



Around Tulare County – February 19, 2010

TULARE COUNTY'S ONE VOICE DELEGATION HEADED TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tulare County's One Voice delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. from February 22-26 to meet face-to-face with federal elected officials and staff for federal transportation, public safety and air quality funding.

Steve Worthley, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors who will travel with the delegation, said past One Voice visits have proven to be very beneficial and have helped obtain millions of dollars in federal aid for Tulare County.

"It is important to speak as a unified voice from our region, as this helps build relationships with members of Congress as well as Administration staff," Chairman Worthley said. "Through our One Voice trips we provide our congressional representatives with local input. Our federal legislators and their staff have repeatedly told us the One Voice visits help them to better understand Tulare County's issues, as well as prepare them to advocate for our priority funding requests."

Chairman Worthley said other benefits include the ability to forge heightened recognition that Tulare County is acting regionally; and improved communication with congressional/senate representatives, some of whom serve on various House and Senate subcommittees that impact Tulare County.

"This trip is a great opportunity to meet face-to-face with members of Congress and Federal agencies we don't have access to at home," Chairman Worthley said.

Tulare County's federal lobbying firm, Alcalde & Fay, estimates more than \$80 million in federal funding for flood control, transportation and marijuana eradication projects, among others, has been secured through previous visits to Washington, D.C.

During their 5-day visit to Washington, D.C. next week, the Tulare County delegation is scheduled to meet with the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy, the offices of United States Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Congressman Devin Nunes, Congressman Radanovich, Congressman John Duncan, and the Director of Transportation Kathy Dedrick, among others. The delegation has also scheduled several appointments with the chairpersons and staff from a variety of congressional committees and federal agencies to discuss Tulare County projects.

Representatives from Tulare County, its eight incorporated cities and the engineering firm Omni Means will participate in the One Voice trip.

TCAG Funding Requests

Supervisor Mike Ennis, who serves as Chairman of the Tulare County Association of Governments, said delegation members representing transportation will request funding and/or legislative support from federal representatives for projects chosen for their regional significance, their ability to bring prosperity to Tulare County, and their potential contribution to improved air quality and transportation mobility. Some of the projects include:

- Funding for Highway 198 and Highway 99 projects.
- Promotion of a short-haul rail for the eastside of Tulare County.
- Continuation of air-quality (CMAQ) funding.



- Highway 198/Plaza Drive Corridor Improvements: \$1.5 million

"Any time we can improve a stretch of road in Tulare County it makes it better for all of us who live here," Supervisor Ennis said. "For many of these road projects to move forward, we will need federal, state and local dollars. Tulare County will continue to seek to secure available money to improve infrastructure."

Board of Supervisors Funding Requests

In addition to transportation requests, members of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors will meet with federal representatives to discuss funding requests for the following:

- Gang Prevention Initiative: \$517,500
- Lake Success Dam Seismic Remediation: \$10 million
- Rural Community Water Systems: \$1.5 million

Supervisor Ishida also plans to meet with federal officials to discuss California's water crisis.

Residents interested in monitoring the progress of the One Voice delegation and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors' activities can follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CountyofTulare.