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2003 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR VENTURA COUNTY TOPIC OF UCSB SEMINAR IN OXNARD

The prospects for Ventura County's economy in the coming year will be the topic of a special seminar to be presented in Oxnard this month by the Economic Forecast Project of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The half-day program on Thursday, February 20, will feature several speakers who will review the performance of the local and regional economies in 2002 and offer the outlook for the Ventura County economy in 2003. Special attention will also be given to Ventura County's workforce and the California budget crisis.

The UCSB Economic Forecast Project is a research unit that provides regional economic data, analysis, and forecasts to the community.

The 10th Annual Ventura County Economic Forecast Seminar will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott, 2101 W. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:15 a.m.; the program will conclude at 11:30 a.m.

Featured speakers for the program include:

- Dr. Bill Watkins, executive director of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project and a former research economist at the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C.: "The Ventura County Economic Review and Forecast"

·Dan Walters, syndicated newspaper columnist: "The California Budget Crisis"

·Joel Kotkin, author and senior fellow, Pepperdine University's Davenport Institute for Public Policy: "The New Geography: How the Digital Revolution is Reshaping the American Landscape"

Also speaking on the program will be Bruce Stenslie, director of the Ventura County Workforce Investment Board, and Capt. Paul Grossgold, Commanding Officer at Naval Base Ventura County.

Admission to the seminar is \$100 per person (\$125 after Feb. 10) and includes a copy of the book "2003 Ventura County Economic Outlook." To register, or for information, contact the UCSB Economic Forecast Project by phone, (805) 893-5159, or fax, (805) 893-2754; or visit its web site: www.ucsb-efp.com

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