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April 24, 2008

INLAND EMPIRE TO HELP PUSH CALIFORNIA'S GREEN ECONOMY

Green Valley Initiative regarded as a prominent part of the state's future.

CORONA, Calif. – Climate change, and a shift in the global marketplace has prompted California to reassess its role as a lead economic engine for the nation.

Forecasts on Global Warming and our cooling economy are making it clear that the future of this state – and of the nation – lies in clean, green technologies that will enable people to reduce their carbon footprint, cut back on energy use and the dependence on fossil and carbon-based fuels, and harness the natural and boundless availability of sun and wind in regions suited.

“We are going to have to be far more aggressive in dealing with the adaptation to climate change,” California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi proclaimed at the recent Green Valley Summit held last month at the Ontario Convention Center.

Garamendi said current planning in Sacramento calls for a minimum of a 16-inch rise in the Pacific Ocean due to the melting of the solar ice caps from Global Warming. “That dramatically alters the California water system and almost everything that is along the coast of California, Garamendi said. The solution, he added, will be very expensive, but must include a rational energy program that quickly moves the U.S. away from carbon-based fuels.

Garamendi was one of several state and national experts to speak at the summit, hosted by the Green Institute for Village Empowerment and its Green Valley Initiative – an economic development program designed to green jobs, renewable energies and sustainable technologies to Riverside and San Bernardino counties. (Visit www.greenvalleynow.org)

Experts in renewable energy, green technology and economic development strategies are among the featured speakers scheduled at the Green Valley Summit May 1-4 at the Ontario Convention Center.

Doug Henton, one of the principle founders of the Silicon Valley Network Joint Venture of 1993, will unveil a roadmap for the successful implementation of the Inland Empire's Green Valley Initiative – a plan to bring green businesses, jobs, sustainable technologies and renewable energies to the Inland Empire.

Mr. Henton has worked extensively in California to help develop regional economic and innovation strategies for Silicon Valley, Sonoma, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, San Diego, the Central Valley and other regions. He is working with Next Ten to develop the state's first California Green Innovation Index.

Other Green Valley Summit speakers include:

- **John Garamendi**, Lt. Governor, State of California
- **John Chaing**, State Controller
- **Bill Lockyer**, State Treasurer
- **Rachelle Chong**, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

Local experts will serve on panels to discuss what is being done locally to promote a green economy for the Inland Empire. Booths and exhibits will provide additional information on the latest breakthroughs in green technology and sustainable practices. The summit is part of the SoCal Builder's Expo at the Ontario Convention Center.

Representatives with the Cucamonga Valley Water District will discuss the "Frontier Project," a LEED Platinum demonstration project reflecting the collaborative efforts of green experts from throughout the Inland Empire.

Representatives of the U.S. Green Building Council will discuss the Leadership in Energy and Environmental (LEED) ranking and how building green can reduce water use, CO2 emissions, waste output, energy consumption and improve the health and productivity of the people who occupy the buildings.

Dr. Peter Gevorkian, an internationally known expert in solar technology, will deliver full-day instructional seminars on renewable energy technologies.

Ongoing workshops, on subjects from edible landscape to solar photovoltaic installation, will take place throughout weekend. For more information on the speakers, schedule and event, visit www.greenvalleysummit.com

Schedule of Speakers:

Thursday, May 1:

Rachelle Chong, 9 a.m.
Doug Henton, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
John Garamendi, 2-3:30 p.m.
"Frontier Project" 4-5 p.m.

Friday, May 2

Bill Lockyer, 9 a.m.
Marc Gottschalk, 12:30-1:30
U.S. Green Bldg. Council 2-3 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Sunday, May 4

John Chaing, 9 a.m.
Public workshops throughout the day

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About GIVE

The Green Institute for Village Empowerment is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and promotion of sustainable lifestyles, technologies and development practices. GIVE hosts monthly symposiums featuring prominent experts in sustainability. It sponsors community events designed to educate the public on issues related to the environment, emergency preparedness and personal safety. It is the sponsor of the region's largest Earth Day celebration: The Green Valley Earth Festival at Dos Lagos, and is the impetus behind the Green Valley Initiative – an economic development program to establish the Inland Empire as a center for green industry and economics.

About the Green Valley Initiative

The Green Valley Initiative is an unprecedented regional economic development plan focused on creating jobs by bringing green technologies, renewable energy, alternative transportation and sustainable lifestyles to the Inland Empire. Sponsored by the Green Institute for Village Empowerment, (GIVE), GVI has brought together more than 500 stakeholders from government, utilities, school districts, businesses, universities, cultural and environmental groups and the community at large to chart a path for a better future. Visit www.GreenValleyNow.org

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