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BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

September 22, 2006

Mr. Trinidad Rodriguez
Chairman Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

We are writing to request your review and comment on the Draft Strategic Action Proposal from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) titled *The San Joaquin Valley: California's 21st Century Opportunity*.

The Partnership is an unprecedented effort to focus attention on the needs of the San Joaquin Valley and to work with local elected officials and civic leaders to achieve the brightest future possible for the region.

Enclosed is an Executive Summary of the Draft Strategic Action Proposal which will be considered for final adoption by the Partnership Board on Thursday, October 26, 2006, beginning at 1 PM, at California State University, Fresno, Smittcamp Alumni House. The complete report is available on the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH) website: www.bth.ca.gov

We welcome both written comments submitted in advance and/or public testimony on October 26th. We are requesting statements of "support in concept" with recommendations for proposed amendments or additions. Enclosed is a form for your convenience to provide feedback.

In the next few weeks, Partnership Board Members will be briefing elected officials and civic leadership organizations about the Strategic Action Proposal. We hope you will have the opportunity to attend one of these events. You may also request a presentation for your organization by contacting Ms. Belen Torres at BTH (916-323-5401).

We welcome your feedback and comments. And, we look forward to continuing to work together for a brighter future for the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sunne Wright McPeak".

Sunne Wright McPeak

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Conway".

Supervisor Connie Conway

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fritz Grupe".

Fritz Grupe

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
Draft Strategic Action Proposal

The San Joaquin Valley: California's 21st Century Opportunity

Executive Summary

The San Joaquin Valley—comprised of the eight counties of Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin, with sixty-two cities and more than 3.4 million residents—has a long history of contributions to the success of California. Although it is recognized worldwide as an agriculture powerhouse and is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, it also is one of the most challenged in comparison to the rest of the state:

- Average per capita incomes are 32.2% lower.
- College attendance is consistently 50% below the average.
- Violent crime is 24% higher.
- Access to healthcare is 31% lower.
- Air quality is among the worst in the nation.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger established the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) by Executive Order in June 2005 in an unprecedented effort to focus attention on the needs of the region. As the Governor stated in the Executive Order, "The strength of California is tied to the economic success of the San Joaquin Valley." Through the year 2030, the growth rate of the region is projected to be 65% higher than the state average. How effectively the region accommodates this growth will be an important determinant of California's future.

The Partnership Board includes twenty-six members appointed by the Governor—eight Cabinet Secretaries, eight locally-elected officials, eight civic leaders, and two Deputy Chairs—plus five liaisons to major policy bodies. The Governor directed preparation of a Strategic Action Proposal by the end of October 2006 for long-term economic prosperity and well-being in the San Joaquin Valley. To accomplish this assignment, the Partnership: formed ten Work Groups (Economic Development; Higher Education and Workforce Development; K-12 Education; Transportation; Land Use, Agriculture and Housing; Air Quality; Water; Energy; Health and Human Services; and Advanced Communications Services and Information Technology); coordinated activities with the Federal Interagency Task Force; conducted Public Forums and Roundtables with Local Elected Officials in each of the eight counties; and consulted the State Legislators and Members of Congress from the Valley. More than 1,000 people participated in the Work Groups and Public Forums.

The Strategic Action Proposal—*The San Joaquin Valley: California's 21st Century Opportunity*—sets forth overall strategies and specific actions with accompanying indicators to measure progress. It builds on the existing strengths and addresses the current challenges to achieve a Prosperous Economy, Quality Environment, and Social Equity—the "3Es" of sustainable growth. It embraces and enhances the assets that define and unify the region—such as the San Joaquin River and Highway 99—as leading strategies to attract investment. It recognizes the Valley's heritage of agriculture as the foundation for economic growth and forges new frontiers for prosperity by identifying five key industry clusters to target for development: (1) Agribusiness, including Food Processing, Agricultural Technology, and Biotechnology; (2) Manufacturing; (3) Supply Chain Management and Logistics; (4) Health and Medical Care; and (5) Renewable Energy.

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
Strategic Action Proposal
 Summary of Major Recommendations and Strategic Actions
(September 15, 2006)

Recommendation	Strategic Actions	Indicators
1. Grow a Diversified, Globally-Competitive Economy Supported by a Highly-Skilled Workforce	▪ Align region-wide economic development efforts in support of target industry clusters: (1) Agribusiness, including Food Processing, Agricultural Technology, and Biotechnology; (2) Manufacturing; (3) Supply Chain Management and Logistics; (4) Health and Medical Care; and (5) Renewable Energy. ▪ Identify and implement strategies and mechanisms for investments in infrastructure and incentives that support the economic vitality of the region. ▪ Create a dynamic, entrepreneur-producing economic climate. ▪ Accelerate the deployment and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including biofuels. ▪ Develop a coordinated, integrated program to promote tourism linked to rest stops, state parks and other destinations. ▪ Create a demand-driven workforce system including high quality vocational training and academic education that supports target clusters. ▪ Expedite access to and use of advanced communication services (ACS) and information technology in all communities.	↑ Per Capita and Median Household Income ↓ Unemployment ↓ Percent Families Below Poverty Line ↑ Agricultural Production and Crop Value ↑ Job Growth in Target Industries ↑ New Business Start-Ups ↑ Venture Capital Investments ↑ Issuance and Licensing of Patents ↑ Tourism Spending ↑ Enrollment In and Completion of Training/Education Beyond High School ↑ College Graduation Rates ↑ Education Attainment ↑ Access To and Use of ACS

	Recommendation Implement an Integrated Framework for Sustainable Growth	Strategic Actions	Indicators
3.		▪ Create a strategy for growth and conservation to 2050 through the Regional Blueprint Planning process. ▪ Encourage and support adoption of local General Plans consistent with Regional Blueprint Plan. ▪ Establish and implement conservation plans for important agriculture lands and significant resources and parks. ▪ Develop a long-range plan enhancing the vitality and sustainability of agriculture. ▪ Plan for and build housing to meet the needs of the region's population. ▪ Establish and implement an energy plan to optimize efficiencies and use of renewables for all sectors. ▪ Support the development and implementation of a balanced, comprehensive, integrated regional water plan and basin plans that optimize management and other efficiencies. ▪ Expand surface storage and conjunctive use programs. ▪ Enhance surface and groundwater quality to meet beneficial uses. ▪ Strengthen flood control and levee protection. ▪ Implement resource restoration projects for wetlands and rivers, with special attention to the San Joaquin River as a defining and unifying natural heritage for the region.	↑ Land Use Efficiency → Acres in Agricultural Production ↑ Open Space and Access to Public Land ↑ State Parks ↑ Housing Affordability ↑ Water Supply Reliability, Quality, and Efficiency ↑ Flood Protection ↓ Per Capita and Median Household Energy Use ↑ Percentage of Energy from Solar and Other Renewable Sources ↑ Environmental Restoration

6.	Recommendation Develop High-Quality Health and Human Services	Strategic Actions	Indicators
		▪ Improve workforce development and retention by providing incentives for difficult-to-recruit health and medical professionals. ▪ Establish a Central Valley Nursing Education Consortium. ▪ Establish a School of Medical Education at UC Merced connected to a network of health and medical facilities throughout the region. ▪ Develop mechanisms for counties to share technical and professional resources related to communicable disease case management. ▪ Support regional disease prevention and health promotion services. ▪ Develop and implement a regional plan to address the needs of the uninsured. ▪ Support and expand pro-active foster care prevention services. ▪ Develop and implement a pilot program for relative placement services. ▪ Develop and implement a methamphetamine law enforcement and prevention campaign. ▪ Support the development of outpatient and resident substance abuse treatment facilities. ▪ Facilitate the use of e-health tools and telemedicine technology to improve access to state-of-the-art healthcare and medical services.	↑ Access to Primary Care Physicians and Allied Health Professionals ↑ Primary Health and Wellness ↓ Asthma Rates ↓ Uninsured ↓ Drug-Related Convictions ↓ Caseloads for Children and Adults Requiring Welfare Services ↑ Relative Placements for Foster Care ↓ Foster Care Time to Permanence

September 20, 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We applaud the initiative taken by your administration to establish the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the inclusive process that has produced the recommendations outlined in the Partnership's Strategic Action Proposal for the Valley. The Proposal represents the efforts of literally hundreds of business, community, government and education leaders from throughout the eight-county region and addresses the many interconnected issues that contribute to economic vitality and quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley.

As you know, the San Joaquin Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in California. Within our eight counties are significant challenges, but just as many opportunities. We believe the future of California will be directed by the future of the San Joaquin Valley. Our region can continue to struggle with intense economic, environmental and social challenges, or we can act now and create a vibrant region that provides opportunity for its citizens, which is precisely the focus of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The support you have provided our region through the creation of the Partnership is deeply appreciated. Thank you for "loaning" your senior cabinet members to support the development of the Strategic Action Proposal. We are sincerely grateful.

Once again, please accept our support for the efforts of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. We look forward to working with the other civic leaders in the region to ensure the implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal.

Sincerely,

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
Draft Strategic Action Proposal**

The San Joaquin Valley: California's 21st Century Opportunity

RESPONSE FORM

Name of Organization or Individual _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail Address _____

We / I endorse in concept the Draft Strategic Action Plan: Yes _____ No _____

You may list our / my name as a supporter in concept: Yes _____ No _____

We / I plan to testify at the October 26th Public Hearing: Yes _____ No _____

Comments and/or Recommendations for Amendments or Additions:

Signature _____ Date _____

Title _____ Affiliation _____

Return to the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, 980 9th Street, Suite 2450, Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: (916) 323-5402

Attention: Belen Torres

