

Essential Elements

for the Future of the San Joaquin Valley

2017 Public and Private Policy Series



essential elements

Grow Food, Grow Jobs - Creating the Nation's First Ag-Based Broadband Pilot

November 8, 2017

Harris Ranch Inn and Conference Center
Garden Ballroom
Coalinga, California

9:00 a.m.

www.essentialelementsseries.com

Presented by the West Hills Community College District



WEST HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

PROGRAM

Mission

Our sixth Essential Elements is a special convening to organize the nation's first rural broadband network pilot, according to the USDA, to catch the ag tech wave and create next gen jobs for the Valley's leading industry.

"The Information Highway in rural California is a rutted dirt road," David Bunn, Director of the California Dept. of Conservation, recently said, because broadband wireless internet service remains absent. Without broadband, nothing works – there are no tech-related jobs in agriculture and other industries, no remote healthcare delivery and no distance learning.

Two unprecedented and disruptive changes are converging to drive broadband in SJV agriculture:

- Ag tech is accelerating, driven by rampant innovation and a growing labor shortage.
- Complex new regulations, especially in water, are causing an historic burden on farmers, and broadband enables good stewardship and compliance.

Our organizing session brings together the major players and knowledge to stand-up a pilot with WHCCD and other assets deployed in the Coalinga-Firebaugh-Five Points area.

WHCCD Farm of the Future and Western Growers will reveal the results of their qualitative research of farmers' Ag tech adoption and broadband need. (Hint: 2018 is a pivotal year.) Based upon these new findings, you join Essential Elements leaders (there are no participants) to:

- Identify existing facilities and infrastructure
- Determine the wireless technology best suited to deliver broadband in the fields and packers – which is where your knowledge and perspectives are invaluable
- Chart next steps and task stewards
- Funding is the obvious core need and we'll need to find sustainable sources

We are pleased to be collaborating with the California Emerging Technology Fund, San Joaquin Valley Partnership, Valley Vision, several telecom providers and the AgTech Roundtable. The latter is a pro bono group whose members include executives from UC Ag & Natural Resources, CDFA, USDA, Public Utilities Commission Broadband Council, legislative committees, State Water Board, Western Growers and individual farmers and Ag tech companies. The Gualco Group, Inc. is a co-founder.

Dates and Times

Speakers' Reception: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., Harris Ranch Restaurant

Essential Elements: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Program & Hosted Luncheon

Attire: Business Casual

Host Site

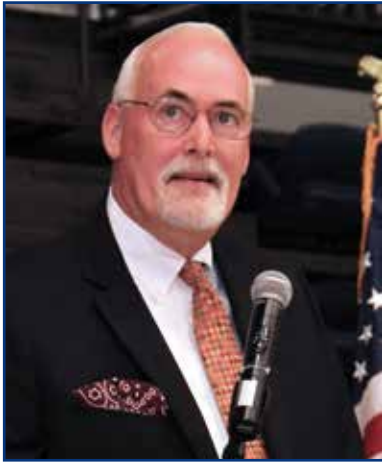
Harris Ranch Inn and Conference Center, Coalinga, CA

24505 W. Dorris Avenue, Coalinga, California 93210

Discounted Room Reservations

November 7-8, 2017, Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant. Call 559.935.0717. Reference code: 2T5789.

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Welcome

On behalf of the West Hills Community College District, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to Essential Elements for the Future of the San Joaquin Valley, a premier public policy series converging California's public policy and private sector leaders to confront the challenges in the Valley. In March 2014, we launched the series with *The Very Last Drop: Managing Water and Food Production*. In June, we turned our attention to *Energizing the Valley and Generating Jobs: Energy Development and Transmission*. In November 2014, we hosted *Trading Partners: Export Evolution, Logistics and Valley Economic Development*. In November 2015, we hosted *Shifting Ground: Adapting the San Joaquin Valley Economy to a Changing Climate* to create good-paying jobs in one of the nation's largest disadvantaged areas. Then in November

2016, we hosted *Powering Sustainable Economic Development for the San Joaquin Valley*. The series resulted in action outcomes and I invite you to review those by visiting our dedicated website at www.essentialelementsseries.com. You can also follow us on Twitter @whccdworkforce.

Today, we shift our focus to *Grow Food, Grow Jobs - Creating the Nation's First Ag-Based Broadband Pilot*. The purpose of *Creating the Nation's First Ag-Based Broadband Pilot* is to bring California's leading experts to tackle the huge collective and chronic problem affecting internet access to our rural communities. Only 43% of our rural population has access to Broadband internet. Based on a primary research study recently conducted by the West Hills College Farm of the Future, nearly 71% of growers and producers in our district are impeded by the lack of broadband access and weak cellular connections. Most growers recognized that there was new technology available that they would like to explore but that utilization of such would not be reliable or even possible without the broadband internet access needed to support it. This access is also a challenge for workforce training in our District and of our citizenry, spread over 3,464 square miles. Essential Elements was developed with an elegantly simple mission: do what we can to broker solutions to the challenges facing the Valley. Our sixth series intends to stand up a pilot proposal that defines our challenges, delivery methods, and potential providers, and then to approach funding sources including the California Emerging Technology and the California Public Utilities Commission.

We are grateful to the donors and sponsors of Essential Elements. The partners include: Central Mother Lode Region Consortium, Central Valley Power Connect, Chevron, The Gualco Group, Harris Woolf, Jobs and the Economy, The Wonderful Company, PG&E, Recurrent Energy, West Hills College Coalinga, West Hills College Lemoore, West Hills Community College District, West Hills Community College Foundation, Westside Institute of Technology. If your organization is interested in collaborating with us to assist in underwriting some of the event management costs, please review the information listed on the inside back cover of this convention program booklet.

Thank you for joining us today!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Van Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Stuart Van Horn,
Chancellor
West Hills Community College District

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Grow Food, Grow Jobs: Creating the Nation's First Ag-Based Broadband Pilot

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Registration	Harris Ranch, Foyer
9:00 a.m.	Welcome	Stuart Van Horn <i>Chancellor, West Hills Community College District</i>
		William Bourdeau <i>Executive Vice President, Harris Farms</i>
	Introduction of Keynote.....	Stuart Van Horn <i>Chancellor, West Hills Community College District</i>
9:05 a.m.	Opening Keynote	Anna Caballero Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee <i>Assembly Member 30th District, CA State Assembly</i>
9:20 a.m.	Introductions.....	Linda Thomas <i>Vice Chancellor, West Hills Community College District</i>
9:30 a.m.	<i>Mission Statement and Define Technology Terms.....</i>	Gabe Youtsey <i>Chief Innovation Officer, UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources</i>
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.	Networking Break	Foyer



Panel One: *Broadband Fields of Dreams – Farmers’ and Community’ Needs* 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Dennis Donohue, Moderator; Executive Director, Western Growers’ Innovation Institute

Panelists:

Terry Brase, Director, *Farm of the Future, West Hills College, Coalinga*
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, CSU, Fresno and Chair, *Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Davena Witcher, Executive Director, *Alliance for Medical Outreach & Relief*
Jeff Mitchell, UC Cooperative Extension Cropping System Specialist, *Kearney & Five Points Ag Research Center*

11:00 - 11:15 a.m. Networking Break Foyer



Panel Two: *SJV Information Highway is a Rutted Dirt Road - But It is a Start* *(Existing Infrastructure as a Base)*

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Jack Gualco, Moderator; President, The Gualco Group, Inc.



Panelists:

Stuart Van Horn, Chancellor, *West Hills Community College District*
William Bourdeau, Executive Vice President, *Harris Farms* and Director, *Westlands Water District*

Sonja Harris, Company Development Director, *Conifer Communications*
Robert Tse, California Broadband Coordinator, *USDA*
Ricardo Lainez, Business & Market Development Executive, *Vastnetworks*

Luncheon & Networking

12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Service & Networking

Keynote Speakers:

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. *Rural Broadband Future In California*Robert Tse, California Broadband Coordinator, USDA
Funding Oportunities . . .Rocky Chenelle, General Field Representative, USDA Rural Utilities Service



Panel Three: *Build It and They Will Connect - Technology and Tasks*

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



Gabe Youtsey, Moderator, Chief Innovation Officer, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

Panelists:

Ismael Herrera, Associate Director, *Office of Community and Economic Development, CSUF*

Adelina Zendejas, Deputy Director, *CA Department of Technology*

Gladys Palpallatoc, Associate Vice President, *California Emerging Technology Fund*

Jake Saberal, *Bitwise, Inc.*

Robyn Krock, Program Manager, *Valley Vision*



Our To-Do List

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



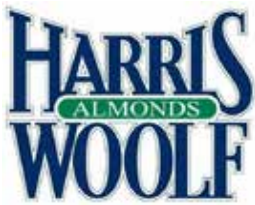
Facilitators:

Stuart Van Horn, Chancellor, *West Hills Community College District*

Jeff Weekley, Director of *Cyberinfrastructure and Research Computing, UC Merced*

Action Session Members:

We all collaborate for actions and actors!



Harris Woolf



Sponsors and Contributors

Chevron, The Gualco Group, West Hills Community College District, West Hills College Coalinga, West Hills College Lemoore, West Hills College Foundation, The Wonderful Company, Harris Woolf, West Hills Community College District Westside Institute of Technology (WIT), Central Valley Power Connect, PG&E, Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, Central Valley Regional Slingshot Consortium colleges, Five-county Craft Path Project partners (building trades), Recurrent Energy, California Community Colleges Jobs and the Economy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, CA Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and Office of Community and Economic Development, California State University, Fresno

Additional Sponsors

Essential Elements is grateful for the Central Mother Lode Region Consortium member colleges: Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College, Clovis Community College, College of Sequoias, Columbia College, Fresno City College, Merced College,

Partnering Agencies

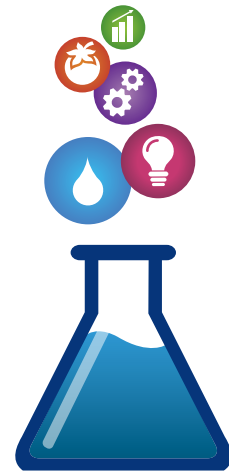
Essential Elements is grateful for the continuing support and leadership of the following agencies:

- Association of California Water Agencies
- Burlington Northern Railway
- Chevron
- California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Energy Commission
- California Forward
- California League of Food Processors
- California State University, Fresno
- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- Central Mother Lode Regional Consortium
- Central Valley Power Connect
- Fresno County Farm Bureau
- Friant Water Authority
- Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development (GOBiz)
- The Gualco Group, Inc.

Policy Series

Essential Elements for the Future of the San Joaquin Valley

A private and public policy series
Presented by West Hills Community College District



Essential Elements is a continuing series on the following topics: water and food, energy development and transmission, and trade and logistics. The intent of the series is to organize hands-on partnerships and create action steps for the future of the San Joaquin Valley while coping with climate change. Essential Elements will be held at Harris Ranch Inn and Conference Center. Each session will include guest speakers and panel discussions.

\$5,000 Premier Sponsorship

Includes:

- Full color logo inclusion in policy series program
- Complimentary physical space for exhibit display
- Inclusion of company literature in attendee packet
- Recognition at the welcome and dinner sessions

For further details please contact:

Dr. Linda Thomas

at lindathomas2@whccd.edu or 559-934-2133.



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