



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER

December 11, 2003, 9-11 a.m.

Edison AgTAC

4175 S. Laspina Street, Tulare

**Welcome and Self-Introductions.** The meeting was called to order by Ray Dunn at 9:05 a.m. and self-introductions were made.

**Update on International Center for Water Technology.** David Zoldoske provided information regarding the ICWT funding and development.

- The Omnibus Bill containing a \$1.5 million appropriation for the ICWT was passed by the House. The Senate has not yet voted on the Bill, but there is no reason to believe that it will not pass. David thanked everyone who wrote letters/made calls to support the request. This amount supplements \$1.8 million received last year.
- The primary limitation on the funds is that they cannot be used for construction. The will be placed in an EPA account and David will write a proposal with input from the industry to the EPA for utilization. The funds can be used for consulting, equipment, marketing, etc. and can be used any time within the next five years.
- A funding proposal was submitted to the WIB and, although, a decision has not been made, it appears that the current WB grant will be refunded through June 30, 2003. A new proposal requesting funding for a three-year period beginning July 1 is being developed. We will bring the proposal to the cluster for comments.
- **David was contacted by staff from the offices of Congressmen Dooly and Radanovich. The discussion included information that the southern San Joaquin Valley has been given special consideration for federal funds. This consideration will assist in seeking additional funding for the ICWT.**
- During the next 6 months, the cluster needs to spend time on developing outreach strategies.
- A presentation was made to the Workforce Development Board and strong support was received.
- The location of the testing/certification building at Fresno State has been given approval by campus planning and supported by President Welty. Renderings are being developed and the building will include labs, 6-7 offices, loading dock, a crane that will hold 10 ton, among other state-of-the-art equipment.
- In discussion it was felt that the cluster would receive great value by putting on an international conference in the Fresno area, possibly in the spring 2005. Claude Laval will chair a task force to develop the conference which will call attention to everything the cluster is doing.

- A Fresno State Water Advisory Board has been appointed for the Center for Irrigation Technology, ICWT, and the California Water Institute. Jim Costa will chair the board and the members included Dan Dooley, Bill Jones, Tim Quinn, Steve Hall, Art Baggett, Karl Longley, David Zoldoske, Parry Klassen, Mark Grewal, and Claude Laval.
- The water cluster is a part of the Fresno Area Regional Jobs Initiative and is seen as the model for all other clusters to be developed.
- Talking points regarding what the cluster has to offer need to be developed. These points will be used for making presentation as well as outreach to government officials Angelo Mazzei offered to forward the talking points to Kevin McCarthy, a member of Governor Schwarzenegger's transition team.
- The Great Valley Center has hired a new energy person. He will be in Fresno December 17 for a meeting to discuss renewable energy and air quality options in the Valley. He will be doing a survey of the Valley in these areas. David believes his role is to identify projects and potential funding sources.

### **Committee Reports.**

**Industry Advocacy committee.** Jolene Polyack explained activities of the committee since the last meeting.

- The attorneys working with the committee in the development of the PAC and other non-profit designations proposed the name of Water Technology Alliance for the non-profit entity.
- A draft chart including proposed vision statements for the Water Technology Alliance and the ICWT was discussed.
  - The chart describes the relationship of the WTA to the ICWT and other projects of the WTA.
  - Discussion and clarification of the relationship of the two entities was held.
  - It was suggested that the WTA and ICWT be parallel entities rather than indicating the WTA as the umbrella organization and ICWT as one of its entity
  - Following discussion it was agreed that the cluster membership would be provided with the document and input for the vision statements would be requested.
- To begin the process of applying for non-profit status, the WTA must develop by-laws. An interim Board of Directors was recommended to review the proposed by-laws and make a recommendation to the members. The interim Board would include Claude Laval, Ray Dunn, David Zoldoske, Angelo Mazzei, and Jolene Polyack. It was MSC to accept the interim Board membership.
- The International Conference mentioned earlier has been endorsed by the committee and it is planned to bring in international speakers and international exhibitors. It was suggested that either April or May 2005 may be a good time for the conference, as May is **Water Awareness Month.**

**Workforce Committee.** Manjit Muhar-Atwal reported on the committee's activities.

- The committee has met with the community college representatives to plan next year's activities.

- During the 2003 CIMT program, 32 students applied and 7 went for interviews. The committee plans to begin earlier for the 2004 program to give companies more time to make decisions.
- Preliminary dates for the 2004 CIMT program are:
  - Spring tour dates: February 4, Reedley College students  
February 25, Fresno City College students
  - College student career day March 4, Fresno City College  
March 17, Reedley College
  - Student internship application due: March 31
  - Interview/selection process: April & May
  - Final decisions & matching May 12

**Update on Marketing and Export Development Programs.** Dan Clawson reported on recent activities.

- Dan and Laura have attended 7 shows since the last meeting.
- Travel funds are needed to continue attendance at the shows.
- A WTA regional conference is being proposed for March 3 and 4, 2003. The conference would be held at the Airport Piccadilly Inn in Fresno. Suggested conference agenda would include:
  - Workshops for the CIMT program
  - Basics in export trading
  - SBIR (Small business Innovative Research) grant information
  - Table top technical exhibits.
- Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposed agenda would be sent to all cluster members for comments and suggestions.

**Wrap-Up/Next Steps/Adjournment.**

- David Zoldoske suggested that the cluster establish an agenda item to include presentations/relevant experiences by members at each cluster meeting.
- The next meeting is proposed for either March 3 or 4 as part of the Water Technology Alliance Regional Conference.