



The Maddy Institute
California State University, Fresno

THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Redwoods, one of trees common in our region, may well symbolize an emerging political trend in our region.

Redwoods have a unique technique that helps them to not only survive, but thrive. Redwoods grow best in groves—where the roots of each tree become intertwined to create a stronger base—allowing them grow to majestic heights. Single, isolated Redwoods, on the other hand, fail to survive because the shallowness of their roots cannot support their growth.

Similarly, for Central California to grow and thrive as a region, we must recognize our interdependence and work together to achieve common goals. If we fail to do so, our region will go the way of the isolated Redwood tree—to weak to ever reach its potential. Thankfully, there is a growing recognition that we will only be able to address the challenges brought on by our explosive growth if we act alone or in a bi-partisan manner.

Currently, The Maddy Institute is involved in several regional initiatives that are attempting to tackle our challenges in a bi-partisan manner. One, the Governor’s California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, is attempting to “...improve the well being of the people of the San Joaquin Valley” by encouraging “a concerted, coordinated and creative response from leaders at all levels of government and from community members.” (Governor’s Executive Order S-5-05).

Air quality is a major Valley issue. As the Governor notes, we are “...one of only two regions in the nation identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an ‘extreme non-attainment’ zone for repeatedly failing to meet air quality standards...” Consequently, The Maddy Institute is actively involved in supporting the Air Quality Work Group of the California Partnership to develop a comprehensive plan to meet the 2013 EPA standards, recommend a process for the development of longer-term (post-2013) solutions to the Valley’s air quality issues and evaluate the desirability of assigning the monitoring and coordination responsibility for plan implementation to a single governmental agency. We are doing this by inviting all the stakeholders to the table and assisting in the development of consensus proposals.

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley—and The Maddy Institute’s role as a facilitator and convenor—are vital to the long term growth and health of the Valley. So is our role of engaging citizens of all ages to become more involved in government and the political process. *The Maddy Report*, our televised public affairs program, will provide the public with a more in-depth look at important issues. Our expanding *Maddy Scholar Intern* program will encourage more young people to think about becoming involved in public service. Our new *Certificate in Public Leadership* will provide those already involved in public service the latest thinking on best practices for the effective and efficient in the delivery of those services. And the *Maddy Associates* program will continue to bring together a diverse array of distinguished state and national speakers to discuss topics of importance to our region, state and nation.

In sum, The Maddy Institute is working to connect us as a region by focusing on our common interests and helping forge bi-partisan solutions to the unique challenges posed by the tremendous changes occurring in our region.

But we can’t do it without your involvement and support.

We invite you to learn more about The Maddy Institute, join the *Maddy Associates* and become more involved in public affairs to help make your community, your region, your state and your nation a better place for all of our citizens.