



MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Minutes

The second One Voice workshop for 2006-07 was held Friday, October 27, 2006 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Los Banos City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos.

In Attendance

Mike Amabile, City of Los Banos
Jesse Arthur, MCAG Citizens Advisory Committee
Aaron Barcelas, Los Banos School Board
Don Bergman, Courtesy Automotive
Jesse Brown, MCAG
Mary Cervantes, Merced County
Steve Chedester, SJR Water Exchange
Stacie Dabbs, Office of Congressman Cardoza
Hicham Eltal, Merced Irrigation District
Lori Flanders, MCAG
John Fowler, MCEDCO
Anna Fuentes, MCAG
Scott Galbraith, MCEDCO
Marc Garcia, Garcia Law Firm
Rich Green, MCAG
Terrence Grindall, Ranchwood Homes
Keith Groninga, Los Banos Chamber of Commerce
Mark Hendrickson, Merced County
Marvin Heppner, MCAG Citizens Advisory Committee

Jim Kanabay, MCEDCO
Gene Lieb, Los Banos Enterprise
Jim Marshall, City of Merced
Mike McAdam, KUBB/KHTN Radio
Jerry O'Banion, Merced County
Joe Oliveira, City of Gustine
Corey Pride, Los Banos Enterprise
Elaine Post, City of Los Banos
Steve Rath, City of Los Banos
Robert Rodarte, Citigroup
Gonzalo Rodriguez, Brookfield Land
Bill Spriggs, City of Merced
Candice Steelman, MCAG
John Thompson, Edward Jones Co.
Hank Van der Veen, Merced Sun-Star
Charles White, Realtor

1. Following introductions, Chair Spriggs announced public comment period.

Mike McAdam, General Manager, KUBB/KHTN Radio, shared with the audience a meeting he attended a few days prior with UC Merced, Merced County Economic Development (MCEDCO), and 75 businesses regarding manufacturing and the Enterprise Zone. Mr. McAdam gave a presentation about One Voice and informed the participants of the funding opportunities that could be created if they are involved with One Voice. He also stated that Congressman Cardoza informed the audience that he would like to see more business membership to broaden the group's diversity when attending Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Scott Galbraith, Executive Director, MCEDCO, informed the One Voice attendees that MCEDCO and the Merced Chamber of Commerce were setting up meetings with business-to-business groups in Washington, D.C., and would like a committee of One Voice participants to attend those meetings with them.

2. Candice Steelman, Public Information Officer, MCAG sent around a sign up sheet for trips to Sacramento (Jan. 30-Feb. 1) and Washington D.C. She then requested that the

audience vote on the 3rd or 4th week of March 2007 for the WDC trip. Based on the vote, participants preferred the 4th week in March.

3. Tim Egan, MCAG's state lobbyist, gave a brief update on Propositions 1A and 1B. He stated that 1A was still faring well, but 1B is slipping in the polls.

Mr. Egan also made a recommendation that the One Voice group begin to invite Sacramento delegates to tour Merced County. He feels a tour including Castle Development Center, Highway 99, and UC Merced would allow the Legislature to see how money is/will be spent.

4. Mike Amabile, Mayor, City of Los Banos, gave a brief update on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership Action Plan. He is very optimistic that this plan will be implemented. The two organizations that are bidding to provide administration for the project are Fresno State and the Great Valley Center. Ad hoc committees will choose the organization to lead the project.

5. Jesse Brown, Executive Director, MCAG, advised the participants that MCAG scheduled One Voice meetings for this year throughout the County to allow easier participation in the program. He informed the group that showing up for these meetings allows you to vote on the projects that will be included when traveling to Sacramento and Washington. He then asked that the audience review the projects currently listed under the State level and provide any further feedback or other project candidates. The following feedback and/or projects were mentioned:

Mike McAdam – Los Banos Bypass

Jesse advised Mr. McAdam that this is a Federal Project, as it seeks an earmark.

Terrence Grindall – 99 safety study

Hicham Eltal –Friant Dam and river restoration; he advised the group that Merced County will feel a huge negative financial impact regarding this settlement

Jesse Arthur – Wanted to tell the audience that not passing Measure G would cause county transportation projects to become dormant.

Jim Marshall – Transportation methodology for grade separation funds

Steve Rath – Water – CA EPA raising standards on arsenic in drinking water will cause almost 100% of Los Banos wells to be out of compliance

6. Candice concluded the meeting advising the group that the next One Voice meeting would be **held November 9, 9:00am, at the Arts Center in Merced**. Thane Young, lobbyist from Washington, will be attending this meeting to discuss projects at the Federal level.

Regarding the state issues listed, MCAG staff will put together a brief paragraph regarding each project so that everyone has a better understanding of the issue before choosing the projects to advocate in 2007.

Hicham Eltal requested a 5-minute presentation at the next meeting on what has been successful and unsuccessful with One Voice in the past.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.