

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 05/07/07

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Valley Partnership Initiatives

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Presentation

DISCUSSION: Governor Schwarzenegger created The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley when he signed Executive Order S-5-05. The partnership brings State agency secretaries and Central Valley representatives together to make recommendations to the Governor regarding change that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of its residents.

Two initiatives from the Partnership are presented here. The first is a valleywide infusion of WorkKeys—a job skills assessment system measuring “real world” skills that employers believe is critical to job success. These skills are valuable for any occupation, skilled or professional, and at any level of education.

One of the immediate outcomes of WorkKeys is a recognized National Career Readiness Certificate. A 5 ½ minute DVD will be shown during the meeting.

The second initiative is the introduction of Connectory.com, an Internet Buyer-Supplier network. This business-to-business resource started in San Diego and is expanding to cover all of California. As it expands across California, the Connectory will promote the State’s industries and companies. The searchable database includes companies at every level of the supply value chain—Manufacturing; Technology/R&D; Technical Services; Industrial Suppliers; Construction and the Trades; and Raw Materials (Agribusiness and Mining/Quarrying).

Of note, the Department of Workforce Investment, acting as a member of the Central California Workforce Collaborative, has recently requested grant funding to customize the Connectory.com to have both regional and county specific webpage recognition. The regional industry sectors, which are the focus of the partnership, will be identified and highlighted on the Connectory portal.

A short demonstration of the website, highlighting two manufactures will be presented.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A