

San Joaquin Valley Regional Dinner Forum

Co-hosted by Caltrans, the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Great Valley Center, and the Local Government Commission

Downtown Club: 2120 Kern St, Fresno, CA 93721

Wednesday September 17th

- 6:00 p.m. **Networking**
- 6:30 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
- Councilmember Brian Calhoun, City of Fresno
- 6:40 p.m. **David Hosley**, President, Great Valley Center
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- 6:45 p.m. **Economist Perspective**
- Doug Henton, President and Co-Founder, Collaborative Economics
- 7:15 p.m. **Question and Answer**
- 7:45 p.m. **Regional Perspective**
- Tony Boren, Fresno COG
- 7:50 p.m. **State Perspective**
- Cynthia Bryant, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Planning and Research
- 7:55 p.m. **Discussion**

**Fresno: SJV Dinner Workshop with Local Elected Officials
Notes; Regional Blueprint; September 17th, 2008**

Participants

Approximately 25-30 local elected officials

Brian Calhoun, Councilmember, City of Fresno (host)

David Hosley, President, Great Valley Center (facilitator)

Doug Henton, President, Collaborative Economics (presenter)

Tony Boren, Executive Director, Fresno COG (regional perspective)

Gregg Albright, Deputy Director, Caltrans (state perspective)

Themes

- Education and Workforce Development
- Economic Development
- Green Innovation
- San Joaquin Valley Demographics
 - Significant population growth by 2050
 - From 5 million to 9 million by 2050
 - A dislike for Caltrans overall, but people tend to like District 6
- Mobility needs across California
 - There is a need for multi-modal transportation infrastructure
 - There is a need for a transportation system to bring agricultural products to cities

Lessons Learned

- The process for engaging local elected officials requires careful facilitation and higher levels of participation/engagement.
- Materials should be circulated *prior* to workshops to pose framing questions ahead of time so local officials can come to meetings prepared to make statements and exchange ideas.
- The economic development topic is valuable to local elected officials, but they do not have the technical expertise to address this issue in a group setting.
- We can use constructive conversation for building relationships with local leadership and presenting a “new and improved” version of Caltrans to the public.
- The MPO presence and blueprint discussion were limited. This should be brought up by the facilitator.

Participant	Discussion
David Hosley, Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make region more prosperous
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can we do to educate the work force? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seasonal labor ○ Fix statewide dropout rate ○ Go to career education, technical fields, vocational education ○ Workforce investment boards, community colleges ○ Shortage of health workers, why aren't we training people in this field? ○ Community colleges have great technology preparation capacity, which is underutilized. ○ High schools have to prepare kids ○ Start in 3rd grade with career education ○ It's not just changing teaching but how we measure success in education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Now it's test scores and college preparation only ○ AIA, Box City ○ Redesign education system, tear down walls, students should gain work experience while in school ○ "Middle college" in the middle of a community college <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human development ▪ Family issues ○ Fresno and Clovis Unified School District – CART <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.innov.tech.edu for at-risk ▪ www.rethink.edu ○ Tesla Motors is manufacturing cars in California ○ Fresno airport and UC Merced – examples of solar industry working in the San Joaquin Valley
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without a high quality workforce, business will likely do no more than sputter along and suffer the high costs of public safety, etc., and low potential for improved quality of life. Education and Child Welfare report (see Great Valley Center report from 2004) recommends that work take place on several different levels simultaneously.
Doug Henten, Presenter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Innovation Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customize to SJV region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to grow economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Population growth ○ Low-cost labor ○ Commodity – natural resource availability ○ Innovation and agility ○ Logistics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smart food and fiber, agriculture, food processing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flexible food manufacturing ○ Irrigation technology ○ Agile manufacturing ○ Water technology cluster formed Fresno regional jobs initiative ○ Highway 99 Task Force ○ Partnership for the SJV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenges remain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate change, renewable energy, education and human investment, land use – housing – transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities for regional collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Green Innovation – renewable energy production, conservation strategies, etc. – in the San Joaquin Valley will require collaboration and co-investment. These principles apply to both economic development strategies and long range planning efforts. The SJV has made progress on its long range economic development strategy through the San Joaquin Partnership and the SJV Blueprint effort – much work remains.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The core of Green Innovation is the appropriate application of technology – not whether an idea is new or patentable. It is applying technology to existing industries such as water/irrigation and transportation to achieve efficiencies and cost savings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic development is an important factor in the relative health and prosperity of the region. Economic development is a playing field where the broader business community is most comfortable. It’s also a place which more readily leads to the productive interaction of business, government, and those engaged in education and workforce development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Industry clusters, currently 12 concentrations in operation in the region, are a useful platform for more carefully targeted needs and solutions for industry issues. Each industry cluster has a number of initiatives underway towards that end. SJV is qualitatively different (demographically) from the rest of the state – need transportation to move goods and people, need education to prepare people for higher paying jobs, need public facilities (schools, hospitals) to provide necessary services.
Tony Boren, Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fresno COG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are a leader in the Valley because elected officials are willing to lead, progressive bottoms up regionalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reauthorization – Valley-wide effort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goods movement ▪ Met with Boxer ▪ Upgrade 99 corridor ○ SB 375 – implementation tool for AB 32 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to work with communities to set goals,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more density ▪ Thrust on us by state but we will deal with it ▪ In Fresno, local government officials are willing to get involved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will grow from 5 million to 9 million by 2050
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueprint planning 3 years; 4th year, Fresno COG will be taking over leadership from Merced
Gregg Albright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's office – Blueprint – Governor passionate about maintaining local land use authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See Blueprint as environment for collaboration ○ Voluntary, grassroots
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put issues on the table
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueprint projects are one way for Caltrans to invest in mobility and should work through districts rather than through state bureaucracies.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caltrans is trying to grow into an organization that is your indispensable partner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percent of state budget is transportation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$23 billion and 200,000 employees in BTH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to provide budget for transportation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need mode shift, land use change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable, 3 E's
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We worry about Valley, agricultural impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-modal needed
Sharri Bender District 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need infrastructure; need CSMP to make urban corridors more efficient and free up money for SJV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revenues decreasing ○ Reauth – one voice for California ○ Public – private partnership ○ Border crossing
Jim Simonian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility across California
Harry Armstrong City of Clovis, CTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJV demographics are different <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are agricultural and we need transportation system to move agriculture to cities ○ Formulas ○ Battling Dave Brewer ○ This is self-help county ○ You haven't paid us back for I-5 Corridor improvements dating back to the early 1990s.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have the right people in District to work with locals – District 6 is great
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi to Will, and do you notice we are outnumbered by Caltrans?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresno is a self-help county and deserves credit (transportation dollars) for this public engagement in infrastructure investment.
Jim Simonian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know what we need in local communities and can mobilize, but

	<p>we bump up against state, disconnect between Sacramento and SJV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State regs. disagreement among state agency rules, your regional blueprint planning defines issues ○ Get rid of prevailing wage ○ California forward – constitutional convention ○ PPIC – people want more services for more taxes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education: 53% of budget, prisons #2, what’s left? ○ We borrow too much and don’t invest ○ Election districts – never can change – parties eliminate term limits
Nathan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair of BRAC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scenarios developed by UCD, to SJV leaders in November (going to planners) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GVC and LGC – research invaluable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource-efficient community design ▪ Build on good work done