

CONGRESSMAN CAL DOOLEY'S VALLEY ACTION PLAN OCTOBER 2002 UPDATE

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

Economic Growth and Job Creation

- *Make Sure Economic Designations Live Up to Their Promise*
- *Protect Job Training Funds*

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*

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 Health Care access

- *Fulfilling the Promise of More Aid for Needy Schools*
- *Expand Health Care Access and Enhance Valley's Health Care Safety Net*
- *Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage*

Leadership for the Valley

- *Aiding the Valley's Immigrant Families*
- *Moving Families from Welfare To Work*
- *Follow up on Senior Health Care Forums*

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ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

- ✓ 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 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
- ✓ Facilitated a meeting with Huron, Tule Tribe and a USDA rural development representative to initiate restructuring of the Huron-Tule Tribe rural Enterprise Community to guarantee the continuation of economic benefits from their previous designation
- ✓ Convened two meetings of the Central Valley Empowerment Initiative to focus all parties on providing much needed federal resources to the Central Valley
- ✓ Championed the creation of a Farmworker Training Program in the Farm Bill and argued for successful passage in Senate
- ✓ Helped secure more than \$3 million in funding through an Economic Development Agency grant for an industrial park in Avenal

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
 - Work with USDA to develop a restructuring plan for 1999 Enterprise Community designation to ensure full enjoyment of award's benefits
- **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 Bush Administration to provide \$10 million to fully fund the Dooley-championed farmworker training grant program

CONGRESSMAN CAL DOOLEY'S VALLEY ACTION PLAN OCTOBER 2002 UPDATE THE VALLEY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Helped secure \$2.49 million earmark grant for Farmworker Transportation Service Pilot Program for Central Valley
- ✓ Secured funding to improve Valley transportation network, including \$500,000 for Laval Road Interchange upgrade at I-5 near the new IKEA site; \$1 million for Fresno Area Express (FAX) bus system; “priority status” for grant applications from Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, Meadows Field in Bakersfield and Fresno Chandler Downtown Airport
- ✓ Helped secure \$1 million for California High Speed Rail Authority to help develop a 700-mile long, high speed, high frequency train system in California

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 H.R. 5615, which would transfer the existing federal courthouse to Fresno County
 - Remain committed to boosting downtown revitalization
 - Introduced legislation to designate the new federal courthouse the “Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse”
 - Maintain federal 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

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SAFE COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Supported House legislation to create a new Department of Homeland Security
- ✓ Co-sponsored bioterrorism preparedness act to address the gaps in our nation's bio-defense system
- ✓ Co-sponsored the CLEAN-UP Meth Act, which would 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 an additional \$1.5 million for the Central Valley HIDTA and increases for national HIDTA funds in the House Appropriations legislation
- ✓ Secured commitment from DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson to assign four additional DEA agents to Central Valley HIDTA to compensate for post-9/11 loss of FBI agents
- ✓ Helped secure the following funding to fight crime in the Valley: \$6.9 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)

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 increase funding for Central Valley HIDTA, after having successfully advocated for funding increases the last three years
 - 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
 - Attempt to secure COPS Technology funding and encourage Valley police departments to use funds to upgrade their crime-fighting technology
 - Attempt to secure \$2 million for the San Joaquin Valley Rural Agriculture Crime Prevention Program to aid farmers in guarding against agri-terrorism

CONGRESSMAN CAL DOOLEY'S VALLEY ACTION PLAN OCTOBER 2002 UPDATE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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 from House Appropriations Committee 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
- ✓ Secured \$2 million from House Appropriations Committee for the International Center for Water Technology at CSU, Fresno
- ✓ Successfully included provisions in the Farm Bill that provide Valley cooperatives greater access to capital in USDA rural development loan programs
- ✓ Introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the federal-state CALFED program to ensure more reliable agricultural water deliveries throughout California
- ✓ Successfully increased to \$1.3 billion funding authorization for competitive, peer reviewed research program in the Farm Bill
- ✓ In the Farm Bill, directed USDA to enter into a cooperative agreement with UC Davis campus to create the Western Human Nutrition Research Center (WHNRC), one of only three such cooperative agreements in the country
- ✓ Included provision in the Farm Bill that provides \$254 million for the newly created Grasslands Reserve Program to help Valley beef producers

Goals for 2003:

- **Increase Access to Foreign Markets**
 - 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 Chile, Singapore, Morocco, Australia, and potential deals with countries in Central America
 - 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

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- **Expand Valley Water Supply**
 - Continue to advance CALFED legislation 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 next year 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

- **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 OCTOBER 2002 UPDATE BETTER SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

- ✓ Worked with a bipartisan group of elected officials and leaders in the business community to recruit and finance a slate of candidates for the Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees in order to help turn around a troubled school district. This slate has been endorsed by Mayor Alan Autry, the Fresno Bee and scores of citizens and community leaders. Once elected, the slate will be dedicated to 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 new law doubles Title I funding for the neediest schools, improves teacher quality, and increases accountability in exchange for greater flexibility in using federal dollars
- ✓ Coauthored successful amendment to the Patients Bill of Rights that would expand health care access by allowing more workers to enroll in Association Health Plans offered by trade or employee groups
- ✓ Coauthored successful legislation to increase reimbursement rates for Medicare HMO's in rural areas
- ✓ Co-sponsored successful legislation to provide scholarships and grants to men and women interested in the nursing profession to help solve our nation's nursing shortage

Goals for 2003:

- **Fulfilling the Promise of More Aid for Needy Schools**
 - Urge the Administration and Congress to live up to education bill's promise of a doubling of Title I funding over seven years to the neediest schools
- **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
 - Reintroduce legislation to provide low- and middle-income families with refundable tax credits for the purchase of health insurance, and continue to expand the availability of association health plans through H.R. 1774, on which Dooley was the lead Democratic co-sponsor
 - 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 provides for many of our Valley's most vulnerable residents

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- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
 - Introduced legislation to enact a universal, progressive, affordable prescription drug coverage as part of Medicare
 - Support alternative Medicare proposal and attempt to gain support from both sides of the aisle to re-ignite stalled prescription drug debate
 - Support prescription drug reform that provides universal protection to all seniors and targets additional help to the sickest and poorest

CONGRESSMAN CAL DOOLEY'S VALLEY ACTION PLAN OCTOBER 2002 UPDATE LEADERSHIP FOR THE VALLEY

- ✓ Hosted Senior Health Care Forums in Fresno, Selma, Lemoore and Bakersfield
- ✓ Launched initiative to better communicate work in Congress to Valley's Spanish-language media outlets
- ✓ Restored food stamp eligibility to legal permanent residents and their children
- ✓ Expanded website capabilities, including sections to help constituents help solve their problems with various government agencies, search for the latest news about their community, receive regular email newsletters about work in Congress, and information for Spanish-speaking constituents

Goals for 2003:

- **Aiding 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
 - Support efforts to modernize the Immigration and Naturalization Service to better serve Valley families
 - 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
 - Establish pilot program in Valley schools to inform students and parents who are not citizens about the importance of students obtaining "Immediate Relative" status once their parents are granted citizenship to help Valley children receive aid for college and other educational benefits
 - Support H.R. 1452, 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
- **Moving Families from Welfare To Work**
 - Support reauthorization of 1996 welfare reform bill, continuing the program's aim of requiring work while improving the work support system
- **Follow up on Senior Health Care Forums**
 - Host Senior Health Care Workshops to provide opportunities for seniors to sign up for existing discount drug cards to immediately help reduce prescription drug costs