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2005 Economic Outlook for Ventura County Topic of UCSB Seminar in Oxnard

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

The half-day program on Thursday, February 17, will feature speakers who will review the performance of the local and regional economies in 2004 and offer the outlook for the Ventura County economy in 2005. The event will also feature a debate titled "Liquified Natural Gas: Good for the County and Good for Business?"

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

The Ventura County Economic Forecast Seminar will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 600 E. Esplanade Drive, Oxnard. Registration and breakfast begin at 7 a.m.; the program will conclude by noon.

Featured speakers and topics for the program:

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

- Dan Walters, syndicated newspaper columnist: "Arnie II: The Second Year," a candid assessment of political and economic developments in Sacramento and the State.
- "The Debate Over LNG: Is it Good for California?" Participating in the debate will be Assemblyman Dr. Keith Richman of the 38th Assembly District and Bill Powers of Powers Engineering.

Admission to the seminar is \$125 per person and includes breakfast and a copy of the book "2005 Ventura County Economic Outlook." To register, or for information, contact the UCSB Economic Forecast Project by phone, (805) 893-5739, or fax, (805) 893-2754; or visit its web site: www.ucsb-efp.com, where a registration form can be downloaded.

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