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**San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards Application Now Available!**

**MERCED-** The Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State has released a call for nominations for the 2018 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards. The purpose of the Blueprint Awards program is to encourage quality in planning and development by recognizing outstanding achievements and practices in the built environment. In recognizing and celebrating projects that reflect the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Principles, the awards identify visual examples of attractive, functional and environmentally friendly projects throughout the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint was an unprecedented regional planning process that developed a regional vision of land use and transportation to guide growth in the San Joaquin Valley through 2050. In addition to creating a valley wide preferred growth scenario, the planning process also resulted in the development and adoption of 12 smart growth principles that aim to create walkable neighborhoods, foster distinctive communities with a strong sense of place, mix land uses, provide a variety of transportation and housing choices, and preserve open space and farmland. The complete list of the Blueprint Smart Growth Principles can be found here: <http://valleyblueprint.org/smart-growth-principles.html>.

The 2018 Blueprint Awards offer six categories for sustainable development projects: residential development, commercial development, mixed use, downtown revitalization, transportation enhancement and historic revitalization. These categories are for on the ground, existing projects that exemplify the Blueprint Principles. In addition, the Darrel Hildebrand Blueprint Leadership Award will be awarded to an individual who has shown enthusiasm and tenacity in promoting the Blueprint Principles in the San Joaquin Valley.

Interested applicants can download the nominations packet at [bit.ly/BlueprintNom2018](http://bit.ly/BlueprintNom2018) or contact Ismael Herrera (559) 278-0519 or [isherrera@csufresno.edu](mailto:isherrera@csufresno.edu). Applications are due by noon on April 20, 2018. The 2018 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards will be presented at the Blueprint Awards Luncheon on May 11, 2018 in Modesto.

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