



**One Voice – Sacramento 2008
Debriefing Meeting
10:00 a.m., Feb. 21, 2008
MCAG, 369 W. 18th St., Merced**

In attendance:

John Alexander
Frank Amaral
Rich Green
Johnny Mays
Mike McAdam
Joe Oliveira

Larry Salinas
Margaret Silveira
Sylvia Smith
Candice Steelman

Delegates met to discuss the Feb. 10-12 Sacramento trip, highlighting good points and recommending improvements. Those in attendance then discussed needed follow up. At a later date, jurisdictions or agencies may be asked to take on some of the follow up assignments.

What went right?

- Hotel, liked it better than Hyatt
 - Good breakfast came with price of room
 - Convenient location
 - Nice rooms
- Meetings were awesome
 - Education committee – they were meetings that we could have “only in dreams”
 - Our prevailing wage issue was news to the education contacts. They didn’t realize how it affected education until the One Voice delegates discussed it. They did research and will follow up.
- Tim (lobbyist) did a good job
- People we met with more knowledgeable, higher caliber
- Speakers tone started out gloom and doom, but trip ended on a more positive note
- Choice of restaurants was excellent
- Staying overnight on Monday really helped
- Really liked having the Boosters join us
- Meeting room was a good size; didn’t feel lost in it; acoustics were great
- Time given by all the speakers was appreciated
- ASM Galgiani seemed truly interested in what we had to say

Areas for improvement:

- Need to meet with actual legislators
- Keep overviews to morning of first day. After that, we need to pitch our projects.
- “Custom” meetings are more productive – teams go to subject-specific meetings
- Sen. Denham’s leg director didn’t even take notes; looked like she was fulfilling a duty, but didn’t care about what we had to say

- Brief delegates on subject areas prior to trip. For example, the education folks would like to know more about the water issues.
- Not everyone we met with matched up with our issues
- Rehearse presentation – speaking points and flow
 - ID lead spokesperson for each issue
- Make Sacramento a 2-day trip
- Some of the speakers just wanted to push their own agenda, not listen to us
- Visit more legislators, especially in Valley – make sure they're on board
- Work on getting more legislators to the Wednesday night reception

Follow up tasks:

Prevailing wage:

- Talk to Industrial Relations Board re prevailing wage
- Ask Robin Adam who heads up labor in the Merced region
- Find out if the change can be made administratively
- Tack subgroup onto Partnership visit in March
- Develop a technical report comparing union, prevailing, and Valley wages
- Capture anecdotal evidence (such as schools not able to complete new school, UC Merced costs, Mike McAdam's story)
- Suggest language to SB 975

Economic development:

- Follow up with Toni Symonds of ASM Arambula's office – She said a particular type of grant was the "most underused resource".
- Check out Directory of Programs on ASM EconDev Committee website – should include programs for wastewater treatment plants
- When it becomes available, distribute copy of new Parra bill on the Partnership
- Another Toni Symonds suggestion – contact UC Davis about "asset mapping", USDA rural development has grants for this

Voting requirements:

- What happened to Governor's proposal to lower voting requirements:
- Could RTPAs ask voters if RTIF could be used for matching funds? Then it would be voter approved.

In general:

- Determine appropriate follow up visits
- Legislator/staff visits to Merced County
 - UC Merced offered to help, as they will have a committee meeting of legislators on the campus March 6, at 1:30 p.m. Candice will ask Robin Adam about the legislators' schedule to see if they'd have time for a short tour of the area.
- Could we impose a local gas fee?
- Listen to Tuesday, Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m., Senate Transportation Committee hearing – Steve Heminger presentation
- Draft op-ed piece for MCAG chair on scope and success of One Voice trip (Sun-Star article only mentioned one subject and made it seem like the One Voice group got trounced and the trip was unsuccessful).