



At a glance (February 2008)

- **Congressman Dennis Cardoza confirmed as guest speaker for Enterprise Zone reception**
- **One Voice mission to Sacramento focuses attention of infrastructure and prevailing wages**
- **Broker mission to Sacramento precedes One Voice and generates location inquiry**
- **CEDS Strategy Committee reviews progress and new grant applications**
- **CCEDC reports 1,800 business outreach contacts in implementing California Partnership economic development program**

Upcoming: Regional Enterprise Zone of Merced County “kick off” Reception March 25th at Branding Iron, Merced

- Congressman Dennis Cardoza, 18th District will address local business leaders at the inaugural kick off reception for the regional Enterprise Zone of Merced County on March 25th. The event has gained the support of local business organizations, including the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce and Merced Boosters and will help raise awareness, and funds to sustain the benefits of the enterprise zone for local businesses.
- MCEDCO participated with the One Voice mission to Sacramento February 11th – 14th meeting with legislators and State officials. The economic development focus requested a San Joaquin Valley “prevailing wage” rate as well as support for infrastructure to assist in developing sites and facilities enabling the cities and county of Merced to compete for new investment projects.
- MCEDCO and representatives from the City of Los Banos took advantage of the One Voice mission and contacted site selection consultants and real estate brokers in Sacramento to promote the region and development opportunities. The meetings yielded immediate results as one broker is currently seeking sites for a large retail oriented client and expressed specific interest in Los Banos.
- The CEDS Strategy Committee met February 20th in Merced to review the progress of the CEDS. Much of the research and demographic analysis has been completed and four cities have officially endorsed the proposed strategy. MCEDCO’s Executive Committee directed staff to request an opportunity to present the CEDS to the Merced County Board of Supervisors and seek input, insight and direction from the Board to ensure that County priorities are included within the CEDS. The Executive Committee will continue efforts to encourage Dos Palos and Livingston to participate. Staff reported that EDA has request two new applications for federal funding, an early indication that the CEDS process will yield results.
- External marketing activities for MCEDCO are coordinated with the Central California Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) to leverage resources and extend the reach and impact of initiatives on behalf of the communities in Merced County. CCEDC’s efforts are further enhanced through implementation of the California Partnership’s SEED grant. In the past six months direct mail followed by six business missions, two trade shows and two conferences have resulted in over 1,800 direct contacts with business. Eighty two meetings have been conducted with location consultants promoting advantages of the central valley.