

## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER

May 22, 2003 – 9-11 a.m.

CSU Bakersfield, Stockdale Room

Welcome and Self-Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by co-chairman Claude Laval. Self-introductions were made.

### **Introduction to the Water Technology Cluster.**

- Claude Laval began by stating that the water technology cluster is a Central Valley project—not just a Fresno project.
- Angelo Mazzei spoke about what the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) means to various water-related manufacturers as well as users.
  - The ICWT will be a resource for the evaluation of new products, third party certification and testing, and development of new ideas and processes. It will provide one-stop shopping for information, certifications, and R&D.
  - The ICWT will be a magnet for the water industry to relocate to the region.
  - “Silicon Valley of the Water Industry”
- David Zoldoske provided a history of the Water Technology Cluster with a PowerPoint presentation. The cluster was formed after Collaborative Economics prepared a report, “The Economic Future of the San Joaquin Valley”. The report identified six valley strengths, one of which was the micro irrigation industry. The micro irrigation cluster expanded into the water cluster.
- Members of the water cluster identified three areas to be addressed: Quality of workforce, collaboration in technology and research, and joint marketing and advocacy. The cluster developed three working groups: advocacy, marketing, and job training.
  - Advocacy: \$1.8 million in federal funding has been approved for the 2003 fiscal year. These funds will be used for the establishment of a testing and certification lab within the International Center for Water Technology. Dr. John Welty, president of Fresno State, has identified space on the campus for the ICWT.
  - Marketing: A partnership with Fresno State was formed to establish an export market program for water technology products in Mexico and South America. Over \$600,000 in grants has been raised for this program.
  - Job Training: The Careers in Manufacturing Technology program for job training and internships has been established through a grant from The James Irvine Foundation.
- The ICWT will house research and development lab that will also perform testing and certifications, a permanent water technology exhibition center, and training and educational information areas. The ICWT is scheduled to open in 2006.

- Ashley Swearingin noted that the development of technology solutions for manufacturers, the partnership with the university, and industry collaboration are the reasons fund raising has been successful. Case studies of six different clusters have been completed, and the studies indicate that the water cluster has surpassed efforts by other clusters that have been established for many years.
- Fresno State is looking to engage CSU Bakersfield in the water cluster and ICWT project. Discussions are ongoing.

### **Group Discussion.**

- The cluster is looking for ways to engage the industry in Kern County.
- What are the common opportunities/challenges?
- Workforce development is an industry problem. Community college students are not aware available careers in water technology manufacturing.
- The Careers in Manufacturing Technology work experience/internship program is addressing this need. The programs will be broadened to other manufacturers.
- Is the cluster geographically tied to the Valley? The workforce development project is unique top the Valley, but the overall cluster is nationwide.
- There are water reclamation and ground water treatment opportunities.
- Opportunities will be provided for students to get involved in water technology, i.e., water decathlon.

### **Committee Reports.**

#### Industry Advocacy.

- Don Thompson reported that the water cluster has grown beyond the Central Valley. He discussed the committee's intent to create a 501 (c) (6) and a 527 PAC (political action committee). Vern Highley discussed the development of the PAC.

#### Workforce Committee.

- Manjit Atwal reported on the development of the committee.
- Three areas were identified by the industry as needing workforce development: welding, maintenance mechanic, machinists.
- The James Irvine Foundation provided funding for the development of the Careers in Manufacturing Technology project. This project provides work experience/internship programs for community college students

#### Ad Hoc Manufacturing Operations Group.

- Tim Borneman, California Mfg. Technology Center, met with industry operations officers.
- The group has identified barriers and drivers/champions.
- Action items include training (water/plant operation & maintenance), self-directed work teams, competitive business and manufacturing in today's world.

### **Update on Marketing and export Development Programs.**

- Dan Clawson gave a brief report on the export development program. The export program will be hosting a booth in Brazil in two weeks.

**Wrap-Up/Next Steps/adjournment**

- It was suggested that future meetings be held at the International Agricenter in Tulare, as well as in Bakersfield and Fresno/Clovis.
- The next meeting will be held **August 14, 2003, from 9-11 a.m. at the Central Valley Business Incubator, 2555 Clovis Avenue, Clovis.**