

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Dhillon, Executive Director
Visitacion Valley Community Development Corporation
jdhillon@vvcddc.org
415/587-7896

REGIONAL PLANNING NECCESARY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF VISITACION/ GUADALUPE VALLEY WATERSHED AREA

San Francisco, CA – December 5, 2007 – There is a potential of two million square feet of commercial space, more than 4,000 units of housing and up to 10,000 new residents moving into the Visitacion/ Guadalupe Valley Watershed area. Visitacion Valley is a neighborhood on the southeast corner of San Francisco bordering the cities of Brisbane and Daly City. The natural geological boundaries of the area create the Watershed Region, bordered by mountains, hills and parks that will see hundreds of acres of growth and development in the next decade.

The Visitacion Valley Community Development Corporation (VVDC) with assistance from Asian Neighborhood Design (AND) authored the report, Harnessing Change to Create Sustainable Growth: The Visitacion/ Guadalupe Valley: A Regional Perspective, as the first steps in the efforts to create a regional planning perspective, collecting and analyzing data to assist in planning efforts towards sustainable growth, building relationships between regional stakeholders and decision-makers, and providing community outreach to inform and encourage community participation.

The report's findings are for the many organizations and agencies in the region to reach common context for a variety of issues such as housing, transportation, infrastructure, job opportunities, natural resource preservation, urban design, and community engagement around land-use issues.

"We have a rare opportunity here to advocate for a Sustainable Region," said VVDC Executive Director Jennifer Dhillon. "But we can only create true sustainability if each adjacent area will support the efforts to bring regional transportation, retail and community services, and ecological preservation to the residents."

The study shows that a regional perspective is the most efficient and effective way to coordinate and accommodate development patterns in the Watershed area. This creates a unique opportunity to plan for the future of the region and encourage sustainable, smart growth.

"AND couldn't be more pleased to be working with VVDC," said AND's Executive Director Grant Din. "The work has already brought together residents, developers, and municipal agencies to examine the overall region, demographics, significant sites, and existing and future developments. We hope to help VVDC bring more interested parties together toward the goal of Sustainable Development."

At the "book release" event held today at The Village, on Sunnydale Avenue, hosted by VVDC and AND, Walter and Evelyn Haas Jr. Fund's Senior Program Officer Brad Paul, Livable City's Tom Radulovich, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Rosey Jencks, and many other guests came in support for the formal introduction of Harnessing Change to Create Sustainable Growth. For those who were unable to attend the event, the report is available for download at both www.vvcddc.org and www.andnet.org.

###

About Asian Neighborhood Design

The mission of Asian Neighborhood Design (AND) is to reduce poverty and revitalize neighborhoods in the Bay Area by building healthy communities and providing opportunities for low-income residents to become economically self-sufficient. Incorporated in 1973, AND was founded by a group of UC Berkeley architectural students who were determined to improve the environment in low-income housing and community spaces in Asian neighborhoods. AND has grown beyond that original goal and now serves multiethnic, low-income individuals and communities in the Bay Area. We believe in a holistic approach to fight against poverty through four program areas of Employment Training, Family and Youth Resources, Architecture and Community Planning. For more information about AND, please visit www.andnet.org or call (415) 575-0423.

About Visitacion Valley Community Development Corporation

Visitacion Valley Community Development Corporation (VVCDC) is a local non-profit organization whose work is to assist and empower the residents of Visitacion Valley to lead a comprehensive revitalization effort in their own community through housing, services, and community development. VVCDC's mission to catalyze positive revitalization in Visitacion Valley is done by bringing together development opportunities and community needs, assuring:

- Cultivation of indigenous leadership – to be a learning and leadership development vehicle for Valley residents, and
- Actively participating in development opportunities, acquiring and managing assets to best support community revitalization and the sustainability of the CDC itself.

For more information about VVCDC, please visit www.vvcdc.org or call (415) 587-7896.