



Senator Feinstein Welcomes Creation of California Partnership  
for the San Joaquin Valley  
June 24, 2005

**Washington, DC** -- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) welcomed the creation of the "California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley," which was announced today by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at a Central California Mayors Conference in Fresno.

"I would like to congratulate Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mayor Alan Autry as well as the Regional Jobs Initiative for their work in establishing this new 'California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.' This partnership, created by the Governor by executive order, will help address the needs of the eight poorest counties in the Central Valley, identify projects and programs that will help improve the area's economic vitality. And, hopefully through this partnership, new industry will be brought into the Central Valley to help establish a strong economy.

Currently, one in five San Joaquin Valley residents live in poverty. The household median income is \$12,000 less than the statewide median. The San Joaquin Valley received \$1,887 per capita less in federal expenditures than the U.S. average and \$1,141 less than the state average.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have worked closely with Mayor Autry and the Regional Jobs Initiative to secure funds for the creation of jobs within the Central Valley. The input of the Regional Jobs Initiative along with the already established Federal Interagency Task Force will be complemented by this new partnership.

I look forward to our continued work together. The heart of the Central Valley will always be agriculture, and we must do all we can to keep agriculture strong. But to create a vibrant, stable economy, it will be critical to bring new industry to the area in the coming years. This means:

- Building upon the agricultural base and attracting more food processors to the region;
- Creating innovative strategies to expand other industries in the region, including health care, water technology, construction, information processing, and tourism.
- Educating a highly-skilled workforce; and
- Improving the region's transportation infrastructure.

This new partnership is a good step forward in helping the Central Valley meet these goals."

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