another strong year with an increase in job creation and job retention among its clients. Because of its innovation, strong partnership and community support, 532 jobs were created, 311 were saved; 1,595 clients received assistance; 110 businesses got started; and an additional capital infusion of $19,953,580 was realized.

Each year, UCM-SBDC participates in the U.S. Small Business Administration National Impact Study which surveys clients that receive five or more hours of consulting. The 2013-2014 survey resulted in clients generating $169.2 million in sales and $4.37 million in tax revenues with a benefit to cost ratio of $8.47 to every dollar spent.

In the past year, UCM-SBDC continued to work toward technology designation through America's SBDC Accreditation Committee. A technology designation requires UCM-SBDC host institutions to add core competencies in the following areas: technology transfer/commercialization, research and development funding, intellectual property, technology networking/resource identification, and alternative financing. Leadership is working closely with key partners and stakeholders to develop more programs and outreach activities focused on innovation, commercialization, technology transfer, and venture capital funding.

Above: University of California, Merced

Photo/U.S. Department of Agriculture

Central California iHub

California Innovation Hub (CA iHub) seeks to enhance the state's national and global competitiveness by stimulating partnerships, promoting economic development, and helping create new jobs around specific technology clusters. The CA iHub mission is to develop an ecosystem that supports entrepreneurship and embraces community building and job creation through innovation. The statewide program is headed by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and consists of 16 CA iHubs including Central California iHub.

Central California iHub is a collaborative network of universities, companies, entrepreneurs, and strategic service partners working together to promote long-term economic health and sustainable growth in the region. Leading partners in this effort are the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State; Merced County; UC Merced; and the UC Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network.

The Central California iHub mission is to foster innovation, commercialize new technologies, strengthen the Valley's role in local and state economic development, and create new, innovation and technology-based, higher-paying employment for the region. Efforts will focus in the areas of water, energy, agriculture, and renewable and energy-efficient technologies. Central California iHub provides technical assistance in the areas of business acceleration and expansion, access to capital resources, and connection to key partners in the region and throughout the state.

In January 2014, leadership began a renewed effort to identify specific program activity and increase access to the branding and marketing message. Other efforts include updated MOUs, graphics, regulations and recording for the annual report, and linking more actively with the other 15 CA iHubs, to share best practices and learn about innovative programs from other geographic regions of the state.

Plans for 2016 include highlighting opportunities and expanding investment and funding in innovation and entrepreneurship via GO-Biz and CA iHub, to enhance the state's competitive advantage using innovation hubs to help drive regional economic growth and job creation, expand market opportunities, and build awareness for state innovation.

Vision Statement

Connect. Collaborate. Advocate.

As you have already seen by now, there has been continual growth in collaboration, connection and advocacy for the San Joaquin Valley from the Partnership and its numerous partners. I can't adequately describe how gratifying it is to work with our Valley and state partners on projects and initiatives. It is obvious to me we are creating positive incremental impacts.The 2014-2015 Annual Report continues to allow us the opportunity to highlight those collaborations that all too often go unnoticed or unrecognized by the public at large.

How green is my Valley?

'Water, water everywhere
And all the boards did shrink
Water, water everywhere
Nor not a drop to drink'

-The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Never one to pass up an opportunity to quote poetry or a favorite song, I would like to submit these four lines of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" to stand as metaphor for the 2014-2015 reporting year. Sitting next to the Pacific Ocean - the largest body of water on Earth, California and the San Joaquin Valley continue to suffer from a drought now in its fourth year. Yes, lack of water for agriculture, lawns, and drinking has caused a hardship for the state and Valley. It has not, however, kept us from progress. It is simply another obstacle to overcome.

2016 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the Partnership. If the Partnership were a marriage, the "traditional" 10th Anniversary gift is tin or aluminum. That does not bring much excitement to many people. However, according to Anniversary.us.com, the "modern" 10th Anniversary gift is diamond jewelry. In this instance, it's better to be modern. Traditional San Joaquin Valley has been a place overlooked by investors in both private and public sectors. Modern San Joaquin Valley has the highest rate of growth and job-generation in the state and nation. Traditional San Joaquin Valley was a desperate group of cities, counties, and businesses. Modern San Joaquin Valley is a collection of connected cities, counties, businesses, and partners collaborating as one. I'd like to think the Valley has replaced tin with diamonds!

What deserves the credit for a rejuvenated San Joaquin Valley? Of course I'm going to say the Partnership; but how? Remember, the Partnership is a collaboration, connection, and advocacy organization. It is the work of the partners that has made the difference. The regional economic development corporations have worked as one to retain our existing businesses and have marketed the region to the outside businesses. The workforce investment boards and community colleges have put together training programs to assist businesses to meet their needs for employment. The regional councils of government have worked together to improve infrastructure and sustainable planning that both provide for businesses opportunity and make for a better quality of life. Central Valley Higher Education Consortium has provided increased opportunity for our youth to gain advanced degrees, which will increase the per capita income. The list goes on and on within each work group of the Partnership.

No one group can take credit for the improvements the Valley has experienced. It has been a collaborative effort. The Partnership's role is to connect these work groups to each other, so they are all aware of the efforts each is making, and find a way to link their work. Though the process has been slow, it has been a steady breaking down of once-existing silos. We had to trust each other. We had to see the benefits of collaboration. I'd like to think the 10 years the Partnership has been in existence has been a success in collaboration and connectivity. But I know the success we have had is only possible by the efforts of the individual members working together.

Mike Dozier
Lead Executive

Kern Street, Tulare/Courtesy Tulare County Association of Governments