



**The Maddy Institute**  
*California State University, Fresno*

## Work with Governor's “California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley” Continues

The Maddy Institute continues to work with the Governor's *California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley*, generally, and the Air Quality Work Group, in particular.



Sen. Dean Florez meeting with the Air Quality Work Group on May 12 to discuss pending legislation at the State Capital.

On June 24, 2005 Governor Schwarzenegger signed an executive order establishing the *California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley*

(See: [www.bth.ca.gov](http://www.bth.ca.gov)).

Designed as a joint initiative between the public and private sectors and state and local leaders, the *Partnership* is comprised of eight state government members, eight local government members and eight private sector members. The *California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley* is chaired by Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing; Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Connie Conway; and private sector leader Fritz Grupe.

The purpose of the *Partnership* is several-fold:

- Identify projects and programs that will best utilize public dollars and most quickly improve the economic vitality of the Valley;
- Work with the members of the state's Congressional delegation and federal officials to gain federal support for priority projects identified by the *Partnership*;
- Partner with the University of California, California State University, community colleges and other research and educational institutions and private foundations to provide guidance and support of studies of particular interest and importance to the Valley.

- Review state policies and regulations to ensure they are fair and appropriate for the state's diverse regions, including the Valley, and determine whether alternative approaches can accomplish goals in more efficient ways;
- Recommend to the Governor changes that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life its residents; and
- Develop by October 31, 2006 a "San Joaquin Valley Strategic Action Proposal" that provides recommendations to improve the economic conditions of the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to its final report to be completed by October 31, 2006, the *Partnership* is charged with providing preliminary recommendations for improving the region to the Governor in December 2005.

There are eight "working groups" that will gather experts and stakeholders from throughout the region to develop action plans in priority areas. While the working groups' recommendations will be compiled into the comprehensive action plan (the "San Joaquin Valley Action Proposal") to be presented to the Governor by October 31, 2006, they will also advance individual recommendations as they are ready for consideration by the *Partnership*. The initial list of working groups includes:

- Transportation and Highway 99
- Economic Development
- Higher Education and Workforce Development
- Air Quality and Environmental Protection
- Land Use, Agriculture and Housing
- Health, Human Services and K-12 Education
- Infrastructure
- Access to and Use of Technology

The Maddy Institute has been asked to assist in facilitating the Air Quality Work Group, as well as assisting in writing the final report. Over the last several months, The Maddy Institute has been working with the leaders of the Air Quality Work Group, including representatives from California EPA and ARB, the San Joaquin Valley Air District, the Environmental Defense Fund, industry groups and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive action plan that can garner a consensus. The Air Quality Work Group will be holding meetings throughout the Valley to get input on the draft document. A final report will be submitted to the Governor in October of this year.