



Meeting of the Board of Directors

DRAFT

Friday, December 8, 2017 – 10am – 3pm

Stanislaus County Veterans Center
3500 Coffee Road
Modesto, CA 95355

I. Convene Meeting, Introductory Remarks

Chair Vito Chiesa called the fourth quarter 2017 meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) to order at 10:14am at the Stanislaus County Veterans Center. Chair Chiesa explained that the meeting venue is located at what used to be a run-down shopping center, but now serves as a one-stop shop for veteran and senior services. Stanislaus County, the Veterans Advisory Commission, the City of Modesto and the Veterans Foundation of Stanislaus County developed it.

Board members present were: Lynne Ashbeck, Vito Chiesa, Elaine Craig, DeeDee D'Adamo, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Diana Dooley, Lee Ann Eager, John Eisenhut, Bryn Forhan, Andrew Genasci, Dan Leavitt, Andrew Mendoza, Suzi Picaso, Patty Poire, Mary Renner, Chuck Riojas, Karen Ross, Gary Serrato and Cherylee Wegman.

Board Deputies present were: Sharri Bender Ehlert of the California Department of Transportation representing, Secretary Brian Kelley; Rosa Park from the Stanislaus Council of Governments, representing Ted Smalley; Sonya Logman, Deputy Secretary of California's Business and Consumer Relations, representing Alexis Podesta; Albert Rivas, representing California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; and Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary of the California Department of Health and Human Services.

Advisory Board members present were Robert Tse and Lynnette Zelezny.

II. Recognition of Sponsors and Dignitaries

Recognized for their generous support of the Partnership and for their meeting sponsorships were Kaiser Permanente represented by Andrew Mendoza, the Manufacturer's Council of the Central Valley, represented by Jennifer Carlson Shipman and Chiesa Ranch, represented by Board Chair Vito Chiesa.

The board recognized California State Assemblyman Heath Flora who spoke about the challenges faced when representing the San Joaquin Valley at the State Capitol. He believes that people at the Capitol have no idea what we struggle with in the Valley. He is working hard to help educate his colleagues from the other side of the Grapevine and the Bay Area, because that is where the votes are and we need them to be on our side and understand both what the challenges of the San Joaquin Valley are and what we offer.

Assemblymember Flora also discussed Senate Bill 623, the water bill, and vowed to protect agriculture and the industries in the San Joaquin Valley. He believes it is a funding source that is needed to keep the dairy industry in business in California. He urges the board to dig into this bill and help to educate the constituents because this bill is a funding mechanism that greatly affects the agriculture industry in the San Joaquin Valley.

Representing United States Senator Kamala Harris, Matt Rogers spoke to the board about Senator Harris' priorities and stated that she is opposed to the new tax legislation. The Senator is working in a bipartisan fashion to pass a clean Dream Act. The Senator collaborated with Rand Paul on a bail reform bill to make sure we are not penalizing people based on their income status.

Eddie Mendoza representing United States Congressman Jeff Denham attended the meeting. Mr. Mendoza and shared with the board that the Congressman Denham is working on disaster relief with H.R. 4455, the SMART Rebuilding Act. He has also been working on healthcare legislation, with the CHIP, CHAMPION and CARE Acts and is supporting legislation to fight human trafficking. Mr. Mendoza reported that Congressman Denham is also focused on finding a permanent, bi-partisan solution for DACA and Dreamers. Congressman Denham, a veteran himself, is working on a bill that will address the Viet Nam war veterans exposed to Agent Orange and a Forever GI bill. Congressman Denham has also been working with the tax bill and sent a message to his constituents that he is trying to work on a simpler and fairer tax law that will benefit everybody.

Dominic Farinha, who also serves as a Patterson City Councilman, represented Congressman Costa's office. He spoke about the renewal of the Farm Bill being a priority for Congressman Costa as well as improving water infrastructure.

Chair Chiesa introduced Paul Van Konynenburg, California's newest Transportation Commissioner. Mr. Van Konynenburg reported that when Senate Bill 1 for transportation funding was passed, the details were left to the California Transportation Commission to work out, which he described as a daunting task, but one that is now complete. Mr. Konynenburg discussed the new funding programs that are ready to go in 2018 including safe routes to school.

The commissioner discussed the fact that electric vehicles don't use gas, therefore they don't fund anything, so transportation funding is going to have to be changed. Major technological change is coming and it needs to be embraced. Different solutions need to be found to our different challenges.

III. Oath of Office

Secretary Karen Ross administered the oath of office to re-appointed board members John Eisenhut and Andrew Mendoza. Photos taken.

IV. Public and Board Comment

Chair Chiesa invited comments from the board and public, recognizing Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary of the California Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Suennen brought informational materials to share on Valley Fever, which was briefly discussed at the September 2017 board meeting.

Erik Cherkaski from the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, Partnership Secretariat, announced upcoming events: the Central Valley Ag Plus Funders Forum on December 12, 2017, the Clean Transportation Summit on March 14 and 15, 2018, and the 2018 Manufacturing Summit on May 17, 2018.

There were no public comments.

V. Consent Calendar

Ismael Herrera presented the consent calendar and called attention to the Manufacturing Month Proclamation with recognition to Secretary Karen Ross and Gurminder Sangh for their efforts to obtain it. In the absence of questions or objections to the consent calendar, Lynne Ashbeck made the motion to accept the consent calendar as published. Amarpreet Dhaliwal seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Systems

Sarge Green from the California Water Institute presented an update on Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water systems. He introduced his panel consisting of Boykin Witherspoon, California State University, San Bernardino Water Resources and Policy Initiatives, and Juan Cano, a representative from the North Valley area of Self-Help Enterprises.

Mr. Cano presented his PowerPoint, which described some of the systems. He described what Self Help Enterprises has accomplished so far. Mr. Cano then discussed some of the challenges and issues and presented a case study. Self-Help Enterprises works with low-income families to build and sustain healthy home as communities providing water and wastewater technical assistance in San Joaquin Valley counties.

[Download the Self-Help Enterprises PowerPoint presentation](#)

Boykin Witherspoon attended representing the entire twenty-three campus network of the California State University system, which provides technical support. The California State Universities have the larger issue of wrapping the project together; there for Mr. Witherspoon was able to present the issues more holistically in terms of dealing with disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

They currently have funding from multiple sources for assistance to underserved and disadvantaged communities. There is funding from the USDA, from the California Energy Commission, from the DWR, DAC Involvement Program Fund and the State Water Resources Control Board funding that they just recently heard about. They have professional staff and professional engineers, and based on where the project is, they can recruit faculty and students from nearby CSU's, Community Colleges and the UC's to do most of the legwork on the project so that it is also a learning opportunity for the students.

Mr. Witherspoon described a serious lack of coordination between agencies and how they approach assistance to underserved communities. The CSU's are in the unique position to identify what some of those differences are and help the state agencies align down to regulatory compliance for who has access to their program. The idea of regulatory compliance across multiple agencies is an issue that has been identified that they are working on and he has been able to write into multiple grants from multiple state agency funding sources, the ability to begin to address that issue. There are teams of social scientists, public administrators, and geographers looking to see if there is a better way to identify these communities. There are also the income survey and technical management feasibility studies and all are interpreted and used a little bit differently and may be actually fatiguing these communities to have different agencies knocking on their doors to fill out surveys for qualification.

Another issue that has been identified is the prioritization of what projects get funded. The process that was described for the State Water Board was that anybody at any time could submit a request for technical assistance to the Water Board. They have to do a quick triage and assign or not and it's compounded across multiple agencies that not only is there a problem identifying these communities but also determining which ones will get the limited resources that we have. So the idea of looking at a multi-criteria model to help identify these communities more effectively but prioritize them for the limited technical assistance resources that they have.

Sarge Green told the board that technical assistance is probably the most important investment that we are making right now, even though the goal is to get the disadvantaged communities ready for a construction grant to build a facility.

A question from Bryn Forhan was asked regarding what communities in the Valley have applied for the funds and whether or not intervention is needed from Self-Help. Mr. Witherspoon answered that the State Water Resource Control Board has a website for the program. On the website is a database consisting of which communities have applied and whom they have been assigned to. He has found that the methods for discovery of these communities is somewhat random as it is not an inclusive list. Sarge Green reiterated that all of the communities have not yet been fully identified.

Lynne Ashbeck stated that the Partnership was formed to put urgency on San Joaquin Valley issues and asked what it is that the Partnership might do to try to accelerate this work.

DeeDee D'Adamo of the California Water Resources Control Board and Secretary Karen Ross presented a fact sheet and discussed the next steps for Senate Bill 623, Safe and Affordable Drinking Water. Ms. D'Adamo told the board that this is the most compelling issue of our time. In the 300 disadvantaged communities in the state – many of them in the San Joaquin Valley – people are living in third world conditions without safe drinking water and the situation must end, and having bipartisan support is crucial.

Ms. D'Adamo reminded us that the Partnership is already on record as being in support of Senate Bill 623. She requested that each board member go back to their organizations and tell them to support this bill and let the state representatives know the impact on their constituents.

[Download the SB 623 Fact Sheet](#)

VIII. Partnership Strategic Effort: San Joaquin Rail Service, Topic: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Funding Application

Dan Leavitt of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission discussed the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding application. It is a five-year program expected to have \$2.5 billion in funding between Senate Bill-1 and Cap & Trade Funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase ridership, connectivity to other modes of transportation including high-speed rail and serving disadvantaged communities. The San Joaquins need to add more daily runs to Sacramento, but there has been a problem with access to the tracks, which are owned by Union Pacific. A workaround has been found by using a different Union Pacific line to Sacramento and several more stations are needed.

Bryn Forhan made the motion to approve support of the program and submit a letter of support on behalf of the Partnership. Amarpreet Dhaliwal seconded and the motion was carried.

[Download San Joaquin Joint Powers authority presentation](#)

IX. Lunch

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

After lunch, Chairman Chiesa introduced Kim Dulbow Vann, recently appointed State Director for USDA Rural Development who discussed efforts to bring broadband to rural California and other priorities. She invited all to reach out to her at kim.vann@ca.usda.gov.

X. Topic: Update on California Tax Credit Programs

Jason Montiel from the Franchise Tax Board presented on California's Earned Income Tax Credit program with Lindsay Callahan from United Way in Fresno and Madera Counties to promote the recently expanded program.

Mr. Montiel explained the CalEITC program, and how it has been beneficial to families and the economy in the San Joaquin Valley and in the state. Help is needed to get the word out about the program and encourage people to take advantage of it. Brochures, postcards and posters were left for board members to use and more are available from the Franchise Tax Board.

[Download the California Earned income Tax Credit presentation](#)
[visit CalEITC4Me](#)

Lindsay Callahan, President/CEO of United Way Fresno and Madera counties, talked about why tax preparation is so important to United Way of Fresno and Madera counties, stating that their agenda is laser focused on helping families of which a huge number are stuck in poverty. Their vision is to eradicate the working poor. They invest a lot of time and energy into the CalEITC program doing taxes free of charge and helping to maximize the returns to try to take it to the next level to eradicate the poverty problem. The VITA numbers have been good, but they want to do better.

Ms. Callahan spoke about the United Way's efforts to help people put their money in banks and teach financial literacy. They have many return VITA clients that now have a trusted relationship. The goal is to use available programs to get people as much money as possible in their pockets.

XI. Topic: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Albert Rivas of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Office of External Affairs presented a panel discussion with representatives from various programs in the department. The panelists were Brant Choate, the Director of the CDCR's Division of Rehabilitative Programs, Charles Patillo with the California Prison Industry Authority and the Prison Industry Board, Stephanie Welch with the CDCR's Council on Mentally Ill Offenders and Nina Martinez, CDCR's Office of Business Services.

Brant Choate oversees all rehabilitative programs for the state prisons, both in prison as well as in the community. Ninety percent of the incarcerated people are going to be returning home to our communities, which we would like to be safe, so while they are incarcerated, we have a choice of either using punishment as a form of incarceration or using rehabilitation. All across the country, jails and prisons are now moving towards rehabilitation as the focus, because either way, most offenders will be released.

Chuck Patillo represents two agencies: he is the Executive Officer of the Prison Industry Board, and the General Manager, which is the CEO, of the California Prison Industry Authority. CALPIA is a separate

agency from the Department of Corrections and is set up differently because they are a profit and loss agency with no state appropriations. Their work is based on sales of goods and services such as license plates, and many other products with thirty-five locations. Mr. Patillo introduced a CALPIA overview video available on www.calpia.ca.gov.

Stephanie Welch presented a report on the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders. The Council is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and works closely with the Department of State Hospitals and the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the Council, which has been around for over fifteen years is to identify cost effective strategies to prevent people from being incarcerated. The mental health population has the highest recidivism rate in returning to both prison as well as returning to local jails.

[Download the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders presentation](#)

Nina Martinez is the statewide Small Business Advocate. She manages the Small Business/Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) program, which includes updating policy, procedures, making sure that the department is meeting the mandated Small Business and DVBE goals. She works with the communities in outreach to educate on the business opportunities that are available with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

[Download the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation \(CDCR\) presentation](#)

XII. Partnership strategic Effort: Regional Industry Clusters
Topic: Global Trade and Investment

Lee Ann Eager, President/CEO of Fresno County Economic Development Corporation and a representative of California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation, presented on Global Trade and Investment with Tracy Tosta, Fresno County Economic Development Corporation.

Ms. Eager and her organization work to help make sure that what we do here California's Central Valley is known throughout the world. She travels around the world promoting partnerships and making connections on behalf of the Central Valley. The City of Fresno wanted to apply for the Global Cities Initiative about four years ago, which was a partnership between JP Morgan Chase and the Brookings Institute. They applied again and included the Central Valley and the application was selected because they saw the opportunities that we can provide.

Tracy Tosta further discussed the Global Cities Initiative and explained export strategy, foreign direct investment and the focus points of education, marketing, partnerships and industry.

[Download the global Trade and Investment Plan presentation](#)

XII. Public and Board Comments

Chairman Chiesa invited comments from the board and public, recognizing Erik Cherkaski who reminded the board of his earlier message about upcoming events.

Lynne Ashbeck was not happy with the agenda and would like the Partnership Executive Committee to find a way to either end the meetings earlier, hold the meetings at a different time, or re-work the format.

Elaine Craig thanked the board and Gurminder Sangha for the Manufacturing proclamation, because Manufacturing Day started in Madera and has been replicated throughout the Valley.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.