



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SUSTAINABILITY FORUM SERIES TO BE HOSTED BY LOCAL COALITION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES, PRIVATE BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Stockton, CA – The Sierra Club, Campaign for Common Ground, the A.G. Spanos Companies, the Stockton City Council and the San Joaquin Council of Governments are co-sponsoring a series of morning meetings on the topic of “Sustainability in San Joaquin County - Exchanging Ideas.” The 90-minute sessions, which are scheduled for early Friday mornings over the next five months, will be held at various locations around the city, and are open to the public. The dates and times are: February 12, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21, 2010, and June 25, 2010 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Each forum will include presentations by guest speakers or a panel of experts followed by a question and answer period. Moderator for the entire series will be Susan Eggman, a city councilmember of the City of Stockton and Professor of Social Work at the California State University at Sacramento.

“It’s important that we all talk together about how to grow sustainably in implementing the Settlement Agreement on climate change and meet the goals of recent state legislation,” said Eric Parfrey, member of the Sierra Club and the organizing committee of this series of forums.

The forums will focus on the concepts of sustainability and smart growth and how families and individuals can employ sustainable practices in their daily lives, including promoting a lifestyle that is not dependent on the automobile. Other topics to be covered will include a discussion on bringing green jobs to Stockton, developing training programs for employment in green industries, and the benefits of being a green business. In addition, these forums will present an overview of state and federal legislation on green house gas reduction and climate change.

“As a policymaker, I am excited to see that our community is coming together to discuss our future and figure out how to grow sustainably, how to bring green jobs, and how to stimulate our local economy,” said Councilmember Susan Eggman. “It’s my hope that these forums will create a constructive dialogue that will help us make the best decisions at the city level.”

Speakers for the first forum, which will be held on February 12 at the San Joaquin Council of Governments building at 555 East Weber Avenue, are nationally acclaimed authors and sociologists Laura Mamo and Jennifer Fosket, and Bill Magavern, director of Sierra Club California. The topic of this first forum will explore the definition of sustainability; practices that will help achieve it; and, current efforts, on both the state and federal levels, to control greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's clear that we have to live more sustainably and plan the future of our region in a sound and sustainable manner," said Michael Spanos, Executive Vice President of A. G. Spanos Companies. "I am encouraged that with our forum co-sponsors, we can help Stockton realize its vision to be one of the most sustainable cities in California"

Members of the organizing committee are Dale Stocking and Eric Parfrey, both representing the Sierra Club and Campaign for Common Ground, Councilwoman Susan Eggman with the Stockton City Council, and Natalia Orfanos, representing the A. G. Spanos Companies.

The specific program of the series is as follows:

FORUM #1 - SUSTAINABILITY 101 – *Friday, February 12, 2010 7:30 a.m.- SJCOG Building, 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton (Speakers: Dr. Laura Mamo, Dr. Jennifer Fosket and Bill Magavern, Sierra Club California)*

- What is "Sustainability"? Understanding the meaning of sustainability.
- Smart Growth and Sustainability
- Why being "green" is good
- Update on national and state efforts on climate change and greenhouse gas reduction

FORUM #2 – HOW GREEN IS STOCKTON? *Friday, February 26, 2010 7:30 a.m. - SJCOG Building, 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton (Requested speakers: Eric Parfrey, Representatives from the State Attorney General's Office, the City of Stockton, and the San Joaquin Council of Governments)*

- What has been accomplished so far in Stockton
- What other jurisdictions are doing
- The role of SJCOG and local government requirements (i.e., under SB 375)
- Green building ordinances (Stockton and other jurisdictions)
- Recent climate change/greenhouse gas reduction legislation

FORUM #3 - MANAGING GROWTH SUSTAINABLY – *Friday, March 26, 2010 7:30 a.m.* – Location to be announced

- The 2035 General Plan
- The Role of Infill and its Opportunities/Obstacles
- Villages and Complete Neighborhoods
- Green Building and Examples of Green Building Projects (including structures, subdivisions and planned developments)
- Is Green Building Financially Sustainable?

FORUM #4 - WHAT ARE GREEN JOBS AND WHERE ARE THEY? *Friday, April 23, 2010 7:30 a.m.* -
Location to be announced

- Defining Green Jobs and Identifying Any Local Green Jobs
- Green Jobs and how to get them
 - Establishing Training Programs for Green Jobs (role of local educational institutions)
- Attracting Green Companies/Business
 - San Joaquin Partnership
 - Chamber of Commerce “Green Team”
- Fostering a Green Economy

FORUM #5 - LEAVING THE CAR BEHIND – *Friday, May 21, 2010 7:30 a.m.* - Location to be announced

- Alternatives to the Private Automobile (pedestrian and bike lanes, “complete streets”, walkable communities, etc.)
- Local Plans: San Joaquin COG, SJ Regional Transit Authority, and Local Rail Authority
- State Commission on Rail
- Planning Issues (i.e. “smart” streets and other design issues)
- How to Increase Funding for Local Transit Service

FORUM #6 – GROWING FOOD AND EATING SUSTAINABLY – *Friday, June 25, 2020 7:30 a.m.* - Location
to be announced

- Sustainable Local Agriculture and Farming
- Community Gardens – Planning and Development
- Adopting a sustainable Diet
- Buying Green at the Supermarket

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