



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

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**DRAFT**

Friday, June 17, 2016, 10am – 3pm

Tulare County Ag Commissioner's Building  
4437 S. Laspina  
Tulare, CA 93724

### 1. Convene Meeting – Introductory Remarks

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The second quarter 2016 meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley was called to order by Deputy Chair Luisa Medina at 10:13am. Introductions were made around the board table and from the speakers, staff and community guests in the room.

Board members present were: James Aleru, Lynne Ashbeck, Steve Bestolarides, Elaine Craig, Randy Dodd, Bryn Forhan, Frank Gallegos, Mike Gallo, Andrew Genasci, Pat Gordon, Genoveva Islas, Carlton Jones, Dorothy Leland, Luisa Medina, Andrew Mendoza, Suzi Picaso, Mary Renner, Luis Santana and Ted Smalley.

Board Deputies present were Sharri Bender Ehlert from California Department of Transportation, Jim Houston from California Department of Food and Agriculture and Sonya Logman of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

Partnership Board Advisory members present were Glenda Humiston, UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Robert Tse, State Broadband Coordinator for USDA CA Rural Development

### 2. Recognition of Sponsors and Dignitaries - Welcome

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The board recognized and thanked the meeting sponsors which were the County of Tulare, Tulare County Economic Development Corporation and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG).

The Partnership board and guests were welcomed to Tulare County by board member Ted Smalley from TCAG, Craig Vejvoda, Chair of the Tulare County EDC and board member Carlton Jones from the Tulare City Council.

### 3. Resolution Adoption

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At the recommendation of board member DeeDee D'Adamo, a resolution has been drafted to recognize Ron Addington on his recent retirement for his work with the Partnership. Ismael Herrera from the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), secretariat to the Partnership, read the resolution to the board and proposed its adoption. Bryn Forhan formally moved to adopt the resolution. Lynne Ashbeck seconded and the motion was approved. The resolution to commend Ron Addington was adopted.

### 4. Public and Board Comment

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Board advisory member Glenda Humiston discussed collaboration among the USDA, UC's and county based organizations.

Deputy Chair Medina directed the board to the sponsorship flier at each board member's seat at the table. The Partnership's 10-year celebratory event is scheduled for October 5, 2016. The board was encouraged to work with staff to help identify and recruit sponsorship for the event.

### 5. Consent Calendar

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Ismael Herrera presented the consent calendar, including the last meeting minutes, updates on the Partnership strategic efforts and work group reports. Lynne Ashbeck moved to accept the consent calendar as published. Elaine Craig seconded and the motion was approved.

### 6. Partnership Strategic Effort: Water

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Sarge Green delivered a brief synopsis of his report to the board before introducing the first of three panels to speak about the Partnership's strategic effort on Water.

The first part of the presentation was the Bureau Basin Study presented by Arlan Nickel and Mike Tansey from the US Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento. The purpose of the Basin Study Program is to work with the state and local partners in 17 Western States to evaluate future water supply and demand imbalances in a changing climate. The basin studies include assessments of the risks and impacts of climate change on water resources and development of adaptation strategies to address impacts to water supplies and demands.

The study incorporates the entire watersheds of the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basins and also includes portions of the Klamath-Trinity River watersheds. The reclamation's cost-share partners include the California Department of Water Resources, the Stockton East Water District, the Partnership, the El Dorado County Water Agency and the Madera County

Resources Agency. Major stakeholders are the Friant Water Authority, Mountain Counties Water Resources Agency, Northern California Water Association, State Water Contractors and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The presentation on this study can be found on the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

A panel presentation on Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) drinking water was made by Paul Boyer of Self Help Enterprises which works with low-income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities. Self-Help Enterprises has assisted over 150 communities and is currently working with over 70 communities with water issues in an 8 county area with water that is contaminated by arsenic, nitrates and uranium among other substances, and in communities with dry wells. Mr. Boyer reported on the temporary household tank program and loans to drill deeper wells. The full presentation can be found on the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

James Maughn, Assistant Deputy Director of the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance presented about drinking water funding, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Prop 1, The Prop 1 Groundwater Grant Program, Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) and Technical Assistance. Mr. Maughn's presentation can be found on the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

Dane Mathis from the California Department of Water Resources and Boykin Witherspoon, California State University Water Resources Policy Initiative, also presented on the DAC drinking water issue and the Prop 1 funding of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). This presentation can be found on the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

The third part of the Water panel was a presentation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in the Valley from Sarge Green of the Fresno State California Water Institute. The IRWM was adopted by the Partnership in 2009 as a strategy to improve water conditions in the Valley. The water work group included leadership from San Joaquin and Kern Counties and chose the operating principle of working on the activities agreed upon. It resulted in a report prepared by the California Water Institute and IRWM recommended to improve water conditions. Federal legislation offered support in order to develop a Valley-wide plan. Sarge Green's presentation to the board can be found on the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

After discussion, Lynne Ashbeck made the motion which was seconded by Andrew Genasci and passed by the board that recommendations be brought to the December meeting which would determine just how the Partnership can collaborate with Integrated Regional Water

Management Plans in the region to identify water projects from disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley for the purposes of Proposition 1 funding.

## 7. LUNCH

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## 8. Community Choice Energy for the San Joaquin Valley

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Woody Hastings, Renewable Energy Implementation Manager for Clean Power Exchange, made a presentation on Community Choice Energy for the San Joaquin Valley. Community Choice is a local, not-for-profit public agency which buys and generates electricity for residential and business customers. This organization promotes local control and brings more jobs to the community. Mr. Hastings encourages board members to host a workshop and consider the program for their communities. His presentation can be found on the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

The Board directed Secretariat staff to follow up with Woody Hastings of Clean Power Exchange to evaluate the feasibility of a community choice project in the San Joaquin Valley.

## 9. Highway 99 Funding

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Board member Ted Smalley, Executive Director of the Tulare County Association of Governments, made a presentation on Highway 99 funding. Mr. Smalley gave a brief history of the transportation projects since Proposition 1B was approved by the voters in 2006 bringing \$19.9 billion in total, including \$1 billion for State Route (SR)-99 and \$250 million for the Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account.

In 10 years, the SR-99 projects were delivered. More railroad grade separation projects were delivered in the San Joaquin Valley than any other region. However, in June the California Transportation Commission (CTC) had to cut more than \$700 million from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The San Joaquin Valley projects deleted include Fresno SR-41, Kern SR-14, Madera SR-99 and Merced SR-152. This presentation can be found online at the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

The Partnership can help the next steps by encouraging that a solution/compromise can be implemented – anything that encourages the legislature. If the money is available, Caltrans can deliver. The Valley is ready, but we need some encouragement to the state to get it done.

Discussion from the board included input about the STIP program's history of being funded by a gas tax. In 2010 when gas prices were very high it was changed and projects that were completely funded by the per gallon gas tax were pulled. There needs to be a new model to collect revenues for the state highways.

The board directed Secretariat staff to draft a letter to Governor Brown requesting that a representative of the San Joaquin Valley be appointed to the California Transportation Commission. Currently there is no representative from the region serving on the CTC.

#### 10. Central Valley Health Information Exchange: Improving the Health of Our Valley

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This item was removed from the agenda.

#### 11. Least Conflict Solar Development Project

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Robert Tse from the United States Department of Agriculture California (USDA CA) Rural Development and Dustin Pearce of the Conservation Biology Institute presented information on the Least Conflict Solar Development project which is a Geographic Information System (GIS) web-based electronic map that identifies renewable energy sources.

The study resulted in a snapshot of least conflict lands in the San Joaquin Valley for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Next steps include a dialogue around the identification of least conflict lands, mapping reflecting changing conditions and increased knowledge surrounding solar PV development. Mr. Tse believes that additional discussions and conversations are needed, but this report can serve as a guide and a foundation for future work.

The significance of the project includes the accessibility of the platform and spatial data for all users; public, stakeholder groups and local government. The functionality and ability to overlay data layers in real time and to move from a regional to a local perspective is also relevant. The current data can be easily updated and the platform can be expanded for other groups, geographies and other questions.

Mr. Tse stated that it is a convenient tool for accurate mapping that's fast and doesn't cost anything. The full presentation can be found online at the Partnership website at <http://sjvpartnership.org/event/2nd-quarter-board-meeting-2016/>.

## 12. Public and Board Comment

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Robert Tse announced the upcoming agricultural hackathon. The California Statewide “Apps for Ag” competition will be a 48-hour Ag Tech coding contest on July 15 through July 17, 2016 in Davis and Sacramento. This hackathon is sponsored by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and the California State Fair and invites web developers, designers, entrepreneurs and students to collaborate and innovate to help solve the challenges in agriculture today. Mr. Tse reminded the board that it was through the Partnership that the first hackathon was launched.

Board member Lynne Ashbeck suggested that the board rethink the meeting schedule and agenda and was concerned that there were too few people in attendance to hear the final presentation at the meeting.

## 13. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:38pm by Deputy Chair Medina.