

# VALLEY COMMUNITY BANK

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Valley Community Bank Announces Promotion of Bernie Billen Prominent Member of Business Community to Lead Pleasanton Office***

Pleasanton, Calif. - Valley Community Bank has announced the promotion of Bernie Billen to First Vice President and Manager of its Pleasanton office, effective December 5, 2011. She succeeds Brent Chaney, who will retire on December 2, 2011.

Billen's first position in banking was that of a young teller in Erie, Penn. A series of relocations around the United States brought her to California where she resumed her banking career in 1985 and joined the staff of Pleasanton's Community First National Bank. After seven years there, she left banking for five years to become membership director at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. She returned to banking in 1997 as branch manager at Bay View Bank in Pleasanton. Upon that bank's closing, Billen joined Valley Community Bank as Vice President of Business Development in 2002.

A Pleasanton resident for more than 30 years, Billen is well known for her involvement in the local business community. She has served on the Board of Directors of both the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Pleasanton Downtown Association. She is a member of the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association and the Hometown Holiday Celebration Steering Committee. A recipient of many honors, she has been awarded the President's Award, Community Development Award and Carol Bush Volunteer of the Year Award by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce as well as the Arch Angel Award by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

"Since I have been based at this office for many years and know our customers, I am confident that the transition will be seamless and everything will run as smoothly as it did under Brent's leadership," Billen says. "As I step into his shoes, I am excited about continuing my work with small business owners and my involvement in the community. I'll work to increase the staff's knowledge of local businesses and happenings and the bank's visibility in the Tri-Valley area as well. I've already started planning with the hosting of a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce event in March."

"Bernie has been, and will continue to be, a huge asset for our bank," added President and CEO Rick Loupe. "She will continue to ensure the best quality service that any bank can offer."

### About Valley Community Bank

Valley Community Bank is a full-service bank with a unique business model that focuses primarily on providing superior service for small- to mid-size businesses and professionals. Local bankers customize the financial solution that is best for each client in a non-traditional bank setting. Experienced local decision makers handle complex financial situations quickly. Valley Community Bank has an eight-member Board of Directors that includes some of the most reputable names in local business. The bank has approximately 280 shareholders. More information about Valley Community Bank is available at [www.vcb-ca.com](http://www.vcb-ca.com).

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