



Contact:
Amy Moffat
(209) 522-5103
amy@greatvalley.org

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What's going on in the Central Valley?

Regional Story Ideas:

- **Can the Central Valley support California's Green Economy?** A team of Northern San Joaquin Valley experts have come together to develop a plan to prepare the Central Valley for a variety of technological advances in 'green technologies' expected to come out of the Silicon Valley. The opportunity for the Central Valley is to provide sites remote from the Silicon Valley for production of these green technologies. This team is coming together to ensure that the three county area (San Joaquin, Stanislaus & Merced) are involved in this process. Regionally the Central Valley has a strong work ethic but may lack the skills depth to participate in production of these products. This group hopes to bring a two-fold approach of education enhancement & site incentives to the table for discussions with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group in December. These efforts are being encouraged and monitored by the offices of Dennis Cardoza & George Radanovich. For more information contact: Tim Fisher, tim@greatvalley.org, (209) 522-5103
- **\$2 million grant awarded to the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley for regional job training initiative.** New funding to develop a demonstration project to better coordinate education and training effort in the San Joaquin Valley has been awarded to the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, a public-private partnership focused on achieving a prosperous economy, quality environment, and social equity in the San Joaquin Valley. The funding will allow the Partnership to bring local experts and leaders together to develop a demonstration project to better coordinate education and training efforts in the San Joaquin Valley. The project will target jobs that are closely tied to agribusiness, including those jobs in water technology, renewable energy, food processing, agricultural technology and biotechnology.

For more information contact: Jen Paul, Communications Director, Office of Community and Economic Development California State University, Fresno Direct 559.347-3908, jenpaul@csufresno.edu

- **Who says the Valley isn't green?** The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards program recently recognized 15 organizations, and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing the State's environment, building public-private partnerships and strengthening the State's economy. Three of these awards went to organizations and businesses in the Central Valley. Central Valley award recipients included the Yuba County Water Agency, for the Lower Yuba River Accord that improves 24-miles of fishery habitat and protects water right for local farmers; University of California, Merced, for their Long Range Development Plan that will enable the campus to achieve zero net energy, zero water, and zero net emissions as it grows; and Tejon Ranch Company, for the Tejon Ranch Conservation and Land-use Agreement that permanently protects 240,000 acres of Tejon Ranch.



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Upcoming Events:

- **Save the Date!** The Great Valley Center will be holding its **2010 conference on May 6 & 7 in Modesto at the Gallo Center** (note the new location!) The topic is TBA but check www.greatvalley.org for more information as the conference date approaches.
- **November 5-8: This Way to Sustainability V Conference (California State University, Chico)** This conference provides a forum to discuss issues that are relevant to the region, community, and faculty, staff, and students at CSU Chico and Butte College. This event seeks to develop common ground to help build a sustainable society; one that balances economic, environmental and social needs. More information is available [here](#) on the CSU, Chico website.
- **November 7: Understanding Local Land Use Planning (Casa Garden's Restaurant, Sacramento)** The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) will be hosting a one-day workshop on local land use planning processes. The workshop will provide insight into the processes that development proposals go through locally to get approved. More information is available [here](#) on the ECOS website.
- **November 12: Central Valley Infrastructure Conference (West Hills Community College, Lemoore)** This invitation only conference hosted by Kings County Supervisor Tony Oliveira will gather industry experts, state and local elected officials and local business leaders to discuss public infrastructure needs and solution for the San Joaquin Valley. For more information contact Susan Aguilar at Table Rock Capital at sauilar@t-rockcap.com.
- **November 19: Valley Futures Forum: Smart Growth and the Pesky Realities of Building in California (Great Valley Center, Modesto)** The November VFF will feature John Anderson, a builder, developer, planner, and urbanist who worked for the past ten years as the director of planning and design for New Urban Builder in Chico and Redding. More information available [here](#) or by contacting Cindy Van Empel at nuplanner@gmail.com.

New at the Great Valley Center

- The Great Valley Center has been awarded two California Department of Food and Agriculture 2009 Specialty Crop Block Grant Awards. ***Specialty Crop Grower Partner with City of San Francisco for Health People and Bottom Lines*** is a program that will act on a recommendation from the San Francisco Urban Rural Roundtable's work to conduct Ag Trade Missions such that connections/relationships are established and distribution infrastructure is developed between growers and buyers of specialty crop products, resulting in an increased availability of regionally grown products to San Francisco residents. The ***Multi-Commodity Sustainability Practices Program*** will bring together specialty crop commodity groups in a collaborative effort to develop a sustainable practices program strategic plan and template that can then be customized to meet each group's specific needs. More information on all 2009 Specialty Crop Block Grant Awardees is available here. Great Valley Center contact: Lila McIver, lila@greatvalley.org, (209) 522-5103.



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- Great Valley Center is receiving three grants this fall to continue promoting digital literacy in the Central Valley. The **California Consumer Protection Foundation** is funding a program in Tulare County to provide technical assistance to local businesses and nonprofit organizations. **AT&T Foundation** is also supporting the Digital Connectors program in Pixley that trains teens to repair computers and install software. The AT&T Foundation grant also funds a feasibility study to determine if the Digital Connectors model might be effective in the northern part of the Sacramento Valley and the creation of web pages for nonprofit organizations. For more information on Great Valley Center's work bridging the digital divide contact: Dejeune Shelton, dejeune@greatvalley.org, (209) 522-5103.
- The Great Valley Center is currently accepting applications from international leaders in park, protected area and cultural resource management from governments and nonprofit for an Executive Leadership Seminar. This leadership Seminar is offered by [UC Merced](#), the [National Park Service](#), the [Institute at the Golden Gate](#), the [Great Valley Center](#) and the [National Parks Conservation Association's Center for Park Management](#). The [11-day intensive management seminar](#) on leadership, innovation and organization renewal will take place April 27 through May 7, 2010 at Yosemite National Park. More information is available [here](#). More information contact Angelina Ceja at angelina@greatvalley.org or (209) 522-5103.

Reports, Publications, Resources Available This Month:

- The Great Valley Center recently released its newest report: The State of the Great Central Valley: The Economy (Third Edition). The report is part of the State of the Great Central Valley Indicators Series; an ongoing regional initiative tracking conditions in one of California's fastest growing regions: the 19-county Great Central Valley. The data presented in the report are a snapshot of information providing tools for measuring the community well-being of the Valley. The reports offer data, analysis, and structure which can be used as a benchmark for assessing the progress of the Central Valley, providing valuable comparative information at the county, subregional, regional, and state levels. The report tracks economic indicators as they relate to population, income and housing; business vitality; agriculture; transportation; commerce and mobility; and federal and nonprofit spending. The report features a centerpiece essay written by Karen Ross, president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers and member of the State Board of Food and Agriculture, on the future of agriculture and the efforts of the California Ag Vision 2030 to plan for a vibrant agricultural future for the Central Valley and throughout California. The report is currently available to be downloaded for free at www.greatvalley.org. More information contact Amy Moffat amy@greatvalley.org, (209) 522-5103
- The Regional Targets Advisory Committee recently submitted its recommendations for Green House Gas Targets to the California Air Resources Board. The full report is available [here](#). This report from the 21 person committee (including Great Valley Center President Emeritus Carol Whiteside) includes recommendations on the Target Setting Process, Methodology and Implementation of California's first greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategy for land use and transportation planners (Senate Bill 375). The [California Air Resources Board](#) (CARB) will now evaluate the recommendations and



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will eventually set the final rules and regulation for future state growth. ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability has an excellent breakdown of the highlights of the recommendations available [here](#).

Interviews:

The staff at the Great Valley Center has many areas of expertise; take a look at our staff page here: www.greatvalley.org/about_us/staff.aspx. GVC staff members are available for interviews about any of the topics listed in this advisory or other regional trends and happenings in the Central Valley. GVC staff members are also available for live interviews and presentations. If you are interested in speaking with or scheduling GVC staff to come to your television or radio studio, give us a call.

About Us:

The [Great Valley Center](#) is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with the [University of California, Merced](#) to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of California's Great Central Valley.

Don't forget the Great Valley Center's website www.greatvalley.org and blog www.greatvalley.blogspot.com for more story ideas, sound bites, and more.

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