

Housing Work Group

Challenge

The San Joaquin Valley has long suffered as the epicenter of the nation's housing crisis. As of December 2011, unemployment rates ranged between 14.7% in Madera County to 18.7% in Merced County, well above state and national averages. Poverty rates are also some of the highest in the nation, ranging from 15.7% in San Joaquin County to 24.6% in Merced County, as of the 2010 census. Additionally, several valley cities have consistently ranked in the top five hardest hit foreclosure areas in the nation, with 1 in every 140 housing units in San Joaquin County in foreclosure in January 2012. These already sizeable challenges have been exacerbated by the loss of redevelopment agencies and consistent budgetary uncertainty among local agencies.

Opportunity

The San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative is a non-profit organization formed as a regional body to address housing issues in the eight county region of the San Joaquin Valley. The Collaborative not only serves as a forum to discuss 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 policy makers and regulatory agencies. This organization is an unprecedented forum for our region to work together in addressing the effects of the foreclosure crisis. Additionally, the recent loss of redevelopment agencies has precipitated increased dialogue among stakeholders about permanent funding sources for affordable housing. While there are many challenges, there is opportunity to leverage resources and facilitate new, innovative partnerships for promoting affordable housing through the San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative and its partners.

Focus

The San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative focuses on regional solutions to promote affordable housing via dialogue among state, local, and federal stakeholders.

Success for the San Joaquin Valley

- In May 2012, the San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative held an Affordable Housing Summit, an event geared at engaging the valley's local communities to outline long-term affordable housing strategies.
- In March 2012, Visalia-based nonprofit organization Self-Help Enterprises received a \$5 million USDA grant to help 200 Tulare County families build their own homes.
- In September 2011, the CSU Fresno Office of Community and Economic Development and California Coalition for Rural Housing launched the Pathways to Rural Economic Progress project, funded with a \$175,105 matching grant from the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative, to provide capacity-building training and technical assistance to up to 16 San Joaquin Valley rural communities with serious housing and economic development needs.
- Via the San Joaquin Valley Small Communities Network and CSU Fresno Rural Development Center, a series of training workshops with leading expert in the field were delivered to rural cities and incorporated communities on downtown revitalization, sewer and water improvements, and grant writing.

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.

Action Plan: Near-Term Priorities

- Work with local, state, and federal stakeholders to develop a long-term, regional funding solution for affordable housing in the San Joaquin Valley, such as a revolving loan fund.
- Secure funding for a Housing Collaborative Executive Director to oversee the day-to-day administration of the organization.

Action Plan: Long-Term Objectives

- Serve as the Housing Work Group for California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, providing a regional forum to discuss housing policy issues and regional strategies.
- Establish and support a broad network of partners to promote and increase the development of affordable and workforce housing in the Valley.
- Develop and serve as a resource for information and expertise to increase investments in affordable and workforce housing in the Valley.
- Preserve privately owned, federally subsidized housing that is at-risk of converting to market rents
- Ensure that the Valley is maximizing value received from available federal, state and local housing programs.
- Communicate and demonstrate how the Valley can lead efforts to implement innovative strategies in creating affordable housing that is aligned with environmentally sound principles of sustainable development and the preservation of farmlands and natural habitats in the Valley.
- Serve as a source of technical assistance and advocacy to and for local jurisdictions in order for them to achieve their goals as stated in the housing elements of their general plans.
- Receive, hold and distribute funds solely for the general and specific purposes of the corporation and as authorized by federal and state laws.
- Serve as regional housing entity to partner in regional collaborations.

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 21st 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.



California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

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