

GREAT VALLEY

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Forum on Water Draws a Crowd

Robert Glennon, nationally-known author of the book *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What To Do About It*, and Tim Quinn Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) were the featured keynote speakers at the Great Valley Center's Sacramento Valley Forum, a day-long annual event focusing on issues in California's Sacramento Valley. The event, which was the 10th annual Forum, was held on October 28, 2009 at the Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico.

This year's Forum, titled "Water, More than a Peripheral Issue," was attended by over 175 business and community leaders, governmental officials, farmers, environmentalists and individuals who have an interest in the future of the region. The Forum provided attendees with an opportunity to learn about issues currently relevant to water use, including conservation and economics in the 10-county Sacramento Valley Region and beyond.

"The Sacramento Valley's water supply nourishes our region and the rest of the state and we cannot conserve our way out of this

problem," said David Hosley, Great Valley Center's president. "By bringing people and interests from the Sacramento Valley together to present about the many complexities of this issue, we can establish a dialogue for positive change."

Glennon, a professor of law and public policy at the University of Arizona, reviewed the signs of the water crisis since 2007 and listed more than 16 different actions or reforms he supported, including metering water usage and pointing to many cities in the Central Valley that do not require residents to pay for the amount of water they use.

Additionally Tim Quinn opened the program by stating that California's water crisis is like nothing anyone has ever seen in the history of the state. He mentioned that many groups of committed people are working to guide the state in a new direction, including the Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force, and important information is now available, such as the Public Policy Institute's 2007



Robert Glennon gives his keynote address to the audience at The Big Room at the Sierra Nevada Brewery

report *Envisioning Futures* and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan.

Panel sessions throughout the day discussed Sacramento River flows, risks and management; current research on the affects of climate change, precipitation and conveyance; infrastructure innovations that make greater conservation possible; and the economics of water, recreation and tourism in the Sacramento River Valley.

The complete program for the day and speaker's powerpoint presentations are now available at www.greatvalley.org/svforum.