



ARTICLE

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 7TH, 2009

The Madera Tribune

An informal jobs brainstorming session is planned for Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Madera County Workforce Assistance Center, 209 East 7th St., in Madera.

The North Fork Tribe, in cooperation with the Madera County Economic Development Commission and Madera Work Force Investment Board, organized the “brown bag lunch” event.

The North Fork Rancheria was asked by the White House Office of Inter-governmental Affairs to organize the local jobs forum and provide feedback to the White House by Dec. 11.

Both Republicans and the Obama Administration convened job forums on Thursday to discuss job creation with various key stakeholders, including labor, small business, education and corporate leaders. Now it's Madera's turn to participate in this national dialog and provide local recommendations.

The San Joaquin Valley consistently ranks among the most economically challenged regions in the nation with worsening unemployment, home foreclosures and local budget cuts. Organizers hope to identify “meaningful, actionable ideas” around generating jobs, business opportunity and economic growth for Madera and the San Joaquin Valley. Discussions will not to focus on any specific project but rather use the general framework of Thursday's White House jobs forum.

Jobs forum planned.

Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, who participated in Thursday's White House event and spoke about the jobs, infrastructure and other challenges facing the San Joaquin Valley, said the event was more hands on than she had expected.

Organizers said they hope to do the same or better in Madera. Those who cannot attend may send an alternate or email their comments.

Those attending are encouraged to review topics for discussion:

1. **The Innovation Agenda and Green Jobs of the Future:** green jobs through encouraging energy efficiency and investment in renewable technologies.
2. **Paving the Road for Small Business Job Growth:** encouraging small businesses to taking the next step in hiring.
3. **Creating Jobs through the Rebuilding of America's Infrastructure:** making infrastructure investment a longer-term commitment to helping the economy continue on a path to recovery.
4. **Expanding Job Opportunities for American Workers Through Exports:** taking advantage of the rebound in global trade to change the tide from consumption driven to export driven growth.
5. **Encouraging Business Competitiveness and Job Creation:** encouraging businesses to invest and create jobs especially through long-term partnership between the public and private sectors.

Specific questions include:

1. From what you have seen, or seen reported about the President's Jobs Forum on December 3rd, what seems relevant to your community?
2. What parts of your local economy are working or thriving? What businesses and sectors are expanding and hiring?
3. What parts of your local economy are not working or thriving? What businesses and sectors have been hit the hardest? What are people struggling with the most?
4. What are the opportunities for growth in your community? What businesses and sectors seem poised to rebound? What do you see as the “jobs of the future”?
5. What are the obstacles to job creation in your community? What could make local businesses more likely to start hiring?
6. What other issues and ideas should the President consider?

Space is limited; those wishing to attend should make reservations with Beth Waitkus, North Fork Rancheria Community Relations at 415-730-6301, or bethwaitkus@earthlink.net