

On behalf of the Region IX VPPPA conference planning committee, I wanted to let everyone know about ground transportation options for the 2010 Region IX VPPPA conference in Newport Beach. Orange County Airport (also referred to as John Wayne airport) is only 4.1 miles from the beautiful Marriott Newport Beach Hotel and & Spa which is located next to Fashion Island, a huge shopping mall complex.

The planning committee and I recommend that you fly into Orange County/John Wayne airport and take a taxi to/from the hotel. This is the most economical way to get the hotel as a taxi ride will cost around \$20.00. You can rent a car but please be advised that self parking at the Hotel garage charges a daily parking rate of \$18.00, with Valet parking costing \$27/day. With the central location of the hotel and Fashion Island right across the street, we do not believe there is a need for a rental car.

If you signed up for the golf tournament and are concerned that you will not have transportation for the golf tournament, we will be providing a shuttle to and from the hotel to the Golf course. The shuttle will leave the Marriott hotel at 10:00 sharp and return after the closing reception of the tournament.

We have received a lot of inquiries about the pre-conference workshops and golf tournament. I would like to briefly explain each one these events occurring on March 30<sup>th</sup>;

- The VPP application workshop is intended to walk individuals through the application writing process. This workshop specifically breaks down each VPP element listed in a VPP application so attendees can learn how to best complete the application. Mark Norton does a great job of explaining and simplifying the application writing process and much, much more.
- The Cal/VPP workshop is intended for those companies in California wanting to learn about the Cal/VPP process or understand common finding's and opportunities that Cal-OSHA see's during VPP evaluations. It is a good workshop for anyone in California wanting learn about or improve VPP at their site.

- The Golf tournament is open to anyone that wants to participate even if you are not attending the conference. We believe outreach and networking of VPP can be accomplished anywhere and what better place to do this than the beautiful Tustin Ranch Golf Course.

If you have still not signed up for the Region IX VPPPA conference, I encourage you to do so. The planning committee has assembled some of the best speakers in the country, gathered a bunch of our Region IX STAR sites to discuss their best practices and have setup networking opportunities throughout the conference. We have a record number of speakers, exhibitors and attendees this year which gives this conference the promise of being one of our best.

I am really looking forward to seeing everyone as Region IX sails into Newport.

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