

Central Valley Business Times

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The fate of the United States Postal Service processing and distribution center located near the Stockton Metropolitan Airport is the subject of a public hearing Thursday.

In all, 326 employees will be impacted, with 187 losing their jobs and the rest offered transfers to other postal facilities. It would mean an estimated annual loss of about over \$16 million to the local economy, says Mike Clipka, an official with the local union of the American Postal Workers Union. "Postal management claims this "consolidation/closure" will save the USPS \$1.5 million, but their figures are wrong," Mr. Clipka says.

"In this economy, our community cannot bear to lose any more jobs. We need to be focusing on how to create jobs, not putting folks out of work," says Rep. Jerry McNerney, who represents the area.

Mr. McNerney says residents of the Stockton area concerned about the loss of jobs should attend the USPS public hearing Thursday night.

It's scheduled from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the San Joaquin Office of Education Building, 2707 Transworld Dr., within a short walk of the postal facility.

"No company can grow or maintain its business by cutting its services. But that's what the Postal Service is proposing to do," says Mr. Clipka.

He says that if the Stockton facility were shut down, mail would be collected earlier in the day and arrive later.

Written comments will also be taken until Dec. 17. Comments should be mailed to:

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