



At a glance (November 2008)

- EDA seeking construction projects for 2009
- USDA regional director offers program suggestions "green projects"
- CCEDC Pack Expo and mission in Chicago
- CDBG Grant Training for Business Assistance Programs
- Sixteen business contacts and seven new project leads, with two site tours

Upcoming: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce "Investment Opportunities in a Down Economy Event" Planned for January 20, 2009

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- The Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) in anticipation of new stimulus funds is requesting communities to identify and consider seeking funding for construction projects that can start in 2009. A broad array of public infrastructure projects may be eligible for funds. MCEDCO has requested cities and county staff to forward ideas and suggestions for viable projects that may help kick start economic development.
 - MCEDCO staff met USDA Regional Director Chuck Clendenin and Phil Brown to review Rural Business Development grants and funding opportunities for investment in energy efficiency and green technology. USDA is increasing efforts to facilitate projects in the valley, in part attributed to the above noted stimulus initiatives, but also in response to local outreach and requests by cities and business for assistance.
 - MCEDCO staff attended the Pack Expo Trade Show and participated with the CCEDC business outreach mission in Chicago November 7th to 13th. The mission contacted eleven brokers and site selection consultants and the trade show was focused on the food processing and packaging sector. Four leads have evolved from the event.
 - Staff attended a workshop in Marina on November 7th focusing on CDBG applications for 2009 for business assistance programs. The City of Los Banos is seeking funding to continue its small business and entrepreneur training programs using MCEDCO and various subcontractors to encourage start-ups and respond to existing business concerns.
 - MCEDCO staff recorded sixteen contacts through local meetings and follow up activities with business and government officials during the month. Seven new leads were generated and two site tours were conducted.