

# GREAT VALLEY

## NEWS

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## 20/20 Foresight for Our Valley

What would the Valley be like if the trends of the past decade continue until 2020? We'd be in a heap of trouble, among the poorest regions in the nation and in danger of having a sub-standard workforce, short on water and long on chronic medical problems.

So what's the path to a better future for the Valley? Finding that path and understanding the resources needed to travel it successfully are the purposes of the Great Valley Center's Annual Conference **20/20 Foresight: The Great Valley in a Decade**.

At the upcoming conference the Great Valley Center will be presenting the vision of thought leaders on dozens of elements of our society and economy, which will be augmented with forecasts about what the Valley will be like in the year 2020. Through these visions and data people and organizations in the Valley can collaborate on priorities for the next ten years.

The incredible thing about jumping ahead a single decade is that participants will be able to apply this information to their own work now and see results in a timeframe in which most will be able to be active participants.

Thought leaders who will be presenting keynote speeches during the conference include experts in health, education,

community well-being, agriculture, transportation, land use, energy, water, natural resources, global warming, workforce preparedness, housing, and the economy.

Thought leader A.G. Kawamura, secretary of California's Department of Food and Agriculture, will kick off the event speaking on the current condition of California agriculture and how agriculture in the Valley will progress in 10 years.

Additional keynote speakers include L. Hunter Lovins, president and founder of the Natural Capitalism Solutions, who will share insight on how business, government, and civil society can work to restore and enhance our natural and human capital while increasing prosperity and quality of life.

Melanie Briones, a senior health policy analyst with the Central Valley Health Policy Institute, and Dr. Richard Pan, a pediatrician and founder of Communities and Physicians Together, will speak on public health. They each will explore health care infrastructure, leadership training, and educational programs and how these will influence the health status of the people living and working in Central California in the future.



*Join us May 6 & 7, 2009 in Sacramento for our annual conference.*

Also speaking will be Quentin Kopp, chair of the High Speed Rail Authority and Jeff Mount, director of the Center for Watershed Sciences.

The conference also features breakout sessions that allow participants to spend more time with keynote speakers and additional experts on topics that are significant to the Valley.

Details:  
GVC's Annual Conference  
**20/20 Foresight:  
A View of the Great Valley in a Decade**  
May 6 & 7, 2009  
Sacramento, California

More information and to register:  
**[www.greatvalley.org/conference](http://www.greatvalley.org/conference)**

# President's Message: Honoring Resnick

By David Hosley

The Great Valley Center has a wonderful opportunity to recognize a great Giant of the Valley as we honor Stewart Resnick with this year's Sequoia Award in recognition of his significant and sustained contributions to the Central Valley and its people. He has set a remarkably high standard for philanthropy, and his focus on the education of young people is addressing our region's greatest challenge.

Stewart's Paramount Farming Company, based in Kern County, is the largest tree crops operation in the world, processing citrus, almonds and pistachios. He and the leaders of his business enterprises invest time and resources to improve outcomes, especially in the communities of the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Initiatives include day care centers

## Pixley Digital Connectors to the Rescue

It's one of the most frustrating things that you can experience: your computer has crashed and now you can't recover any of your files, or every time you try to access the internet you only get virus warnings and nonstop popup ads. Doesn't it make you cringe just thinking about it?

The residents of the small rural community of Pixley in Tulare County have a new option when faced with these computer challenges. They can call the Pixley Digital Connectors and request help in solving these technical challenges.



*Pixley Digital Connectors help out a member of their community.*

between the Great Valley Center and the national nonprofit One Economy. The Pixley Digital Connectors Program strives to assist the community with technology

The Digital Connectors Program is a six month internship program developed and administered through a partnership

between the Great Valley Center and the national nonprofit One Economy.

The Pixley Digital Connectors

Program strives to assist the

community with technology

in small towns, arts programs for children, medical care, field trips to cultural performances, uniforms for sports teams and even band equipment. Innovative programs at Paramount help children of employees succeed in school and continue with college scholarships. Stewart has brought national education experts to the Valley to suggest new approaches to K-12 education, including a new charter school getting started in Delano.

Stewart Resnick is a difference maker, whether it's growth in world markets of a San Joaquin product like pomegranate juice or the number of Valley students going to college. He truly is a Giant of the Valley and we look forward to honoring him May 7th in Sacramento.

related challenges inherent in small and isolated rural communities by training high school students to provide computer training and technical support for the residents of Pixley. The program identifies talented young people, immerses them in technology training, and helps them build their leadership and workplace skills to enter the 21st century economy.

In March the initial class of eight graduates of the Pixley Connect Program were recognized for their completion of the program. Especially notable about this initial team of Pixley Digital Connectors graduates was their ethic of service and their ability to be advocates for the meaningful use of technology in the community. The families of the graduates were also acknowledged during the ceremony for their support throughout the program. To wrap up the graduation event, the new class of Pixley Digital Connectors was introduced. The new class consists of nine high school students who were invited to participate in the upcoming class based on their desire to learn, instinct to lead, and commitment to help their community.



Check it out at  
[www.greatvalley.org](http://www.greatvalley.org)

### GVC's Energy Program Launches New Website

[www.gvc-energy.org](http://www.gvc-energy.org) is a one-stop shop for all things energy related in the Valley! Check out energy related news, legislative updates, events, and our energy blog all at [www.gvc-energy.org](http://www.gvc-energy.org).

### Telemedicine Readiness for the San Joaquin Valley

UC Merced's Valley Telehealth Partnership's report on the telemedicine readiness evaluation for the San Joaquin Valley is now available. "Patients in rural and underserved regions will be among those who benefit most by telemedicine, yet they are often located in the regions that pose the most challenging sets of circumstances for the creation of sustainable eHealth networks."

### Sacramento Green Bus Tour

The Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a one-of-a-kind event using a green technology bus where participants will visit four key green technology businesses in the Sacramento region. Wednesday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., free, advance registration required.

### Find Out Other Ways to Connect to GVC

Just head to our homepage to link to other ways we are connecting people with what's happening in the Valley. How about becoming a fan on Facebook? Or subscribing to our Youtube video feed? Or linking with us on LinkedIn? Or checking out our photo stream on Flickr? Just head to our homepage to get connected.

# Gus & Velma's Column



*Dear Gus and Velma,*

I recently moved to Fresno from Cheyenne, Wyoming. The air here is terrible by comparison. How is California addressing the condition of the air?

*Wheezing and sneezing*

Dear Wheezing,

*Gus:* I don't think California's air is that bad.

*Velma:* Well... California is the tenth largest emitter of carbon dioxide pollution in the world and scientific consensus tells us that global warming and greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide from human sources, will devastate the environment, the economy, and public health.

*Gus:* That's because California is a hub of major economic industry and there's not much we can do about that!

*Velma:* Actually California's lawmakers have taken steps to reduce these air polluting global warming gases with laws such as the recently passed Senate Bill 375. SB375 will connect the reduction of greenhouse gases with how regional land use and transportation planning is done.

*Gus:* Is SB375 that new law that is going to require me to drive less?

*Velma:* No, it will hopefully change the amount you *need* to drive. You won't need to drive so much if California communities are built more compactly and provide residents a pedestrian-friendly lifestyle near jobs, shopping and entertainment

*Gus:* I guess we will just have to wait and see. But in the meantime, I am not going to give up driving my car!

For more information on SB375 check out California Planning and Development Report's (CP&DR) SB375 resource page: [www.cp-dr.com/node/2185](http://www.cp-dr.com/node/2185)

## Great Valley Center Rooms Dedicated

James McClatchy and Marie Damrell Gallo are now honored permanently as the namesakes for two conference rooms in the Great Valley Center's Modesto building.

Marie Damrell Gallo, an esteemed community member and benefactor to the Great Valley Center, was recognized for her generous contributions to the Great Valley Center and her dedication to making the Valley a better place to live. Her name, in shiny brass letters, now hangs over the entrance of the large conference room located on the main level of the building at 201 Needham Street in Modesto. The highlight of the room is the mural spanning the west wall that colorfully depicts the Valley's abundant wildlife, diverse people and cornucopia of agriculture. The Marie Damrell Gallo Community Room can be configured to accommodate approximately 60-70 people.

The late James McClatchy, a longtime supporter of the Great Valley Center, directly supported the building campaign during the purchase and remodeling of the Needham Street office. It is thus fitting for McClatchy to be the honoree of the distinguished room. The James McClatchy Room is

located on the second floor adjacent to the president's office. His name is now proudly etched into the glass door of the entrance. The James McClatchy Room seats approximately 10 people for intimate conversation and important decision making.

The Great Valley Center would like to thank both namesakes and their families for their dedication to the community and their generous contributions.



*Luncheons were held to celebrate the dedications of both rooms. Top: Marie Damrell Gallo outside the community room named in her honor. Bottom: Guest of honor Mrs. Susan McClatchy with GVC founder Carol Whiteside (left) and President David Hosley (right).*

## San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Update

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process continues to move forward with two significant occurrences since January. On January 26, 2009 close to 600 people came together in Fresno to make a recommendation for Scenario C, the option that presented the greatest density for the Valley in 2050, to be selected as the preferred blueprint scenario. Fifty-three percent of those who voted at the summit selected Scenario C as their preferred scenario.

On April 1, 2009 the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council, consisting of two elected officials from each of the eight San Joaquin Valley Counties,

met to make a decision on whether to adopt a preferred scenario for the Blueprint. The Council made the decision to adopt Scenario B+, the third of the four scenarios. Though this decision was in contrast to the recommendation at the January summit, the adopted B+ scenario has a greater emphasis on the protection of agricultural land and environmental resources than the lowest density status quo scenario.

To view all four scenarios, see pictures and presentations from the summit, and get more information on the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council visit [www.valleyblueprint.org](http://www.valleyblueprint.org).

# Green Bus Tour an Educational Success!

The Great Valley Center's recent Green Bus Tour was a jam-packed two-day excursion from Modesto to Tulare filled with visits to facilities and businesses throughout the Valley that are working towards reducing pollution and implementing sustainable practices.

The tour brought out a range of participants, from an organic walnut farmer to an Environmental Defense Fund staffer. The mix of backgrounds and experiences was the perfect recipe for interesting conversations over the two-day journey.



*John Elliot of UC Merced shows the energy management system for the central plant, an energy efficient heating and cooling system for the green campus.*

A highlight on the first day of the tour was the visit to Pacific Southwest Container in Modesto, a packaging plant that has discovered that addressing environmental concerns can help them achieve their economic

goals. From their ink dispensers to their planting of trees to offset carbon emissions, Pacific Southwest Container was a model green business.

The second day of the tour participants were especially impressed by Fresno's Southeast Growth Area (SEGA), an area in Fresno where a new kind of growth is taking place, unlike anything the city has ever undertaken. The SEGA plan has an emphasis on walkable, bikable, transit oriented neighborhoods; trails, open space, and recreation; community farming and agriculture; and mixed use centers with a variety of housing choices. To sum it up, a sustainable community.



*The AGTAC Center provided the opportunity to learn about water efficient pumps.*

All participants left after two days knowing more about practices that business and agencies right here in the Valley are doing to make the region a little greener.

## A Special Thank You To Recent Donors

### **Citi Foundation**

Citi Foundation recently gave a significant contribution to increase the capacity of the Great Valley Center staff through trainings on renewable energy. These trainings will equip GVC staff members with increased knowledge of alternative energy and clean technology, allowing for increased outreach on these topics and the production of publications on energy related topics.

### **Southern California Edison**

A generous gift from Southern California Edison will allow two Great Valley Center programs to continue to make a difference by increasing the knowledge and capacity of leaders in Central Valley communities. The Great Valley Leadership Institute (GVLI), a training program for motivated elected officials who are currently serving on Boards of Supervisors, City Councils, and School Boards will benefit from the gift, as well as the Great Valley Center's Energy Program, a program that informs and educates leaders in the Valley about the potentials of energy independence.



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The mission of the Great Valley Center is to support activities and organizations that benefit the economic, social and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley in partnership with the University of California, Merced.