

**DATE: APRIL 7, 2010**  
**TO: TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD**  
**FROM: MARJORIE KIRN, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**RE: ONE VOICE – WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP REPORT**

## **DISCUSSION**

The 2010 One Voice - Washington D.C. delegation consisted of 20 elected officials, staff of member jurisdictions, educators, and directors of nonprofit organizations, plus two staff members from Congressman Cardoza's Merced County office and two MCAG staffers. The group had 21 meetings with legislators, key staff, and state/federal agencies from March 8-10, 2010. At the meetings, the delegation presented the federal priorities identified in the attached table.

On March 23, 2010 our lobbyist sent MCAG a message indicating that Congressman Cardoza included the following projects in his Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations request:

- ◆ Los Banos Bypass Segment One (\$8,000,000)
- ◆ Merced County Streams (\$500,000)
- ◆ Rural Health Services Initiative (\$500,000)
- ◆ Atwater-Merced Expressway (\$1,600,000)

Once the House Appropriations Committee releases the bills, we will review them and let you know if any of these projects are included.

## **NEXT STEPS**

For the next fiscal year program, staff will reevaluate the One Voice outreach process to encourage more private sector participation, as requested by Congressman Cardoza.

Another request from the Congressman is for MCAG to identify our top 8-10 transportation projects in priority order. This list of projects will be placed on next month's agenda for your consideration.

We will continue to work with the MCAG lobbyists, Van Scoyoc Associates, to follow up on a number of issues raised during meetings and/or requested by the One Voice delegation.

Attachments: One Voice 2010 DC delegates  
One Voice 2010 WDC agenda  
2010 One Voice – Federal Priorities  
One Voice Successes



**Merced County Association of Governments**  
**One Voice Delegation List – Washington D.C.**  
*March 7-11, 2010*

Lee Andersen, Superintendent, Merced County Office of Education  
Mike Conway, Public Information Officer, City of Merced  
Scott Galbraith, Consultant, Merced County Economic Development Corporation  
Mark Hendrickson, Director, Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development  
Ron Lawrence, Director, Merced Boosters  
Brett Lee, Principal, Pacheco High School  
Mike McAdam, VP/General Manager, Buckley Radio  
Mike Nelson, Supervisor, Merced County; Director, MCAG Governing Board  
Jerry O'Banion, Supervisor, Merced County; Director, MCAG Governing Board  
John Pedrozo, County Supervisor; Chair, MCAG Governing Board  
Elaine Post, Redevelopment Agency Director, City of Los Banos  
Geoffrey Rabone, Director of Regulatory Affairs (Water) , Merced Irrigation District  
Steve Rath, City Manager, City of Los Banos  
Sean Scully, Planner, City of Gustine  
Bill Spriggs, Mayor, City of Merced; Director, MCAG Governing Board  
Elizabeth Stone, Council Member, City of Los Banos  
Daniel Varela, Mayor, City of Livingston; Director, MCAG Governing Board  
Hub Walsh, Supervisor, Merced County; Director, MCAG Governing Board  
Richard Warne, City Manager, City of Livingston  
Monica White, Executive Director, Merced County Healthcare Coalition

**Staff:**

Jesse Brown, Executive Director, MCAG  
Marjie Kirn, Deputy Executive Director, MCAG  
Steven Nascimento, Field Representative, Office of Congressman Cardoza  
Heidi Pedrozo, District Scheduler, Office of Congressman Cardoza



- 3:00 pm**                    **Aram Kailian, Leo A. Daly Construction**  
1201 Connecticut Ave, NW, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
202-955-3213
- 4:00 pm**                    **Bridget Petruczok & Denise Braemer**                    **All**  
Senator Barbara Boxer's Office  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
202-224-3553  
VSA Staff: Thane Young & Laura Morgan
- FY11 Appropriations (Los Banos Bypass, Campus Parkway & Atwater-Merced Expressway)
  - High speed rail
- 5:00 pm**                    **Ryan Hunt**                    **All**  
Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
202-224-3841  
VSA Staff: Thane Young & Laura Morgan
- FY11 Appropriations (Los Banos Bypass, Campus Parkway, Atwater-Merced Expressway, Merced Streams & Rural Health Services Access)
- 6:00 pm**                    ***Dinner at TenPehn (sponsored)***                    **All**  
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
(202) 393-4500  
Reservation under Jesse Brown

Tuesday, March 9

- 8:45 am**                    **Department of Housing and Urban Development\***                    **All**  
451 7th Street, S.W, Room 10106  
POC: Raul Alvillar 202-402-4815  
VSA Staff: Thane Young & Laura Morgan  
**\*Must bring ID**
- Foreclosure issue
- 10:00 am**                    **Eugenia Bettis, USDA Rural Development**  
Wing 1 entrance at 12th and Independence SW  
202-260-1886
- 10:00 am**                    **Rich Stombres (education)**  
Van Scoyoc Associates  
101 Constitution Ave NW, Suite 600 W  
202-638-1950
- 11:30 am**                    **Lunch at B Smith's (sponsored)**                    **All**  
50 Massachusetts Ave NE  
(202) 289-6188

- |                |  |            |
|----------------|--|------------|
| <b>1:00 pm</b> | <p><b>Eric Swedlund (transportation &amp; water)</b><br/> Governor Schwarzenegger's Office<br/> Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol Street NW<br/> 202-624-5270<br/> VSA Staff: Laura Morgan<br/> *Bring ID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High speed rail</li> <li>• Water issues</li> </ul>   | <b>All</b> |
| <b>1:30 pm</b> | <p><b>Yves Springuel &amp; Geri Turner, Mancini-Duffy</b><br/> 1627 K Street NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor<br/> 202- 463-2355</p>   |            |
| <b>2:00 pm</b> | <p><b>Roger Cockrell (Merced Streams)</b><br/> Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee<br/> 184 Dirksen Senate Office Building<br/> (202) 224-8119</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merced Streams</li> </ul>  |            |
| <b>3:30 pm</b> | <p><b>Kristin Wikelius (health) &amp; Olyvia Rodriguez (education)</b><br/> Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office<br/> 331 Hart Senate Office Building<br/> 202-224-3841<br/> VSA Staff: Laura Morgan or Mark Nicholson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care issues (rural health &amp; mental health Needs)</li> <li>• Education issues (reauthorization of ESEA &amp; Federal funding for education mandates)</li> </ul> |            |

Wednesday, March 10

- |                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| <b>9:00 am</b>  | <p><b>Bill Farrell, JM ZELL Company</b><br/> 1900 K Street NW, Suite 850<br/> 202-682-8722</p>  |            |
| <b>10:30 am</b> | <p><b>Eugene Cornelius, Small Business Administration</b><br/> ADDRESS PENDING</p>  |            |
| <b>11:00 am</b> | <p><b>Ada Benavides (Merced Streams)*</b><br/> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers<br/> 441 G Street, NW<br/> (202) 761-0415<br/> *bring ID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merced Streams</li> </ul> |            |
| <b>12:00 pm</b> | <p><b>Lunch on your own</b></p>   | <b>All</b> |

<b>1:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Photo with Congressman Cardoza</b> Steps of the Capitol on the House Side</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>1:30 pm</b>	<p><b>Congressman Cardoza</b> 1629 Longworth House Office Building 202-225-6131 VSA Staff: Thane Young &amp; Laura Morgan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY11 Appropriations (Los Banos Bypass, Campus Parkway, Atwater-Merced Expressway, Merced Streams &amp; Rural Health Services Access)</li> <li>• Merced County/Central Valley issues</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>
<b>2:30 pm</b>	<p><b>Assistant Secretary Brian McGowan</b> Economic Development Administration Address YTBD POC: Judy (202) 482-8175</p>	
<b>3:15 pm</b>	<p><b>Karen Quarles (education)*</b> Governor Schwarzenegger's Office Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol Street NW 202-624-5270 VSA Staff: Laura Morgan or Mark Nicholson <b>*Bring ID</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education issues (reauthorization of ESEA &amp; Federal funding for education mandates)</li> </ul>	
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<p><b>Madlyn Wohlman-Rodriguez</b> Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street SW, Suite 8226</p>	
<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Lynn Abramson (Merced Streams)</b> Senator Boxer's Office 112 Hart Senate Office Building (202) 224-3553</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merced Streams</li> </ul>	
<b>6:00pm</b>	<p><b>Dinner with Congressman Cardoza and Staff</b> Bistro Bis 15 E Street NW (202) 661-2700</p>	<b>All</b>

<b>Advocacy Issues</b>	<b>Request</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$8,000,000 for the nationally-significant Los Banos Bypass, from Highway 99 to I-101</li> <li>2. \$27,000,000 for Campus Parkway</li> <li>3. \$1,600,000 for the Atwater-Merced Expressway, the key to economic development, including 7,400 new jobs.</li> </ol>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish an economic disaster declaration for a development district in Merced County to improve access to, and provide additional scoring points for, grant applications for small business, new business parks infrastructure support, and alternative energy funding</li> <li>2. Establish an economic disaster zone for the entire San Joaquin Valley.</li> </ol>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$750,000 to improve mental health programs and to enhance allocations for existing health care programs that benefit those who do not have access/coverage.</li> <li>2. \$500,000 to improve allocations to the National Health Service Corps in Merced County to attract providers to the area and expand education programs for future health care workers.</li> </ol>
<b>Education</b>	<p>Rural Health Services Access Initiative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$725,000 to create and sustain Multiple Career Pathways at Pacheco High School in Los Banos.</li> <li>2. \$400,000 to establish one preschool classroom at sixteen elementary campuses.</li> </ol>
<b>Water</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request legislation to change the “wild and scenic” designation of the Merced River to allow modification to the Exchequer Dam Spillway</li> <li>2. Support Merced Irrigation District’s request for a hydroelectric license renewal</li> <li>3. \$500,000 for a Streams Flood Control project</li> </ol>
<b>High Speed Rail</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support California’s effort to build a High Speed Rail system.</li> <li>2. Support the San Joaquin Valley as the only area in the nation where HSR can be tested at full speed.</li> </ol>

## One Voice Successes

One Voice advocates for regional issues that benefit most, if not all, communities. While monetary benefits are often looked at as a measure of the program, there are other success points that can not be easily measured. These include relationship-building with legislators and their staff and key staff of state/federal agencies, discovering new funding programs through face-to-face communication with agencies, increasing our knowledge of the political process, and increasing legislators' knowledge and understanding of the needs and characteristics of Merced County. Finally, the internal networking within the group has been a benefit cited by many One Voice participants.

### 2005

- \$1.5 million for engineering of Campus Parkway
- \$1.4 million for environmental study of the Hilmar Interchange, initiated by Supervisor Kelsey
- \$125,000 for small business training throughout the county

One Voice also lent our support to intensive advocacy efforts by other groups, which resulted in the following:

- \$1.67 million for the Grasslands Drainage Project to save 100,000 acres of farmland near Los Banos & Dos Palos, from the Bureau of Reclamation
- \$4 million for the Upper San Joaquin River storage project, from the Bureau of Reclamation

### 2006

- \$400,000 for next phase of studies for Campus Parkway

### 2007

- \$500,000 for Los Banos Bypass
- \$100,000 for the City of Gustine for improvements to the city's water system

### 2008

- \$110,000 to establish a Regional Certified Economic Development Strategy for the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley
- Enlisted Congressman Cardoza's help to secure a Health Professionals Shortage Area (HPSA) designation, after applications stalled at the state level. This designation allows monetary incentives to attract medical providers.

### 2009

- \$420,000 for the Merced Union High School District's Engineering Academy model program
- \$950,000 for the Los Banos Bypass – begin construction of segment 1
- Funding reinstated (\$29 million) after “freeze” to complete construction of Pacheco High School
- \$130,000 for technology training and business assistance for entrepreneurs, and capacity building to attract new businesses
- Approval to become a County Organized Health System that allows local agencies to provide Medi-Cal reimbursements.