

Can Local Success Save Our State?



Join other regional leaders for an evening of stimulating discussion about examples of local innovations that are changing “business as usual” and generating significant public benefits.

- How has the Valley been able to make progress?
- What is required to accelerate that progress?
- What insights can we gain about how to transform our public sector – and the relationship between our private and public sectors?

California faces challenging times. Our state is badly broken. What fixes are needed to a system originally designed for fewer people in simpler times? What reform options are consistent with a thriving future?

California Forward is developing governance reforms to create more responsive and accountable elected officials, stable and results-based fiscal systems and greater local control. A critical part of these reforms is modernization of the state-local relationship. How do we reverse the erosion of local control?

While the state is in disarray, significant progress is being made at the local and regional level, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. *California Forward* wants to learn how that progress is being achieved, what might be done to accelerate it, and how that success can guide state-level reforms.

WHERE: Fresno Convention Center

WHEN: Tuesday, May 19, 2009

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Check-in/Dinner

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Presentation/Breakouts/Panel/Discussion



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

WHO: Presenters and panelists include:

- **Ashley Swearingin**, Mayor of Fresno
- **Mike Hanson**, Superintendent, Fresno Unified School District
- **Syed Sadredin**, Executive Director, Valley Air District
- **Deb Nankivell**, Fresno Business Council
- Additional public and private sector leaders

Case studies will include:

- the Regional Jobs Initiative
- the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
- the proposed multi-county Metro-Rural loop project
- the Human Investment Initiative aimed at combating concentrated poverty at the neighborhood level

Come discuss the critical ingredients of success that can drive change in our communities and in our government. *California Forward* will use participants' insights to enhance its comprehensive model of governance reform. We'll also talk about how we can join together to accelerate these innovations in our region and across California.

Participants will include local elected officials, representatives of business, education, environmental groups, community organizations, and faith-based groups among others. **Seating is limited so please RSVP to sdanielson@caforward.org no later than Tuesday, May 12.** Attendees will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. For more information about *California Forward*, please visit www.caforward.org.