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Eight counties to meet for blueprint planning

Last Updated: June 27, 2006, 01:26:58 AM PDT

Eight area counties, including Merced County, will join up for their first regional "blueprint" planning session on Wednesday in Fresno.

Faced with a population boom equal to 10 new Fresnos by the year 2050, the San Joaquin Valley is working to address its regional transportation and land use strategies through the Blueprint Planning Process.

The meeting, which costs \$30 to attend and includes a lunch, will go from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Fresno Convention Center.

"The eight counties in the Valley have never worked this closely before on planning issues and it presents a unique opportunity for the fastest growing region in California to prepare for our future together," said Merced County Supervisor Deidre Kelsey, who chairs the Merced County Association of Governments.

To register, call Jami Westervelt at 522-5103 or e-mail jami@greatvalley.org. You can also register online at www.valleyblueprint.org.

-- Chris Collins

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