

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT



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Four prominent leaders join Valley Vision Board of Directors

*Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Fred Mendez, Steve Mills and Scott Shapiro
become newest directors to guide the regional impact organization's strategic plan*

SACRAMENTO, CA — [Valley Vision](#) announced today that [Gayle Garbolino-Mojica](#), Placer County Superintendent of Schools; [Fred Mendez](#), Managing Director, MUFG Union Bank; [Steve Mills](#), Partner, DCA Capital Partners; and [Scott Shapiro](#), Managing Partner, Downey Brand LLP, joined its [board of directors](#) in January.

“We are very excited to welcome these four individuals to our board of directors as their insight and experience will help us increase our impact on issues of regional importance,” said board chairman Jose Hermocillo, Executive Director of APCO Worldwide.

Valley Vision today is managing more than 20 regional initiatives that range from improving air quality and protecting the economy through business resiliency planning to ensuring those most in need have access to food, healthcare, education and the Internet. Each of the four new board members brings a distinct knowledge base and influence that will help advance these initiatives as well as new priority focus areas in which Valley Vision looks to expand its impact in 2015.

Garbolino-Mojica is well connected in Placer County and highly respected in the education arena as well as across wider business and community circles beyond the county. The daughter of Placer County Superior Court Judge Jim Garbolino and former mayor of Roseville Gina Garbolino, Garbolino-Mojica is expanding the family's leadership endeavors by being an active and engaged partner with education leaders and institutions across the region. She possesses a strong commitment to expanding the number of students to have access to critical career pathways and, as a member of the NextEd Executive Board, she promotes educational attainment strategies that align with Next Economy's workforce goals. Garbolino-Mojica currently serves as a member of the Superintendents' Council for the Association of California School Administrators, member of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Board. She is also past President of KidsFirst and a member of Class XIV of the American Leadership Forum-Mountain Valley Chapter.

Mendez assumed the role of Managing Director of MUFG Union Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility group for the Americas effective February 2. He had served as Chief Sustainability Officer at Rabobank, N.A., the \$14 billion U.S. retail banking division of the Rabobank Group, a Dutch-based global financial services leader with more than \$925 billion in assets. He managed Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) compliance, public welfare lending and investment activity, and corporate social responsibility as well as serving as a strategic partner to mortgage, small business, small farm, environmental and public finance activities. Mendez also served as a Federal Reserve official, senior fellow with the Aspen Institute, and as an equity options and bond trader. Mendez's financial acumen and his deep knowledge of and connection to the world's agricultural interests will lend tremendous value to Valley Vision's longstanding work in supporting the region's food system.

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Mills is another Placer County leader who, like Mendez, is connected to national and global financial markets and is bringing that acumen here to our region for business and job growth. Mills and Mendez both will bring to the Valley Vision board knowledge regarding capital formation and deployment that will be vital to the next 10 years of the region's growth and success. Mills specializes in private equity financing, consulting with companies in various sectors—concerning their growth strategies with a particular emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, and structuring financing transactions. Mills was a founding member of the Ernst & Young San Jose Office Entrepreneurial Services Group, currently serves as the immediate-past President of the Crocker Art Museum Association and is a past member of the board of the Sacramento Area Regional Technology Association (SARTA).

With a longstanding and distinguished career with Downey Brand LLP – Sacramento's largest law firm – Shapiro is widely known for his expertise of water and flood law. He represents public and private entities seeking to provide increased levels of flood protection and more reliable water supplies in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington state. Shapiro's specialization in this area is of particular relevance as Valley Vision's work portfolio has expanded in recent years in the areas of water protection and reliability and economic resiliency strategies to protect from the region's high propensity for weather related disasters. He is a frequent speaker and writer on water and flood issues, including time as a visiting professor at the University of California, Davis, and as Managing Editor of the Flood Law and Policy Reporter. He previously served on the Board of the Association of California Water Agencies and chaired the Legal Affairs Committee. Shapiro has long been an active leader in the Jewish community, is a graduate of the American Leadership Forum and is the 2016 designed Chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber's Annual Cap to Cap program.

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Valley Vision is a regional impact nonprofit that strengthens our communities through research, collaboration and leadership. Since 1994 Valley Vision has created, managed or supported more than one hundred regional change initiatives to improve the economic, social, and environmental prosperity of the Sacramento Capital Region.