

# PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** September 15, 2011  
**Contact:** Brenda Veenendaal, Fresno Council of Governments  
**Phone:** (559) 233-4148, ext. 219 / cell: 559-367-5140  
**Email:** brendal@fresnocog.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **2011 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Honoring Valley Projects and People that reflect the Blueprint Principles**

**Fresno** - The following San Joaquin Valley Blueprint awards will be presented by the [Regional Policy Council](#) at the [Fall Policy Conference luncheon](#) on October 13, 2011 in Bass Lake, CA.

### **Residential Development Project**

Award of Achievement – **San Joaquin Villas Project in Firebaugh, California Community Builders**

**Downtown Revitalization Projects (built within the past 5 years). Four projects will be honored in the following subcategories:**

- a. Public Infrastructure – Large Jurisdiction  
Award of Achievement – **Mill Creek in Bakersfield, City of Bakersfield**
- b. Public Infrastructure – Small Jurisdiction  
Award of Achievement – **City of Newman Downtown Plaza, City of Newman**  
Award of Merit – **City of Avenal Street Improvements, City of Avenal**
- c. Mixed Use  
Award of Achievement – **Fulton Village in Fresno, GV Urban**  
Award of Merit – **Fultonia Complex (Rehabilitation Project) in Fresno, TFS Investments**
- d. Transit Projects  
Award of Achievement - **Downtown Transit Center in Stockton, San Joaquin Regional Transit District**

### **Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award**

This award is presented to an individual who has also shown enthusiasm and tenacity in promoting the Blueprint principles.

**Carol Ornelas, CEO, Visionary Home Builders**

The eight regional planning agencies in the San Joaquin Valley came together to develop a coordinated valley vision for future growth – the [San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint](#). This eight county venture was first conducted within each county. Then each county’s vision was integrated to form a preferred vision for future development throughout the Valley to the year 2050.

In an effort to recognize projects that are “Blueprint friendly”, the Valley’s eight Regional Planning Agencies created an awards program specifically designed to honor those that reflect the Blueprint Principles (see principles below). More information on the eight Valley Planning Agencies can be found at <http://www.sjvcogs.org>

Nominations were solicited from throughout the San Joaquin Valley for smart growth projects. The judges reviewed the nominations and selected several for their efforts. We are pleased to congratulate this year’s Blueprint Awards recipients.

###

**The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Sponsors:**



## **The Blueprint Principles were used as the criteria to judge the project submittals.**

- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective
- Mix land uses
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Take advantage of compact building design
- Enhance the economic vitality of the region
- Support actions that encourage environmental resource management

## **Criteria for Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award**

*Support of Blueprint planning and implementation.* Has the nominee's work increased the understanding of the Blueprint planning process? Has the nominee shown a clear understanding of, and support for, the importance of Blueprint implementation to the Valley's quality of life?

*Effectiveness and results.* Has the nominee been effective in implementing Blueprint planning concepts and ideas in support of good planning? What level of influence and effectiveness has the nominee achieved within different segments of the community?

The Blueprint Awards program is sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council (representing the eight SJV Regional Planning Agencies), the Central Section of Cal Chapter APA (American Planning Association), San Joaquin Chapter AIA (American Institute of Architects) and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

## **The Award Judges represent several sectors:**

SJV Regional Policy Council Chairman – Mayor Bill Spriggs, City of Merced

SJV Regional Planning Agencies Director's Chairman – Vince Harris, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments

American Planning Association, CA Central Section – Bruce O'Neal, AICP, Land Use Associates

Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco – Darryl Rutherford, Regional Manager, San Joaquin Valley Community Development

Building Industry Association, Fresno/Madera Counties – Mike Prandini, President and CEO At Large – Jose Nuno, Visionary Homebuilders