
**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13173 AS DECLARED BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

**YEAR END
ACTIVITY
REPORT -
FISCAL YEAR
2002**

**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

CONTENTS

**Ann M. Veneman, Secretary USDA
Letter to Task Force Members**

Area Map with Agency Offices

Task Force Agency Reports

Media Coverage

Task Force Activities and Events

Conference Photos

Fresno and Visalia

Acknowledgements

Task Force Chair

**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

SECRETARY ANN M. VENEMAN LETTER TO TASK FORCE MEMBERS



United States Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250



January 30, 2003

Interagency Task Force on Economic Development
Central San Joaquin Valley, California

Dear Task Force Members and Participants:

I am delighted that the Department of Agriculture is leading the implementation of President Bush's Executive Order designed to focus the efforts of multiple Federal agencies in strengthening economic development in the Central San Joaquin Valley. For your review, we have published a brief summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Interagency Task Force on Economic Development in the "2002 Year End Activity Report." On behalf of the President, I want to thank everyone who participated in the interagency task force.

The task force's mission of establishing a public/private partnership to enhance economic development remains vital. The Central Valley continues to face many economic challenges, but I am pleased to report that we are making progress. In fact, eight of the nine Rural Community Development Initiative grants announced last year went into this seven-county region.

We are proud of the work done to this point, and I am happy to hear of the successful meetings the task force has had in Fresno and Visalia.

All of us at the Department are committed to continuing our efforts to expand the economic opportunity and quality of life in the area. Paul Venosdel, State Director, is working hard to partner with the task force agencies and local organizations so that together, we can continue to make a positive difference.

Again, my thanks to the Interagency Task Force on Economic Development and best wishes for continued success in the coming year.

Sincerely,

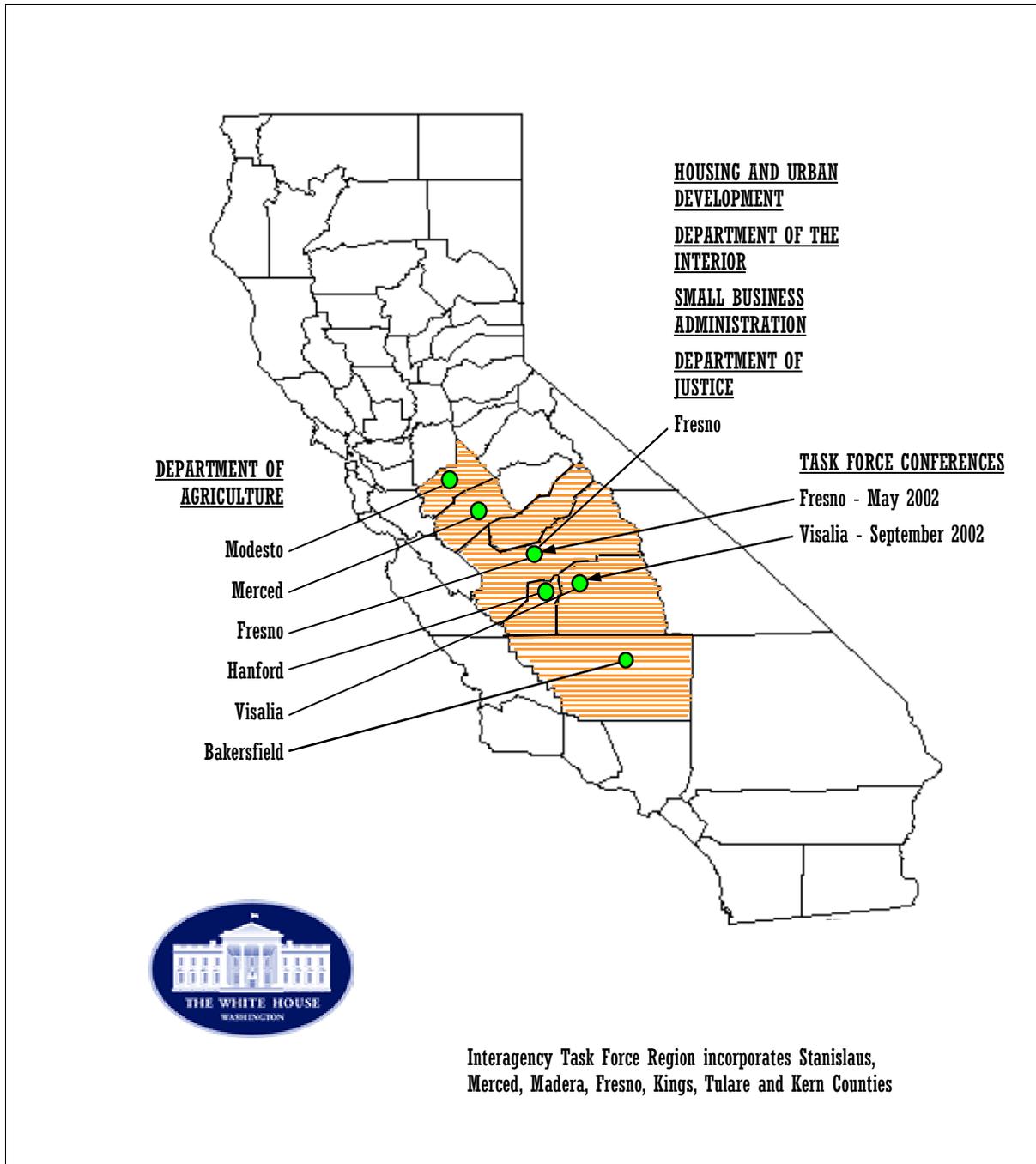
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann M. Veneman".

Ann M. Veneman
Secretary

An Equal Opportunity Employer

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

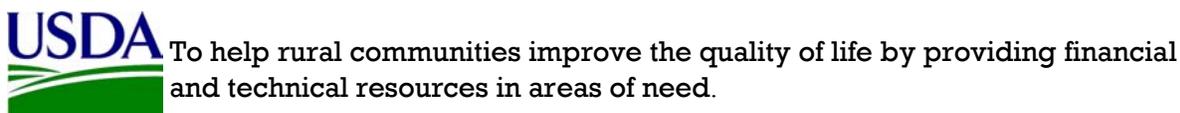
AREA MAP WITH AGENCY OFFICES



**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

TASK FORCE AGENCY REPORTS

USDA Rural Development, 2002 Chair— Mission, Activities and Events



ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

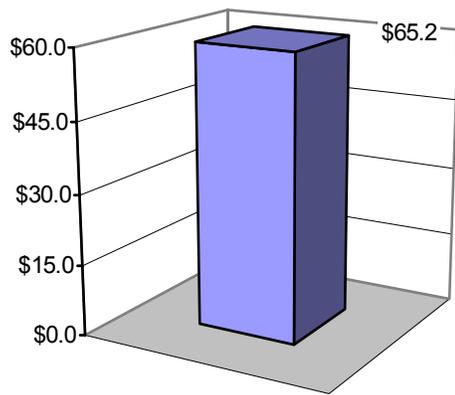
- Coordinated two Regional Conferences
 - Fresno in May 2002
 - Visalia in September 2002
- Set up Website for Interagency Task Force with assistance of California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation [www.californiacv.com/taskforce.htm]
- Created public information database of 1,200 interested institutions and individuals including local government and business leaders, economic development partners, private industry and community-based organizations, state and federal agency officials, news media, and minority organizations.
- Created a USDA-RD California Rural Community Development Newsletter that helps to communicate Interagency Task Force scope and mission.
- Focused communication efforts, outreach and processing efficiency for grants, loans and technical assistance for USDA-RD Housing, Business, Utilities and Community Facilities in the seven county region.
- Of the nine projects in California selected by the national office for Community Facilities Economic Impact Initiative Grants, eight of them were for projects in the Central San Joaquin Valley, totaling \$339,949.
- Total program funding reached \$65.2 million in region (see graph for jobs created, jobs saved, total housing units built and total number of end users.)
- Generated favorable news media coverage including stories or editorials in the following local papers: *Exeter Sun*, *Fresno Bee*, *Lindsay Gazette*, *Merced Sun Star*, *Vida en el Valle*, and the *Visalia Times Delta*.

Information Submitted by: Chris Sundstrom, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

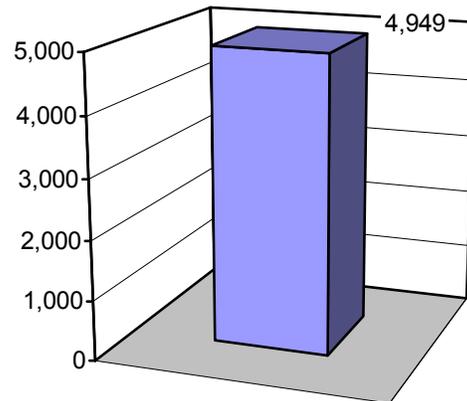
www.rurduv.usda.gov/ca

**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

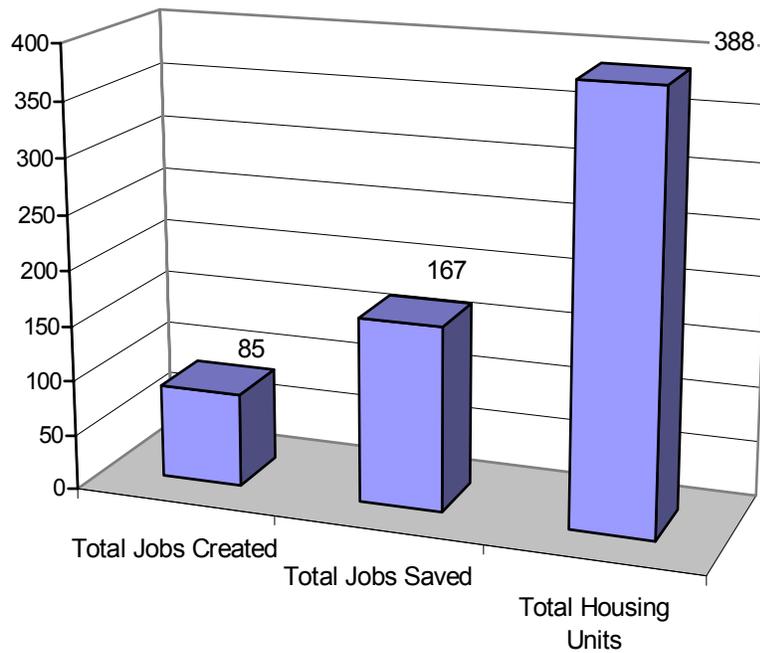
USDA Rural Development - 2002 Funding and Results for the Region



Total Area Funding [in \$ millions]



Total End Users



CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

US Department of Housing and Urban Development



The mission of HUD is to provide a decent, safe, and sanitary home and suitable living environment for every American. The Department does this by:

- Creating opportunities for homeownership
- Providing housing assistance for low-income persons
- Working to create, rehabilitate and maintain the nation's affordable housing
- Enforcing the nation's fair housing laws
- Helping the homeless
- Spurring economic growth in distressed neighborhoods
- Helping local communities meet their development needs

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- HUD is working closely with USDA, non-profit and faith-based partners in assisting six local communities, which are in various stages of developing affordable housing projects for farmworkers. (Arvin, Cutler, Kettleman City, Five Points, Farmersville, West Fresno).
- HUD, working with the Department of Health, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), organized health and housing fairs in which over 10,000 persons participated.

March 2002

West Fresno Community Fair; 300 attendees
Fresno Association of Realtor Homes Day 2002; 5,000 attendees

May 2002

Cooper Middle School Housing & Health Fair, Fresno; 700 attendees

June 2002

Hinton Center, Homeownership Month Outreach; 150 attendees

July 2002

Martin Luther King Community Fair; 200 attendees

August 2002

Housing and Health Fair at Fresno Grizzlies Stadium; 1000 attendees
Huron Family Fair; 2500 attendees
Orange Cove Health & Housing Fair; 275 attendees

September 2002

Habitat for Humanity Housing Event; 250 attendees
Hinton Center Housing and Health Fair in Fresno; 200 attendees
Parlier Health & Housing Fair; 200 attendees
Operation Stand Down Services Fair for Veterans; 200 attendees
Calwa Health and Housing Fair; 500 attendees.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) cont.

- HUD is working with local jurisdictions and faith and community based organizations to increase funding to reduce homelessness. This funding has increased from \$2 million to \$10 million in the total seven county jurisdiction covered by Continuums of Care.
- HUD is working with the Great Valley Center, the Central Valley Partnership, and the San Joaquin Valley Organizing Project to develop capacity of faith and community organizations throughout the seven county region. HUD has organized the San Joaquin Valley Community Development Corporation Network and the San Joaquin Valley Continuum of Care as regional mechanisms for working on the goals of the Empowerment Initiative.
- HUD has worked with the City of Fresno to develop an Empowerment Zone and has been working with the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, the Cities of Parlier, Orange Cove, and Huron, the Fresno Chamber, and the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation to establish a regional marketing plan for growing businesses and jobs for the region.
- HUD is working with Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund of Department of Treasury to assist in developing a Community Development Entity capable of using up to \$100 million of new market tax credit allocations for economic development projects in distressed communities.
- HUD has been a principle convener of the Southeast Asian community for the seven county empowerment region as part of the President's Asian American Pacific Islander Initiative.
- Three Rural Housing Grants were awarded for a total of \$650,000. What is significant in that out of nine awarded in California, three were awarded in the Central San Joaquin Valley. This is good and due to the outreach in areas the Federal Partnership is working with.

Information submitted by: Rollie Smith, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

www.hud.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

US Department of Commerce - Mission, Activities and Events



The Department of Commerce promotes job creation, economic growth, sustainable development and improved living standards for all Americans by working in partnership with business, universities, communities and workers to:

- Build for the future and promote U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace by strengthening and safeguarding the nation's economic infrastructure.
- Keep America competitive with cutting-edge science and technology and an unrivaled information base.
- Provide effective management and stewardship of the nation's resources and assets to ensure sustainable economic opportunities.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- Baseline Year of Fiscal Year 1999: Total Grant Amount: \$5.67 million*
*At the end of fiscal year 1998, Economic Development Administration (EDA) made a grant of \$3 million to the City of Fresno that would be expended at \$1 million in each of the next three years for the Roeding Business Park
- Fiscal Year 2000 – Total Grant Amount: \$11.7 million
- Fiscal Year 2001 – Total Grant Amount: \$12 million**
**Not counted in this amount is a grant of \$380,660 to the Golden State Capital Network to create an intensive educational program including an interactive Web site to help about twenty early-stage and high-growth-potential entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.
- Fiscal Year 2002 – Total Grant Amount: \$3.4 million
The EDA grants were used for technical assistance to small businesses on exporting; staff assistance to a community development corporation for mill site reuse; planning; engineering design; base reuse; infrastructure for a research and technology park; wastewater treatment plant expansion; a small business incubator; industrial park infrastructure; and the construction of a vocational training center.
- Expected to be funded early Fiscal Year 2003 is a grant of \$1.8 million to the Central Valley Business Incubator in Fresno County for the construction of a new building in downtown Fresno that will incubate businesses in targeted industry clusters important to the growth and diversification of Fresno County's economy.

Information submitted by: Deena Sosson, United States Department of Commerce, EDA

www.commerce.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

US Department of Education - Mission, Activities and Events



The Department of Education's mission is to:

- Strengthen the Federal commitment to assuring access to equal educational opportunity for every individual;
- Supplement and complement the efforts of states, the local school systems and other instrumentality's of the states, the private sector, public and private nonprofit educational research institutions, community-based organizations, parents, and students to improve the quality of education;
- Encourage the increased involvement of the public, parents, and students in Federal education programs;
- Promote improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through Federally supported research, evaluation, and sharing of information;
- Improve the coordination of Federal education programs;
- Improve the management of Federal education activities; and
- Increase the accountability of Federal education programs to the President, the Congress, and the public.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- Launched the Central Valley No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Performance Partnership on August 29, 2002. This partnership includes county and local school officials, representatives of the higher education community, the California Reading and Literature Project, Headstart, Reach Out and Read (Valley Children's Hospital), the Fresno Bee, public libraries, congressional offices, the Parent Teacher Associations, public television, and the mayor's office. Ongoing efforts are in place to enlist broad participation throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley. The focus of this partnership is the goal that all children in the Central San Joaquin Valley read proficiently by the end of grade three - a key element of the No Child Left Behind Act. Through working toward this goal, education will make a significant contribution to the economic development strategy of the initiative.
- Have also been to several town hall meetings presenting NCLB and the performance partnership in the cities of Modesto, Merced and Atwater.

Information submitted by: Mary Jane Pearson, United States Department of Education, Region 1

www.edu.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

US Environmental Protection Agency - Mission, Activities and Events



EPA's mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment -- air, water, and land -- upon which life depends. For 30 years, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. EPA provides leadership in the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. EPA works closely with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes to develop and enforce regulations under existing environmental laws. The Agency also works with industries and all levels of government in a wide variety of voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

Addressing Air Issues

- The USEPA has been very active in resolving and providing resources to address air quality issues in the Central San Joaquin Valley. As the area moves to an extreme ozone nonattainment classification, we are working closely with state and local officials to ensure the best science is used to develop an attainment plan. We have worked closely with agricultural stakeholders to develop enhanced procedures for developing emission reductions for new sources such as conversion of diesel irrigation pumps to less polluting sources. Additionally, we have worked closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to bring federal resources to farmers to help pay for the cost of these diesel pump conversions using Farm Bill funds. As a result of a settlement of a lawsuit requiring federal permitting of major agricultural sources of pollution, we have worked hard to develop a practical program with significant technical assistance. We continue to evaluate ways to streamline legal requirements focusing on bringing clean air to the Central San Joaquin Valley.
- Recently announced a major effort to address indoor air problems in the Fresno Unified School District. Provide technical and financial resources for schools to assess and address indoor air quality problems.
- Working with state and local officials to develop a plan to control sources of particulate matter. The Central San Joaquin Valley is a serious particulate matter nonattainment area. EPA has worked up front with farm groups, the air district, and the USDA to develop best management practices for control of dust from on-field operations, and is working with the USDA on a system where farmers can utilize existing USDA resource management systems for implementing the practices. A new plan is expected in March, 2003.

US Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cont.

Addressing Water Issues

- Region 9 has also been very active, in collaboration with the State, in addressing water issues in the Central San Joaquin Valley. Region 9 provided contract dollars for the State efforts to address the critical issue of expiring State waivers for agricultural dischargers. On December 5, 2002, the Central Valley Regional Board approved a two year extension of the waiver, which provides flexibility for producers to address water quality through local watershed efforts. In addition, Region 9 has been doing an *on-going* review of technical Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports from the State and has participated in numerous meetings with Agricultural (including the Farm Bureau) and public advisory groups. Region 9 also continues to be active in promoting the efforts of the Dairy Quality Assurance Program (DQAP), a broad collaboration of agency and industry stakeholders.

Addressing Pesticide Issues

- The EPA has spent a great deal of time and money working with California growers and commodity groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley and beyond to assure that they have the tools necessary to move forward with their operations as we make the changes mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act. The Regional Office provides nearly one half million dollars in grant funds and technical support to growers looking for alternatives to pesticides that may no longer be available because of chemical reviews under the Food Quality Protection Act.

Information submitted by: Kathy Taylor, United States Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

US Department of Interior - Mission, Activities and Events



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the U.S. Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. The Department's mission is:

- to encourage and provide for the appropriate management, preservation, and operation of the Nation's public lands and natural resources for use and enjoyment both now and in the future;
- to carry out related scientific research and investigations in support of these objectives;
- to develop and use resources in an environmentally sound manner, and provide an equitable return on these resources to the American taxpayer; and
- to carry out trust responsibilities of the U.S. Government with respect to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- The Bureau has stepped up outreach efforts due to the task force efforts.
- Sharing information on programs
- Assisted in networking efforts to connect people with needs to those people who can assist.

Information submitted by: Tracy Rowland, United States Bureau of Reclamation

www.doi.gov

**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

US Small Business Administration - Mission, Activities and Events



The U.S. Small Business Administration provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans worth more than \$45 billion, in addition to a venture capital portfolio of \$13 billion, SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Last year, the SBA offered management and technical assistance to more than one million small business owners. The SBA also plays a major role in the government's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans to both homeowners and businesses.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

Considering the vast economic challenges that we have throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley, access to capital for business startups and growth has been identified as a real critical element to improving the economic health of this area since it is the businesses that really create the new jobs needed. At the SBA we have taken this very seriously and over the last 5-6 years have worked very hard at being visible, proactive and responsive as a way to outreach and market our loan programs and other business assistance programs to the small businesses and resource partners in our area.

Within the seven county area specifically covered by this Executive Order we find significant lending growth from FY 2000 as follows:

FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
563 Loans/\$164.7 million	561 Loans/\$172.0 million	644 Loans/\$198.3 million

FY 2001 SBA assisted 48 businesses with loans totaling \$5.5 million and in FY 2002 SBA assisted 78 businesses with loans totaling \$7.5 million under this special program. These loans are included in the totals shown above.

In FY 2001 SBA took an existing pilot loan program, the Community Express Loan Program, and utilized the Executive Order initiative to support our nomination of additional lenders in the Central San Joaquin Valley to use this special program in an expanded manner in the counties included in the initiative. The Community Express Loan Program is not only a streamlined loan program but it is also very lender friendly and contains a technical assistance component to assist the business applicants/borrowers. The SBA has supported the initiative by being an active participant in all meetings and activities scheduled by the Interagency Taskforce. SBA has also briefed local congressional staffs on SBA programs including the HUBZone Program, which they have expressed interest in expanding throughout the full counties covered by the initiative.

Information submitted by: Ronald Truly, United States Small Business Administration

www.sba.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

US Department of Transportation - Mission, Activities and Events



The mission of the Department of Transportation is to serve the United States by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- Assisted North Fork investigate Scenic Byway funding and designation through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and CALTRANS.
- At the request of the Tulare County Redevelopment Agency, Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) requested expedited environmental review for a highway project in Tulare County. The FHWA complied by asking its environmental specialist to contact the Redevelopment Agency.
- At the request of the I-5 Business Corridor Consortium, we are helping to develop an alternative transportation funding strategy involving Employment Development Department training opportunities in the City of Fresno and Fresno Rural Transit. Activities are ongoing, and may include additional funding strategies and partnerships.
- Participated in the opening ceremonies for the Agricultural Industries Transportation Service, offered by the Kings County Transportation Authority, with funding from FTA and the California Department of Transportation.
- Met with City Manager for Orange Cove regarding an FHWA grant for circulation improvements and aesthetics of the town's Main Street. Follow up activities included discussion of the project with FHWA planning staff, as well as discussions with the Fresno Council of Governments. Activities are ongoing for the purpose of developing an expanded rural transit network.
- Attended the Task Force's Federal Resource Day in Visalia. As a result of the meeting, ongoing meetings and planning activities have been initiated with the cities of Hanford, Lemoore, and Madera. We have formed a network to share information about their Census designations as urbanized areas and new Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Met with representatives of the Tule River Indian Reservation concerning their 2002/2003 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant for a transit service from Porterville to the Eagle Mountain Casino. The shuttle would provide free employment transportation to Porterville residents working at the casino.
- Assisted the Palace Gaming Casino, Lemoore, develop a JARC grant for the 2003 application round.

US Department of Transportation (DOT) cont.

- Conducting research for the Cutler-Orosi School District, Sharon Heffelfinger, for the purpose of finding transportation to Reedley College from the Tulare and Fresno County areas. Initial discussions have been held with both Visalia Transit and Fresno Area Rural Transit.
- Regularly attending member of the Central San Joaquin Valley Interagency Taskforce.
- Managed and developed approximately 10 FTA grants for the Central San Joaquin Valley in 2002.

Information submitted by: Paul Page, United States Department of Transportation

www.dot.gov

**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**



US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Attorney General)

The mission of the Office of the Attorney General is to supervise and direct the administration and operation of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Bureau of Prisons, Office of Justice Programs, and the Offices of U.S. Attorneys and U.S. Marshals, which are all within the Department of Justice.

www.usdoj.gov



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

The Department of Defense provides military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of the United States. The President, in his constitutional role as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, is the senior military authority in the nation and as such is ultimately responsible for the protection of the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

www.defenselink.mil



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

The Department of Health and Human Services is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The Department includes more than 300 programs, covering a wide spectrum of activities and is the largest grant-making agency in the federal government, providing some 60,000 grants per year. HHS Medicare program is the nation's largest health insurer, handling more than 900 million claims per year. HHS works closely with state, local and tribal governments, and many HHS-funded services are provided at the local level by state, county or tribal agencies, or through private sector grantees.

www.hhs.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

The mission of the Department of the Treasury is to promote prosperous and stable American and world economies; manage the Government's finances; safeguard our financial systems; protect our Nation's leaders; secure a safe and drug-free America; and continue to build a strong institution.

www.ustreas.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



The Department of Energy's overarching mission is enhancing national security. Responsibility for accomplishing this mission is shared between four principle program lines:

- The National Defense Programs of the Department have four overriding priorities: insuring the integrity and safety of the country's nuclear weapons; promoting international nuclear safety; advancing nuclear non-proliferation; and, continuing to provide safe, efficient, and effective nuclear power plants for the United States Navy.
- The priorities of the Department's energy programs is to: increase domestic energy production; revolutionize the approach to energy conservation and efficiency; and, promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.
- The priorities of the Department's environmental programs are to: ensure that safety legacies of the Cold War are addressed and resolved and done so in a manner that does not impede future national security missions; and, to permanently and safely dispose the nation's radioactive wastes.
- The top priority of the Department's science program is the sponsorship of cutting-edge science and technology research and development that revolutionizes how we find, produce, and deliver energy.

www.doe.com

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY (ONDCP)



The White House Office National Drug Control Policy's principal purpose is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the Nation's drug control program. The goals of the program are to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences.

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Department of Labor fosters and promotes the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, protecting their retirement and health care benefits, helping employers find workers, strengthening free collective bargaining, and tracking changes in employment, prices, and other national economic measurements. In carrying out this mission the Department administers a variety of Federal labor laws including those that guarantee workers' rights to safe and healthful working conditions, a minimum hourly wage and overtime pay, freedom from employment discrimination, unemployment insurance, and other income support.

www.dol.gov



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)

OMB assists the President in the development and execution of his policies and programs. OMB has a hand in the development and resolution of all budget, policy, legislative, regulatory, procurement and management issues on behalf of the President. OMB is composed of divisions organized either by Agency and program area or by functional responsibilities.

www.whitehouse.gov/omb



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

The General Services Administration helps Federal agencies better serve the public by offering, at best value, superior workplaces, expert solutions, acquisition services and management policies. The Administration supports Federal employees wherever they work -- in an office building, a warehouse, a national forest, or a government car. GSA provides workspace, security, furniture, equipment, supplies, tools, computers, and telephones. GSA also provides travel and transportation services, manages the federal motor vehicle fleet, oversees telecommuting centers and federal child care centers, preserves historic buildings, manages a fine arts program, and develops, advocates, and evaluates government-wide policy

www.gsa.gov

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

2002 Media Coverage on Task Force Activities and Events

The Fresno Bee

Panel works for Valley jobs

Local, federal officials try to diversify economy.

June 1, 2002

Meeting: Panel pools resources

Panel members pool resources to help diversify economy.

Merced Sun-Star

Bush focused on improving Federal Program Services

Paul Venosdel, State Director of the USDA Rural Development, Energy, Labor, Transportation, Attorney General, the Directors of the National Drug Enforcement and Control Policy and the Office of

June 13, 2002

Lindsay Gazette

Task Force to improve access to federal programs in Central Valley

Will coordinate functions between public and private sector

Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare. Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. "President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann

June 12, 2002

THE EXETER SUN

Fed agencies collaborate to solve Valley problems

Councilman Bailey Hagar praises joint effort of 16 federal gov't agencies

By KAREN ELLAN
THE EXETER SUN

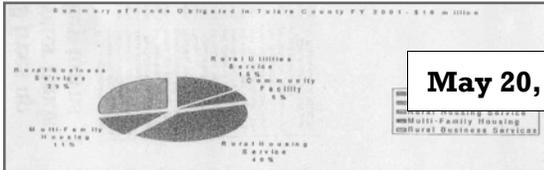
Normally Uncle Sam's right hand doesn't leave when the left is doing the main work, but the federal government's collaborative efforts have given the people in the Valley a reason to pat both hands together.

On May 31, representatives from 16 federal agencies, Congressman George Radanovich (R-Fresno) and Cal Doctor (D-Hanford), Fresno Mayor Alan Hagar and local elected officials convened in Fresno for the first meeting of the Central San Joaquin Valley Interagency Task Force.

One of the elected representatives in attendance was Exeter City Councilman Bailey Hagar, Jr. who was enthusiastic about the idea. "It's refreshing to see all the presidential candidates working together to solve problems," Hagar said. "It's really an all for one approach to problem solving."

The task force was authorized by the president with Executive Order 13175 on Oct. 25, 2000. The purpose of the task force is to "coordinate and improve existing Federal efforts for the Valley, to interact with local officials, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic performance" of the seven county area of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare counties. The first meeting was organized through the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division, Chris Sauerstein, community development division director.

June 26, 2002



May 20, 2002

United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development in Tulare County

VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

Valley's economy targeted

By Doug Abrahms
Times-Delta Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman officially activated

February 7, 2002

**CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

2002 Conference Photos - Fresno, May 2002; Visalia, September 2002



CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FEDERAL INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Acknowledgements

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the Central San Joaquin Valley Federal Interagency Economic Development Task Force.

This year we had two successful area-wide conferences for local and regional planners, providers and political leaders. We also created a database of over 1,200 persons and organizations to help us better communicate with interested parties. And with the help of the California Central Valley Economic Development Corporation, we launched a Task Force web site [www.californiacv.com/taskforce.htm], that will assist individuals in obtaining information from the government agencies involved in the Task Force.

Our foundation is solid and we are well prepared for future task force activities and events. It goes without saying that we would not have been as successful this year if it was not for the hard work and dedication of a strong group of supporters and participants. We are grateful for the assistance from:

Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman
Congressman George Radanovich (R-Fresno)
Congressman Cal Dooley (D-Hanford)
Congressman Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield)
City of Fresno Mayor Alan Autry
Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak
Tulare County Economic Development Corporation President / CEO Paul Saldana
USDA-Rural Development Program Director Chris Sundstrom
Tulare County Office of Education Project Director Randy Wallace
Johnny Amaral
Future Farmers of America
Conference Participants

Once again, thank you.



PAUL VENOSDEL
State Director
USDA-Rural Development
2002 Chairman, CSJVED Task Force