

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 15, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 21, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 31**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Parra  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member McCarthy)  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Cogdill,  
Matthews, and Villines)**

December 6, 2004

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An act to add and repeal Chapter 12.9 (commencing with Section 7095) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, relating to economic development, *and making an appropriation therefor*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 31, as amended, Parra. ~~Interagency Task Force~~ *Partnership* for the Economic Development of the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Existing law authorizes 2 or more public agencies, including any federal department, state or local agency to enter into an agreement for the purpose of exercising any power common to the contracting parties for specified purposes, including, among other things, acquiring or constructing specified public facilities and improvements.

This bill would, until January 1, ~~2011~~ 2012, create the Interagency ~~Task Force~~ *Partnership* for the Economic Development of the Central

San Joaquin Valley, composed of the heads of specified state agencies and departments, *local government members and private sector members*, to coordinate and improve existing state and federal efforts for the valley, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic performance of the valley.

The bill would require the ~~task force partnership~~ to request that the 7 8 economic development coordinators of the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, *San Joaquin*, Stanislaus, and Tulare serve as a subcommittee of the ~~task force partnership~~ and make a specified report to the ~~task force partnership~~ and the Legislature by no later than June 1, ~~2006~~ 2007.

The bill would also require the ~~task force partnership~~ to meet ~~once a month at least quarterly~~ and to ~~report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2006, on their progress and the actions that the task force will be recommending~~ *implement a strategic action plan developed by the partnership*. The bill would require the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to create a Web page for the ~~task force partnership~~, as specified.

*The bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the partnership for the purpose of implementing these provisions.*

Vote: ~~majority~~ <sup>2/3</sup>. Appropriation: ~~no~~ <sup>yes</sup>. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ <sup>yes</sup>. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. *The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of*
- 2     *the following:*
- 3     (a) *The San Joaquin Valley is a region rich in resources and*
- 4     *important to California’s heritage, economy, environment, and*
- 5     *identity. It is one of the most productive agricultural regions in*
- 6     *the world—home to farmlands that feed the nation and the world.*
- 7     *It encompasses three world-class national parks that preserve*
- 8     *the natural beauty of the valley and the mountains that bound it.*
- 9     *The San Joaquin Valley is intersected by a transportation*
- 10    *corridor that is critical to the state’s interstate commerce. Its*
- 11    *people are hardworking and representative of many cultures,*
- 12    *races, and nationalities.*
- 13    (b) *The eight counties and the many communities that form the*
- 14    *San Joaquin Valley enjoy assets that set the region apart from*

1 *the rest of the state, but the valley’s unique geography, climate,*  
2 *and economy also pose specific challenges for the region that*  
3 *demand the attention of government leaders at the state, local,*  
4 *and federal levels.*

5 *(c) The region’s population is growing much faster than the*  
6 *state average. By nearly every indicator, the economic*  
7 *well-being of the residents of the valley lags behind state and*  
8 *national averages. More than one in five San Joaquin Valley*  
9 *residents lives in poverty. The region’s median household income*  
10 *is approximately \$12,000 lower than the statewide median. Yet,*  
11 *because of past neglect, the San Joaquin Valley receives*  
12 *substantially less per capita funding than both the United States*  
13 *and state averages.*

14 *(d) The region is also one of only two regions in the nation to*  
15 *be identified by the United States Environmental Protection*  
16 *Agency as an “extreme non-attainment” zone for repeatedly*  
17 *failing to meet air quality standards.*

18 *(e) The strength of California is tied to the economic success*  
19 *of the San Joaquin Valley. Improving the economy and the*  
20 *well-being of the people of the San Joaquin Valley requires a*  
21 *concerted, coordinated, and creative response from leaders at all*  
22 *levels of government and from community members.*

23 **SECTION 1.**

24 **SEC. 2.** Chapter 12.9 (commencing with Section 7095) is  
25 added to Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, to read:

26  
27 **CHAPTER 12.9. ~~TASK FORCE~~ INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP FOR**  
28 **THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN**  
29 **VALLEY**  
30

31 7095. (a) ~~(1) The Interagency Task Force~~ *The Interagency*  
32 *Partnership for the Economic Development of the Central San*  
33 *Joaquin Valley is hereby created in state government.*

34 *(b) The purpose of the partnership is to coordinate and*  
35 *improve existing state and federal efforts for the San Joaquin*  
36 *Valley, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the*  
37 *living standards and the overall economic performance of the*  
38 *valley. Economic development efforts shall include consideration*  
39 *of the preservation or enhancement of the natural environment*

1 *and natural resources of the valley. The ~~task force~~ partnership*  
 2 *shall consist of all of the following:*  
 3 *(1) Eight local government members to be appointed by the*  
 4 *Governor and the Legislature from a list of three elected officials*  
 5 *submitted by each of the eight Councils of Government from the*  
 6 *following counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera,*  
 7 *Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern.*  
 8 *(2) Eight private sector members to be appointed by the*  
 9 *Governor and the Legislature.*  
 10 *(3) The following state officials:*  
 11 *(A) The Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing,*  
 12 *who shall serve as chairperson.*  
 13 *(B) The Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development.*  
 14 *(C) The Secretary for Environmental Protection.*  
 15 *(D) The Secretary of Food and Agriculture.*  
 16 *(E) The Secretary of State and Consumer Services.*  
 17 *(F) The Secretary for Education.*  
 18 *(G) The Secretary of the Resources Agency.*  
 19 *(H) The Secretary of California Health and Human Services.*  
 20 ~~*(I) The Director of Transportation.*~~  
 21 *(4) One local government representative to be appointed by*  
 22 *the Senate Committee on Rules.*  
 23 *(5) One private sector representative to be appointed by the*  
 24 *Speaker of the Assembly.*  
 25 ~~*(2) Representatives shall be appointed by their respective*~~  
 26 ~~*boards, commissions, or authorities:*~~  
 27 ~~*(b) The purpose of the task force is to coordinate and improve*~~  
 28 ~~*existing state and federal efforts for the San Joaquin Valley, in*~~  
 29 ~~*concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living*~~  
 30 ~~*standards and the overall economic performance of the valley.*~~  
 31 ~~*Economic development efforts shall include consideration of the*~~  
 32 ~~*preservation or enhancement of the natural environment and*~~  
 33 ~~*natural resources of the valley.*~~  
 34 *(c) Each member shall serve at the pleasure of his or her*  
 35 *appointing entity.*  
 36 *(d) The partnership shall meet at least once quarterly for the*  
 37 *conduct of its business. It may also host town hall meetings in the*  
 38 *valley in addition to, or in conjunction with, its quarterly*  
 39 *meetings.*  
 40 ~~*(e) Duties of the task force*~~

1 (e) *Duties of the partnership* shall include all of the following:

2 (1) Analyze programs and policies of ~~task force~~ *partnership*  
3 member agencies that relate to the valley to determine what  
4 changes, modifications, and innovations should be considered, if  
5 any.

6 (2) Consider statistical and data analysis, research, and policy  
7 studies related to the valley.

8 (3) Develop, recommend, and implement short-term and  
9 long-term options for promoting sustainable economic  
10 development.

11 (4) Consult and coordinate activities with federal, state, tribal,  
12 and local governments, community leaders, Members of  
13 Congress, the private sector, and other interested parties, paying  
14 particular attention to maintaining existing authorities of the  
15 state, the tribes, and local governments, and preserving their  
16 existing working relationships with other agencies, organizations,  
17 or individuals.

18 (5) Coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration  
19 priorities of ~~task force~~ *partnership* member agencies related to  
20 the valley.

21 (6) Integrate state and federal initiatives and programs into the  
22 design of sustainable economic development actions for the  
23 valley.

24 (7) Focus initial efforts on pilot communities for implementing  
25 a coordinated and expedited state and federal response to local  
26 economic development and other needs.

27 (8) *Identify projects and programs that will best utilize public*  
28 *dollars and most quickly improve the economic vitality of the*  
29 *valley, especially those that leverage federal, state, local, and*  
30 *private sector resources in a coordinated effort to address*  
31 *critical needs in the valley.*

32 (9) *Work with members of the state's congressional delegation*  
33 *and federal officials, including the federal Task Force for the*  
34 *Economic Recovery of the San Joaquin Valley, to gain federal*  
35 *support for projects identified by the partnership as critical to*  
36 *the region.*

37 (10) *Partner with the University of California, the California*  
38 *State University, the California Community Colleges, and the*  
39 *state's other research and educational institutions, as well as*  
40 *private foundations, to provide guidance, advice, and*

1 *encouragement in support of studies of particular interest and*  
 2 *importance to the valley.*

3 *(11) Review state policies and regulations to ensure they are*  
 4 *fair and appropriate for the state’s diverse geographic regions,*  
 5 *including the San Joaquin Valley, and determine whether*  
 6 *alternative approaches can accomplish goals in less costly ways.*

7 *(12) Recommend to the Governor changes that would improve*  
 8 *the economic well-being of the valley and the quality of life of its*  
 9 *residents.*

10 *(13) Implement the San Joaquin Valley Strategic Action*  
 11 *Proposal developed by the partnership.*

12 ~~*(d) The task force shall request that the seven locally*~~

13 *(f) The partnership shall request that the eight locally*  
 14 *designated economic development coordinators of the Counties*  
 15 *of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin,*  
 16 *Stanislaus, and Tulare serve as a subcommittee of the task force*  
 17 *partnership and submit a report to the task force and the*  
 18 ~~*Legislature on or before June 1, 2006, to do the partnership and*~~  
 19 ~~*the Legislature on or before June 1, 2007, to do all of the*~~  
 20 ~~*following:*~~

21 *(1) Provide background information on the current economic*  
 22 *status of each county.*

23 *(2) Outline the economic needs of each county, including, but*  
 24 *not limited to, indicators such as unemployment rate growth and*  
 25 *per capita income.*

26 *(3) Prioritize the needs of the region as a whole.*

27 *(4) Provide options and recommendations for the economic*  
 28 *development of each county, and the region as a whole.*

29 ~~*7095.1. Beginning January 1, 2006, the task force shall meet*~~  
 30 ~~*once a month and report to the Legislature and the Governor by*~~  
 31 ~~*December 1, 2006, on their progress and the actions that the task*~~  
 32 ~~*force will be recommending.*~~

33 *7095.1. The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency*  
 34 *shall provide administrative support to the partnership out of*  
 35 *existing resources. The Director of Finance may accept monetary*  
 36 *gifts for the support of the activities of the partnership.*

37 *7095.2. The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency*  
 38 *shall create a Web page for the task force partnership with a link*  
 39 *from their main page to provide the public with information*

1 about their meetings and their interaction with the ~~task force~~  
2 *partnership*.

3 7095.3. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January  
4 1, ~~2011~~ 2012, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later  
5 enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, ~~2011~~ 2012,  
6 deletes or extends that date.

7 *SEC. 3. The Legislature hereby appropriates five million*  
8 *dollars (\$5,000,000) from the General Fund to the Interagency*  
9 *Partnership for the Economic Development of the Central San*  
10 *Joaquin Valley for the purpose of implementing Section 2 of this*  
11 *act.*