



## **2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The Honorable John Pedrozo, District 1

The Honorable Kathleen M. Crookham, District 2

The Honorable Michael G. Nelson, District 3

The Honorable Deidre F. Kelsey, District 4

The Honorable Jerald O'Banion, District 5

**Adopted: December 16, 2008**

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The *2009 Legislative Agenda* is a statement of the priorities and goals for Merced County in its relationships with the Executive and Legislative branches of the State of California and the United States of America. This Agenda also serves as direction for those persons advocating on behalf of the County with the State and Federal Governments.

The Legislative Agenda contains both broad and generic goals as well as specific legislative proposals. In adopting this Agenda, the Board of Supervisors states their clear intent that the County's legislative efforts are directed toward these measures of specific interest and benefit to Merced County.

The Merced County Board of Supervisors agrees that the issues contained within this Agenda represent their collective endorsements. The Board of Supervisors recognizes that many other unforeseen issues will become known as the legislative year proceeds. Any additional endorsements for legislation, policies, or projects must come before the Merced County Board of Supervisors for approval and adoption as amendments to the Legislative Agenda before any position becomes the official policy of the County. However, to accommodate any requests that may arise after approval of the platform, the Board Chair and the County Executive Officer may periodically provide letters of support or opposition as needed based upon any benefit or detriment to Merced County.

# 2009 STATE AND FEDERAL OUTLOOKS

## STATE LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

Presented by Peterson Consulting, Inc.

The 2009 Legislative Year promises to be dominated by debate over the source and amount of state revenues and how the budget is balanced. The national and international fiscal crises, coupled with a structural state budget deficit in addition to lower-than-anticipated tax receipts and greater than expected expenditures create fiscal conditions at the state and local level that will force difficult and drastic changes.

We expect that these conditions will mandate a new and perhaps substantially different look at how and what county services are delivered. Due to anticipated mid-year State budget reductions, county services will suffer further reductions to critical health and human services programs. These cuts may call into question the ability to carry on those programs that the state mandates but does not fund. It will be a time of painful debate regarding public service delivery—what and how much.

In this fiscal crisis, there is an opportunity for counties to seek statutory and structural reform to county-delivered programs that are dictated by the state. We anticipate a Legislature eager to hear local government proposals which will increase efficiency and improve the state-funded programs that counties deliver.

We also anticipate proposed economic stimulus packages from both the Federal and State government. The stimulus will likely be focused at local public works projects. Counties which have been proactive in planning and preparing for such projects will likely be able to get this money to provide economic stimulus in their local areas.

Furthermore, Merced County has been at the epicenter of the mortgage crisis, yet was excluded from some of the earmarked housing Federal relief. We anticipate working with the California Department of Housing and Community Development in order to position Merced County to draw down a substantial portion of the State's HUD allocation in order to create stability and reduce the number of vacant foreclosed homes in Merced County.

This is an historic time in California and throughout the United States. There is great fiscal uncertainty and concern. It will be a difficult Legislative year as county revenues are examined as a possible short-term budget solution for the state. We will be searching out every opportunity to position Merced County in order to protect County revenues and programs and aggressively pursue legislative and administrative remedies sought by the County.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK**

Provided by CJ Strategies, LLC

There are still two Senate contests and five House races in which the outcome remains in doubt. Pending their resolution, there is currently a 58-40 Democratic majority in the Senate and a 255-175 Democratic majority in the House that will be sworn in when the 111th Congress convenes on January 6. Due to these Democratic gains and the new Democratic Administration, there will be several new legislative priorities in the coming year. The first two priorities for both Congress and the Administration are the remaining FY09 appropriations bills and an economic stimulus package. We anticipate Congress will send both of these items to the president shortly after his inauguration on January 20.

In addition to completing the FY09 bills and passing a stimulus package, Congress will likely focus on health care reform, climate change and surface transportation reauthorization. Providing assistance to local and state governments will also be a priority for Congress and the new administration.

### **FY09 Appropriations Bills**

Appropriators are currently working on completing their individual bills so that the omnibus can be compiled by the end of December and be ready for lawmakers when they return in January. As you recall, Democrats decided early this year that they would finish much of the fiscal 2009 appropriations work next year, rather than face potential vetoes from President Bush. Three full-year bills — Defense, Military Construction-VA and Homeland Security — were enacted in a package with the continuing resolution that funded programs covered by the other nine at fiscal 2008 levels through March 6. In total, Democrats want to spend \$24.5 billion more than the \$991.6 billion Bush requested for the 12 fiscal 2009 spending bills. The unfinished bills are Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy-Water, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch, State-Foreign Operations and Transportation-HUD.

### **Stimulus Package**

In addition to finishing up the FY09 appropriations bills, President Elect Obama has said one of the first pieces of legislation he wants Congress to approve is a stimulus package. As you recall, Senate Republicans and President Bush objected to moving a package. We are hearing that a proposed package could total \$150 billion or higher and could include funding for the following: ready to go infrastructure projects, funding for state Medicaid programs, food stamps, funding for green infrastructure, additional “tax rebates” for low-income workers, a \$3,000 tax credit to companies that hire full-time employees, and relief for struggling homeowners and further aid to the auto industry.

Merced County should be thinking of any ready to go infrastructure projects as Congress moves forward with a stimulus package.

# LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND POLICY STATEMENTS

## LEGISLATIVE GOALS

In its relationship with the State and Federal Governments, it is the goal of the Merced County Board of Supervisors to:

- Promote legislation, administrative decisions, and regulatory actions that strengthen the fiscal integrity of Merced County.
- Support the enhancement of County revenue streams and oppose the infringement on existing local resources.
- Support legislative and administrative actions that ensure the County is best positioned for funding for mandated programs, seek greater discretion in carrying out the County's responsibilities, and increase flexibility in the acquisition and expenditure of funds for County programs.
- Support actions that promote economic development in Merced County consistent with the County's long-range economic and land-use plans.
- Support legislation and administrative actions which enable Merced County to partner with other counties and public agencies in mutually beneficial projects and programs.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

### Natural Resources

- Water is vital to the economic development and security of our County. The state must develop a plan to meet California's future water needs and find permanent solutions to the critical Delta infrastructure and environmental and water quality issues that we continue to face. The water plan must include new water storage opportunities which are vital for cushioning effects of drought by capturing high flows in wet years.
- There are many proposals being suggested to provide financing for flood protection and levee enhancement in the San Joaquin Valley. Merced County is participating in the drive to support additional flood protection Valley wide. The Merced Board of Supervisors remains supportive of increased funding for Valley flood protection. The County supports legislation and administrative actions for flood protection and levee enhancement financing to include bonds or budget appropriations. We support local control of project priority and oppose any attempt to weaken local control of local reclamation districts. Additionally, the County also supports legislation and funding opportunities that will reimburse the County for any infrastructure repair or necessary improvements caused by a flood, as in the case of Sandy Mush Road. We oppose any effort to shift the liability for any currently built levee to local governments. We will work with the appropriate state and federal agencies to advocate for the County's flood control projects through all stages of development in order to secure funding.
- Merced County is contractually obligated to provide maintenance for a number of streams and man-made channels, including the Los Banos Creek, Bear Creek, Black

Rascal Creek, Owens Creek and others throughout the County. These streams and channels provide flood protection to the residents of Merced County. The maintenance obligations are the result of Federal Flood Control Projects. However, there is no funding provided from either Federal or State sources to provide the maintenance. The County supports legislation and administrative actions at the Federal and State level to secure funding for stream and channel maintenance in Merced County.

- Merced County represents the fifth largest agricultural county in the State and the sixth in the nation. Merced County places a high priority on preserving agricultural lands, and therefore supports legislation promoting such efforts. The Williamson Act subventions have not increased in the last 10 years and do not reflect the actual cost of the program to counties. The County supports legislative or administrative action to preserve agricultural lands with subventions to counties. We strongly oppose elimination of Williamson Act subventions and attempts to weaken the land use provisions of the Williamson Act.
- Support legislation that would amend Section 1601 of the Fish and Game Code to exempt activities involving routine maintenance of levee or flood control systems from the requirement to obtain a streambed alteration permit from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DFG has recently taken the position that such permits, even where an MOU existed allowing such activities are now void without reason. DFG holds that new permits must be issued and new detailed analysis under CEQA must be prepared. DFG has also made it clear they expect mitigation measures to be adopted following biological studies. As a result, vegetation clearing on existing canals, sloughs and stream channels used for flood conveyance has been halted. The new requirements will also add significant cost. This exposes counties to great liability related to delays, diversion of funds away from actual flood protection, and increased flood damage where channels are not adequately cleared.
- The entire eight county San Joaquin Valley air basin faces a potential economic and transportation crisis due to rapidly escalating Federal control requirements and potential sanctions because National Ambient Air Quality Standards have not been attained. The entire San Joaquin Valley is a single air quality planning area for ozone and PM10, and is classified for purposes of Federal law as “Severe” for ozone and “Serious” for PM10. The San Joaquin Valley is facing the imposition of Federal sanctions due to the inability of more polluted areas in the central and southern Valley to attain the 1-hour ozone and PM10 standards. Federal sanctions would interrupt Federal funding for most transportation projects and make it more costly and difficult to build new or expand existing industrial sources. Work to develop and support legislative initiatives to improve air quality in the Valley.
- The Agricultural Commissioner’s high-risk pest exclusion and pesticide use enforcement programs are experiencing critical funding shortfalls. These mandated programs are among the largest programs of the Agricultural Commissioner’s office and are also among the most important programs for Merced County’s agricultural industry. This program functions to inspect incoming plant shipments to prevent the introduction of exotic pests that threaten agriculture. Funding to exclude these pests will be much less expensive than the subsequent damages and costs of eradication if these insects become established. This program assures that pesticides are used safely to protect consumers, farm workers, and the environment. Support legislation or budget proposals that provide State funding for county pesticide use enforcement, high-risk pest exclusion, noxious

weed prevention and other county agricultural programs, including the eradication of the water hyacinth. Support the return of the Federal Agricultural Inspection programs to the USDA from Homeland Security.

### **Public Safety**

- Jail and juvenile correction facilities in Merced County, like facilities across the state, are overcrowded and facing an influx on additional prisoners and wards from the state, as a part of AB 900. The County is not in a position to accept additional prisoners without additional funding for both beds and correctional/probation officers, who will oversee the new prisoners at the facilities in the County. The County supports any legislation or administrative action that will increase funding for correctional facilities in the County.
- The “Safe Neighborhood Act: Protect Victims, Stop Gang and Street Crime” represents an excellent opportunity for the State of California to deal with the ongoing problems in law enforcement funding. The County supports the Safe Neighborhood Act, which will provide additional funding and support for law enforcement agencies.

### **Health and Human Services**

- The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 provides the means for linking workforce, education, and business services initiatives under the One-Stop Career Center System. The Act is pending reauthorization at the Federal level, which will secure a funding mechanism methodology for WIA. The Act supports the Workforce Investment Board, the Department of Workforce Investment, and the One-Stop system of services, (WorkNet). These services impact workforce and economic development in Merced County. As we continue to work towards economic development goals, it is important to remember the necessity of talent development and human capital in the development of business opportunities in Merced County. The County supports the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and supports funding changes that will increase services available to customers. We also support funding formulas that maintain funding levels for rural areas and provisions of local control and flexibility in the implementation of the system. The County opposes changes to the administrative cost definitions that would negatively impact the County.
- Children in California who are not currently eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families do not qualify for other publicly funded health insurance. The Governor has put forth a Health Care Reform package which includes insuring all California children under 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Meanwhile, many California counties either have or are planning to have a "third" product for children not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families under each County's Children's Health Initiative. Each county's program has its own eligibility requirements and coverage is not transferable to another county if the family moves. It would be in Merced County's interest to have the State take over the "Healthy Kids" program as a statewide program like Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The County supports legislation and administrative action that would create the California Healthy Kids Insurance Program covering all children in California.
- The state of California has an inequitable baseline established for Merced County for reimbursement of services provided for children covered under Medi-Cal. The Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) baseline for Merced County is currently set at \$1.8 Million, which is higher than other counties of our size. One

comparable county (Butte) is \$626,000. Other counties may also be used for comparisons. Since 1995/1996 as much as \$6 Million dollars less State SGF was provided to Merced County to assist in Medi-Cal Children programs. EPSDT funds are not proportionally distributed amongst counties, thereby diminishing Merced County's ability to serve beneficiaries. The County supports a permanent fix to the baselines and distribution of EPSDT funds to the County.

- Adopted youth maintain their "residence of origin" from where the adoption took place. This severely complicates services for youth living outside of the residence of origin and in need of mental health services. The County supports legislation to allow the inter-county transfer of adoptive records, funding and responsibilities
- California's work standards are not aligned with federal work standards for welfare to work recipients. The Federal standards state that welfare to work participants must be engaged in a work activity for 20 hours per week. The State of California requires engagement for either 32 or 35 hours per week dependent on the family structure. Participants who meet the Federal but not the State requirement are captured in the State data system. This system has been designed to capture data that will be used to pass financial penalties onto California counties. Federal legislation is less restrictive and will allow counties to include more individuals in meeting work participation requirements. The County supports legislation and administrative actions that would align the State of California's work requirements with Federal Legislation.

#### **Administrative and Fiscal**

- Funding sources and streams from the State are in constant peril of being reduced or eliminated when the State budget faces crisis. The County opposes any effort to reduce funding streams or sources to Counties and opposes any effort by the State to shift costs or liability to the County from the State.
- Merced County faces financial challenges to provide services and the required level of funding to operate programs. Many of these services and programs are dependent upon funding from the State of California and the Federal government. With budget constraints at the State and Federal level, Merced County is concerned with the reduction of funding for county programs in an effort to balance their respective budgets. The County strongly opposes any efforts to reduce State and Federal payments for county programs. We strongly support legislative action to implement provisions of propositions and policies protecting County revenue streams and payment mandates and oppose any efforts to impose new unfunded mandates on counties.
- The 1937 Retirement Act provides counties flexibility in developing employer/employee labor agreements with varying cost-sharing formulas for some members. The County's represented employees have generated discussion of alternative retirement benefit formulas. The Board of Supervisors has supported exploring alternative benefit formulas provided they maintain County fiscal stability and solvency. Some employee organizations have been receptive to identifying ways of implementing an alternative formula that does not have a significant fiscal impact on the County. However, existing statutes require a benefit formula to be implemented for all members within a category. The County supports legislation that authorizes Merced County to provide retirement benefits to fit the needs of the Merced County retirement system.

- Merced County falls into the San Francisco Bay area prevailing wage region. Clearly our industry sectors and current workforce skill levels do not mirror those of the prevailing wage benchmark area. Merced County's inclusion in this region establishes artificially high wages, discouraging economic development. The County supports amending the prevailing wage determinations statute to create a new category for the Central San Joaquin Valley with standards that more accurately reflect the economic condition of the area.
- The redevelopment of the former Castle Air Force Base, now known as the Castle Commerce Center, represents a significant economic development opportunity for Merced County. The County supports the acquisition and/or use of available state, federal or local resources to fully redevelop the Castle Commerce Center, based on the current Castle Redevelopment Plan.
- Existing law, the Local Agency Military Base Recovery Area Act, authorizes local agencies to propose to the Department of Housing and Community Development specific geographic area to receive regulatory, tax, and other governmental program incentives to offset federal military base closures by being designated local agency military base recovery areas. Existing law also requires the department to administer the act and to designate a military base or a former military base as eligible to be a local agency military base recovery area (LAMBRA) for an 8-year period. This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would address the capacity for reuse authorities and local jurisdictions with redevelopment project areas that incorporate the closed bases, to provide direct assistance for development projects. The County supports legislation or administrative action that would meet this goal.
- Merced County consistently has one of the highest unemployment percentages in the State. The creation of new jobs and opportunities for County residents is a top priority for the Board of Supervisors. The County supports the acquisition and/or use of available state, federal or local resources to support economic development opportunities throughout the County, including economic development occurring in incorporated cities.
- Libraries are a vital resource for the communities that they serve. The State has continually cut the State public library fund, including in the current fiscal year. State funding is vital to the ongoing development of library services and book purchases. The County supports the full restoration of the library budget from the State.
- With a growing population and a large number of residents unable to afford housing in our area, the current CDBG grant allocation is not a sufficient amount to address the affordable housing needs of the County. The County seeks and supports legislation or an administrative action that would change the grant criteria to increase the amount of the CDBG grant allocation to the County.
- Despite having one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation, Merced County was not eligible and did not receive funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Neighborhood Stabilization Act. Currently, funding has been allocated to the State of California. The County seeks and supports legislative or administrative remedy from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to allocate funds to Merced County in order to facilitate the purchase of foreclosed homes in the County.

- Current State law designates the Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors as the Clerk of the City Selection Committee (a committee of city representatives which chooses city members of various boards such as LAFCO). This task more properly belongs to a city official. The County seeks and supports a change to the Government Code removing the Clerk of the County Seat as the Clerk of the City Selection Committee and have that position be the sole responsibility of City Government.

# STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

## **PREVAILING WAGE ASSIGNMENT**

Merced County is currently required to follow the Prevailing Wage Rate from San Francisco, despite a large distance and difference in the cost of living and the cost of doing business between the two areas. The County is seeking a legislative or administrative action that will realign Merced County to the Fresno Prevailing Wage Rate instead of the San Francisco Prevailing Wage Rate.

## **LABOR REPRESENTATION REQUIRED FOR LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS**

State legislation currently requires a 15 percent of Labor representation on Workforce Investment Boards (WIB). The current requirement is not attainable in most Workforce Investment Areas. 14% of the 48 WIBs in California have indicated they have been able to meet the 15% union representation requirement. 21% have indicated they have been able to get to 10% union representation. 31% have indicated that they are below 10% representation on their WIB. Central Labor Councils have not been able to field membership nominations to the level required by the State. The County is seeking legislation to reduce the required percentage of Labor Representation on local Workforce Investment Boards to a realistic level.

## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEES (RTIF)**

Merced County is currently not considered a self-help County for purposes of transportation funding. The County is seeking legislation to include RTIF in the computation for self-help counties.

## **ABUSE OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

Merced County is currently being inundated daily with excessive and burdensome public records request from a handful of interested parties, who submit requests, but do not ever come to view the documents requested, resulting in a waste of staff time and resources and tax payer dollars. The County is seeking legislation that will set a standard similar to that of the vexatious litigant, whereby a person who is abusing the Public Records Act by not viewing documents that they have requested under the Act, will be required to pay for the staff time and resources that were spent to collect the requested information.

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

## **SPECIAL ECONOMIC DESIGNATION AND REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR MERCED COUNTY/CALIFORNIA'S SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**

Merced County faces special economic challenges, including a high percentage of families and individuals in poverty, a high unemployment rate, and a lower than average per capita income. Merced County is not alone in this plight. Throughout the San Joaquin Valley, counties and individuals are struggling during these desperate economic times.

Faced with similar disconcerting trends and economic conditions in Appalachia, the Congress of the United States, in 1965, created the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which is charged with increasing job opportunities and per capita income in the region, strengthening the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy, developing and improving Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive, and building the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Each year the ARC provides funding for several hundred projects throughout the Appalachian Region in support of these goals. These projects create new jobs, improve local water and sewer systems, increase school readiness, expand access to health care, assist local communities with strategic planning, and provide technical, managerial, and marketing assistance to emerging new businesses (Source: ARC website, [www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov))

Merced County and California's San Joaquin Valley is in desperate need of a similar commission and similar funding to achieve these same goals. Merced County seeks legislation creating a San Joaquin Valley Regional Commission (SJVRC) based on the model and funding of the ARC.

## **PRIORITY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATERSHED PROJECTS**

Merced County has worked closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a number of significant flood control and watershed projects. During that time, the County has developed a list of flood control projects based on need and past progress on the project.

Projects include:

1. The General Review and Reevaluation for the balance of the Merced Streams Project
2. Flood Control Protection on Black Rascal Creek

## **UPDATED FEMA FLOODING MAPS**

In a series of public meetings, the County has learned of significant problems with the updating and digitizing of the FEMA flood maps for our area. While the project has been described as digitizing the current FEMA maps, FEMA has actually been making changes to the maps while processing them. There are a number of inaccuracies and discrepancies in the maps of Merced County. We are seeking federal legislative and lobbying assistance to ensure that the maps and flood zones in Merced are accurate and include all current flood control projects that are currently in place in the County.

## **FEDERAL AGRICULTURE INSPECTION PROGRAMS**

In recent years, the Federal Agricultural Inspection Program was transferred from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the new Department of Homeland Security. This transfer of responsibilities has not been a positive improvement for this program. We are seeking federal legislation or administrative action that would return the Federal Agriculture Inspection Program to the USDA.

# FEDERAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

## **CAMPUS PARKWAY**

The Campus Parkway project will build an expressway from the Mission Avenue Interchange on Highway 99, north to Yosemite Avenue, at the base of the planned UC Merced Community. The Campus Parkway project has completed all of the necessary environmental studies and is currently in the process of acquiring right of way for the project. The County has already secured funding to complete right-of-way acquisition through all phases of the project, and additionally has funding to complete construction of the Parkway through Phase 1, which will take the Parkway to the Childs Avenue intersection. An additional \$60 million in construction funding is needed to complete the project.

Campus Parkway is a shelf-ready project that will greatly benefit the surrounding communities and ease traffic congestion in the City of Merced, by providing an alternate and streamlined route to the UC Merced Campus. All money granted for this project can be put to use immediately to finish right of way acquisition and construction on the project.

## **GENERAL REVIEW AND REEVALUATION FOR THE MERCED STREAMS PROJECT**

There is a critical need for flood protection on Black Rascal Creek to prevent the damaging floods which have occurred at least three times over the past 8 years. A General Reevaluation Report (GRR) is being prepared (1) to redefine the flood problems and risks in the Merced County Streams project area by updating current hydrology and flood plains, and the physical, biological, and socioeconomic conditions, (2) to reevaluate alternatives for reducing flood damages in the area, and (3) to reaffirm the Federal interest in participating in the construction of features of the project that was recommended in the Phase II General Design Memorandum (GDM).

The original Merced County Stream Group, California, project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 as part of the comprehensive plan for flood control for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins. The project, which was completed in 1957, consisted of four flood control reservoirs on Burns, Bear, Owens, and Mariposa Creeks in addition to downstream improvements.

To modify and improve the original project, Congress authorized the Merced County Streams, California, project in the Flood Control Act of 1970. This authorization provides for enlargement of the four existing reservoirs providing a total capacity of 117,900 acre-feet for multipurpose storage, construction of three new reservoirs, and channel improvements along the Bear Creek and Mariposa Creek systems. The three new proposed reservoirs included Castle, Haystack Mountain, and Marguerite.

Technical studies were later conducted to reexamine and reevaluate the 1970 authorized project according to current Federal laws regulations and policies. In March 1980, Phase I of the GDM was completed and indicated that the authorized features of channel improvements on the Mariposa Creek system, enlargement of Owens and Mariposa Reservoirs, and construction of Marguerite Reservoir are no longer economically feasible. Further, the authorized project was reformulated to include constructing Castle and Haystack Mountain Dams, enlarging Bear and Burns Reservoirs, and constructing about thirty-three miles of downstream levees and channels on the Bear Creek system. During coordination, the sponsor requested that Burns Reservoir be deferred. This resulted in Phase

II of the GDM being done. Phase II GDM was completed in 1982. Features of the reformulated project remain to be evaluated.

Estimated total project cost (October 1996) is \$132,700,000 (includes an allowance for estimated inflation through the construction period), of which \$91,800,000 is Federal and \$40,900,000 is non-Federal (which includes a \$6,855,000 cash contribution).

Construction of Castle Dam was completed in January of 1992 as a separate element. In September of 1996 a supplemental GDM for Haystack Dam was completed.

The changes in the population growth, downstream development and new environmental compliance issues (Environmental Site Assets and vernal pools) necessitate the reevaluation of the project alternatives and determination of the National Economic Development plan. The next step towards completion of the GRR is to complete a flood plain analysis study that will cost approximately \$1.25 million. The cost to complete the GRR is approximately \$3 million.

### **MOVIN' ON - METH PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The Merced County Department of Public Health's Maternal Child Health and Field Nursing Programs have daily experience with pregnant and parenting women and their children whose lives are impacted by methamphetamine use. We would like to implement a focused project, Movin' On that would provide more intensive case management services to pregnant and parenting substance-abusing women and their children. This service would be provided before, during, and after any drug treatment services that might be provided, especially the services of Merced County alcohol and drug treatment programs

The Merced County Public Health Department's Movin' On Project is an evidence based, intensive case management program to assist pregnant and parenting women who are using, or have a history of, methamphetamine abuse. The project gives families the extra support and coordination needed to be successful at sobriety and re-entering the community.

Movin' On is designed to reduce the risk of poor perinatal outcomes associated with perinatal drug/alcohol exposure, reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, and assist parents in seeking drug/alcohol counseling and treatment options.

The program provides a more coordinated and evidence-based interagency approach in developing comprehensive treatment plans with family input. It also promotes access to comprehensive medical care, including preventive medical services, family planning services, and appropriate use of primary care and emergency room providers. Finally, it promotes infant and childhood development in an effort to have a positive effect on school readiness and appropriate social/emotional growth.