



At a glance (August 2008)

- ***City of Merced Approves Service and Enterprise Zone Management Agreements***
- ***Draft CEDS reviewed by Board of Supervisors and Dos Palos Council***
- ***Gustine Hosts Enterprise Zone Seminar August 27th***
- ***MCEDCO staff attend IEDC Financing Real Estate Seminar***
- ***Forty outreach contacts and nine new project leads identified in August.***

Upcoming: Federal and State Basic Payroll Tax Seminar – Thursday October 9th, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at Merced City Hall. For Info Call: 866-873-6083

- The City of Merced acted on the recommendation of the local Economic Development Advisory Committee and approved a service agreement with MCEDCO on August 18, 2008. A second agreement related to management of the Merced County Enterprise Zone was also approved. The City endorsed the continued interaction with MCEDCO resulting in increased activity related to business missions, small business assistance and an aggressive campaign to facilitate the new Enterprise Zone for Merced County.
- The Merced County Board of Supervisors reviewed the proposed Merced County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) on August 19, 2008. The Board reviewed issues, priorities and suggested projects and scheduled the CEDS for a public hearing September 16th prior to submission of the document by MCEDCO to the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). MCEDCO presented the CEDS to the City of Dos Palos Council that evening and encouraged the City to contribute comments prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure that they were represented. The CEDS will help the cities and county of Merced access federal funding for projects that facilitate new business and job creation.
- The City of Gustine, MCEDCO and the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment hosted an information seminar on August 27th for local business to learn more about the new enterprise zone. The City is now included in the EZ enabling area businesses to capitalize on tax credits and other zone benefits.
- MCEDCO staff attended the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) seminar "Financing Real Estate and Redevelopment" on August 7th and 8th in Monterey, CA. The event offered strategic and creative insight to evaluating real estate transactions and negotiating with developers. The course is a prerequisite for professional economic development certification (CEcD).
- Staff interacted with forty business decision makers in August as outreach efforts continued. Nine new project leads were received and four site tours were accommodated. Two of the site tours were specifically interested in developing commercial entertainment facilities in Los Banos and Merced.