ABSTRACT
How do we measure the health of a community? How do policy makers decide on regulations and taxes? What might the anticipated (and unanticipated) effects be? This talk will describe how economics can guide answering such questions. A necessary, but not sufficient, condition is to understand the data in the current environment. The UCSB Economic Forecast Project began doing just that more than 30 years ago. Next, the data must be analyzed and interpreted. The tools of economics can be applied to better understand the effects of policy.

BIO
Dr. Peter Rupert joined the Economic Forecast Project as its executive director in August 2010. He is a professor of economics at UCSB, and Associate Director of the UCSB Laboratory for Aggregate Economics and Finance, founded by Nobel Laureate Finn E. Kydland. Prior to joining UCSB, Dr. Rupert spent 12 years as Senior Economic Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Dr. Rupert has held appointments at the University of Western Ontario, State University of New York at Buffalo, West Virginia University, the University of Southern California, and Birkbeck College, University of London. Dr. Rupert earned his BS from Santa Clara University, and his MA and PhD at the University of Rochester. His areas of specialization include macroeconomics, monetary economics, economics of the criminal justice system, labor, and household economics. Evidently, he can not keep a job and rides a red Vespa.