



## *At a glance (May 2008)*

- CCEDC completes another mission to brokers in LA May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> .
- Merced office of USDA identifies programs for infrastructure and facilities development to representatives of Gustine, Los Banos and Winton.
- Los Banos' small business and entrepreneur support program completes two financing workshops and acknowledges County Bank sponsorship.
- County GPU and CEDS status presented to Board of Supervisors May 13<sup>th</sup> .
- Merced EDAC Reviews MCEDCO activities May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Outreach efforts made 41 contacts and recorded 8 project leads.

### *Upcoming:*



- MCEDCO staff joined the CCEDC business mission to the Los Angeles market area on May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> . Seven meetings with brokers, location consultants and prospective investors were completed. The central valley is viewed as a cost effective alternative for California firms considering relocation from the LA area but emphasized that statewide regulations, policies and business attitude must still be addressed.
- At the direction of USDA staff in Washington DC during April's One Voice mission, a follow up meeting with the local office in Merced was held May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Representatives of Gustine, Los Banos and Winton, MCEDCO and Congressman Cardoza discussed various USDA programs and reviewed eligibility criteria as a precursor to new applications for federal funds to support business development, infrastructure and community facilities. Projects in Atwater and Dos Palos were also presented.
- A business planning workshop was completed on May 8<sup>th</sup> as a component of the Los Banos microenterprise program. The event was exclusively for TIG "target income group" eligible participants. A second event was held May 29<sup>th</sup> organized by the Lyles Center for Entrepreneurship of CSU Fresno and supported by County Bank, the City of Los Banos and the Chamber of Commerce along with MCEDCO.
- On May 13<sup>th</sup> the consultants preparing the Merced County General Plan Update presented an overview of the GPU status to a joint session of the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The various elements and growth options continue to evolve and will be the subject of considerable scrutiny in the coming months. Earlier that day MCEDCO provided the Board of Supervisors with an overview of the county-wide comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) which may assist in implementing the vision espoused in the County's next general plan.
- The City of Merced EDAC reviewed the 2007-08 work plan and service agreement activities of MCEDCO as a precursor to consideration of contract renewal on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Continuing external outreach through business missions was endorsed.