

DIRECTOR REPORT AB 1234

Director Name: Jeff Ford

Conference/Seminar Name: 2022 Economic Outlook

Date: 9/9/2022

To Be Presented at Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting on: 9/20/2022

Subject Matter of Conference/Seminar:

Santa Clarita's top employers and community leaders attended the forum which provided attendees with localized insight on recent financial developments and how their businesses can plan ahead for the future.

Speakers and Persons of Interest in Attendance:

This year's event, which was organized by the Economic Development Corporation and the College of the Canyons (and sponsored, in part by the SCVWA) was hosted at the Performing Arts Center on the College of the Canyons campus, had more than 400 people in attendance. The three-hour program included a business panel, economic forecast and workforce development update, the latter of which being a central topic of conversation among the speakers and attendees. The event's keynote economist, Mark Schnieep, the director of California Economic Forecasts, said that his private firm has seen its clients, both public and private agencies, react to a mass reduction in their workforce, either due to the pandemic or an increased number of retirements.

Points of Interest: Dr. Schnieep noted the following key points:

1. Job growth in the SCV has outpaced population growth.

2. The are some concerns regarding infrastructure, but it mainly involves electric power reliability (water service was not mentioned).
3. SCV businesses are concerned about public safety.
4. Housing starts are down nationwide, but up in California and the SCV.
5. The most prominent indication of possible recession is the drop in housing activity.
6. The Federal Reserve failed to address inflation early, and now may be forced to raise interest rates significantly.
7. Inflation was caused by three main factors:
 - a. Bad federal energy policy
 - b. Excessive government spending
 - c. Supply chain impacts
8. Events that could result in a full-blown recession in the U.S.:
 - a. Federal Reserve significantly raising interest rates
 - b. Chinese economic contraction
 - c. European economic contraction due to ongoing war/energy crisis.