



At a glance (April 2008)

- **Congressman Cardoza announces \$110,000 grant to MCEDCO to formulate valley wide strategy and new economic development district**
- **USDA identified funding encourages applications from Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine and Los Banos during One Voice mission to Washington DC**
- **The Staubach Company to meet with Los Banos and explore innovate options to advance municipal projects and recruit private investment**
- **MCEDCO marketing committee outlines outreach tactics for 2008-09**
- **Outreach efforts made 41 contacts and recorded 19 project leads.**

Upcoming: Free basic payroll tax seminar May 8th at Sam Pipes Room, Merced City Hall – 9:30AM to 3:30PM. Contact 1-866-873-6083 for reservations

- Congressman Dennis Cardoza, 18th District announced a \$110,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to MCEDCO to formulate valley wide comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) and new economic development district (EDD). The grant will help position the San Joaquin Valley to secure federal funding for infrastructure and to leverage private investment.
- In support of the MCAG One Voice mission to Washington DC April 20th - 24th Congressman Cardoza arranged a meeting with key staff of the USAD. Representatives from the cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine and Los Banos as well as MCEDCO discussed the challenges and constraints of the County and sought advice on securing USDA support. Each community identified a specific business jeopardized by economic factors, urban encroachment or other impediments. USDA staff outlined several programs that could address the concerns raised by the cities and advocated meeting with the local office to initiate further actions.
- Supplementing meetings with public officials and agencies, MCEDCO again coordinated a business mission as part of the One Voice trip to Washington DC. MCEDCO and representatives of the city of Los Banos along with the Central California Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) conducted ten meetings and participated in the National Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) conference. An immediate result of the missions is a meeting arranged between The Staubach Company and officials of Los Banos to explore innovative options to finance and develop municipal projects and recruit private investment. Public/private partnerships were noted as an objective of the Governor during the One Voice mission to Sacramento in February, and have been advocated by MCEDCO for many years.
- MCEDCO's marketing subcommittee met April 16th to review activities and discuss new initiatives for the coming year. By participating with the CCEDC MCEDCO has leveraged in resources and participated in a program that has contacted over 2,000 businesses resulting in dozens of meetings with site selection consultants and real estate investors across the USA. Locally MCEDCO has interacted with hundreds of businesses by promoting the enterprise zone and responding to investment inquiries.
- MCEDCO outreach efforts contacted 41 businesses and decision makers, and staff recorded 19 project leads in April.