



At a glance ...

- Site selectors meetings enhance One Voice economic development outreach in Washington DC.
 - Visioning and strategic planning workshop helps focus MCEDCO's direction and programs.
 - CCEDC Awarded \$225,000 from California Partnership for San Joaquin Valley to expand regional economic development activities. http://www.sjvpartnership.org/e-blast/03_29_07
 - Revised map of Merced County Enterprise Zone nearing completion
 - Seven new project leads were generated in March and two site tours were completed.
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- MCEDCO participated with the One Voice Mission coordinated by MCAG to Washington DC March 25th through 29th. In addition to meetings with elected officials and legislative staff MCEDCO and the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a series of meetings with seven site selection consultants and real estate investors as well as the commercial officers of the governments of Japan and China. A reception for the One Voice delegation and local guest was held March 27, 2007 on Capitol Hill.
 - On March 23rd the Board of Directors and invited guests of MCEDCO held a strategic planning workshop to review the vision and direction of the organization. The event was facilitated by WR Collaborative in conjunction with the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED). A key outcome of the workshop was education and awareness building with the region's economic development partners to clarify the role of MCEDCO in facilitating investment and wealth generation. Board members propose convening a series of workshops with local elected officials to define realistic expectations and reinforce collaborative efforts.
 - The Central California Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) was awarded a \$225,000 SEED grant from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to expand marketing activities and economic development outreach. MCEDCO represent the interests of the cities and county of Merced as a board member of the CCEDC. The CCEDC revised program will increase the number a geographic range of business missions and improve its data base and collateral materials to enhance its image and help brand the central valley as a preferred area for new investment.
 - The State of California Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department presented direction to complete the final mapping of a modified enterprise zone for Merced County. Although nearly the entire county was eligible for designation, HCD requested that the zone area be reduced. MCEDCO crafted a rationale for a new zone that eliminated wetlands, foothills and environmentally sensitive areas while maintaining maximum flexibility to accommodate new investment in urban areas and from agricultural processing facilities. Staff at MCAG are finalizing the modified zone map, and Quad Knopf is completing the final stages of the environmental impact report.
 - Nine new project files were opened by MCEDCO staff in March. Two site tours were completed. MCEDCO initiated twenty-three business contacts during the month.