



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

DRAFT

Friday, September 15, 2017 – 10am – 2pm

Shafter Veterans Memorial Hall  
309 California Ave.  
Shafter, CA 93263

### I. Oath of Office

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Partnership Lead Executive Ismael D. Herrera Jr., the Associate Director for Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development, administered the Oath of Office. New board members Patty Poire, Charles Riojas, Cherylee Wegman and Jim Yovino were sworn in as well as reappointed board members Lynne Ashbeck, Amarpreet Dhaliwal and David Nelson. Supervisor Vito Chiesa of Stanislaus County was also sworn in as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

### II. Convene Meeting, Introductory Remarks

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Chair Vito Chiesa called the third quarter 2017 meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) to order at 10:11am at Shafter Veterans Memorial Hall. 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, Vito Chiesa, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Lee Ann Eager, Bryn Forhan, Frank Gallegos, Andrew Genasci, Carole Goldsmith, Genoveva Islas, Luisa Medina, David Nelson, Patricia Poire, Charles Riojas, Luis Santana, Cherylee Wegman and Jim Yovino.

Board Deputies present were: Sharri Bender Ehlert of the California Department of Transportation representing Secretary Brian Kelley; James Houston, representing Secretary Karen Ross of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Sonya Logman, Deputy Secretary of California's Business and Consumer Relations representing Alexis Podesta; Albert Rivas, representing California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary of the California Department of Health and Human Services, representing Secretary Diana Dooley; and Sid Voorakkara from GO-Biz, representing board member Panorea Avdis.

Advisory Board members present were Jennifer Carlson Shipman, Robert Tse and Lynette Zelezny.

### III. Recognition of Our Sponsors and Dignitaries

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Zack Scrivner, Chairman of the Kern County board of Supervisors, welcomed the board and guests to Kern County and spoke about the County's recent ranking of Number Two for Most Diversified Large Metro Economy and what contributed to the ranking. Kern County has always been a leader in aviation from the breaking of the sound barrier by Chuck Yeager to the opening of the first Space Port in

Mojave. Kern continues to be a leader in aviation and aerospace development with China Lake Naval Weapons station, Edwards Air Force Base and the Mojave Air and Space Port.

Kern County is also the largest producer of oil in the state of California and a leader in renewable energy, producing almost 30% of California's renewable energy, which is more than double the production of any other county.

Kern County also has a rapidly growing logistics and warehousing sector and is a state leader in crop value. County leaders strive to provide the citizens with great county services despite budget challenges. They have worked to reduce their structural deficit and has begun the implementation of three pilot projects that will increase efficiency and reduce waste. They are also working to improve quality of life through work towards improving facilities in the county parks system.

David Franz, the Education Partnership Director from the City of Shafter next addressed the board and spoke about how the city is invested in education and the growth of its citizens and why the local government sees that as so important.

Jim Zervis, Administrative Services Director with the City of Shafter, also spoke to the board to further illustrate the City's relationship with education and dedication to cultivate leadership from their own community. The city makes a great deal of effort to diversify the local economy. They annex a tremendous amount of land and work actively to make property conducive to developers to come in and bring big projects and jobs. The city has installed its own fiber optic network, which provides connectivity for municipal uses and school districts and provides the infrastructure for major businesses in the area.

Nick Ortiz, CEO of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, also welcomed the board to Kern County. They are a member business supported organization with 1100 member who collectively employ almost 70,000 Californians. They represent members from all parts of Kern County. The Chamber's Leadership Bakersfield class will be attending the board meeting in the afternoon to sit in on discussions.

Mr. Chiesa expressed the gratitude of the Partnership to the sponsors of the pre-board meeting dinner and the Kern County board meeting: The City of Shafter, Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Grimmway Farms, Wonderful Company and Tejon Ranch.

#### IV. Public and Board Comment

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Mr. Chiesa invited comments from the board and public, recognizing board member Genoveva Islas representing Cultiva La Salud and the California Health Benefit Exchange. Ms. Islas advised the board of the upcoming CenCalVia Open Streets Event on October 1. For more information on this event and more like it, please see [info@CenCalVia.org](mailto:info@CenCalVia.org).

Mr. Chiesa next recognized board member Lynne Ashbeck of Valley Children's Healthcare who wished to congratulate the City of Shafter for being a great model for other cities in the Valley.

Sonya Logman, Deputy Secretary of California's Business and Consumer Relations, spoke about cannabis and the multifaceted effort, which includes the Department of Health, and announced that the Governor recently appointed André Jones to work with external agencies and intergovernmental affairs.

Jennifer Carlson Shipman announced that National Manufacturing Day is on October 5. She recommended that board members attend one of several Manufacturing Day tours throughout the Valley.

Carole Goldsmith invited all board members to an open forum on DACA hosted by Fresno City College on Wednesday evening September 20 at 5pm. It will be nationally broadcast by Radio Bilingue and also covered by NPR.

There were no public comments.

#### V. Consent Calendar

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Before the consent calendar was presented to the board for approval, Ismael Herrera called out several items: The Manufacturing Month Proclamation and a commendation to the board's Executive committee for the work on Immigration letters addressed to representatives of the region, which are also included in the packet. Mr. Herrera also discussed the Executive Committee's work on the board's behalf on a letter of support for SB623, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act.

In the absence of questions or objections to the consent calendar, Luisa Medina made the motion to accept the consent calendar as published. Lynne Ashbeck seconded the motion.

#### VI. Legislative Update

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Legislative updates were offered by Matt Rogers, District Director for US Senator Kamala Harris, Sandra Garcia, District Representative for US Congressman Jim Costa, Ariana Joven, Field Representative for US Congressman David Valadao, Lauren Skidmore, District Director for CA Assemblymember Vince Fong, Janea Benton, District Director for CA Assemblymember Rudy Salas and Michael Bowers, District Representative for CA Senator Andy Vidak. The Partnership plans to devote time in each board meeting for updates from representatives of Legislatures that serve the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Chiesa commented on the difficulty in getting the senators to the Valley and believes that we as a group need to demand more face time with our senators because they tend to stick to the population centers instead of coming to the Valley, which is a distinct disadvantage for us. They need to know the story of the Valley because it is unique.

Frank Gallegos commented on the Valley Fever report as he is currently in treatment for it now. Valley Fever literature was left at the front table to share.

Genoveva Islas expressed her thanks to Matt Rogers and Sandra Garcia for their work to maintain support for the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Islas also serves on the board of Covered California and she wishes to support their continued efforts regarding the Affordable Care Act.

## VII. Partnership Strategic Effort: Regional Industry Clusters

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Topic: E-Commerce Trends and Responses

Chairman Chiesa recognized Lee Ann Eager who described her work with the California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation as reaching out to the rest of the state, the country and around the world to discuss the wonders that the Central Valley has to offer. She believes that being located off the 5 and the 99, logistics and distribution are key issues pertaining to the growth of E-Commerce.

Ms. Eager introduced panel moderator Mark Hendrickson from the Merced County Economic Development Division who moderated a discussion on E-Commerce trends and responses. With panelists: Melinda Brown, Director of Business Development of the Kern Economic Development Corporation; Mark Mimms, the Economic Development Coordinator for the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation; and Tyler Richardson of Opportunity Stanislaus, representing the northern part of the San Joaquin Valley.

[Presentation: Central California–Center Yourself!](#)

Lee Ann Eager encourages all to tour a fulfillment center because it looks quite different from what might be expected. There are many technical jobs that may be worth training for.

Lynne Ashbeck encouraged the Partnership to have this as Part 1 of future conversations and wished to discuss the fact that the distribution centers take up a lot of square footage and create few jobs in comparison, which makes it difficult for cities to meet the jobs/housing challenge. She urges us to have additional conversations because there may be some policy issues we can weigh in on as a group as it's complicated.

Carole Goldsmith commented that the educational community is working to have a workforce trained for these new jobs and would like to further the discussion at a later date to address the possible impact of the buy local movement and the encouragement of entrepreneurial efforts and local business in the Valley.

## VIII. LUNCH

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## IX. Partnership Strategic Effort: Health

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Topic: Groundbreaking Education: Healthy Lifestyle Principles for Replication

Patty Poire of Grimmway Farms introduced the panel presentation that was a follow-up to the morning's site tour of the Grimmway Academy Shafter. Grimmway Academy is a charter school that

uses innovative blended learning instruction. The Academy model integrates an edible schoolyard program that includes a garden and kitchen classroom with a focus on reading across all subjects and a math curriculum that includes practical application in the kitchen classroom. Students learn to plant, grow, harvest and prepare healthy recipes. The healthy food choices are reinforced in the school's café. Paul Escala, Executive Director for Grimmway Schools, and RJ Valentino, President of Grimm Family Education Foundation discussed the history, process and results attributed to the work of Foundation.

[Presentation: Grimmway Farms](#)

Bryn Forhan stated that she was very impressed by the tour and presentation and asked the presenters to let the Partnership know how it might be of help to the program.

X. Topic: Update on California Tax Credit Programs

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Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary, External Affairs, California Health and Human Services Agency, briefly updated the board on California's Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) program. This is an important program about being able to get money back into the hands of low income working Californians who in turn put the money back into the local communities. For more information and timely updates, please visit the website [www.CalEITC4Me.org](http://www.CalEITC4Me.org). A more detailed update will be presented at the December board meeting.

[Presentation: CA Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

Sid Voorakkara, Deputy Director, External Affairs, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz), discussed the California Competes Tax Credit program available for California businesses. The GOBiz team works with business investment services, international affairs, permits, innovation and entrepreneurship, small business and zero emissions vehicles. GOBiz is about helping to support business in California.

The California Competes Tax Credit is credit against the income tax due to the Franchise Tax Board. If awarded this contract because of investments being made in terms of people and capital, the return on investment is a reduction in tax liability. The next round of awards is January 2 through January 22 where there will be \$100 million available to be allocated.

[Presentation: Economic Development Incentives & Resources](#)

Luisa Medina spoke about the earned income tax credit to endorse the importance of having residents apply. It awards work – the working families. The EITC average return to families was \$2600. Ms. Medina encourages board members to spread the word to take advantage of the program.

Lee Ann Eager spoke in favor of the California Competes program because she has something else to sell people on when talking up the Valley. Many businesses have received the award and it's been a big

plus to be able to talk about this GOBiz program. It reduces the amount business tax liability, and 25% of the credits available are for small business.

Luis Santana seconded what Luisa Medina had to say about CalEITC. Through his work with the Bridge Academy, he has seen how beneficial this tax program is.

#### XI. Public and Board Comments

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Chairman Chiesa invited comments from the board and public, recognizing Patty Poire. Ms. Poire commented on SB 623 and the fact that it is now a two-year bill. Ms. Poire wishes to discuss with the board the importance of this bill for the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Chiesa replied that this topic would be addressed in the next Partnership Executive Committee meeting.

#### XII. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm