



## Economic Development Work Group

### Challenge

The San Joaquin Valley has been consistently plagued with high levels of unemployment and poverty. The Valley's average per capita income is 32.2 percent lower than the rest of the state. The factors contributing to the Valley's economy are numerous, complex, and interconnected. The Valley must shift to innovation-driven and value-added growth to sustain its economy.

### Opportunity

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.

### Focus

The Economic Development Work Group focuses on growing businesses in targeted industries that have comparative advantages in the San Joaquin Valley – agribusiness, including food processing, agricultural technology and biotechnology; manufacturing; supply chain management and logistics; health and medical care; and renewable energy. The group is working on several fronts to support the region's economic health through facilitating investments in infrastructure and business incentives, aligning economic development efforts in the eight-county region, creating a climate that supports and promotes entrepreneurship, leading renewable and clean-energy efforts, and promoting the San Joaquin Valley as a tourist destination.

### Success for the San Joaquin Valley

The San Joaquin Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was approved and finalized by the California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation Strategy Committee and U.S. Economic Development Administration. The CEDS will analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources.

### About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006 and in December 2008, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Opportunity*. On July 1, 2010, the Partnership was extended indefinitely with Executive Order S-10-10.

### Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include advanced communications services; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; housing; preK-12 education; sustainable communities; and water.

## Action

*Facilitate investments in infrastructure and incentives that support the economic vitality of the region.*

- *Organize a new regional Economic Development District (EDD) for the San Joaquin Valley. The EDD will advance the concerns and promote opportunities in the eight-county region and serve as a powerful engine to promote private sector investment and job creation.*
- *Establish and promote regionwide incentives.*

*Align regionwide economic development efforts in support of target industry clusters: (1) agribusiness, including food processing, agricultural technology, and biotechnology; (2) manufacturing; (3) supply chain management and logistics; (4) health and medical care; and (5) renewable energy.*

- *Work with PreK-12 Education Work Group on the Sector-Based Articulation deliverable of the WIA grant for high school career and technical education (CTE) programs in high priority industries in three high schools in Kings, Fresno and Stanislaus Counties. Each high school will engage students in two of the target industry career education areas.*

*Create a dynamic, entrepreneur-producing economic climate in the San Joaquin Valley.*

- *Work with the Lyles Center on the entrepreneurial deliverable of the WIA grant to establish a San Joaquin Valley network of Entrepreneurship Centers (E-Centers). Located at Reedley College, Bakersfield College, and the University of Pacific, the E-Centers will enable the launch of new businesses and the creation of new jobs within Central Valley communities.*

*Accelerate the deployment and adoption of renewable and clean energy in the San Joaquin Valley.*

- *Continue to work with sitting renewable energy companies and cluster industries.*
- *Work with state officials to remove administrative barriers to clean energy deployment.*



California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley

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### Economic Development Work Group

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