

## **Valley planning group to hold Fresno summit**

Visalia Times-Delta, Wednesday, June 7, 2006

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process, a joint effort by the councils of government from Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties to plan for the Valley, announced its first regional planning summit.

Scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 28 at the Fresno Convention Center, the summit will gather leaders to discuss regional transportation and land-use issues.

Funding for the Blueprint Project is provided by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the Blueprint Planning Program under the direction of the California Department of Business, Transportation and Housing.

Registration is \$30 and includes lunch. Scholarships are available for those who work or volunteer for community-based organizations.

For registration or information: [www.ValleyBlueprint.org](http://www.ValleyBlueprint.org) <<http://www.ValleyBlueprint.org>>.

## **County to boost buildings' energy efficiency**

By Shellie Branco, staff writer

Bakersfield Californian, Wednesday, June 7, 2006

County supervisors approved on Tuesday repairs for the heating and air conditioning systems of several county government buildings in downtown Bakersfield.

The \$2.5 million upgrade for approximately 50-year-old boilers, chillers and other parts will improve energy efficiency, Ken Alvis of county general services told the board.

Upgrades will be made at the downtown jail, the Kern County Superior Court building, the jury services building and the offices of the Kern County District Attorney and Kern County Public Defender.

Chillers normally last 23 years, while boilers have a life expectancy of 25 years, he said.

The work will be done by Johnson Controls Inc. The upgrades will provide future energy savings, which will fully reimburse the cost of the work, officials said. Work will start immediately and should be finished by April 2007.

Chairman Barbara Patrick pointed out courts were scheduled to fall under state control. Alvis replied the county must pay for repairs to court buildings until they're transferred to the state.

"We get the bill, they get the building," Patrick said. "Go figure."

Supervisor Michael Rubios suggested a future meeting on adding solar panels and other efficient alternatives to county buildings.

### **Sheriff's buses**

Supervisors again postponed the purchase of two new prisoner buses for the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

Supervisors want the department to provide an accurate cost for the buses before they make a decision.

Sheriff's Department officials had recommended buying the buses immediately, before new state clean air regulations increase the cost of the buses by \$40,000.

Supervisors had told the department last week it should look into [clean-air buses](#). The department complied "in the spirit of clean air," said Chief Deputy Keith Nelson.

If approved, the buses would be delivered this month or in July, he added.

### **Valley fever**

In a last-minute action, supervisors voted unanimously to support federal and state plans for continued funding to develop a valley fever vaccine.

Pauline Larwood, former county supervisor, told the board a congressional bill would provide up to \$45 million for research. She said the board has given \$150,000 in the past for the effort.

[Modesto Bee editorial, Short Takes, Wednesday, June 7, 2006](#)

### **Bad air leads to the greening of a supervisor**

Stanislaus County Supervisor Tom Mayfield sounded downright green in talking about the causes of the valley's bad air recently. "We need to up the mileage" on vehicles, he told reporter Michael Mooney for a story about the start of Spare the Air season. Vehicles traveling through the Central Valley create 40 percent of the pollution.

More efficient vehicles would burn less gas, meaning cleaner air. People and organizations from the Sierra Club to Public Citizen to Al Gore have suggested similar solutions to pollution, asking the Bush administration to raise the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards for the United States' "fleet" of light trucks and cars. Missing those standards means a penalty for the manufacturer. Today, the "fleet" averages 20.8 miles per gallon. Until this year, vehicles had gone 20 years without seeing the standards rise. By 2011, light trucks (including SUVs) should be at 23.5 mpg. Even these new standards are far short of meaningful. The Sierra Club, among others, has suggested that light trucks should get 34 mpg and cars should average 45 mpg. Perhaps that's what Supervisor Mayfield has in mind.

[Fresno Bee editorial, Wednesday, June 7, 2006:](#)

### **Case wins easy victory**

#### **Tough issues loom for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.**

Incumbent Judy Case cruised to an easy re-election victory Tuesday night in the race for the Fresno County Board of Supervisor District 4 seat.

With Supervisor Phil Larson in District 1 running unopposed, and thus guaranteed a new term, the new board will differ not at all in its makeup from the old one.

The board will need all its experience — as well as all the skill and wisdom it can muster — to deal with the issues facing Fresno County in the years ahead. The county has serious problems with revenues, and it needs dramatic improvement in mental health programs, foster care and job creation.

The perennial problems of development, transportation, air quality and water supplies will only grow worse, not better, as the state continues to withhold a fair share of resources from growing inland counties like Fresno.

The board will need to rely increasingly on finding regional solutions to many of those problems. That won't be easy, given a history often characterized by parochialism and antipathy.

But in the end, we will all succeed or fail together. We hope the new board and elected city representatives both remember that.