



## *At a glance (January 2009)*

- Economic stimulus triggers identification of strategic projects
- ADE consultant selected for San Joaquin Valley CEDS project
- CCEDC Mission to Sacramento brokers
- USDA staff offer insight and direction for accessing funds
- Enterprise Zone presentation to Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Twenty-one contacts for initial and follow up activities with three new prospects.

### *Upcoming: Regional economic development strategies in a depressed economy retreat*

- MCEDCO has requested its partners to identify specific economic development projects that could commence in 2009 that might effectively compete for economic stimulus funding. Staff of USDA and EDA are particularly interested in job generating and business support projects with the understanding that large scale transportation and public facilities requests will be directed through different channels.
- Applied Development Economics (ADE) was selected as the consultant to prepare a valley wide Comprehensive economic Development Strategy (CED) and develop the format for a new Economic development District (EDD). The regional CEDS and EDD are anticipated to enable the valley communities to more effectively compete for EDA funds.
- The Central California Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) continued its outreach efforts with a business mission on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> contacting brokers, developers and investors in the Sacramento area.
- MCECCO staff met with USDA staff January 28<sup>th</sup> continuing efforts to position the Merced region to secure funding for viable projects. In addition to three specific applications for business, USDA requested MCEDCO apply for Intermediary Lending Loan funds to create a new revolving loan fund in the county to assist rural small business.
- Staff provided an overview of MCEDCO and the Enterprise Zone to the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- MCEDCO contacts resulted in three new prospects during the month.