



## *At a glance (November 2007)*

- MCEDCO and the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manufacturing Summit November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Regional economic developers met with site consultants and real estate developers in Chicago to discuss commercial and retail development opportunities November 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Executive Committee conducted an insightful meeting with UC Merced Chancellor Kang to promote interaction and focus marketing efforts towards technology and innovation.
- The CEDS Strategy Committee meeting was completed November 28<sup>th</sup>; EDA staff requested planning grant applications for Atwater and Los Banos projects for 2008
- CCEDC industrial outreach campaign contacted 376 southern California business by direct mail with a follow up mission planned in January as part of the Westpack Trade Show
- Forty contacts made and five project leads were generated.

### *Upcoming: Lt. Governor John Garamendi to Address MCEDCO Annual Meeting December 13, 2007*

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Manufacturing Summit was held at the Merced County Fairgrounds November 1<sup>st</sup>. The event offered an overview of manufacturing activity in the State and throughout Merced County, followed by discussion of topical issues such as food safety certification, preparing for pandemic influenza. Representatives of the State presented a summary of tax exempt project financing options, and the audience was provided an update on the Regional Enterprise Zone for Merced County.
- MCEDCO and its marketing partner CCEDC organized another business mission to meet site location consultants and real estate investors in tandem with the Cities of Los Banos and Merced November 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> in Chicago and completed twelve meetings or contacts with site location experts were complete, and one industry meeting.
- MCEDCO's Executive Committee met with UC Merced Chancellor Steve Kang on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff provided an overview of MCEDCO and outlined current activities, issues and priorities stressing that MCEDCO's collaborative marketing strategy and general work plan evolved from input of its city and county partners. All parties agreed that the current focus was appropriate, with emphasis on commercializing technology and innovation leading to entrepreneurship and small business activity. The possible UC med school is

anticipated to boost life sciences and biotechnology, and UC Merced faculty such as Dr. Winston would be an asset to solar projects.

- The CEDS Strategy Committee was held November 28<sup>th</sup>. MCEDCO staff provided an overview of the Purpose and Background of the CEDS Strategy Committee to the Committee. The CEDS will analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The Committee is responsible for developing, revising, or replacing the CEDS. Committee was informed that if changes or revisions are made that are different from what the EDA has outlined as required than it will impede the CEDS process.
- Five project leads were generated during November, although forty contact s were made with business and investment firms.