



Meeting of the Board of Directors

DRAFT

Friday, December 9, 2016 – 10am – 3pm

Manteca Transit Center
Community Room
220 Moffat Boulevard
Manteca, CA 95336

I. Convene Meeting and Introductory Remarks

The fourth quarter 2016 meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was called to order by Secretary Karen Ross at 10:12am at the Manteca Transit Center in San Joaquin County. Introductions were made around the board table and from the speakers, staff and community guests in the room.

Board Members present were: Steve Bestolarides, Vito Chiesa, Elaine Craig, LeeAnn Eager, Bryn Forhan, Frank Gallegos, Andrew Genasci, Pat Gordon, Genoveva Islas, Dan Leavitt, Andrew Mendoza, David Nelson, Joe Oliveira, Suzi Picaso, Billy Powell and Secretary Karen Ross.

Deputy Board Member Jim Suennen from the Health and Human Services Agency, designee for Secretary Diana Dooley was also present as well as Advisory Board Members Diane Howerton, Larry Martin and Robert Tse.

II. Recognition of Sponsors and Dignitaries

Manteca Mayor Steve DeBrum welcomed the board members, speakers and guests to the Manteca Transit Center and discussed the growth of the 120 Corridor and the challenges that this large growth area brings. Manteca is also working on a water park facility with hotel and convention center to support the region.

The board recognized and thanked sponsors who supported the meeting; David Nelson from AG Spanos who remarked on the growth in the City of Manteca and Dan Leavitt from the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and Andrew Chesley from the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

III. Board Vote for New Chairman

Due to lack of a quorum, this agenda item was deferred; however, Vito Chiesa was formally nominated to serve as the new board chair.

IV. Public and Board Comment

No comments were made from the public.

The Partnership's 2016 Annual Report was presented to the board by Mike Dozier, Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) Executive Director. The new report include the adopted priority goals and the status and activities of those goals as well as reports on each of the 10 partnership workgroups.

Secretary Ross called out the Fresno State OCED staff and the Partnership work groups for their accomplishments, hard work and motivation on a limited budget.

V. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar vote of approval was carried forward to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

VI. New Digital FPPC Form 700 Instructions

The board members were informed of the new digital FPPC guidelines by board secretariat staff Emily Pasquarelli from OCED. The form 700 can be electronically submitted beginning January 2017. Members' 2016 annual forms have a filing due date of April 3, 2017 and are subject to fines of \$10 per day when late.

A user name and password was already emailed to each board member from Form700@fppc.ca.gov which contained a link to log in to the new system with a temporary password. For help with this new system there is a downloadable Filer's User Guide and an eFiler Quick Reference Card. Board Members with further questions were directed to contact Rene Robertson at the FPPC at (916)324-3722 or Emily Pasquarelli at OCED at (559)278-0709. [Download New Digital FPPC Form 700 Instructions](#)

VII. Proposal Summary for Partnership to Assist Disadvantaged Communities in Drinking Water Issue

Sarge Green from the California Water Institute presented a proposal summary for the partnership to assist the disadvantaged communities of the San Joaquin Valley in providing safe, affordable drinking water for all.

Issues that were identified during the recent Tulare Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study which universally apply throughout the San Joaquin Valley include; a lack of funding for operations and maintenance, lack of technical, managerial and financial capacity, poor water quality, inadequate or unaffordable funding constraints for improvements, lack of informed, empowered or engaged residents. Other issues identified during the study were: the lack of vision and integrated planning to develop solutions, inadequate existing infrastructure, a lack of information on disadvantaged communities, a changing regulatory environment and insufficient quantity of water. Because of the drought, there are places that have just run out of water, such as East Porterville.

There are several partners that were listed in the report that are addressing the issue and three areas of the ten in the Tulare Basin study with which the Partnership can provide significant value: 1. Develop and Maintain Information on the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Water

Needs, 2. Improve Technical, Managerial and Financial Capacity (TMF), and 3. Improve Funding for the DACs. [Download Safe Drinking Water Presentation](#)

Secretary Ross of the Department of Food and Agriculture added from her knowledge of recent enforcement actions taken to solve the nitrate problem in groundwater, that there were at times still an issue of arsenic present in the water. The Secretary suggested that she connect Sarge Green with the California Water Board personnel that are working on these problems and spoke about the need to include agriculture in the discussions for the solution.

Vito Chiesa commented that CalEnviroScreen is an easy tool to use to show the impact of the water problems in the valley and believes it should be a priority to invest in the area and offered his help.

Andrew Gensaci discussed the importance of working together to find long term solutions to solve some of the problems.

Robert Tse added that the USDA can help with planning grants and integrate with state resources. There is an opportunity on the technology and innovation side to find a way to remove some of the water contaminants which could be simple to operate and substantially less expensive. Mr. Tse discussed the summer water hackathon challenge being presented by 59DaysOfCode which will be focused on finding solutions for the water problems in the San Joaquin Valley. The Partnership can work to help filter out the solutions.

VIII. SED – Substitute Environmental Document

Supervisor Vito Chiesa introduced Herb Smart with the Turlock Irrigation District to report on the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) which affects many of the rivers and tributaries of the San Joaquin Valley. The unimpaired flows are trying to improve the health of our river system which is in dire straits. There have been differing ideas of what to do and how to do it. All stakeholders need to come to an agreement.

Mr. Smart's presentation has been shared throughout the community and has been discussing the study. The plan would force a dedication of 40 percent of unimpaired flows along the Tuolumne River which could mean a \$4.1 billion impact to the regional economy. People of the region are needed to advocate and are invited to go to www.worthyourfight.org and sign the petition, write formal letters and speak at hearings.

IX. Health Priority Update

Board member Andrew Mendoza from Kaiser Permanente presented a Health priority update with board member Genoveva Islas who represents Cultiva La Salud and is also a Covered California board member. The Health White Paper priorities which include, "a prosperous economy, quality environment, and social and health equity throughout the San Joaquin Valley" were reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Islas recommended a presentation on Health in All Policy from the Office of Health Equity for a more in-depth discussion for further education to determine what more we can do to prevent people from getting sick and to care for people when they do get sick.

Mr. Mendoza reported on the five health-related California ballot measures from November 2016; Prop 52 – Hospital Fee for Medi-Cal, Prop 55 - Prop 30 Extension of income tax provisions, Prop 56 - Tobacco tax increase, Prop 61 – State Prescription Drug Purchases, and Prop 64 – Adult Use of Marijuana Act. [Download CA Ballot Measures Summary](#) [Download Health White Paper](#)

Mr. Mendoza also talked about how the Community Health Needs Assessment is underway now for the 2016-2018 cycle. Survey information is collected regarding the needs of the community and monies can then be used for programs and services to help with health disparities.

Mr. Mendoza further shared that in the counties of the San Joaquin Valley, more than 110,000 individuals are now receiving healthcare through Covered California who may not have had healthcare before. The three top health plans being chosen are from Anthem, BlueShield and Kaiser Permanente. The top counties for enrollments were in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Fresno and Kern counties. There is still work to be done in Merced, Madera, Tulare and Kings to help close the disparity gap.

Secretary Ross discussed nutrition literacy as a way to help close the loop with the emphasis on nutrition and good food choices for health. She believes that the San Joaquin Valley Partnership should be intentional about our California grown food that is very accessible to those especially in the heart of the Valley.

Ms. Islas added that each county does receive nutrition education funding and there are metrics that are being collected. It may be an easy set of information to aggregate. The schools are also being connected. She emphasized again about how well Covered California is doing, but there is still work to be done in enrollments.

X. California's Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) Program

Jim Suennen from California Health and Services Agency, board designee for Secretary Diana Dooley, discussed California's Earned Income Tax Credit (Cal EITC) Program. The California version is a compliment to the Federal version. The program aligns with the Partnership's goals in terms of addressing how to reduce poverty in the region and economic development.

This effort is only successful if it is effective at the community neighborhood level engaged with leaders both business and community leaders and faith-based leaders to convey the message through trusted messengers so that this resonates with the individuals in the community which may qualify.

Mr. Suennen introduced Jason Montiel from the California Franchise Tax Board and Manuel Romero from Central California Legal Services to help explain how the tax credit helps the San

Joaquin Valley and how best to promote the program. Mr. Montiel reported last year's data for the eight counties of the Partnership as 57,178 credits issued which amounted to \$39,347,407 issued. The average credit was \$688. Mr. Montiel said that trusted community members are needed to help get the word out, especially to first time filers.

Manuel Romero spoke to the board about the history of the Cal EITC program and how it helps working families to get money back on what they've earned and they will hopefully spend it in their communities and boost the local economy. The program can help bring people out of poverty and sometimes take them out of the streets.

Mai Vang from Community Partnership for Family of San Joaquin spoke to the board about their part in running the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Stockton. They have 19 sites throughout San Joaquin County. They service low income families from within their neighborhoods where they work with the families to try to take back those neighborhoods and make them safe. The VITA program allows them to help the families understand how to use the tax refund money to help get them out of poverty.

There are resources available online at caleitc4me.org, including an easy to use tax calculator and help in different languages. [Download CalEITC Program](#) [Download CalEITC Suggested Newsletter Content](#) [Download CalEITC Employee Notification Procedures](#)

XI. Lunch

XII. State Transportation Funding

Andrew Chesley from the San Joaquin Council of Governments presented to the board an update on State Transportation Funding, a priority issue in the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Chesley's first update was on the FASTLANE Grant program. On the 15th of December is the deadline for submission and of the regional agencies in the Valley have agreed to be supportive of one another. Only 18 programs were funded nationwide last year and only one in California. A large portion of the funded projects deal with freight which is a priority issue for the San Joaquin Valley.

Another priority issue for us is the passing of new legislation, Assembly Bill 28. Mr. AB28 is the NEPA delegation to Caltrans. On March 1 they will be taking three priority issues to Sacramento: air quality, greenhouse gas reduction issues and freight movement.

Last year the California transportation system had \$780 million cut from the state transportation improvement program which left the program in desperate need of legislation to act on the transportation proposals to increase a wide range of transportation funding sources in the state of California. It does involve tax increases on gas and diesel and registration fees but they are necessary to fund the programs which have a great impact in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Chelsey thanked Secretary Ross for stepping up for the San Joaquin Valley on the Strategic Growth Council work. Proposition 1B projects are being successfully completed throughout the

San Joaquin Valley and making good improvements. On November 8 there were four brand new sales tax agencies as ballot measures passed to help state transportation funding.

XIII. Ag Tech Program – SJV Regional Broadband Consortium

From The Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), Eduardo Gonzalez reported on the AgTech Pilot Program, funded by CETF and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium, working to close the digital divide.

The Regional Broadband Consortium is an initiative of the Partnership and is being administered by OCED. This initiative is dedicated to accelerating the deployment, accessibility and adoption of broadband within the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

The AgTech Pilot Program serves to help develop a comprehensive approach in utilizing broadband for agriculture, increase the availability of broadband infrastructure in Ag industry and introduce AgTech capabilities to Fresno County farmers and growers. The primary goal is to reduce water usage and increase crop yield by improving automated irrigation systems currently in place through an on farm wireless sensor network and UAV image analysis technology.

[Download AgTech Presentation](#)

XIV. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding Update

A Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding update was presented to the board by Jenna Chilingierian, Program Manager at OCED. The program categories of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund are Transportation and Sustainable communities, Clean Energy/Energy Efficiency, and Natural Resources/Waste Diversion. The investment categories are Continuous Appropriation, 50% Reduction in Petroleum, Local Climate Action, Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, Safeguarding California/Water Action Plan, Safeguarding California/Carbon Sequestration and Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy. [Download GGRF Update](#)

XV. Amtrak San Joaquins

Board member Dan Leavitt from the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and ACE lead a panel discussion on the Amtrak San Joaquins and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE). The panel included Supervisor Vito Chiesa, SJJPA board member and Virginia Madueño, President of IMAGEN, LLC, as well as David Lipari, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator from SJJPA.

Amtrak San Joaquins makes 7 daily round-trips through 11 counties and covers 364 miles. The SJJPA is responsible for the management and administration of Amtrak San Joaquins service. SJJPA is governed by board members representing each of the 10 member agencies along the 365-mile route. Amtrak is responsible for the operation of Amtrak San Joaquins service, employing the train operation staff and maintaining the equipment.

Amtrak San Joaquins service is funded by the State of California through Caltrans. The state owns the majority of the equipment used on the San Joaquins. As a state funded service, Amtrak San Joaquins belongs to the communities it serves.

Virginia Madueño introduced a video and discussed why she rides the train. She described the people and the experience she has riding the train, which she does almost weekly.

David Lipari discussed the new grassroots approach to marketing, including reaching the communities the train serves, not just larger markets, and reaching out to minority and non-English speaking residents. With Hispanics comprising well over 50% of the San Joaquin Valley population, a key part of marketing is reaching out to Hispanic communities and providing promotional materials in Spanish. [Download Amtrak San Joaquins Presentation](#)

XVI. Presentation of Award

A book was circulated around the board table to be signed for outgoing board chair Ashley Swearingin. The book and award will be presented after the meeting.

XVII. Public and Board Comment

Supervisor Chiesa suggested an update on CalEnviroScreen for a future meeting; Jenna Chilingirian discussed bringing the Housing Collaboration to present; and Secretary Ross talked about outreach to a renewable energy portfolio.

XVIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.