



MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Minutes

The One Voice Meeting was held Monday, December 17, 2007 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center.

In Attendance

Jim Abbate, Citizens for the Betterment of Merced County
Frank Amaral, Councilman, City of Gustine
John Alexander, Health Care Consortium
Robin Adam, Legislative Dir. for ASM Galgiani
Jesse Arthur, Business Owner
Don Bergman, Manager, Courtesy Auto Center
Mary Cervantes, Business Assistance Mgr, Merced County Dept. of Commerce
Patti Dossetti, Program Development, MUHSD
Paul Fillebrown, Merced County
Scott Galbraith, MCEDCO
Richard Jantz, Citizens Advisory Committee
Ashley Leffard, MCEDCO
Mike Nelson, Supervisor, Merced County
Joe Oliveira, Councilman, City of Gustine
Jerry O'Banion, Supervisor, Merced County
Heidi Petersen, UC Merced
Lesa Rasmussen, City of Atwater
Gonzalo Rodriguez, Brookfield Land
Larry Salinas, UC Merced
Margaret Silveira, City of Gustine
Sylvia Smith, MUHSD
Charles White, Realtor
Janet Young, UC Merced

Staff: Jesse Brown, MCAG
Anna Fuentes, MCAG
Joy Gort, MCAG

Rich Green, MCAG
Candice Steelman, MCAG
Dick Whittington, MCAG

1. Following introductions, Chair Mike Nelson announced public comment period. There were no public comments.
2. About 30-35 are going to Sacramento on Feb. 12-14, and 26 to WDC on April 20-24.
3. Upcoming dates:
 - Committee technical advisors prepare fact sheets – Due Jan. 4
 - Present One Voice priorities to MCAG Governing Board – Jan. 17
 - Gather support letters from community
 - Sacramento delegates trip briefing – Jan. 30, 9:00 a.m., MCAG

4. All in attendance were given dots to choose their top selection in each of the five categories for state and federal. Projects chosen to take to legislators in 2008 are:

Project	State/Fed'l
Economic Development	
Support for infrastructure to attract economic investment	federal
Change USDA grant restrictions	federal
Help smaller cities with infrastructure funding	state
Establish a Valley-wide wage; seek relief from SB 975	state
Education	
Improve science ed for 9 th -12 th graders in Merced County through Environmental Science and Engineering Academy pilot programs	federal
Reading skills initiative program for 3 rd -5 th graders	federal
Establish a Valley-wage; seek relief from SB 975	state
Do not lower arsenic standard for drinking water	state
Restore flexibility to Supplemental Instruction funding	state
Healthcare (new category)	
Request designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)	state/federal
Raise state/federal medical programs reimbursement rates	state/federal
Transportation	
Los Banos Bypass	federal
Campus Parkway	federal
Reduce % required for tax measures to simple majority (50%+1)	state
Don't take Prop. 1A/42 money away	state
Water	
Support Cong. Cardoza's watershed plan for Central Valley	federal
Merced regional groundwater basin	federal
Establish a comprehensive water policy	state
Westside regional drainage plan	state/federal

5. As outlined in the One Voice protocol, only those who attended 3 of the 5 One Voice meetings for the year received "clickers" (Automated Group Response Technology) to rank priorities. Results were as follows:

State

1. Establish a Valley-wide wage; seek relief from SB 975
2. Reduce the percentage required for tax measures to a simple majority (51%)
3. Establish a comprehensive water plan
4. Request that state legislators support a federal designation for Merced County as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
5. Support for infrastructure to attract economic investment

Federal

1. Tied: Los Banos bypass and the environmental science program and engineering academy education programs
3. Request a federal designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
4. Campus Parkway
5. Merced Regional groundwater basin

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Next meeting is January 30th for Sacramento delegates only.