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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
MARK MAZZAFERRO (707) 649-5462**

### **VALLEJO DISASTER COUNCIL TO HOLD MEETING ON ‘SARS’**

VALLEJO – The Disaster Council of the City of Vallejo will be providing information to the community on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome at Touro University later this month.

“The Center for Disease Control is sending out messages on it, and yesterday there was an incident at the airport in San Jose,” said Vallejo Fire Chief Don Parker, who oversees the City’s Disaster Council. “It’s important that we look at this issue now rather than later.”

Bill Stanhope of Touro University will be the guest speaker at the meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 17 at Touro. The meeting will provide basic information Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, how it is spread, the symptoms of the disease, what precautions people can take and other information. Members of the Vallejo Fire Department will put on a demonstration showing how they would respond to a suspected SARS case in Vallejo.

“We’ve been faced with many recent challenges, including 9-11 and the war in Iraq, and now we have this,” said City Manager David Martinez said. “And in each case we’ve taken a proactive stance. Chief Parker has my full support. I think it important for us to deal with this issue right away.”

The public is invited to the meeting. A full agenda will be released soon.

“This is an important issue facing the city,” said Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli Jr., a member of the City’s Disaster Council. “The health and welfare of our citizens is very important, and in light of that I am inviting the rest of the council to attend this very important meeting.”

SARS is a respiratory illness that has recently been reported in Asia, North America, and Europe. The illness usually begins with a fever (measured temperature greater than 100.4°F. The fever is sometimes associated with chills or other symptoms, including headache, general feeling of discomfort, and body aches. Some people also experience mild respiratory symptoms at the outset.

The principal way SARS appears to be spread is through droplet transmission; namely, when someone sick with SARS coughs or sneezes droplets into the air and someone else breathes them in. It is possible that SARS can be transmitted more broadly through the air or from objects that have become contaminated.