

Conference Focuses on Environmental Policy in CA

By Jennifer Wake

The economic, social and political ramifications of environmental policy in California will be discussed at the annual “State of the Economy – Toward a Sustainable Environment” conference Wednesday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Saint Mary’s Soda Center.

“Interest in this area is exploding – and we all need to ‘get educated,’” said Kris Chase, Ph.D., Saint Mary’s College economics professor and director of the Center for the Regional Economy. “We will be sharing perspectives from the government, business and environmental communities. How these policies (such as the greenhouse gas bill for California, AB32) are designed will have an impact on the costs of transportation, utilities, as well as on our quality of life.”

The morning will begin with a presentation about California economic policy

by Howard Roth, Ph.D., chief economist for the California State Department of Finance, as well as a discussion with Virgil Welch, a key player in setting environmental policy on behalf of Environmental Defense. Later, Winston Hickox, environmental advisor to CalPERS and former head of California’s EPA, will discuss environmental investing, regulation and markets.

“Public policy toward the environment is an issue that affects us both as managers of organizations and as citizens,” she added.

The conference will conclude with a luncheon discussion of what can be done at the local and regional level to ensure environmental sustainability.

Cost is \$35 (includes morning snack and lunch). To register, contact Cherie Grant in the School of Economics and Business Administration at (925) 631-4074.