



at a glance



Talking To More Businesses, More Often, In More Places

Highlights

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Governor's Conference on Small Business & Entrepreneurship - 11/10/10

5th Annual Central Valley Venture Forum - 11/18/10

iHub Designation for the San Joaquin Valley

\$715 Million Awarded to CA High Speed Rail

Monthly Buzz

SAVE THE DATE ~ December 9, 2010!!!

MCEDCO is hosting their Annual Luncheon on December 9th at the Multicultural Arts Center in Downtown Merced from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

If you would like to purchase a table or individual tickets for the event please contact Heather Hennagan at hhennagan@mcgedco.com.

Additional sponsorship opportunities for the event are available and they include preferred table location, signage, print material, pre-event media announcement and other benefits.

Perry Wong, Director of Regional Economics, of the

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USDA Rural Development Visit

Award Recognition for Several Grant Recipients

On October 26, 2010, Judith Canales, Administrator for Business and Cooperative Programs of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Department visited Merced County to announce funding awards to three recipients: Gallo Cattle Company, Merced County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDCO), and Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development.

Gallo Cattle Company in Atwater, CA received \$500,000 grant under the Rural Energy for American (REAP) program for their Santa Rita Dairy Anaerobic Digester and CHP. The purpose of this project is to install and operate at the Santa Rita Dairy an anaerobic digester and combined heat and power unit to capture and convert biogas into electrical power and heat for use by the Joseph Gallo Cheese plant, located nearby, and operated by an affiliate of the Gallo Cattle Company, L.P. This project will also digest manure to reduce odor at the dairy, treat dairy waste and manufacture sanitary bedding.

MCEDCO received \$198,194 in rural development funds under the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program, which will be used to provide technical assistance, planning and counseling services to new and emerging businesses. The project will help enable rural businesses to secure financing and establish or expand their enterprises, save and create employment,

Our Sponsors



Milken Institute will be the keynote speaker at the event! Don't miss out on hearing his economic forecast for the local region.

Emails

David L. Spaur, CEcD, EDFP
President & CEO

Heather D. Hennagan
Economic Development Manager

Ashley Leffard
Economic Development Officer

and expand the array of goods and services for local residents. MCEDCO proposes to extend the impact of recently completed USDA funded projects and enhance the probability for success for at least two hundred-twenty five (225) rural businesses and entrepreneurs within the eligible cities and unincorporated communities in Merced County. The impacted firms are projected to save and create five hundred twelve (512) jobs.

Central Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Inc. in Jackson, CA was awarded \$250,000 for a Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG). Their project is a three phase approach to develop regional food systems, value-added livestock processing and marketing, biomass utilization, and alternative energy and agricultural development. It is a collaborative effort to identify the conditions, strategies, and practices that will lead to the sustainability of that initiative. The goal is to create a knowledge base and develop models that will facilitate the creation of innovative entrepreneurial ventures. The benefits of the project will see the development of new markets for local food thus higher prices for farmers, increased production of energy specific crops, value-added livestock, and jobs in woody biomass utilization. These replace existing utilization strategies for natural resources and local food distribution systems. Project will be in Sonoma, Mendocino, Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Nevada, Merced, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. Four businesses will be assisted with this funding.



Governor's Conference on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

November 10, 2010

On November 10, 2010, the Governor's Conference on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Workshop will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 2233 Ventura St. Fresno, CA 93721. The event will begin at 8 a.m. This is a full day FREE workshop sponsored by the Small Business Development Centers in cooperation with the Governor's Office on Economic Development that will bring some 300 entrepreneurs together with federal and state officials and private sector leaders to explore procurement developments, access to capital and disaster planning in today's highly challenging economy. This event is at No Cost for Participation and at No Cost for the Luncheon!!!

Who should attend?

Small business owners and Individuals who may be:

- Unemployed and looking at self employment as a career choice
- Economic developers
- Educators
- Veterans
- Young people entering the workforce
- Others interested in small business success

The Fresno event is part of a state tour of workshops to

both assist start-ups and advance growing firms in offering a wide range of products and services to both the public and private sector. The Fresno workshop is supported by UC Merced SBDC Regional Network, the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI), California State University, Fresno's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) and the cities of Clovis and Fresno.

A networking lunch will be held for further contact with participating entrepreneurs. The afternoon will include a series of "procurement in the round" sessions hosted by federal, state and private sector experts who will discuss getting started in procurement with groups of seven guest companies at a time. Attendees can rotate among tables to meet a variety of buyers. Small Business Development Center consultants will also be available to provide one-on-one business consulting. Key note speakers include Chuck Ashman, Founder/CEO of SMA Global and Executive Producer, Business Matchmaking, as well as, Marty Keller, Small Business Advocate of the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

[Click here to REGISTER for this FREE Event & Lunch](#)

5th Annual Central Valley Venture Forum

November 18, 2010

The 5th Annual Central Valley Venture Forum is just around the corner - Thursday, November 18, 2010.

The Central Valley Venture Forum (CVVF) provides entrepreneurs with useful, valuable information regarding thriving in a down economy and the opportunity to network in an informal setting with angel investors, bankers, accountants, attorneys and venture capitalists.

This year's event will feature:

- Steve Westly, Co-founder of eBay and Venture Capitalist
- California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer on "Fixing California"
- Clovis Mayor Harry Armstrong & Fresno State President Dr. John Welty
- Business Valuation Panel
- Panel on Raising Investment Capital
- Discussion of the state of the Central Valley economy
- Valley Entrepreneur Showcase where local growth companies pitch their business ventures to investor judges
- Numerous networking opportunities

They are finalizing their list of presenting companies for the Central Valley Showcase. If you are interested in presenting to a panel of investors, please contact Prashant Joshi at prashant@csufresno.edu.

Tickets are \$60 before November 1 and \$75 after November 1. Students can register for \$25 by bringing

cash only and their student IDs to the Lyles Center (www.lylescenter.com). Lunch and a wine and cheese reception are included.

We hope to see you on Thursday, November 18!

[Click here to purchase tickets and for more information about the Central Valley Venture Forum](#)

iHub Designation for the San Joaquin Valley

On September 30th, the Governor's Office of Economic Development designates the the Central San Joaquin Valley iHub as an official Innovation Hub. Through a unique collaborative partnership, the region strategically positioned itself to apply for additional funding streams, while leveraging precious resources to best serve our community. It consists of a five (5) county partnership, that will be looking to expand throughout the entire Valley.

The Governor's Office of Economic Central Valley Business Incubator and the Merced County Department of Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development are lead agencies of the new Central San Joaquin Valley iHub, part of the state-wide Innovation Hub (iHub) Initiative to support job creation and technology development in California. Of note, the Key stakeholders and partners in the new Central San Joaquin Valley iHub include: UC Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network, California State University Fresno, and the University of California, Merced.

The goal of this designation is to form a new partnership to build and grow technology and high-paying industry in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The Central Valley Business Incubator and Merced County Department of Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development are the lead agencies in the newly recognized Central San Joaquin Valley iHub.

The Innovation Initiative (iHub) is a program of the Governor's Office of Economic Development that will improve the state's national and global competitiveness by stimulating partnerships, economic development, and job creation around specific research clusters through state-designated iHubs.

\$715 Million Awarded to CA High Speed Rail

On October 28th, the California High-Speed Rail Authority was awarded \$715 million from the federal government, bringing to \$4.3 billion the funding secured to begin construction in 2012. This project will put thousands of Californians to work.

The first phase of the 800-mile high-speed rail system will span the San Francisco Bay Area to the Los Angeles metropolitan area and will be built in several sections to manage the construction process and gets trains on the tracks as soon as possible. The federal funding received

today includes a designation that \$715 million of the funding be used on an eligible section in the Central Valley, earmarking the money for either the Merced-to-Fresno or Fresno-to-Bakersfield sections.

Construction is slated to begin late 2012 with the state's high-speed rail network providing passenger service from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Los Angeles metropolitan area by 2020.

The four sections being considered as the potential launchpoint for high-speed rail construction are San Francisco to San Jose, Merced to Fresno, Fresno to Bakersfield and Los Angeles to Anaheim. The Authority is currently in the environmental analysis phase for all sections in the system.

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