

**Workforce Investment Board
Castle Airport & Aviation Center
Conference Center
1900 Airdrome Entry
Atwater, CA
March 11, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**



Members Present:

Lee Andersen	Andrea Baker	Bob Bittner
Sharon Cresswell	Kathleen Crookham	Ben Duran
Peter Fluetsch	John Fowler	Scott Galbraith
Brian Griffin	Robert Harmon	John Headding
Doug Kirkpatrick	Nellie McGarry	Ned Miller
Anne Newins	Rick Osorio	Alfonse Peterson
Carole Roberds	Al Romero	Mike Smith
Mike Sullivan	Steve Tinetti	

Members Absent:

Paul Alderete	Nick Benjamin	Don Bergman
Mike Boardman	Harry Dull	Ernie Flores
Carol Greenberg	Jeremiah Greggains	Charlie Lambert
Gisela Malone	Albert Montejano	Ana Pagan
Helen Sullivan	Thomas Tsubota	

Others Present:

Michelle Allison	Jim Brown	Elaine Craig
Dave Cramer	Dave Davis	Eddie Harding
Jeff Morrill	Becky Lincoln	Joanne Presnell
Mayra Ramirez	Jackie Walther-Parnell	

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- I. Call to Order/Roll Call – The meeting was called to order by the Chair, John Headding and roll was taken by Donna Ornelas
 - II. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as written.
 - III. Approval of Minutes - It was *M/S/C Romero/Duran* to approve the minutes of January 8, 2004.
 - IV. Public Opportunity to Speak – Doug Kirkpatrick, Celestial Group spoke to the Board. He noted this would be his last meeting and he would be unable to renew his term. Chair, John Headding thanked Mr. Kirkpatrick for his participation on the Board.
 - V. Consent Agenda - It was *M/S/C Miller/Cookham* to approve items a-d of the consent agenda.
 - a. Self Sufficiency Wage
 - b. Supportive Services Policy
 - c. Children’s Summit – Letter of Endorsement
 - d. Renewal of WIB members’ Term

VI. Action Agenda

- a. The Central Valley Agri-Food Research Institute – Andrea Baker explained how fund-raising efforts could be done within WIA regulations. There was discussion on the issue of fund-raising. Ms. Baker noted the WIB involvement in the past, included solicitation of corporate sponsors. Mr. Fowler discussed the university involvement in the project. It was *M/S Fowler/Peterson* for the WIB to fully commit to the raising of funds in support of the Central Valley Agri-Food Research Institute. After discussion from the floor, *Mr. Fowler withdrew motion* and *Mr. Peterson withdrew second*. It was *M/S/C Osorio/Griffin* that the WIB would support the concept and lend the Board name to the list of supporters. In addition, there was a request for clarification on what the project consists of. This information will be brought back to the full WIB.

VII. Regional Strategic Issues– Castle Re-Use

Panel Members included: Dee Tatum, CEO, Merced County, Jay Clark, Site Manager, Air Force Real Property Agency, John Fowler, Director, Merced County Department of Business-Economic Opportunity John Condren, CEO, Riverside Motor Sports Park

Mr. Tatum noted much of Castle use is still owned by the Federal Government even though the county has sole responsibility. He noted that \$5.3 million dollars has been acquired by EDA for fiber optics. County Public Works is negotiating infrastructure. The Airport master plan is waiting to be adopted. The Board is requesting the development of a viable airport. In addition, they are working with high-speed rail companies for other opportunities such as a hub.

Q. How will the relationship with the prison affect the rest of the use and is there any indication of expansion of the prison?

A. There is currently no request for expansion. The relationship with the prison is good. The size and disposition is still to be decided.

Q. What is the latest information on the coming of the National Guard?

A. It was noted the issue is in Congress, it is still being worked on, the community is hopeful, however there is not a lot of information available at this time.

Jay Clark noted his agency is currently working with FAA . In addition, he pointed out the runway is the 4th longest runway in state. Approximately \$190 million has been spent to clean up Castle, and it is anticipated an additional \$130 million will be spent by completion. Mr. Clark explained the process of cleaning and the return of the water to the ground. He explained the process for clean up of TCE and he noted it is anticipated it will be 10-20 years more before the clean up is complete. He noted the progress of cleaning up the landfills, and the replacement of sewers lines. The clean up efforts are up to residential standards, which are even higher than the industrial standards. Mr. Clark shared with the Board that the EPA and State have signed off on clean up efforts and the property is ready for transfer to the County.

John Fowler noted the County is wrapping up the surveying and legal descriptions. Once this is complete the Board of Supervisors will be able to take possession of Castle. Mr. Fowler showed the developers' map of available parcels, fiber optic map and high speed rail map. He noted that the County is seeking additional money for the airport.

Q. How long before decision made whether rail system coming in?

A. It is anticipated there will be approval of the plan by summer of 2004. Mr. Fowler noted that other opportunities are still being entertained.

Q. How will runway be reconstructed without encroaching on prison area?

A. Mr. Fowler noted that plans are being looked at to expand runway with second runway to run parallel with the existing runway. He also noted that the type of aircraft flying out will dictate the size of the runway.

Q. Will a tower have to put up to run airport?

A. Yes, and it is anticipated that use of the airport will pay for cost of modifying the existing tower.

Q. How will transfer be impacted with the parcels that are entrenched?

A. Only 15 parcels of 1800 acres will be impacted. This is considered to be a very small percentage.

John Condren gave a detailed presentation on the benefits of the Riverside Motorsports Park. He noted the anticipated impact to employment through related industries and the revenues to the community. He explained the synchronic marketing approach to reduce heavy traffic flow. Mr. Condren also explained the differentiator of this park is that it is to be family oriented and paved. He also noted some of the expected uses for the park besides motorsports.

Q. What is the environmental impact, traffic impact, noise level impact?

A. The environmental impact report was prepared in 2002. Traffic has been studied, and a 70-page report completed. It is anticipated that the Environmental Impact Draft Report will be submitted to the County in two weeks. Mr. Condren noted that because of the synchronic marketing approach they do not anticipate traffic as an issue. Mr. Condren noted that the emissions from racecars burn very clean and there was not expected air quality issue. They do expect to upgrade roads, due to the amount of traffic. Noise levels are required to be maintained at the same level as when Castle running fully operational. The motorsports park will be located at the north-east end of Castle near the runway.

Q. When is projection for opening of park?

A. The plan is to get approval from the Board of Supervisor's in July, 2004. If approved, the plan is to open the park at the end of 2005.

Q. Will there be community forums for discussion of this project?

A. There have been three already held. It is anticipated there will be an additional forum in May after release of the Environmental Impact Report. (it was requested that information on the forum be sent to the full WIB)

VIII. Advocacy Report - Andrea Baker reported that Nellie McGarry and John Heading will be attending the NAWB conference and will participate in a press conference to promote the work of the WIB and advocate for future funding of the programs.

IX. Follow up Reports – Strategic Issues - This item was tabled until the next meeting.

X. Operational Reports

- a. Idle Aire - Teresa Machado introduced Jeff Morrill from Idle Aire. Mr. Morrill is a former WIA participant who became employed through WIA services. He currently is a manager with Idle Aire. Mr. Morrill provided information on future plans of the company. He noted that the

company anticipates an additional 600 sites over the next five years. Each site is believed to employ approximately 20 employees. Mr. Morrill thanked the Board for the opportunities provided to him and praised the effectiveness of the programs.

- b. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program – It was noted although the One-Stop is no longer running extended hours, there have been volunteers staying late to assist with tax preparation two days per week. This was a highly successful program last year and it is anticipated it will be again this year.

XI. Information Items

- a. Jobs for California Graduates Closeout Status
- b. Director's Notes
- c. Fiscal/Participant Data Reports
- d. LMI Update
- e. Termination of EDD Contract for CCOIS
- f. Committee Reports - www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html

XII. Spotlight on WIB Member – Mike Sullivan, CEO, Golden Valley Health Centers, was the spotlight member. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Health Center was started approximately 32 yrs ago. Initially the center was established to provide health care services to migrant workers. The target population is uninsured, however, approximately 15% of the current customers have private insurance. The center offers, medical care, dental care, behavioral health, and chiropractic care. There are approximately 350 employees, and of that 350, 42 are doctors, dentist or counselors. The center operates with approximately a \$24 million annual budget. Three of the health care centers are located on school grounds. In addition, they will be starting up mobile health care in Modesto and a new health care center in LeGrand. Mr Sullivan noted his participation on the Workforce Investment Board has been extremely beneficial in understanding workforce issues within the community.

XIII. Director's Comments – Ms. Baker reported that she had recently received a notice of the Senate Leadership list of bills to be focused on. The President is targeting job creation, and it is anticipated there will be further action on this in the next few months.

XIV. Chair Comments – Mr. Headding thanked the panel members for attending and noted that the next WIB meeting will be a wrap-up of past forums as well as a questions and answers period for the Castle re-use panel.

XV. Other – Becky Lincoln and Mayra Ramirez discussed the upcoming Children's Summit. The Summit will be held April 30 and May 1. The business community is encouraged to participate. There will be a youth session in the evening of April 30. There will be prizes for the youth as well as a DJ and food. Local businesses will be solicited for donations. It was also noted that businesses can have booths at the conference and if anyone is interested they should contact the Family Resource Council 381-5980.

XVI. Next Meeting – May 13, 2004, 3:00-5:00, location to be announced

XVII. Adjourn - meeting adjourned 5:06 p.m.