

Congressman Cal Dooley's **VALLEY ACTION PLAN** **FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE**

Since October 2002, Congressman Cal Dooley made significant progress on the agenda items outlined in his Oct. 2002 Valley Action Plan. He continues to play a leadership role in shaping fiscal policy, trade, health care and education debates in Congress. He is working to make sure that the national economy grows and that Valley residents benefit from this growth. What follows is a "report card" of progress on Congressman Dooley's Valley Action Plan priorities and his goals for progress in the year ahead:

Economic Growth and Job Creation

- ?? *Make Sure Economic Designations Live Up to Their Promise*
- ?? *Promote Fiscally Responsible Economic Growth*
- ?? *Protect Job Training Funds*

Safe Communities

- ?? *Secure More Funds and More Federal Agents to Fight Meth*
- ?? *Promote and Aid Homeland Security in the Valley*

Agricultural Economy

- ?? *Increase Access to Foreign Markets*
- ?? *Expand Valley Water Supply*
- ?? *Work with USDA to Ensure Valley Priorities are Reflected in Implementation of Farm Bill Programs*
- ?? *Encourage Support for Guestworker Compromise*

Better Schools And Cleaner Air

- ?? *Fulfill the Promise of More Aid for Needy Schools*
- ?? *Identify and Champion Projects to Clean Valley Air*

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and Health Care Access

- ?? *Provide Universal Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage*
- ?? *Expand Health Care Access and Enhance Valley's Health Care Safety Net*

The Valley's Infrastructure

- ?? *Expand Investment In Lemoore Naval Air Station*
- ?? *Strengthen Valley Transportation Network*
- ?? *Remain Committed to Federal Investment in Downtown Fresno*
- ?? *Strengthen Central Valley Farmworker Transportation Pilot Project*

Leadership for the Valley

- ?? *Aid the Valley's Immigrant Families*
- ?? *Move Families from Welfare To Work*
- ?? *Expand Senior Health Care Forums*

Congressman Cal Dooley's **VALLEY ACTION PLAN** **FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE**

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Goals for 2003:

?? **Make Sure Economic Designations Live Up to Their Promise**

- ☞☞ Ensure that the historic Central Valley Empowerment Initiative Task Force marshals coordinated resources of federal government to develop regional approach toward economic development
- ☞☞ Work with city officials in Fresno, Parlier, and Orange Cove to build community support for, and awareness of, federal economic designations and ensure that the tax-incentive packages are maximized to attract new businesses and provide new jobs
- ☞☞ Continue to work with USDA to develop a restructuring plan for 1999 Enterprise Community designation for City of Huron and Tule Tribe to ensure full enjoyment of award's benefits

? **Promote Fiscally Responsible Economic Growth**☞

- ☞☞ Oppose Bush Administration's fiscally irresponsible tax cut
- ☞☞ Support a stimulus package that puts money in the hands of middle-income families to trigger economic growth and includes revenue-sharing measures with states for Medicaid, homeland security, education and transportation costs

? **Protect Job Training Funds**

- ☞☞ Oppose Bush Administration's proposed elimination of federal job training funds and work toward increasing federal monies that will help meet the Valley's need for more skilled workers
- ☞☞ Continue to urge House and Senate Appropriators to provide \$10 million to fully fund the Dooley-championed farmworker training grant program

2001-2002 Accomplishments

- ☞☞ Helped pass significant tax relief for Valley residents, including lower marginal tax rates, increased tax relief to families with children, and elimination of the estate tax
- ☞☞ Helped secure \$450,000 for the Roeding Business Park in West Fresno in fiscal year-end Appropriations legislation
- ☞☞ Convened two meetings of the Central Valley Empowerment Initiative to focus all parties on providing much needed federal resources to the Central Valley
- ☞☞ Helped Fresno, Parlier and Orange Cove secure federal economic development designations and have continued to work with these cities to locate possible sources for economic and community development, which may range from job retention and creation priorities, to new investments in public facilities and infrastructure
- ☞☞ Co-hosted federal procurement workshops with local Chambers of Commerce to educate Valley businesses on ways to procure federal and state business projects
- ☞☞ Championed the creation of a Farmworker Training Program in the Farm Bill and argued for successful passage in the Senate
- ☞☞ Helped secure more than \$1.5 million in funding through a Department of Housing and Urban Development grant for educational and job training programs for youths

Congressman Cal Dooley's **VALLEY ACTION PLAN** **FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE**

Safe Communities

Goals for 2003:

?? Secure More Funds and More Federal Agents to Fight Meth

- ✍✍ Continue push for additional federal law enforcement agents assigned to Central Valley HIDTA
- ✍✍ Continue to fight for increased funding for Central Valley HIDTA, after having successfully advocated for annual funding increases
- ✍✍ Work to identify funding sources within the Department of Agriculture for cleanup of meth labs on agricultural land

?? Promote and Aid Homeland Security in the Valley

- ✍✍ Convene Homeland Security Mayors Forum to draw attention to the federal government's resources for aiding local communities' anti-terrorism preparedness
- ✍✍ Advocate for the continuation of COPS funding, which the Administration has proposed to slash by almost \$1 billion in the Fiscal Year 2004 budget, a reduction of 89% from Fiscal Year 2003 proposed funding levels
- ✍✍ Introduce legislation in the House, identical to legislation Senator Lieberman will introduce in the Senate, to enable biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to conduct research to develop countermeasures to treat those who might be exposed to biological, chemical or radiological materials in a terror attack, shifting expense and risk of research to private sector firms more likely to contain costs and produce the necessary countermeasures

2001-2002 Accomplishments:

- ✍✍ Helped maintain national HIDTA funds against proposed cuts to fight methamphetamine production and distribution in the fiscal year-end Appropriations legislation
- ✍✍ Secured commitment from former DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson to assign four additional DEA agents to Central Valley HIDTA to compensate for post-9/11 loss of FBI agents
- ✍✍ Supported legislation to create a new Department of Homeland Security
- ✍✍ Co-sponsored bioterrorism preparedness act in the 107th Congress to address the gaps in our nation's bio-defense system
- ✍✍ Co-sponsored the CLEAN-UP Meth Act in the 108th Congress to give our local leaders and law enforcement officials the tools and resources they need to address the damage that meth and its production does to our environment, our economy and our communities
- ✍✍ Helped secure the following funding to fight crime in the Valley: \$6.0 million grant to Fresno police department to hire an additional 92 police officers; grants for City of Delano and Kern County Sheriff's Department to purchase information technology that will streamline administrative and clerical duties for law enforcement officers; grants to provide cops in schools for the City of Delano (two officers), City of Fresno (three officers), and the City of Wasco (one officer)

Congressman Cal Dooley's VALLEY ACTION PLAN FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE

Agricultural Economy

Goals for 2003:

?? Increase Access to Foreign Markets

- ☞☞ Garner Democratic support for Chile and Singapore FTAs, which will be considered in 2003
- ☞☞ Continue to play a role in ongoing negotiations for the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations, bilateral agreements with Morocco and Australia, and the United States - Central America FTA
- ☞☞ Serve as a principal adviser to U.S. Trade Ambassador Robert Zoellick in the development of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, including support for the U.S. trade proposal to reduce export subsidies and reduce tariffs in the upcoming agriculture round of negotiations in the WTO

?? Expand Valley Water Supply

- ☞☞ Continue to advance CALFED legislation in the 108th Congress that provides greater certainty of water supply for Valley farmers and utilizes maximum flexibility to meet that goal
- ☞☞ Continue to support legislation to reform the Endangered Species Act to use sound science that reflects a more balanced approach to endangered species reform
- ☞☞ Secure additional funds for water storage at Lake Success and flood control at Arroyo Pasajero, White River, Deer Creek, Poso Creek and Frazier Creek
- ☞☞ Continue to proactively work with Department of Interior to identify innovative administrative approaches to maximize flexibility to provide more water for Valley agriculture

?? Work with USDA to Ensure Valley Priorities are Reflected in Implementation of Farm Bill Programs

- ☞☞ Continue advocacy for market-based commodity programs, maximized competitive agriculture research funding, expanded market opportunities, and a strengthened fight against pests and disease
- ☞☞ Work to ensure Section 32 commodity purchase funds are available for purchases of fruits and vegetables
- ☞☞ Work to ensure that an appropriate phase-out schedule of methyl bromide is implemented relative to available alternatives and economic impacts
- ☞☞ Work with USDA in rule-making process to ensure 2002 Farm Bill conservation programs are implemented in a way to maximize benefits to the Valley, including new programs for irrigated agriculture

?? Encourage Support for Guestworker Compromise

- ☞☞ Continue to work with grower and farmworker communities to find a solution to the Valley's agricultural labor challenges

Congressman Cal Dooley's VALLEY ACTION PLAN FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE

2001-2002 Accomplishments

- ☞☞ Co-authored legislation to grant the president Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), led effort to secure Democratic votes, ensuring passage, and advocated bipartisan compromise that included expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance for workers who are temporarily displaced by trade, and joined President Bush at TPA signing ceremony
- ☞☞ Worked with Bureau of Reclamation to increase federal water allocations for south-of-the-delta water users from 45 to 70 percent
- ☞☞ Only Democrat to advocate for President Bush to invoke Taft-Hartley Act to resolve the Los Angeles port labor dispute, ensuring continued flow of California's multi-billion dollar perishable fruit and vegetable export industry
- ☞☞ Successfully advocated for USDA to request \$70 million from OMB for national bovine tuberculosis program, which is currently under review. Funds will help contain and eradicate TB in California herds and are essential for California to regain TB-free status
- ☞☞ Working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and USDA to provide critical resources to contain and control the Exotic Newcastle Disease in California poultry flocks
- ☞☞ Helped secure funds for "California package," a Section 32 bonus purchase of \$56.8 million for raisins, almonds, walnuts and dried plums, figs and dates
- ☞☞ Secured funds to finish design and construction of Delta-Mendota Canal-California Aqueduct Intertie; improve Valley flood control and expand water supply storage, including Lake Kaweah reservoir enlargement in fiscal year-end Appropriations legislation
- ☞☞ Secured \$1.8 million in fiscal year-end Appropriations legislation for the International Center for Water Technology at CSU, Fresno
- ☞☞ Introduced bipartisan legislation in the 107th Congress to reauthorize the federal-state CALFED program to ensure more reliable agricultural water deliveries throughout California

Congressman Cal Dooley's VALLEY ACTION PLAN FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE

Better Schools And Cleaner Air

Goals for 2003:

?? Fulfill the Promise of More Aid for Needy Schools

- ☞☞ Continue to support new Fresno Unified School Board District board members in their efforts to refocus the District on student achievement and district accountability
- ☞☞ Urge the Administration and Congress to live up to education bill's promise of doubling Title I funding to the neediest schools over the next seven years
- ☞☞ Support Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding and sensible reforms to better help Valley students with disabilities
- ☞☞ Explore opportunities to expand Dooley-established Mendota pilot project to more Valley communities to assist non-citizen students seeking aid for college and other educational benefits

?? Identify and Champion Projects to Clean Valley Air

- ☞☞ Continue to develop a public-private coalition consisting of local, state and federal elected officials, private businesses, community activists and transportation representatives to increase options for freight rail traffic use as a viable alternative to truck travel in the Central Valley for the purpose of cleaning the Valley's air
- ☞☞ Create innovative approaches to nationalizing California emissions standards, severely reducing the number of trucks using high emission fuel in California

2001-2002 Accomplishments:

- ☞☞ Successfully worked with a bipartisan group of elected officials and leaders in the business community to recruit and finance a slate of four candidates for the Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees, three of whom were elected in November 2002, in order to help turn around a troubled school district by refocusing the School Board on student achievement and district accountability
- ☞☞ Supported the Leave No Child Behind Act, a historic education reform law that included many elements of the "Three R's" bill co-authored with fellow New Democrats. The law doubles Title I funding for the neediest schools, improves teacher quality, and increases accountability in exchange for greater flexibility in using federal dollars
- ☞☞ Established pilot program in Mendota schools to inform non-citizen students about the importance of obtaining "Immediate Relative" status once their parents are granted citizenship to help Valley children receive aid for college and other educational benefits

Congressman Cal Dooley's **VALLEY ACTION PLAN** **FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE**

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and Health Care Access

Goals for 2003:

?? Provide Universal Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

- ☞☞ Introduce legislation in the 108th Congress to enact a universal, progressive, affordable prescription drug coverage as part of Medicare
- ☞☞ Support prescription drug reform that provides universal coverage to all seniors, catastrophic care coverage for the sickest seniors and increased benefits for low-income beneficiaries

?? Expand Health Care Access and Enhance Valley's Health Care Safety Net

- ☞☞ Play a leadership role in transforming health care policy to place a greater emphasis on providing care to the uninsured and reintroduce legislation to provide low- and middle-income families with refundable tax credits for the purchase of health insurance
- ☞☞ Address regional inequities in Medicare HMO reimbursement formulas
- ☞☞ Support measures to assist the Valley's hospitals and clinics
- ☞☞ Address the shortage of health care professionals by providing incentives for physicians to relocate into medically under-served areas
- ☞☞ Continue to support funding for our public health programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the Healthy Families program
- ☞☞ Continue to support funding for community health centers that are the primary care providers for many of our Valley's most vulnerable residents

2001-2002 Accomplishments:

- ☞☞ Lead Democratic sponsor on H.R. 660, the Small Business Health Fairness Act in the 108th Congress, which would allow more small business employers and employees to enroll in Association Health Plans to receive quality and affordable health insurance
- ☞☞ Coauthored successful legislation to increase reimbursement rates for Medicare HMO's in rural areas and continue to urge Administration and House Leadership to appropriate additional funds for Medicare reimbursement in rural, medically underserved areas
- ☞☞ Co-sponsored successful legislation in the 107th Congress to provide scholarships and grants to men and women interested in the nursing profession to help solve our nation's nursing shortage
- ☞☞ Successfully urged the Administration to reinstate J-1 visa waiver program to help alleviate the shortage of doctors in rural, medically underserved communities. J-1 visa waivers allow foreign medical students studying in the United States to apply for a waiver of the mandatory two-year return trip to their country of origin, as long as they provide primary care or psychiatric services in federally designated underserved areas

Congressman Cal Dooley's VALLEY ACTION PLAN FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE

The Valley's Infrastructure

Goals for 2003:

?? Expand Investment In Lemoore Naval Air Station

- ☞☞ Increase federal investment in LNAS housing, recreational and flight support facilities to ensure that LNAS continues to play a vital role in the war on terrorism and homeland defense
- ☞☞ Work with Navy officials to establish a more secure perimeter around LNAS to ensure the safety and integrity of base operations

?? Strengthen Valley Transportation Network

- ☞☞ Support efforts to widen Highway 46 in Kern County and Highway 198 between Highway 99 and Hanford in Kings County
- ☞☞ After securing \$35 million to extend Highway 180 in Fresno County west to I-5, continue work with state officials to accelerate construction timeline

?? Remain Committed to Federal Investment in Downtown Fresno

- ☞☞ Introduced two pieces of legislation in the 107th Congress, and will re-introduce in the 108th Congress, which would transfer the existing federal courthouse to Fresno County and designate the new federal courthouse the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse"
- ☞☞ Remain committed to boosting downtown revitalization and maintaining jobs downtown

?? Strengthen Central Valley Farmworker Transportation Pilot Project

- ☞☞ After having helped successfully launch Farmworker Transportation Services Pilot Project and helped secure more than \$5 million to more safely transport Valley workers from home to field, continue to fight for funding to expand successful pilot projects

2001-2002 Accomplishments:

- ☞☞ Supported House Defense Appropriations to provide more than \$3.8 billion for the F/A 18 E/F Superhornets and more than \$36 million for construction at Lemoore NAS
- ☞☞ Secured funding to improve Valley transportation network, including \$750,000 for Laval Road Interchange upgrade at I-5 near the new IKEA site and \$600,000 for Fresno Area Express (FAX) bus system in fiscal year-end Appropriations legislation
- ☞☞ Helped secure \$2.49 million earmark grant for Farmworker Transportation Service Pilot Program for Central Valley
- ☞☞ Helped secure \$900,000 to construct a state-of-the-art science-based exhibition and learning center at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art, History and Science in Downtown Fresno

Congressman Cal Dooley's VALLEY ACTION PLAN FEBRUARY 2003 UPDATE

Leadership for the Valley

Goals for 2003:

?? Aid the Valley's Immigrant Families

- ☞☞ Strengthen Valley families by supporting the permanent extension of the 245(i) program, which allows families to remain unified while pursuing legal residency
- ☞☞ Continue to support legislation in the 108th Congress to create an earned legalization process to allow immigrants to adjust their status and speed up the reunification of families, solidifying important family ties and creating stronger communities
- ☞☞ Support the Student Adjustment Act, which would allow States to extend in-state tuition rates to children who have been brought to the United States
- ☞☞ Support the Family Reunification Act, which would allow immigrants with minor criminal records to demonstrate to judges that they have compelling reasons to stay, and would give immigration judges the authority to grant relief from removal for deserving-lawful immigrants
- ☞☞ Support efforts to modernize the Immigration and Naturalization Service to better serve Valley families

?? Move Families from Welfare To Work

- ☞☞ Support Democratic proposal for reauthorization of 1996 welfare reform bill, continuing the program's aim of requiring achievable work goals while improving the work support system, especially for single mothers, low-income families and legal immigrants

?? Expand Senior Health Care Forums

- ☞☞ Host additional Senior Health Care Workshops throughout the Valley to provide opportunities for seniors to sign up for existing discount drug cards at workshops

2001-2002 Accomplishments:

- ☞☞ Hosted Senior Health Care Forums in Bakersfield, Fresno, Lemoore and Selma to inform seniors of current opportunities to sign up for existing discount drug cards to immediately help reduce prescription drug costs and to keep seniors up-to-date on the progress of proposed legislation to provide a prescription drug benefit for seniors
- ☞☞ Cosponsored "Earned Legalization and Family Unification" legislation in the 107th Congress, which would ensure that undocumented, tax-paying immigrants who have resided in the United States for at least five years, have a work history of at least two years and are able to pass a stringent background check would be able to adjust their status and live legally in the United States, free of the fear of deportation
- ☞☞ Cosponsored legislation which would support the expansion of high-speed Internet technology into rural and urban homes and businesses in the Valley
- ☞☞ Launched initiative to better communicate work in Congress to Valley's Spanish-language media outlets