Citistates’ Johnson tapped as symposium keynote

Air District event kicks off Sept. 29 in Bakersfield

(Sept. 21) Esteemed public-policy innovator and think-tank CEO Curtis Johnson will give the keynote address at the upcoming air-quality symposium, “Unique Valley, Unique Solutions: Working Together for Clean Air in the San Joaquin Valley,” Sept. 29-30 in Bakersfield.

Registrations are still being accepted for the symposium, presented by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and a handful of leaders in environmental issues. The two-day event, at the Holiday Inn Select, features a variety of discussions and presentations by leading air-quality experts, planners, industry groups, nonprofits and other stakeholders in improving the Valley’s air quality. The public is invited to attend.

Johnson, president of the Citistates Group, a Minneapolis-based think-tank that promotes effective regionalism, has a long and illustrious career addressing urban-planning and environmental issues. He has served as chairman of the Metropolitan Council in Minneapolis, a regional governing agency; as head of the Citizens League, a public affairs research and action organization; and as policy advisor and chief of staff to former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson, among other positions. He writes a feature series with columnist Neil Peirce, has coauthored (with Peirce) the books Citistates and Boundary Crossers, and is an active commentator on regional planning issues through the national press and other forums.

His keynote address, “Valley Air: Perfect Storm or Opportunity to Innovate?,”

- more —
Symposium keynote
Page 2
Sept. 21

during Wednesday’s luncheon is the centerpiece of an in-depth event that aims to tackle tough air-quality and quality of life issues in the context of the sprawling, geographically unique San Joaquin Valley.

“We’re pleased to have someone of Curt’s stature addressing pertinent air-quality issues from the perspective of regionalism,” said Dave Crow, the District’s air pollution control officer. ‘We anticipate that his presentation will stimulate a lot of discussion.’

In addition to Johnson’s presentation, the symposium program includes timely panel discussions on a variety of topics, and opportunities for one-on-one discussions with the presenters and Air District management staff. Some of the panel topics are “Land-use, Transportation and Air Quality: Rebuilding the Valley”; “Valley Coalitions: Building Strategies on Common Sense”; “Engaging Communities in the Pollution Solution”; and “From Here to Clean: Valley Air Quality and New Scientific Approaches.”

Late registrations will be accepted through Monday, Sept. 27. The symposium fee, including breakfast and lunch both days and a networking reception, is $205 per person, with a 50 percent discount for students and members of nonprofit organizations. Scholarships are also available.

For more information and registration materials, log onto www.Valleyair.org or contact Kelly Malay at 559-230-5851 (Kelly.Malay@valleyair.org).