



Getting to the Basics: Healthy Food, Fresh Air, Clean Water

San Joaquin Valley Funders' Gathering Site Visit

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Valley residents confront a series of serious environmental contamination and health risks. These include both malnutrition and obesity, as well as lack of access to fresh produce or drinking water – particularly in the small, unincorporated towns that make up so much of the Valley. Earlier this year, the American Lung Association released its lists of the 10 most polluted cities in the country -six with the most year-round particle pollution are in the Central Valley. The asthma rates are among the highest in the nation, and some in the Valley are literally living in the waste of the state's lucrative agricultural economy with the Valley a preferred site for the dumping of toxic waste, food waste and sewage sludge from large urban cities. On this tour, we will travel to West Fresno- recently listed as the 'riskiest place to live in California' – to experience and learn about air quality issues. From there we will continue south into more rural communities where we will meet with health advocates and medical professionals, storeowners, and farmers who will speak to both the opportunities and challenges of providing healthy food to Valley residents.

Schedule

1:00 pm Depart Piccadilly Shaw Hotel

1:20 pm Arrive Addams Elementary 2117 W. McKinley, Fresno, CA 93728 in West Fresno
We'll travel to West Fresno to the Addams neighborhood where residents are working to bring attention – and solutions – to issues of environmental and transportation justice, air quality, climate change, energy, green jobs and community development. We will meet with **Rey Leon**, founder and executive director, San Joaquin, Valley Latino Environmental Advancement and Policy Project (SVJ LEAP) and **Rosa Cardenas**, a community resident who are successfully building community capacity, educating and advocating for a cleaner and healthier community. They will lead us on a brief tour of the neighborhood to see firsthand the proximity and potential dangers from diesel exhaust from Hwy 99, and large scale processing and other industry. **Dolores Weller**, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ) Interim Director will provide an overview of the San Joaquin Valley's Air Pollution problem and how CVAQ members and communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley are working to eliminate poor air quality.

2:45 Depart Addams Elementary

- We'll be doing a drive-by of the Darling Rendering Plant and a Foster Farms Poultry facility en route to Easton and our next stop

3:15 Arrive Easton Market, Easton, CA

Rural communities continue to be challenged with access to healthy foods despite the fact that many fruits and vegetables are grown in fields surrounding their communities. Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP) Healthy Rural Stores project connects small farmers with small store owners to



increase access to healthy foods. This stop will showcase both the opportunities and challenges of this work in central California. Here we will meet with some of the individuals trying to connect the dots and provide healthy food to rural communities.

- **Laura Flores**, owner, Easton Market, Easton, CA
- **Chukou Thao**, executive director, National Hmong American Farmers (NHAF)
- **Genoveva Islas, MPH**, director, Regional Program, Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP), Tulare, CA
- **Reyna Villalobos, MPH**, community building specialist, Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program, Clovis, CA

4:30 Depart Easton Market – head back to hotel

5:00 Arrive Piccadilly Shaw Hotel

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