



At a glance (September 2007)

- **Los Banos and Atwater endorse CEDS priorities and focus on infrastructure**
- **Legislative changes impacting economic development and financing for infrastructure discussed at EDC summit in Sacramento**
- **Joint Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting at Multicultural Arts Center**
- **Manufacturing outreach activities identify new projects and promote Enterprise Zone**
- **New staff joins MCEDCO**
- **Four project leads generated; one site tour completed.**

Upcoming: Manufacturing Summit, Thursday November 1, 2007

- Staff presented an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) issues and priorities to the City Council's in Los Banos and in Atwater. Each community approved the economic development focus stressing infrastructure, manufacturing, small business and downtown revitalization.
- Staff attended the annual CALED sponsored EDC summit in Sacramento on September 26th. The event focused on statewide issues impacting economic development. A key component of the event was input from staff of the Lieutenant Governor on the California Commission on Economic Development who explained the draft mission of the Commission. Staff from the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy identified significant pending legislation affecting small business and also reviewed possible funding sources for economic development related infrastructure through CalPers and CalSTRS.
- MCEDCO convened a joint Executive Committee and Board of Directors quarterly meeting at the Multicultural Arts Center in Merced on September 20th. Key topics of discussion addressed participation in the One Voice program, the status of the Enterprise Zone and implementation of the EDA CEDS

- Area manufacturing businesses continue offer their concerns and possible investment plans to MCEDCO staff during our outreach efforts. MCEDCO is averaging 6 - 8 meetings per month explaining the new enterprise zone and responding to information requests.
- MCEDCO welcomes Ashley Leffard and Dena Buhler to the organization. Ms. Leffard is the new Marketing Officer and will focus on implementing the CEDS process and supporting ongoing programs and events. Ms. Buhler is the new Executive Assistance and will endeavor to keep the organization running smoothly.
- Four project leads were generated during September. One site tour was completed by a representative of BNSF with a client seeking a 40 acre parcel.