



**NEWS**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **VALLEY FORWARD HOSTING PANEL ON GREENING THE WEST VALLEY**

PHOENIX (May 3, 2010) – An interactive panel of community leaders will discuss efforts to green the West Valley through public and private sustainability initiatives at Valley Forward’s Board of Directors/General Membership Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18 at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Boulevard.

The panel will spotlight how public and private sectors are responding to environmental and quality of life needs in challenging economic times. Participants include Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Thomas Lucas, senior vice president of operations at DMB Associates, Inc. and Lt. Col. John Thomas, base civil engineering squadron commander of Luke Air Force Base.

“We need to advocate for sustainability policies even in challenging budgetary times,” said Diane Brossart, president of Valley Forward. “Everyone recognizes we’re in an era of cost-cutting but there are opportunities nevertheless, and a healthy environment and economy go hand-in-hand. This is particularly relevant in the West Valley, which is the fastest growing part of our metroplex.”

Program panelists will address sustainable economic development activities in the West Valley, including solar initiatives in several communities and at Luke Air Force Base, the nation’s largest fighter wing encompassing more than 350 facilities, 4 million square feet of space and 4,400 acres of real estate at Luke and 1.7M acres the neighboring Barry M. Goldwater Range. The luncheon is open to the public at \$60 per person and reservations can be made by calling (602) 240- 2408 or registering online at [www.valleyforward.org](http://www.valleyforward.org).

Valley Forward is a 41-year-old, non-profit public interest organization that brings business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to promote cooperative efforts to improve the sustainability and livability of Valley communities.