

TRI VALLEY CORP  
Form 10-K  
March 30, 2009  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008

Commission File No. 001-31852

**TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**84-0617433**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**4550 California Avenue, Suite 600, Bakersfield, California 93309**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number Including Area Code: **(661) 864-0500**

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

Title of each class	Name of exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value	NYSE-Alternext US

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act

Yes  No

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such requirement for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Check if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

Yes  No

As of March 16, 2009, 27,438,367 common shares were issued and outstanding.

The aggregate market value of the common shares of Tri-Valley Corporation held by non-affiliates on the last day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was approximately \$179 million.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: None

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PART I</b>		
<b>ITEM 1</b>	<b>Business</b>	1
	Competition	2
	Governmental Regulation	3
	Environmental Regulation	3
	Employees	5
	Available Information	5
<b>ITEM 1A</b>	<b>Risk Factors</b>	5
<b>ITEM 2</b>	<b>Properties</b>	11
	Oil and Gas Operations	11
	Minerals Properties	14
<b>ITEM 3</b>	<b>Legal Proceedings</b>	19
<b>ITEM 4</b>	<b>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</b>	19
<b>PART II</b>		
<b>ITEM 5</b>	<b>Market Price of the Registrant's Common Stock and Related Security Holder Matters</b>	20
	Performance Graph	21
	Equity Compensation Plan Information	22
	Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities	22
<b>ITEM 6</b>	<b>Selected Historical Financial Data</b>	23
<b>ITEM 7</b>	<b>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition</b>	23
	Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	23
	Overview	24
	Critical Accounting Policies	25
	Other Significant Accounting Polices	26
	Accounting for Oil and Gas Producing Activities	26
	Rig Operations	28
	Mining Activity	28
	Results of Operations	30
	Financial Condition	33
	Operating Activities	33
	Investing Activities	34
	Financing Activities	34
	Liquidity and Capital Resources	34
<b>ITEM 7A</b>	<b>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</b>	35
<b>ITEM 8</b>	<b>Financial Statements</b>	36
<b>ITEM 9A</b>	<b>Controls and Procedures</b>	74
	Evaluation of Disclosure Controls	74
	Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting	74
	Changes in Internal Control	75
	Remediation of Material Weaknesses in Internal Control over Financial Reporting	75
<b>PART III</b>		
<b>ITEM 10</b>	<b>Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant</b>	78
<b>ITEM 11</b>	<b>Executive Compensation</b>	82
	Compensation Discussion and Analysis	82
	Personnel and Compensation Committee Report	87
	Summary Compensation Table	87
	Employment Agreement with Our President	88
	Aggregated 2008 Option Exercises and Year-End Values	88
	Option Grants During the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008 to Named Executive Officers	88
	Outstanding Equity Awards Table to Named Executive Officers and Directors	90
	Compensation of Directors	91
<b>ITEM 12</b>	<b>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management</b>	92
<b>ITEM 13</b>	<b>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</b>	93
<b>ITEM 14</b>	<b>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</b>	93



**ITEM 15 Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**  
**SIGNATURES**

94  
95

**PART I**

**ITEM 1 Business**

Tri-Valley Corporation ( TVC or the Company), a Delaware corporation formed in 1971, is in the business of exploring, acquiring and developing petroleum and metal and mineral properties and interests therein.

The Company has five subsidiaries:

Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company ( TVOG ) operates the oil & gas activities. TVOG derives the majority of its revenue from oil and gas drilling and turnkey development. TVOG primarily generates its own exploration prospects from its internal database, and also screens prospects from other geologists and companies. TVOG generates these geological plays within a certain geographic area of mutual interest. The prospect is then presented to potential co-ventures. The company deals with both accredited individual investors and energy industry companies. TVOG serves as the operator of these co-ventures. TVOG operates both the oil and gas production segment and the drilling and development segment of our business lines.

Select Resources Corporation ( Select ) was created in late 2004 to manage, grow and operate the minerals segment of our business lines.

Great Valley Production Services, LLC, ( GVPS ) was formed in 2006 to operate oil production services, well work over and drilling rigs, primarily for TVOG. In July of 2008, the drilling rigs were sold so that going forward the primary operations of GVPS will be to refurbish oilfield equipment for use in the Company s operations and for sale to outside third parties. During the third and fourth quarters of 2008 Tri-Valley sold 26% of the ownership interest to private parties and retained a 74% ownership interest in this subsidiary.

Great Valley Drilling Company, LLC ( GVDC ) was formed in 2006 to operate an oil drilling rig, primarily in Nevada where Tri-Valley has 17,000 acres of prospective oil leases. With the downturn in Nevada drilling, in part because numerous project permits have been held up and because of abrupt negative economic factors, drilling rig activity is nil at present. GVDC had an opportunity to do contract drilling for third parties, however the opportunity has waned as both petroleum and geothermal projects are at a standstill. For the time being, until further funds from the economic stimulus legislation begin to underwrite geothermal projects, GVDC expects its rig to remain idle for most of 2009. The Company is considering whether to sell the rig.

Tri-Valley Power Corporation is inactive at the present time.

The Company identifies reportable segments by product. The Company includes revenues from both external customers and revenues from transactions with other operating segments in its measure of segment profit or loss. The Company also includes interest revenue and expense, DD&A, and other operating expenses in its measure of segment profit or loss. The results of these four segments are presented in Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

The Company s four industry segments are:

- *Oil and gas operations* include our share of revenues from oil and gas wells on which TVOG serves as operator and royalty income and production revenue from other partnerships in which we have operating or non-operating interests. It also includes revenues for consulting services for oil and gas related activities.
- *Rig operations* began in 2006, when the Company acquired drilling rigs and began operating them through subsidiaries Great Valley Production Services, LLC, and Great Valley Drilling Company, LLC. Rig operations include income from rental of oil field equipment and income received from selling oilfield equipment.



- *Minerals* include the Company's mining and mineral prospects and operations, and expenses associated with those operations. In 2008, the Company recorded minerals revenue from consulting services performed for the mining and minerals industry, which are included on the operating statement as other income.
- *Drilling and development* includes revenues received from oil and gas drilling and development operations performed for joint venture partners, including the Opus-I drilling partnership.

We sell substantially all of our oil and gas production to Conoco Phillips, Pacific Summit Energy and Big West of California. On December 22, 2008, Big West filed chapter 11 impounding some barrels and ultimately stopping sales to that entity. Other gatherers of oil and gas production operate within our area of operations in California, and we are confident that if these companies ceased purchasing our production we could find another purchaser on similar terms with no adverse consequences to our income or operations.

In 1987, we acquired precious metals claims on Alaska state lands near Richardson, Alaska. Over time, we conducted exploration operations on these properties and have reduced our original claims to a block of approximately 28,720 acres (44.9 square miles). We have conducted trenching, core drilling, bulk sampling and assaying activities to date and have reason to believe that mineralization exists to justify additional exploration activities. While the management and our technical team believe these properties hold considerable promise from data secured to date, we have not defined proven or probable mineral reserves on these properties. There is no assurance yet that a commercially viable mineral deposit exists on any of these above mentioned mineral properties. Further exploration is required before a final evaluation as to the economic and legal feasibility can be determined. The same is true for other mineral properties acquired in 2005 and 2006, as described below.

In 2004, Select acquired the Shorty Creek gold claims near Livengood, Alaska. In 2005, we transferred our existing gold exploration properties located near Richardson, Alaska to Select. In 2005, Select acquired a calcium carbonate quarry, located northwest of Ketchikan, Alaska. The latter is a very high grade, high bright deposit deemed to be among the top 1% of such deposits in the world. The quarry is in a care and maintenance mode while Select arranges a customer base before restarting the quarry. In 2005 and 2006, Select also owned and operated a 50% interest in an industrial minerals joint venture, Trans-Western Resources, which we sold in 2006.

In late 2005 and early 2006, exploration activities were conducted on each of our two gold properties. Further exploration is required on the gold properties before an evaluation as to the economic and technical feasibility can be determined. Select also seeks to acquire and develop additional metal and industrial mineral properties and maintains an interest in developing very conservative uranium ventures.

### **Competition**

The oil and gas industry is highly competitive in all its phases, including both our drilling segment and our production segment. Competition is particularly intense with respect to the acquisition of desirable producing properties, the acquisition of oil and gas prospects suitable for enhanced production efforts, and the hiring of experienced personnel. Our competitors in oil and gas acquisition, development, and production include the major oil companies in addition to numerous independent oil and gas companies, individual proprietors and drilling programs. Many of these competitors possess and employ financial and personnel resources substantially greater than those which are available to us and may be able to pay more for desirable producing properties and prospects and to define, evaluate, bid for, and purchase a greater number of producing properties and prospects than we can. Our financial and personnel resources to generate reserves in the future will be dependent on our ability to select and acquire suitable producing properties and prospects in competition with these companies.

The rig operations industry is very competitive. We are competing with other oilfield services companies and other industries for personnel to crew our workover and drilling rig operation, which is very challenging as we attempt to increase our operations. The Company started treating this as a new segment of our business in 2007.



The Company's drilling and development segment is also competitive in that we are competing with other oil exploration companies, drilling partnerships and other investment alternatives in order to secure funds. In order to secure funds for those prospects that we have acquired, we have a continuing need for new funds.

The mining industry is also highly competitive. Competition is particularly intense with respect to the acquisition of mineral prospects and deposits suitable for exploration and development, the acquisition of proven and probable reserves, and the hiring of experienced personnel. Our competitors in mineral property exploration, acquisition, development, and production include the major mining companies in addition to numerous intermediate and junior mining companies, mineral property investors, and individual proprietors. Many of these competitors possess and employ financial and personnel resources substantially greater than those that are available to us and may be able to pay more for desirable mineral properties and prospects and to define, evaluate, bid for, and purchase a greater number of mineral properties and prospects than we can. Our financial and personnel resources to generate mineral reserves and resources in the future will be dependent on our ability to identify, select and acquire suitable mineable properties and prospects in competition with these companies.

### **Governmental Regulation**

Domestic exploration for the production and sale of oil and gas is extensively regulated at both the federal and state levels. Legislation affecting the oil and gas industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing the regulatory burden. Also, numerous departments and agencies, both federal and state, are authorized by statute to issue, and have issued, rules and regulations affecting the oil and gas industry, which often are difficult and costly to comply with, and which carry substantial penalties for noncompliance. State statutes and regulations require permits for drilling operations, drilling bonds, and reports concerning operations. Most states in which we will operate also have statutes and regulations governing conservation matters, including the unitization or pooling of properties and the establishment of maximum rates of production from wells. Many state statutes and regulations may limit the rate at which oil and gas could otherwise be produced from acquired properties. Some states have also enacted statutes prescribing ceiling prices for natural gas sold within their states. Our operations are also subject to numerous laws and regulations governing plugging and abandonment, the discharge of materials into the environment or otherwise relating to environmental protection. The heavy regulatory burden on the oil and gas industry increases its costs of doing business and consequently affects its profitability. Given the uncertainty of the regulatory environment, we cannot predict the impact on our financial condition or operating results.

Domestic exploration, development and operation of minerals and metals are extensively regulated at both the federal and state levels. Legislation affecting the mineral industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing the regulatory burden. Also for the mineral industry, numerous departments and agencies, both federal and state, are authorized by statute to issue, and have issued, rules and regulations to which compliance is often difficult and costly and for which noncompliance often carries substantial penalties. State statutes and regulations require permits for exploration, including drilling, construction and operational permits, reclamation bonds, and reports concerning operations. Our activities are subject to numerous laws and regulations regarding reclamation and abandonment, the discharge of materials into the environment and in numerous other ways, environmental protection. Our activities are also subject to numerous laws and regulations related to health and safety of mine and mine related workers. The heavy regulatory burden on the mineral industry increases its costs of doing business and consequently affects its profitability. Delays in obtaining, as well as failure to maintain, government permits and approvals may adversely impact our activities. The regulatory environment in which Select Resources operates could change in ways that would substantially increase costs to achieve compliance, or otherwise could have a material adverse effect on Select Resources' activities or financial position.

### **Environmental Regulation**

#### Energy Operations

Our energy operations are subject to risks of fire, explosions, blow-outs, pipe failure, abnormally pressured formations and environmental hazards, such as oil spills, natural gas leaks, ruptures or discharges of toxic gases, the occurrence of any of which could result in substantial losses due to injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment, pollution or other environmental damage, clean-up responsibilities, regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations. We employ a full time

credentialed specialist in health, safety, environmental and permitting functions and, in accordance with customary industry practice, we maintain insurance against these kinds of risks, but we cannot be sure that our level of insurance will cover all losses in the event of a drilling or production catastrophe. Insurance is not available for all operational risks, for example but not limited to such as risks that we will drill a dry hole, fail in an attempt to complete a well or have problems maintaining production from existing wells.

Oil and gas activities can result in liability under federal, state, and local environmental regulations for activities involving, among other things, water pollution and hazardous waste transport, storage and disposal. Such liability can attach not only to the operator of record of the well, but also to other parties that may be deemed to be current or prior operators or owners of the wells or the equipment involved. Numerous governmental agencies issue rules and regulations to implement and enforce such laws, which are often difficult and costly to comply with and which carry substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties and in some cases injunctive relief for failure to comply. Some laws, rules and regulations relating to the protection of the environment may, in certain circumstances, impose "strict liability" for environmental contamination. These laws render a person or company liable for environmental and natural resource damages, cleanup costs and, in the case of oil spills in certain states, consequential damages without regard to negligence or fault. Other laws, rules and regulations may require the rate of oil and gas production to be below the economically optimal rate or may even prohibit exploration or production activities in environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, state laws often require some form of remedial action, such as closure of inactive pits and plugging of abandoned wells, to prevent pollution from former or suspended operations.

The Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA, also known as the "Superfund" law, imposes liability, without regard to fault, on certain classes of persons with respect to the release of a "hazardous substance" into the environment. These persons include the current or prior owner or operator of the disposal site or sites where the release occurred and companies that transported disposed or arranged for the transport or disposal of the hazardous substances found at the site. Persons who are or were responsible for releases of hazardous substances under CERCLA may be subject to joint and several liability for the costs of cleaning up the hazardous substances that have been released into the environment and for damages to natural resources, and it is not uncommon for the federal or state government to pursue such claims. It is also not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury or property or natural resource damages allegedly caused by the hazardous substances released into the environment. Under CERCLA, certain oil and gas materials and products are, by definition, excluded from the term "hazardous substances." At least two federal courts have held that certain wastes associated with the production of crude oil may be classified as hazardous substances under CERCLA. Similarly, under the Federal Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, which governs the generation, treatment, storage and disposal of "solid wastes" and "hazardous wastes," certain oil and gas materials and wastes are exempt from the definition of "hazardous wastes." This exemption continues to be subject to judicial interpretation and increasingly stringent state interpretation. During the normal course of operations on properties in which we have an interest, exempt and non-exempt wastes, including hazardous wastes, that are subject to RCRA and comparable state statutes and implementing regulations are generated or have been generated in the past. The federal Environmental Protection Agency and various state agencies continue to promulgate regulations that limit the disposal and permitting options for certain hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

Compliance with environmental requirements, including financial assurance requirements and the costs associated with the cleanup of any spill, could have a material adverse effect on our capital expenditures or earnings. These laws and regulations have not had a material effect on our capital expenditures or earnings to date. Nevertheless, changes in environmental laws have the potential to adversely affect operations. At this time, we have no plans to make any material capital expenditures for environmental control facilities.

#### Mineral Operations

Select s United States exploration and property development activities are subject to various federal and state laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment, including but not limited to the Clean Air Act; The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (the Clean Water Act); Compensation and Liability Act, Toxic Substance Control Act (CERCLA); the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; the Endangered Species Act; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Solid Waste Disposal Act; the Toxic Substance

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Control Act; the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act; the Rivers and Harbors Act; the Mining Law of 1872; the National Historic Preservation Act; and the Law Authorizing Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to Regulate Sale, Transport and Storage of Explosives, and related state laws. These laws and regulations are continually changing and are generally becoming more restrictive. Select's activities are also subject to federal and provincial governmental regulations for the protection of the environment. In general, environmental regulations have not had, and are not expected to have, a material adverse impact on Select's activities or our competitive position. Because we do not have active mining operations at present, these regulations have little impact on our current activities. In 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005, the regulatory requirements had no significant effect on our precious metals or industrial mineral activities as we continued our exploration and project development efforts.

We believe that Select complies with all laws and regulations imposed by the US Federal Government and the various states in which it operates for its activities. We conduct our operations so as to protect public health and environment and believe our activities are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations in all material respects. We have made, and expect to make in the future, expenditures to comply with such laws and regulations. We have made estimates of the amount of such expenditures, but cannot precisely predict the amount of such future expenditures due to changes in the regulatory environment and changes in our activities. Estimated future reclamation costs are based principally on legal and regulatory requirements that are applicable to each individual property.

### **Employees**

We had a total of forty-one employees as of March 16, 2009.

### **Available Information**

We file annual and quarterly reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission using SEC's EDGAR system. The SEC maintains a site on the Internet at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains all of the Company filings free of charge including reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding us and other registrants that file reports electronically with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at its Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Our common stock is listed on the NYSE A (f/k/a American Stock Exchange), under the symbol TIV. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about their public reference rooms. Our website is located at <http://www.tri-valleycorp.com>.

We furnish our shareholders with a copy of our annual report on Form 10-K, which contains audited financial statements, and such other reports as we, from time to time, deem appropriate or as may be required by law. We use the calendar year as our fiscal year.

### **ITEM 1A Risk Factors**

In addition to the other information contained in this Form 10-K, the following risk factors should be considered in evaluating our business.

#### **Risks Involved in Oil and Gas Operations/Drilling and Development**

##### **Our success depends heavily on market conditions and prices for oil and gas.**

Our success depends heavily upon our ability to market oil and gas production at favorable prices. In recent decades, there have been both periods of worldwide overproduction and underproduction of hydrocarbons and periods of increased and relaxed energy conservation efforts. As a result the world has experienced periods of excess supply of, and reduced demand for, crude oil on a worldwide basis and for natural gas on a domestic basis; these periods have been followed by periods of short supply of, and increased demand for, crude oil and to a lesser extent, natural gas. The excess or short supply of oil and gas has placed pressures on prices and has resulted in dramatic price fluctuations. The dramatic price decrease during the fourth quarter of 2008 has greatly decreased the value of

oil and gas reserves and the potential to profit from production of wells that were formerly considered commercially productive. The futures market for crude oil forecasts a significant increase in crude oil prices over the next six plus years, which if realized, would result in significant increases in reserves and profitable production.

**Estimating oil and gas reserves leads to uncertain results and thus our estimates of value of those reserves could be incorrect.**

Our reserves are annually evaluated by a qualified, independent engineering firm. The process of estimating oil and gas reserves is complex, requiring significant decisions and assumptions in the evaluation of available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data for each reservoir. As a result, such estimates are inherently imprecise. Actual future production, oil and gas prices, revenues, taxes, development expenditures, operating expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves may vary substantially from those estimated in reserve reports that we periodically obtain from independent reserve engineers.

Any significant variance in these assumptions could materially change the estimated quantities and present value of our reserves. In addition, our proved reserves may be subject to downward or upward revision based upon production history, results of future exploration and development, prevailing oil and gas prices and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. Actual production, revenues, taxes, development expenditures and operating expenses with respect to our reserves will likely vary from the estimates used, and such variances may be material.

**Continued production of oil and gas depends on our ability to find or acquire additional reserves, which we may not be able to accomplish.**

In general, the volume of production from oil and gas properties declines as reserves are produced. Except to the extent that we acquire properties containing proved reserves or conduct successful development and exploitation activities, or both, our proved reserves will decline as reserves are produced. Our future oil and gas production is, therefore, highly dependent upon our ability to find or acquire additional reserves. The business of acquiring, enhancing or developing reserves is capital intensive. We require cash flow from operations as well as outside investments to fund our acquisition and development activities. If our cash flow from operations is reduced and external sources of capital become limited or unavailable, our ability to make the necessary capital investment to maintain or expand our asset base of oil and gas reserves would be impaired.

**The unavailability or high cost of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies, personnel and oil field services could adversely affect our ability to execute our exploration and development plans on a timely basis and within our budget.**

Our industry is cyclical and, from time to time, there is a shortage of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies or qualified personnel. During these periods, the costs and delivery times of rigs, equipment and supplies are substantially greater. In addition, the demand for, and wage rates of, qualified drilling rig crews rise as the number of active rigs in service increases. If as a result of increasing levels of exploration and production in response to strong prices of oil and natural gas, the demand for oilfield services may rise, and the costs of these services may increase, while the quality of these services may suffer. The unavailability or high cost of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies or qualified personnel may become severe in California and may materially and adversely affect us because our operations and properties are concentrated in those areas.

**Our oil and gas reserves are concentrated in California.**

Because we are not diversified geographically, local conditions may have a greater effect on us than on other companies. All of our oil and gas reserves are located in California. Because our reserves are not diversified geographically, our business is more subject to local conditions than other, more diversified companies.

**Oil and gas drilling and production activities are subject to numerous mechanical and environmental risks that could cause less production.**

These risks include the risk that no commercially productive oil or gas reservoirs will be encountered, that operations may be curtailed, delayed or canceled and that title problems, weather conditions, compliance with governmental requirements, mechanical difficulties or shortages or delays in the delivery of drilling rigs and other equipment may limit our ability to develop, produce or market our reserves. New wells we drill may not be productive and we may not recover all or any portion of our investment in the well.

Drilling for oil and gas may involve unprofitable efforts, not only from dry wells but also from wells that are productive but do not produce sufficient net revenues to return a profit after drilling, operating and other costs. In addition, our properties may be susceptible to hydrocarbon drainage from production by other operators on adjacent properties.

Industry operating risks include the risks of fire, explosions, blow-outs, pipe failure, abnormally pressured formation and environmental hazards, such as oil spills, natural gas leaks, ruptures or discharges of toxic gases, the occurrence of any of which could result in substantial losses due to injury or loss of life, severe damage, clean-up responsibilities, regulatory investigation and penalties and suspension of operations. In accordance with customary industry practice, we maintain insurance against these kinds of risks, but our level of insurance may not cover all losses in the event of a drilling or production catastrophe. Insurance is not available for all operational risks, such as risks that we will drill a dry hole, fail in an attempt to complete a well or have problems maintaining production from existing wells.

Oil and gas activities can result in liability under federal, state, and local environmental regulations for activities involving among other things, water pollution and hazardous waste transport, storage and disposal. Such liability can attach not only to the operator of record of the well, but also to other parties that may be deemed to be current or prior operators or owners of the wells or the equipment involved. Environmental laws could subject us to liabilities for environmental damages even where we are not the operator who caused the environmental damage.

**Drilling is a speculative activity, because assessments of drilling prospects are inexact.**

The successful acquisition of oil and gas properties depends on our ability to assess recoverable reserves, future oil and gas prices, operating costs, potential environmental and other liabilities and other factors. Exploratory drilling remains a speculative activity. Even when fully utilized and properly interpreted, seismic data and other advanced technologies only assist geoscientists in identifying subsurface structures and do not enable the interpreter to know whether hydrocarbons are in fact present.

Therefore, our assessment of drilling prospects are necessarily inexact and their accuracy inherently uncertain. In connection with such an assessment, we perform a review of the subject properties that we believe to be generally consistent with industry practices. Such a review, however, will not reveal all existing or potential problems, nor will it permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to fully assess their deficiencies and capabilities. Inspections may not always be performed on every well, and structural and environmental problems are not necessarily observable even when an inspection is undertaken.

In most cases, we are not entitled to contractual indemnification for pre-closing liabilities, including environmental liabilities and we generally acquire interests in the properties on an as is basis with limited remedies for breaches of representations and warranties. In those circumstances in which we have contractual indemnification rights for pre-closing liabilities, the seller may not be able to fulfill its contractual obligation. In addition, competition for producing oil and gas properties is intense and many of our competitors have financial and other resources, which are substantially greater than ours. Therefore, we may not be able to acquire producing oil and gas properties which contain economically recoverable reserves or that we make such acquisitions at acceptable prices.

**Governmental regulations make production more difficult and production costs higher.**

Domestic exploration for the production and sale of oil and gas are extensively regulated at both the federal and state levels. Legislation affecting the oil and gas industry is under constant review for amendment or expansion, frequently increasing the regulatory burden. Also, numerous departments and agencies, both federal and state, are authorized by statute to issue, and have issued, rules and regulations affecting the oil and gas industry that often are difficult and costly to comply with and which carry substantial penalties for noncompliance. State statutes and regulations require permits for drilling operations, drilling bonds and reports concerning operations. Most states in which we operate also have statutes and regulations governing conservation matters, including the unitization or pooling of properties and the establishment of maximum rates of production from wells. Many state statutes and regulations may limit the rate at which oil and gas could otherwise be produced from acquired properties. Some states have also enacted statutes proscribing ceiling prices for natural gas sold within their states. Our operations are also subject to numerous laws and regulations governing plugging and abandonment, the discharge of material into the environment or otherwise relating to environmental protection. The heavy regulatory burden on the oil and gas industry increases its cost of doing business and consequently affects its profitability. Any change in such laws, rules, regulations, or interpretations, may harm our financial condition or operating results.

**Risks Involved in Our Rig Operations Business**

**Our rig operations have not had significant consistent revenue.**

Our operations began in 2006. We have not realized a high rig utilization to date, and we cannot predict when we may begin to see increased rig utilization. Due to the current industry downturn, our drilling rig is idle. However, we anticipate a ramp-up in geothermal activity due to government initiatives and funding in 2009-2012.

**Our rig operations may not be profitable due to:**

New, lower cost competitors;

Low utilization of our rigs; and

Write-downs of asset values.

**Our operations may be adversely affected by risks and hazards associated with the rig operations industry that may not be fully covered by insurance.**

While we employ a full time health, safety, environmental specialist and conduct employee meetings in those subjects, our business is subject to a number of risks and hazards including:

Environmental hazards; and  
Industrial accidents

Such risks could result in:

Personal injury or fatalities; and  
Environmental damage

For some of these risks, we maintain insurance to protect against these losses at levels consistent with our historical experience, industry practice and circumstances surrounding each identified risk. Occurrence of events for which we are not insured may affect our cash flow and overall profitability.

**Risks Involved in Our Mineral Exploration Business**

**Our industrial mineral operations have not yet begun to realize significant revenue.**

Select was formed in late 2004. We realized no significant revenue from our investment in Select to date, and we cannot predict when, if ever, we may begin to see significant returns from these mining investments.

**Our mining operations may not be profitable.**

The economic value of mining operations may be adversely affected by:

Declines or changes in demand;

Declines in the market price of the various metals or minerals;

Increased production or capital costs;

Reductions in the availability of replacement equipment (such as tires), and reductions in the ability to make repairs,

Increasing environmental and/or permitting requirements and government regulations;

Reduction in the grade or tonnage of the deposit;

Increase in the dilution of the ore;

Reduced recovery rates;

Delays in new project development;

New, lower cost competitors;

Reductions in reserves; and

Write-downs of asset values.

**We have only one executive fully dedicated to Select.**

During 2007, our staff at Select resigned, and we had no employees dedicated full time to managing or developing our mineral properties. We did have one independent contractor, and one executive partially dedicated during the latter half of the year.

In mid 2008, Select gained one dedicated full-time executive whose principal role was to monetize Select's properties. Along with this executive, Select gained partially dedicated staff-level employees, but had no staff-level employees dedicated full-time to the development of Select's properties. Select continued to utilize the independent contractor and hired one consultant. Any substantial development of any of Select's properties would require the hiring of additional staff to oversee that development. We cannot be sure that we can hire qualified people at affordable prices to fill that need, or that consultants would be available and able to serve instead of employees.

**Our operations may be adversely affected by risks and hazards associated with the mining industry that may not be fully covered by insurance.**

Our business is subject to a number of risks and hazards including:

Environmental hazards;  
Industrial accidents;





## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Unusual or unexpected geologic formations; and  
Unanticipated hydrologic conditions, including flooding and periodic interruptions due to inclement or hazardous weather conditions.

Such risks could result in:

Personal injury or fatalities;  
Damage to or destruction of mineral properties or producing facilities;  
Environmental damage; and  
Delays in exploration, development or mining.

We employ a full time credentialed specialist in health, safety, environmental and permitting functions. For some of these risks, we maintain insurance to protect against these losses at levels consistent with our historical experience, industry practice and circumstances surrounding each identified risk. Insurance against environmental risks is generally either unavailable or, we believe, too expensive for us, and, therefore, we do not maintain environmental insurance. Occurrence of events for which we are not insured may affect our cash flow and overall profitability.

### **Risks Involved in Our Operations Generally**

#### **Forward Looking Statements**

Some of the information in this 10-K contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. You can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as may, will, expect, anticipate, believe, estimate and continue, or similar words. You should read these statements that contain these words carefully because they:

discuss our future expectations;

contain projections of our future results of operations or of our financial condition; and

state other forward-looking information.

We believe it is important to communicate our expectations. However, there may be events in the future that we are not able to accurately predict and/or over which we have no control. The risk factors listed in this section, other risk factors about which we may not be aware, as well as any cautionary language in this prospectus, provide examples of risks, uncertainties and events that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we describe in our forward-looking statements. You should be aware that the occurrence of the events described in these risk factors could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

#### **Ability to Operate as a Going Concern - If we are unable to obtain additional funding our business operations will be harmed.**

Like many other companies coping with the unexpected and sudden global economic meltdown, Tri-Valley has experienced substantial changes in its capital and inflows of capital beginning in the fourth quarter of 2008 and extending into the first quarter of 2009.

In addition to its current dependency on capital formation for operating and general and administrative expenses for fiscal 2009, Tri-Valley has several projects underway that will require capital for leasing and lease maintenance and repairs.

A primary source for this capital has been investors in the TVOG Opus I Drilling Program LP. Although we have always been successful in the past at attracting sufficient capital, we do not know particularly in the current

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

economic climate if additional financing will be available when needed, or, if it is available, if it will be available on acceptable terms. Insufficient funds may prevent or limit us from implementing our business strategy.

We had a cash balance of \$2.0 million as of December 31, 2008, which has subsequently decreased. Current liabilities as of December 31, 2008 were \$5.15 million which has subsequently increased. In light of this and other

factors, our independent accountant has included a going concern qualification in its report on our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008, noting that our ability to continue as a going concern is

dependent on additional sources of capital and the success of our business strategy. *See Note 14 to our audited*

*financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008.*

### **The departure of any of our key personnel would slow our operation until we could fill the position again.**

Our success will depend in large part on the continued services of our president and chief executive officer, F. Lynn Blystone. Our employment agreement with Mr. Blystone has been formally extended through December 31, 2011 by the Board of Directors. The loss of his services would be particularly detrimental to us because of his background and experience in the oil and gas industry. We carry key man insurance of \$500,000 on Mr. Blystone's life.

We also consider the president of our TVOG subsidiary, Joseph R. Kandle, to be a key employee whose loss would be detrimental to us because of his 44 years of oil and gas industry experience. We do not have an employment contract with Mr. Kandle. We carry key man life insurance of \$1,000,000 on Mr. Kandle.

Our success will also depend in large part on the continued services of Select's president, James G. Bush. We do not have a letter agreement with Mr. Bush. The loss of his services would be particularly detrimental to us because of his background and experience in three key component industries, the oil and gas industry, the minerals industry, and the environmental industry. We carry key man insurance of \$500,000 on Mr. Bush's life.

Another former key employee, Thomas J. Cunningham, retired effective January 15, 2008. Mr. Cunningham's experience in the oil and gas industry was also considered important to us, but we found and hired an outstanding candidate, Maston Cunningham (no relation) in January 2009.

## **ITEM 2 Properties**

Our headquarters and administrative offices are located at 4550 California Avenue, Suite 600, Bakersfield, California 93309. We lease approximately 10,300 square feet of office space at that location. Our principal properties consist of proven and unproven oil and gas properties, mining claims on unproven precious metals properties, maps and geologic records related to prospective oil and gas and unproven precious metal properties, office and other equipment.

### **Oil and Gas Operations**

In 2005, Tri-Valley acquired several oil and gas properties and transferred them to the Opus-I Partnership for development. Tri-Valley receives a 25% carried working interest in the initial wells drilled on these properties and any initial reworks of existing wells and will then pay its 25% pro rata share of subsequent development drilling and operations on the properties. The following properties are part of the Opus-I Partnership: **1)** Temblor Valley West, **2)** Temblor Valley East, **3)** Pleasant Valley, **4)** Moffat Ranch, **5)** and major interest in the Ekho No. 1 and the Sunrise Natural Gas Project.

**Temblor Valley West/South Belridge Field:** Our South Belridge lease includes 50 wells, 28 producing, 18 idle and 4 injector wells, plus five new drill wells over the last two years, the Lundin-Weber D352-30, D540-30, D344-30, D188-30, and D24-30 which served to extend the known oil bearing formations to the west by over a half mile. The latter three wells were drilled in 2007. In mid-2007, two of these wells, D-352-30 and D-344-30, supported a regulatory-approved cyclic steam stimulation pilot in the Diatomite zone utilizing two of our recently refurbished, and company owned steam generators. A small-scale waterflood pilot in the Etchegoin formation was also initiated



## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

in mid-2007 including the conversion of two wells to injector service to evaluate incremental recovery potential and water movement prior to a planned waterflood expansion. Well test facilities were also installed and upgraded in 2007 to support the evaluation of pilot project production. Several idle wells were also returned to production in 2007, which included remedial well work to upgrade several wellbores to support our pilot operations.

In 2008, we continued to further evaluate the waterflood potential via sustained and filtered injection and the injection of radioactive tracers to pinpoint water movement and waterflood efficiency. We worked on a detailed design to expand the waterflood operation. The objective of the water flood is the potential recovery of some 2.5 million barrels of oil from the Etchegoin zone. In 2008, we did additional Diatomite cyclic steaming operations of uphole intervals and production tests on other Etchegoin and Tulare formations in our five most recently drilled wells. If results from our waterflood and/or cyclic steaming projects are favorable, additional drilling and facility upgrades in the field and procurement of a permanent water or steam source may follow. In 2009 we plan a steam test of the top of the Tulare Zone.

**Temblor Valley East/Edison Oil Field:** This property consists of four separate leases in the Edison and Edison Grove Fields consisting of 31 total wells. It includes the Shields & Arms area, consisting of 7 wells including 3 producers, 1 injector, and 3 idle wells. In late 2007, all three current producers were restored to full-time production service and water injection was diverted to lower intervals to boost production. In 2009, we plan to continue to restore production to the other producing leases which include 24 idle wells.

**Pleasant Valley:** This property lies in Ventura County in the Oxnard Oil Field in an area we call Pleasant Valley. During 2007, we initiated thermal development of the heavy oil Upper Vaca Tar Sands by commencing the drilling of seven additional horizontal wells completing the drilling in April 2008 followed by initiating cyclic steam production operations on the wells and steaming them on a cyclical basis. After several such steam/soak/produce cycles, some of the well bores produced at short term test rates over 1,000 barrels of oil per day and are presently constrained until infrastructure and handling facilities can be expanded.

**Moffat Ranch:** This gas field is located in the southern area of the California gas country in Madera County approximately 2.5 hours by auto north of our Bakersfield, CA headquarters. Upon acquisition, this field consisted of three idle wellbores and deeper drilling potential. In late 2007, the Company drilled the deepest wellbore penetration in the field, to below 10,000 feet, to evaluate more than 14 potential producing horizons. Two of these potential gas zones were evaluated for productive potential in 2007 and one was successfully tested at over one million cubic feet per day. In 2008 the well was put into production. In 2008 we attempted to restore the three idle wells to production service but, so far, they sand up quickly and have not sustained commercial production.

**Chowchilla Ranch Gas Field:** We purchased approximately 6,670 acres of mineral rights, which basically covers what was the Chowchilla Ranch in Madera County, California. This land position is held by production at this time. We believe this land to be very under developed and under exploited. We plan to re-enter, recomplete and further infill drill the leasehold position. We have also leased approximately 7,500 additional acres offsetting the 6,670 acre Chowchilla property.

**Ekho:** In 2005, we successfully hydraulically fractured the Ekho #1 well in the Vedder Zone of completion in the interval between 18,018 feet and 18,525 feet injecting approximately 5,000 barrels of fluid, which carried approximately 118,000-pounds of bauxite propping material. While very successful mechanically, the operation did not result in the well producing hydrocarbons at commercial rates. This well still has multiple targets to evaluate further up the hole. We have been reviewing the resulting data from the fracturing operation both internally and with outside firms and believe the potential reserve of the Vedder Zone cannot be commercially produced. Accordingly, we plan to come up hole and complete the next oil-bearing zone, the Santos Shale from 17,500 feet to 18,000 feet as funds permit.

**Sunrise-Mayel:** Also in 2005, we successfully hydraulically fractured a 1,000 feet portion of the 3,000 feet horizontal portion of the well bore in the Sunrise-Mayel #2H Redrill #2 well in the Sunrise Natural Gas Project in Delano, California. The well was hydraulically fractured utilizing gelled diesel, which carried in approximately 138,000 pounds of sand. Again, while mechanically successful, the operation did not result in the well producing hydrocarbons at commercial rates. As with the Ekho Project, we continue to review all available techniques to bring the Sunrise Project potential to commercial realization because of the volume of natural gas in place in the tight

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

reservoir. The Sunrise project is included in the joint study with the scientific research organization. We believe the tight McClure Shale which hosts an estimated 3 trillion cubic feet of gas in the mapped area of closure can ultimately be stimulated to release a portion of the gas in place at commercial rates once the right method is identified.

We hold approximately 17,000 acres in Nevada, all chosen from proprietary data as prospective for oil and gas exploration. We have producing interests in gas fields in the Sacramento Valley of Northern California including the Rio Vista and Dutch Slough Gas Fields. In 2007, we performed remedial rig work on the top Rio Vista producing well, which served to more than double historical production rates from the well/field. Our 2009 plans include additional work on our Rio Vista gas wells to boost gas production.

Other key operational activity in 2008 included the ongoing procurement and refurbishment of a steam generator fleet, which now includes 18 units, to support our thermal, heavy oil developments. Four of these units were restored to field-ready status and have been mobilized and used in our field developments at Pleasant Valley in the Oxnard Oil Field. Our fleet of production rigs was sold to Excalibur Well Services for cash and a preferred alliance.

The trend of demand of petroleum products outstripping available supplies has been interrupted by the global downturn in the last half of 2008, including California which currently imports nearly 60% of its oil and nearly 90% of its natural gas. This is all reflected in the extreme spiraling up and down price trend in 2008. We believe the overall long-term price trend is up.

We do not own any bulk storage facilities or refineries. We own a small segment of an inactive pipeline in Tracy, California.

We have retained the services of Cecil Engineering, an independent petroleum engineer qualified to estimate our net share of proved developed and undeveloped oil and gas reserves on all of our oil and gas properties at December 31, 2008 for SEC filing. For 2008, our independent engineer prepared an oil and gas reserve report using guidelines established by the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission for valuation of oil and gas reserves. Price is a material factor in our stated reserves, because higher prices permit relatively higher-cost reserves to be produced economically. Higher prices generally permit longer recovery, hence larger reserves at higher values. Conversely, lower prices generally limit recovery to lower-cost reserves, hence smaller reserves. The process of estimating oil and gas reserve quantities is inherently imprecise. Ascribing monetary values to those reserves, therefore, yields imprecise estimated data.

Our estimated future net recoverable oil and gas reserves from proved developed properties as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were as follows:

	BBL		MCF	
December 31, 2008	Oil	-0-	Natural Gas	695,931
December 31, 2007	Oil	372,048	Natural Gas	791,128
December 31, 2006	Oil	275,452	Natural Gas	787,017

Using year-end oil and gas prices and current levels of lease operating expenses, the estimated present value of the future net revenue to be derived from our proved developed and undeveloped oil and gas reserves, discounted at 10%, was \$1,746,259 at December 31, 2008, \$12,324,390 at December 31, 2007, and \$6,121,295 at December 31, 2006. The precipitous drop in oil reported reserves was due to the collapse of oil prices in the second half of 2008, which caused proven producing reserves on our currently producing oil wells to be written down to zero in the reserve report.

On December 31, 2008, the SEC issued Release No. 33-8995 amending its oil and natural gas reporting requirements for oil and natural gas producing companies. The effective date of the new accounting and disclosure requirements is for annual reports filed for fiscal years ending on or after December 31, 2009. Among other things Release No. 33-8995:

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Revises a number of definitions relating to proved oil and natural gas reserves to make them consistent with the Petroleum Resource Management System, which includes certain non-traditional resources in proved reserves.

Permits the use of new technologies for determining proved oil and natural gas reserves.

Requires the use of average prices for the trailing twelve-month period in the estimation of oil and natural gas reserve quantities and for companies using the full cost method of accounting, in computing the Ceiling Limitation, in place of a single day price as of the end of the fiscal year.

Permits the disclosure in filings with the SEC of probable and possible reserves and reserves sensitivity to changes in prices.

Requires additional disclosures (outside of the financial statements) regarding the status of undeveloped reserves and changes in status of these from period to period.

Requires a discussion of the internal controls in place to assure objectivity in the reserve estimation process and disclosure of the technical qualifications of the technical person having primarily responsibility for preparing the reserve estimates.

Companies are not permitted to use the new SEC requirements for fiscal years ending prior to December 31, 2009. We have evaluated the effect of the adoption of the final rule will have on our financial statements and oil and natural gas reserve estimates and disclosures. Based on a review by our independent petroleum engineer, we believe that, if the new requirements had been in effect for our fiscal 2008, our reported natural gas and crude oil reserves would have been substantially higher than those reported under the currently applied SEC standards. Notably, the use of trailing twelve month average prices instead of year end prices would have dramatically increased the value of our reserves. In fiscal 2008, the prices we received for oil production varied from a high of \$123.13 per barrel to a low of \$26.15 per barrel, with the year end price on which reserves were calculated being \$30.126 per barrel.

The unaudited supplemental information attached to the consolidated financial statements provides more information on oil and gas reserves and estimated values.

The following table sets forth the net quantities of natural gas and crude oil that we produced during:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Natural Gas (MCF)	102,070	45,928	86,177
Crude Oil (BBL)	26,299	7,006	6,600

The following table sets forth our average sales price and average production (lifting) cost per unit of oil and gas produced during:

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2008		2007		2006	
	Gas (Mcf)	Oil (BBL)	Gas (Mcf)	Oil (BBL)	Gas (Mcf)	Oil (BBL)
Sales Price	\$8.07	\$90.10	\$7.15	\$58.23	\$6.45	\$57.10
Production Costs	\$1.67	\$37.45	\$1.55	\$16.28	\$1.41	\$15.23
Net Profit	\$6.40	\$52.65	\$5.60	\$41.95	\$5.04	\$41.87

\* Amount represents total sales price of associated condensate, unable to determine production cost per barrel.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

As of December 31, 2008, we had the following gross and net position in wells and developed acreage:

<u>Wells (1)</u>		<u>Acres (2)</u>	
Gross	Net	Gross	Net
79	22.81	3,730	1,044

All of our producing wells and acres where the Company has a working interest are located within California.

- (1) "Gross" wells represent the total number of producing wells in which we have a working interest. "Net" wells represent the number of gross producing wells multiplied by the percentages of the working interests, which we own. "Net wells" recognizes only those wells in which we hold an earned working interest. Working interests earned at payout have not been included.
- (2) "Gross" acres represent the total acres in which we have a working interest; "net" acres represent the aggregate of the working interests, which we own in the gross acres.

The following table sets forth the number of productive and dry exploratory and development wells which we drilled during:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Exploratory			
Producing	-0-	-0-	-0-
Dry	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	-0-	-0-	-0-
Development			
Producing	-6-	-5-	-2-
Dry	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	-6-	-5-	-2-

The following table sets forth information regarding undeveloped oil and gas acreage in which we had an interest on December 31, 2008:

<i>State</i>	<i>Gross Acres</i>	<i>Net Acres</i>
California	26,111	22,160
Nevada	15,634	15,634

Our undeveloped acreage is held pursuant to leases from landowners. Such leases have varying dates of execution and generally expire one to five years after the date of the lease. In the next three years, the following lease gross acreage expires:

Expires in 2009	1,305 acres
Expires in 2010	21,884 acres
Expires in 2011	3,132 acres

### **Mineral Properties**

Select Resources currently possesses two types of properties, metal properties and industrial mineral properties. The metal properties, as currently understood, derive most of their value from their potential precious metal content. This





## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

is exclusively true for the Richardson property, and expected to be true for the Shorty Creek property. The Shorty Creek prospect also contains evidence of copper and molybdenum. Properties such as these are generally viewed and valued by their size and grade (coupled with other spatial considerations). Grade is usually expressed in the form of troy ounces (of gold) per short ton (of rock), or in the metric system, grams (of gold) per metric ton (of rock) for precious metals group (gold, silver, and platinum group) and by per cent of the elemental metal, for metals like molybdenum, and the suite of base metals including copper, lead, zinc and similar metals. Thus Richardson and Shorty Creek are likely to be graded by the concentration of the valuable metal per ton of rock. Profitability is usually expressed as a function of the cost to produce the relevant unit of metal. For example if it costs \$400 to mine, refine, and sell one ounce of gold mined from the Richardson property and gold sells for \$800 per ounce, the mine makes \$400 per every ounce of gold it sold. The industrial minerals properties are quite different. The Calder property is a quarry, which sells most, if not all, the product it removes from the ground. Thus properties like these are simply valued on a per-ton basis. If it costs \$10 per ton to quarry the stone, and \$30 to crush, ship and sell it, any price over \$40 per ton would yield profit. Thus the valuation of Calder will be based on the number of tons of raw material sold, whereas the valuation of the Richardson and Shorty Creek properties will be based on the amount and cost of metal extracted and sold and will be described on an ounce or pound of metal basis.

### Metals

Select's precious metals properties are located in interior Alaska. They are the Richardson and Shorty Creek.

Richardson. The Richardson District is arguably the most prospective gold exploration district in east-central Alaska, and it remains underexplored. We acquired the Richardson claim block in 1987. It covers about 44.9 square miles or 28,720 acres of land, all of which is owned by the State of Alaska. All fees due to the State are current. The claims lie immediately north of the Richardson Highway, an all-weather paved highway that connects Fairbanks, Alaska, with points south and east. Fairbanks is approximately 65 miles northwest of Richardson, and Delta Junction, also on the highway, is about 30 miles to the southeast. The Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor is near the northeastern edge of the claim block and the service road along the pipeline provides access to the claims from the north. Numerous good to fair gravel and dirt roads traverse the claims, a number of which are traversable well into winter.

The following table sets forth the information regarding the acreage position of our Richardson, Alaska claim block as of December 31, 2008:

<i>Gross Acres</i>	<i>Net Acres</i>
28,720	27,926

The Richardson project is an early stage gold exploration project in the Richardson District with past placer and load gold production and prospective geophysical and geochemical signatures consistent with intrusion-related gold systems. A number of highly prospective zones have been identified in previous exploration programs carried out by the Company and third-party mining companies. Geophysical assessment, geochemical sampling, and drilling programs have been carried out over several previous exploration campaigns on known gold bearing areas, including the Richardson Lineament (which includes the historic Democrat Mine and the adjacent May's Pit [not a Select property]), Hilltop, Shamrock, Buckeye and other property locations. In late-2005, Select carried out geophysical and satellite interpretation programs over the entire Richardson property and a multi-element soil auger geochemical program extending along an approximate 4.5 mile section of the Richardson Lineament (the Richardson Lineament has been identified and appears to extend in excess of 12 to 15 miles in length). The surveys defined a series of six adjacent, yet discrete precious metal and other element anomalies along the 4.5 mile strike length and one mile width of the geochemical area tested. Select also drilled eight shallow diamond drill holes in the Democrat Mine area for a total of 3,050 feet, which indicated low grade gold and silver mineralization.

In 2007, Select continued the interpretation of the work initiated in late-2005, and identified additional geochemical targets that would potentially extend the previous sampling program further along the strike of the Richardson Lineament. Select also conducted a series of local surveys in order to prepare additional areas on the Richardson Lineament and in the Hilltop for future geochemical sampling, trenching and drilling. Select also conducted annual maintenance and repair work on the Richardson Roadhouse, associated buildings and core storage areas. In 2007,

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Select also further evaluated the general geology and based on the size of the anomaly, Select believes this property is capable of holding a five-million ounce target.

In 2008, Select continued the work of 2007, and also translated that into improved descriptions of the property used for attracting investment. In July of 2008, Select acquired the full-time services of Mr. James G. Bush as President. Mr. Bush immediately began reviewing and in parallel consolidating all Richardson property files to a centralized location and soliciting partners for developing or monetizing the property.

The Shorty Creek project has been described by a State Geologist of Alaska as perhaps the best drill ready gold exploration project in Alaska. It directly offsets, and is on trend with, the International Tower Hill property to the north where drilling now infers 7 million ounces with a 10 million ounce target.

Select obtained the Shorty Creek property in December of 2004. It is located about 60 miles northwest of Fairbanks, Alaska on the all-weather paved Elliott Highway that connects Fairbanks, Alaska with the North Slope petroleum production areas. Fairbanks is approximately 60 miles to the southwest, and the property is about 3 miles south of the abandoned town site of Livengood. At Shorty Creek, Select controls mineral rights to 178 State of Alaska mining claims through staking and lease arrangements from Gold Range Ltd., covering approximately 17 square miles.

The following table sets forth the information regarding the acreage position of the Shorty Creek claim block as of December 31, 2008:

<i>Gross Acres</i>	<i>Net Acres</i>
11,080	11,080

Mineral properties claimed on open state land require minimum annual assessment work of \$100 worth per State of Alaska claim. All fees are current.

The Shorty Creek Project is a gold or possibly a polymetallic exploration project in the Livengood District with historical exploration, geochemical sampling and drilling over several previous exploration campaigns identifying anomalous concentrations of gold, copper, molybdenum and their pathfinder elements. In 2005 Select carried out a geophysical and satellite interpretation programs over the entire Shorty Creek property. Select also conducted a multi-element soil auger geochemical program extending over one of four distinctive aeromagnetic anomalies, covering an area approximately of 1 mile, resulting in the identification of five precious metal and base metal anomalies.

In July of 2008, Select acquired the full-time services of Mr. James G. Bush as President. Mr. Bush immediately began reviewing and in parallel consolidating all Shorty Creek property files to a centralized location and soliciting partners for developing or monetizing the property. To that end, Select reviewed all accessible Shorty Creek data from old drilling and other early activities. For comparison purposes, Select also reviewed a substantial portion of the data recently released by International Tower Hill from the work being conducted on their Livengood Project, a short distance due north of the Shorty Creek property. These reviews led Select staff to seek out old data, archived from other companies, and reinterpret it in the context of current events and prices. The bulk of the archived drilling data is nearly 20 years old and other data is considerably older. This was an informative exercise, indicating that substantial near-surface intercepts drilled on the Shorty Creek property compared very favorably with the intercepts, commonly deeper, drilled by International Tower Hill. International Tower Hill is currently claiming the delineation of 2 million to 7 million ounces (depending on grade cut-off). Select's archived data continues to be attractive information at the elevated prices of gold in 2007 and 2008. The retrieval of this old data was, and continues to be, a challenging undertaking, in that responsible parties have deceased, are no longer with the company, or are consultants who completed their work for Select years ago.

To date, Select has not identified proven or probable mineral reserves on Shorty Creek. Based on archived data, however, Select has identified significant mineralization on the property, and if determined to be of adequate size, quality, and spatial distribution, the final extent of this mineralization could prove to be economic at some point in the future. Further exploration is required before a final evaluation as to the economic and technical feasibility can be determined.

Likewise, Select has not identified proven or probable mineral reserves on the Richardson property.

There is no assurance that a commercially viable mineral deposit exists on any of these mineral properties. The current economic conditions by all reasonable accounts point towards continued strength for precious metal prices with gold having occasionally exceeded \$1,000 per ounce prices. Given that it may well take years for complete economic turnaround, Select plans to maintain a strong focus on these properties.

#### Industrial Minerals

Select's industrial mineral project consists of the Admiral calcium carbonate quarry in Alaska. The Admiral Quarry was obtained in 2005 from Sealaska Corporation. It is located on the north-west side of Prince of Wales Island, approximately 150 (air) miles south of Juneau and 88 (air) miles northwest of Ketchikan. The quarry consists of drilled high chemical grade, high brightness and high whiteness mineralized material, and is considered to be in the top 1% of high grade, high white, high bright, CaCO<sub>3</sub> deposits in the world. Mineralized material means a mineralized body, which has been delineated by appropriately spaced drilling and/or underground sampling to support a sufficient tonnage and average grade of metals. Determinations of mineralized material are based upon unit cost, grade, recoveries, and other material factors to reach conclusions regarding legal and economic feasibility. Grade and brightness tests were conducted by Hazen Research Inc. of Golden, Colorado on selected run-of-quarry and core sample material. Hazen's and independent geological engineer, M. J. Bright's grade and tonnage figures correspond and meet or exceed the earlier grade and tonnage figures represented by Sealaska and SeaCal, LLC. No proven or probable ore reserves have been determined which meet the standards set forth in the SEC's Industry Guide 7. (In the case of industrial minerals, proven and probable ore reserves are those which are currently in production and being sold. Relative to the Admiral Quarry, the operation previously had proven and probable ore reserves. However, while on standby status, the mineable material moves from the ore reserve category to mineralized material. Once production is restarted, the mineralized material will reconvert to proven and probable ore reserves.)

We have obtained a preliminary estimate on the quarry from M. J. Bright, independent registered professional geologist, which identifies high grade to ultra high grade (+94% to +98% CaCO<sub>3</sub>), high brightness (+95 GE Brightness @ -325 mesh) calcium carbonate mineralized material in place. The purchase also includes all associated infrastructure and equipment that the previous owner installed at a cost exceeding \$20 million. The current quarry covers only 15 acres; but the entire property covers 572 acres of patented mining ground, and includes all operating permits and tideland leases approximately one half of all of which are still active. Less than 10% of the gross acreage has been explored and geologic mapping suggests additional resources exist on the property. Select currently has plans and is pursuing methods to monetize the property, by any combination of 1) redevelopment of the quarry; 2) outright sale or lease; 3) joint venture of some form. During the current economic downturn, Select will hold the property while Select pursues this and other previously identified opportunities. Select also owns the timber rights on the acreage and believes that value alone could repay the cost of acquisition of the property.

In 2006, Select arranged to evaluate some 200 industrial mineral properties in Nevada from the inventory of Newmont Mining Corporation. Select had the option to negotiate exploration and development opportunities it chooses from this inventory. Select did not find any properties that fit its corporate needs, and this project was concluded.

In 2007, Select conducted maintenance and repair activity at Calder and obtained an updated status of the facility. In conjunction with this Select began contacting potential parties to monetize this property.

In 2008, Select conducted a second maintenance and repair activity at Calder and obtained an updated status of the facility. During this season, equipment was operated and small batches of material processed to various extents. In conjunction with this Select continued contacting and began discussions with potential parties to monetize this property. Select also retained the services on a confidential basis of a national expert for further evaluation of the quarry. That report is quite favorable to product desirability and operational characteristics.

**ITEM 3 Legal Proceedings**

We have no material pending legal proceedings, other than ordinary routine litigation incidental to our business

**ITEM 4 Submission of Matters To A Vote Of Security Holders**

We held our annual meeting on October 4, 2008. At the meeting, the shareholders elected all of the eight directors who were recommended by the board.

The shareholder votes were as follows:

Election of Directors

	<b>FOR</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
F. Lynn Blystone	18,556,006	353,929
Loren J. Miller	18,695,648	214,287
Henry Lowenstein	18,695,634	214,301
William H. Marumoto	18,703,425	206,510
G. Thomas Gamble	18,702,516	207,419
Edward M. Gabriel	18,703,425	206,510
Paul W. Bateman	18,701,516	208,419
James S. Mayer	18,706,310	203,625

Vote to ratify the board's and management's actions and resolutions taken and made since the previous shareholder meeting

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
17,834,988	1,016,042	58,905

**PART II****ITEM 5 Market Price Of The Registrant's Common Stock And Related Security Holder Matters**

Our common stock trades on the NYSE-A (f/k/a American Stock Exchange) under the symbol TIV. The following table shows the high and low sales prices and high and low closing prices reported for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007:

	<b>Sales Prices</b>		<b>Closing Prices</b>	
	High	Low	High	Low
<u>2008</u>				
Fourth Quarter	\$6.30	\$1.46	\$6.17	\$1.51
Third Quarter	\$8.59	\$6.00	\$8.14	\$6.15
Second Quarter	\$9.73	\$5.70	\$9.15	\$5.77
First Quarter	\$7.50	\$4.85	\$7.25	\$5.03
<u>2007</u>				
Fourth Quarter	\$8.20	\$5.85	\$8.20	\$6.12
Third Quarter	\$8.20	\$6.00	\$8.15	\$6.27
Second Quarter	\$9.36	\$7.37	\$9.17	\$7.56
First Quarter	\$9.67	\$6.80	\$9.37	\$7.15

As of December 31, 2008, we estimate that we have approximately 4,400 shareholders in the United States and several foreign countries held our common stock.

We historically have paid no dividends and at this time do not plan to pay any dividends in the immediate future. Rather, we strive to add share value through discovery success. In 2008, trading volume exceeded 23 million shares.

**Performance Graph**

The following table compares the performance of Tri-Valley Corporation's common stock with the performance of the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Index and the Dow Jones U. S. Exploration and Production Index from December 31, 2003 through December 31, 2008. The table shows the performance of our common stock relative to two broad-based stock performance indices. The information is included for historical comparative purposes only and should not be considered indicative of future stock performance. The table and graph compares the yearly percentage change in the cumulative total stockholder return on \$100 invested in our common stock with the cumulative total return of the two stock indices.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

The stock performance graph assumes for comparison that the value of the Company's Common Stock and of each index was \$100 on December 31, 2003 and that all dividends were reinvested. Past performance is not necessarily an indicator of future results.

	December 31,					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Tri-Valley Corporation	\$100.0	\$278.0	\$176.8	\$215.7	\$168.2	\$40.9
S & P 500 Index	\$100.0	\$110.9	\$116.3	\$134.7	\$142.1	\$89.5
Dow Jones U. S. Exploration & Production	\$100.0	\$141.9	\$234.5	\$247.1	\$355.1	\$212.6

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table sets forth, for the Company's equity compensation plans, the number of options and restricted stock outstanding under such plans, the weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, and the number of shares that remain available for issuance under such plans, as of December 31, 2008.

Plan category	Total securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options or vesting of restricted stock		Securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column
	Number (a)	Weighted-average exercise price (b)	(a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	2,305,350	\$4.54	1,597,500
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	100,000	\$0.50	-
Total	2,405,350	\$4.37	1,597,500

**Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities**

On October 6, 2008, 5,000 shares of our restricted common stock were sold to a private individual for \$5.17 per share. The closing price of our stock on that day was \$5.08. On October 10, 2008, 5,000 shares of our restricted common stock were sold to a private individual for \$4.00 per share. The closing price of our stock on that day was \$4.35. On October 13, 2008, 3,000 shares of our restricted common stock were sold to a private individual for \$4.00 per share. The closing price of our stock on that day was \$5.59. On October 14, 2008, 17,000 shares of our restricted common stock were sold to a private individual \$4.41. The closing price of our stock on that day was \$4.86. On October 15, 2008, 6,000 shares of our restricted common stock were sold to a private individual for \$4.00. The closing price of our stock on that day was \$3.91. On November 7, 2008, 10,000 of our restricted common stock were sold to a private individual for \$4.00 per share. The closing price of our stock on that day was \$3.58. All of these shares were sold in privately negotiated transactions in reliance on the exemption contained in Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

**ITEM 6 Selected Historical Financial Data**

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Income Statement Data:					
Revenues	\$ 8,124,700	\$ 11,016,107	\$ 4,936,723	\$ 12,526,110	\$ 4,498,670
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (14,478,178)	\$ (8,746,830)	\$ (5,881,276)	\$ (4,919,707)	\$ (1,097,999)
Loss from discontinued operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (4,774,840)	\$ (4,810,364)	\$ (73,006)
Gain on disposal of discontinued operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,715,604	\$ -	\$ -
Income (loss) before minority interest	\$ (14,478,178)	\$ (8,746,830)	(940,512)	(9,730,071)	(1,171,005)
Minority interest	\$ (269,005)	\$ (139,939)	(27,341)	-	-
Net loss	\$ (14,209,173)	\$ (8,606,891)	\$ (913,171)	\$ (9,730,071)	\$ (1,171,005)
Basic Earnings per share:					
Loss from continuing operations	\$ (0.54)	\$ (0.35)	\$ (0.25)	\$ (0.22)	\$ (0.05)
Income (loss) from dis-			\$ 0.21	\$ (0.21)	\$ (0.01)

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

continued operations, net	\$ -	\$ -			
Basic Earnings Per Share	\$ (0.54)	\$ (0.35)	\$ (0.04)	\$ (0.43)	\$ (0.06)

22

---



## Balance Sheet Data:

Property and Equipment, net	\$ 9,921,500	\$ 16,232,653	\$ 12,076,043	\$ 13,635,981	\$ 1,778,208
Total Assets	\$ 17,470,721	\$ 25,254,895	\$ 28,654,125	\$ 19,738,730	\$ 14,473,326
Long Term Obligations	\$ 2,165,578	\$ 2,596,101	\$ 2,963,562	\$ 4,528,365	\$ 6,799
Minority Interest	3,334,596	249,945	5,410,746	-	-
Stockholder's Equity	\$ 6,816,225	\$ 12,112,184	\$ 11,232,872	\$ 7,572,720	\$ 6,796,903

No cash dividends have been declared.

**ITEM 7 Management's Discussion And Analysis of Financial Condition****Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This report contains forward-looking statements. The words, "anticipate," "believe," "expect," "plan," "intend," "estimate," "project," "could," "may," "foresee," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements include information regarding expected development of the Company's business, lending activities, relationship with customers, and development in the oil and gas industry. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties occur, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially and adversely from those anticipated, believed, estimated or otherwise indicated.

**Overview**

Thanks to the acquisition of producing properties, TVOG's reserves are increasing while demand for petroleum products increases. While the trend (until the fourth quarter 2008 global financial meltdown) for demand to outstrip available supplies is worldwide as well as national, we believe that it is particularly acute in California, our primary venue for exploration and production, which imports nearly 60% of its oil and nearly 90% of its natural gas demand. Oil prices tend to be set largely by national state oil companies based on supply and demand, while natural gas prices seem to be more dependent on local conditions. We expect that gas prices will hold steady or possibly increase over this year. If, however, prices should fall, for instance due to new regulatory measures or the discovery of new and easily producible reserves or a terrorist attack that would reduce flying and traveling to create a temporary glut from reduced fuel use, our revenue from oil and gas sales would also fall. The aforementioned global economic meltdown has already negatively impacted oil prices in the second half of 2008 and so far in 2009.

In 2002 we created a limited partnership called the OPUS-I. The purpose of this partnership is to raise one hundred million dollars by selling partnership interests. For the year ended December 31, 2008, OPUS I partnership raised \$22.1 million for drilling and development and spent \$22.8 million primarily on the drilling of seven more horizontal wells on the Pleasant Valley leases in the Oxnard Oil Field and infrastructure expansion and facilities. In addition OPUS spent \$2.6 million on the purchase of steam generators and heater treaters for their Pleasant Valley leases, and \$4.4 million on additional operations.

At the end of 2005, with the acquisition of Pleasant Valley, Temblor Valley and Moffat Ranch East on behalf of the partnership, it was determined to end the raising of funds for the remainder of exploration plays in favor of capitalizing development of the properties to build production and revenue to achieve a high multiple return to Opus investors rather than continue further exploration risk for the Opus I partners. A new partnership is envisioned for further exploration.

We continue grading and prioritizing our proprietary geologic library, which contains over 700 California leads and prospects, for exploratory drilling. We use our library and our seismic database and other geoscientific data to decide where we should seek oil and gas leases for future exploration. From this library we were able to put together many of the prospects currently in OPUS-I. Of course, we cannot be sure that any future prospect can be obtained at an attractive lease price or that any exploration efforts would result in a commercially successful well.

We believe that we have acquired an inventory of under-explored/under-exploited properties with the potential to yield a multiple return on investment with further development. We believe our existing inventory of projects bears a high enough ratio of potentially successful to unsuccessful projects to deliver value to our drilling partners and our shareholders from successful wells, in excess of the total costs of all successful and unsuccessful projects. Our future results will depend on our success in finding new reserves and commercial production, and there can be no assurance what revenue we can ultimately expect from any new discoveries. We do not engage in hedging activities and do not use commodity futures or forward contracts for cash management functions.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

We prepare Consolidated Financial Statements for inclusion in this Report in accordance with accounting principles that are generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP"). Note 2 to our Consolidated Financial Statements (contained in Item 8 of this Annual Report) contains a comprehensive discussion of our significant accounting policies. Critical accounting policies are those that may have a material impact on our financial statements and also require management to exercise significant judgment due to a high degree of uncertainty at the time the estimate is made. Our senior management has discussed the development and selection of our accounting policies, related accounting estimates and disclosures with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors.

Preparation of our Consolidated Financial Statements under GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, and some narrative disclosures. The estimates that are most critical to our Consolidated Financial Statements involve oil and gas reserves and impairment of oil and gas properties.

Oil and Gas Reserves. Estimates of our proved oil and gas reserves included in this report are prepared in accordance with GAAP and SEC guidelines and were based on evaluations prepared by independent petroleum engineers with respect to our properties. The accuracy of a reserve report estimate is a function of:

- The quality and quantity of available data;
- The interpretation of that data;
- The accuracy of various mandated economic assumptions; and
- The judgment of the persons preparing the estimate.

Because these estimates depend on many assumptions, all of which may substantially differ from future actual results, reserve estimates will be different from the quantities of oil and gas that are ultimately recovered. In addition, results of drilling, testing and production after the date of an estimate may justify material revisions to the estimate.

It should not be assumed that the present value of future net cash flows included in this Report as of December 31, 2008 is the current market value of our estimated proved reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements, we have based the estimated present value of future net cash flows from proved reserves on prices and costs on the date of the estimate. Actual future prices and cost may be materially higher or lower than the prices and costs as of the date of the estimate. Changes in oil and gas prices can cause revisions in our estimates if the sales price on which reserves are based makes it uneconomic to continue producing the reserves based on our current production costs. In 2008, 2007 and 2006 our average and year-end price received for natural gas was significantly higher than our average production costs, and it appears unlikely that natural gas prices would fall far enough to result in an impairment based on historic prices. However, a significant fall in the price of oil in 2008 caused a reduction in our oil reserves and resulted in recording an impairment expense as discussed below. Because of the 2008 impairment of oil reserves to a value of \$0, no further reduction is possible.

Estimates of proved reserves materially impact depletion expense. If the estimates of proved reserves decline, the rate at which we record depletion expense will increase, reducing future net income. Such a decline may result from lower market prices, which may make it uneconomic to drill for and produce higher cost fields. In addition, a decline in proved reserve estimates may impact the outcome of our assessment of its oil and gas producing properties for impairment.

**Impairment of Proved Oil and Gas Properties.** We review our long-lived proved properties, consisting of oil and gas reserves, at least annually and record impairments to those properties, whenever management determines that events or circumstances indicate that the recorded carrying value of the properties may not be recoverable. Proved oil and gas properties are reviewed for impairment by depletable field pool, which is the lowest level at which depletion of proved properties is calculated. Management assesses whether or not an impairment provision is necessary based upon its outlook of future commodity prices and net cash flows that may be generated by the properties. We determine that a property is impaired when prices being paid for oil or gas make it no longer profitable to drill on, or to continue production on, that property. A dramatic price decrease in oil and gas prices during the second half of 2008 required the company to impair reserves and record an impairment expense of \$4,835,823 for the year for proved properties, this impairment does not include impairment of rig assets during 2008 of \$0.3 million. Price increases in the prior three years did reduce the instances where impairment of reserves appeared to be required, however, we did record impairment expense of \$4,835,823 in 2008, \$481,930 in 2007 and \$459,243 in 2006 as a result of reducing potential future recoverable reserves. The impairment expense for 2008 was related to proved oil and gas properties. These assets are expected to remain impaired. We do not currently expect the changes in the price of natural gas would result in impairment of our gas properties because our production costs are significantly less than historic market prices for gas. However, if natural gas prices, in Northern California, fall below our historic production costs of \$1.50 to \$1.60 per mcf, more of our proved developed reserves could become impaired, which would reduce our estimates of future revenue, our proved reserve estimates and our profitability.

#### **Other Significant Accounting Policies**

**Successful Efforts Method of Accounting** We utilize the successful efforts method of accounting for oil and gas activities as opposed to the alternate acceptable full cost method. In general, we believe that, during periods of active exploration, net assets and net income are more conservatively measured under the successful efforts method of accounting for oil and gas producing activities than under the full cost method. The critical difference between the successful efforts method of accounting and the full cost method of accounting is as follows: Under the successful efforts method, exploratory dry holes and geological and geophysical exploration costs are charged against earnings during the periods in which they occur; whereas, under the full cost method of accounting, such costs and expenses are capitalized as assets, pooled with the costs of successful wells and charged against the earnings of future periods as a component of depletion expense.

**Stock-Based Compensation.** We adopted SFAS No. 123(R) to account for our stock option plan beginning January 1, 2006. This standard requires us to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award. The modified prospective method was selected as described in SFAS 148, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure*. Under this method, we recognize stock option compensation expense as if we had applied the fair value method to account for unvested stock options from the original effective date. Stock option compensation expense is recognized from the date of grant to the vesting date. The fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model that uses the following assumptions. Expected volatilities are based on the historical volatility of our stock. We use historical data to estimate option exercises and employee terminations within the valuation model. The expected term of options granted is based on historical exercise behavior and represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding. The Securities and Exchange Commission issued SAB 110 providing for a safe harbor in calculating the expected life using the contractual life of the option + one, divided by two. The Company used this methodology for valuing the stock option grants issued during 2008; the risk free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option is based on U.S. Treasury rates in effect at the time of grant.

**Deferred Tax Asset Valuation Allowances.** We maintain a valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets, which result from net operating losses and statutory depletion carryforwards from prior years. SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes* as interpreted by FIN 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, requires that the Company continually assess both positive and negative evidence to determine whether it is more likely than not that the deferred tax asset can be realized prior to their expiration. Considerable judgment is required in determining when these events may occur and whether recovery of an asset is more likely than not. Additionally, our federal and state income tax returns are generally not filed before the financial statements are prepared. Therefore, we estimate the tax basis of our assets and liabilities at the end of each calendar year as well as the effects of tax rate changes, tax credits, and tax credit carry forwards. Due to uncertainties involved with tax matters, the future effective tax rate

may vary significantly from the estimated current year effective tax rate. FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for income taxes by prescribing the minimum recognition threshold an uncertain tax position is required to meet before tax benefits associated with such uncertain tax positions are recognized in the financial statements. As of December 31, 2008, the Company has concluded that it is more likely than not that it will not realize its gross deferred tax asset position after giving consideration to relevant facts and circumstances. See Note 7 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

We will continue to monitor company-specific, oil and gas industry economic factors and will reassess the likelihood that the Company's net operating loss and statutory depletion carryforwards will be utilized prior to their expiration.

**Commitments and Contingencies.** We make judgments and estimates regarding possible liabilities for litigation and environmental remediation on a quarterly basis. Management's judgment is based on the advice and opinions of legal counsel and other advisers, and the interpretation of laws and regulations, which can be interpreted differently by regulators or courts of the law. We have no ongoing litigation or environmental remediation. We routinely have clean-up and maintenance obligations in connection with oil and gas drilling and production activities, but we have never had a material environmental liability or claim. Actual costs can vary from such estimates for a variety of reasons. Environmental remediation liabilities are subject to change because of changes in laws and regulations; additional information obtained relating to the extent and nature of site contamination and improvements in technology. In accordance with SFAS No.5, *Accounting for Contingencies*, a liability is recorded for these types of contingencies if the Company determines the loss to be both probable and reasonably estimated. A change in estimate could impact our oil and gas operating costs and the liability, if applicable, recorded on our balance sheet. See Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of our Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding the Company's commitments and contingencies.

### **Accounting for Oil and Gas Producing Activities**

**Revenue recognition:** Oil and gas revenues from producing wells are recognized when title and risk of loss is transferred to the purchaser of the oil or gas. Oil and gas production is recorded each month based on when the cash is received.

**Accounting for Suspended Well Costs:** The Company has adopted FASB Staff Position FAS 19-1, *Accounting for Suspended Well Costs* effective January 1, 2005. Under this guidance, management is required to expense the capitalized costs of drilling an exploratory well if proved reserves are not found unless reserves are found and the enterprise is making sufficient progress on assessing the reserves and the economic and operating viability of the project.

**Oil and Gas Production:** The Company sells its production at the monthly spot price. In 2008, 2007 and 2006, we sold our gas 100% on the spot market. Because we expect gas prices to be steady or to rise, we intend to sell 100% of our production on the spot market in 2009. Thus, a drop in the price of gas in 2009 could possibly have a more adverse impact on us than if we entered into some fixed price contracts for sale of future production.

Our proved hydrocarbon reserves were valued using a standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows of \$1,746,258 at December 31, 2008, compared to \$12,324,390 and to \$6,121,295 on December 31, 2007, and 2006 after taking into account a 10% discount rate and also taking into consideration the effect of income tax. This decrease was due primarily to higher projected production costs being partially offset by our share of the acquisition of the Temblor Valley project. Estimates such as these are subject to numerous uncertainties inherent in the estimation of quantities of proved reserves.

Because of unpredictable variances in expenses and capital forecasts, crude oil and natural gas price changes, largely influenced and controlled by U.S. and foreign government actions and the fact that the basis for such estimates vary significantly, management believes the usefulness of these projections is limited. Estimates of future net cash flows presented do not represent management's assessment of future profitability or future cash flows to the Company. This value does not appear on the balance sheet because accounting rules require discovered reserves to be carried on the balance sheet at the cost of obtaining them rather than the actual future net revenue from producing them. Tri-Valley typically has no discovery cost to put on the balance sheet as explained below.

## Drilling and Development Activities

We sold working interests in test wells to the Opus-1 drilling partnership. The sales price of the interest is intended to pay for all drilling and testing costs on the property. We retain a minority "carried" revenue interest in the well and do not pay our proportionate share of drilling and testing costs for wells drilled on each prospect. Under these arrangements, we usually minimize our cost to drill and also receive a minority interest in revenues from producing the reserves we discover. On the other hand, we occasionally incur extra expenses for drilling or development that we choose, in our discretion, not to pass on to other venture participants.

In 2005, we acquired a 25% working interest in three (3) oil properties that we believe to be under developed and under exploited oil properties. One property consisted of three separate leases in the Oxnard Oil Field in Ventura County, California and two properties were in Kern County, California.

We also have approximately 6,670-acres of mineral rights, which basically cover what was the Chowchilla Ranch Gas Field in Madera County, California. Currently, the land position is held by a single producing gas well. We believe this land position to be under developed and under exploited. We plan to begin re-entering and recompleting existing wells and to further infill drill the leasehold position.

In addition to these properties, we also hold and operate producing interests in gas leases in the Sacramento Valley of Northern California in the RioVista and Dutch Slough Gas Fields.

During 2007, the Company drilled three step-out wells on the Lundin-Weber lease in the Temblor Project in the South Belridge Oil Field, Kern County, California to further delineate and define the extent of the three producing zones in this 700-acre lease development. The wells drilled were the Lundin-Weber 24,188 and 344 wells. In May 2007, Tri-Valley also initiated a pilot waterflood on this property in the Etchegoin Zone to recover additional reserves. During 2007, an additional 12-wells were returned to production bringing the total wells on production up from 28 to 40 of the 49-wells that existed on the Lease at the time of purchase in December 2005.

During 2008, we were able to perforate the Etchegoin Zone in one of our new wells on the Temblor Valley property in the South Belridge Oilfield and obtained a fresh production of 35 barrels per day. When oil prices strengthen, we plan addition wells to be drilled to the Etchegoin Zone as such wells can be million dollar producers at \$100 per barrel. Also, we have plans to perforate the shallow Tulare Zone to test cyclic steam results. If the results if these tests are favorable, we have two dozen existing wells on which to apply this technology before drilling new wells is required.

The Company also first vertically drilled, cored and began drilling the first horizontal development well in the Vaca Tar Sand in the Oxnard Oil Field in Oxnard, California. The well was successfully steamed with the well initially flowing at an initial flow rate of 288-BOPD the first 24-hrs of production. Subsequent tests have exceeded 1,000 barrels of oil per day flow rates after steam cycles and the Company is now contemplating drilling the first horizontal companion well to provide an injector for continuous steaming for continuous production from the producing well bores. This is known as SAG-D or steam assisted gravity drainage. The suite of horizontal wells now totals seven on the Hunsucker Lease and one on the Lennox Ranch Lease. During 2008, we tested several lower zones on the Hunsucker lease by drilling a vertical well to a depth of 8,500 feet. While all horizontal wells are productive, however, we have experienced problems in completion of the vertical well that have so far kept it from being commercial.

The first horizontal well on the Lennox Ranch lease is now being steamed for contemplated initial production in April 2009. Twelve of the twenty idle wells have been reworked and three are in the initial stages of being steamed for production.

The Company also drilled a 10,000 feet deep exploratory test well below existing previously established production in the Moffat Ranch Gas Field, Madera County, California, 50-miles west of Fresno, California, the Moffat Ranch 48-X-7 well in the Moffat Ranch Gas Field. The well was spudded November 17, 2007, and has been on continuous production since 2008. Tri-Valley currently owns two (2) other existing wells in its approximate 6900-

acre land position in the field and, so far, reworks have not been able to return those wells, which were completed in a different zone than the 48-X-7, to production.

During 2008, the company sold two steam generators and a heater treater to joint venture participants. The equipment sold will help in the recovery of oil at our Pleasant Valley leases for joint venture participants. The revenue from the sale of the generators is recorded as drilling and development income and the expense is recorded under drilling and development expense. The company recognized a gain from the sale of these assets of \$0.7 million.

### **Rig Operations**

In 2006 we created two new subsidiaries, Great Valley Production Services (GVPS) and Great Valley Drilling (GVDC). GVPS as of year-end 2008 is owned 74% by Tri-Valley and 26% by third parties. As of year-end 2008 GVDC is 100% owned by Tri-Valley.

GVPS is a production services/well work over company. In 2008 all of its production rigs were sold to Excalibur Well Services for cash and in favor of an alliance for Excalibur to supply production rigs on a preferred basis to Tri-Valley.

GVDC is based in Nevada and the majority of its work was drilling wells for third parties, primarily Nevada geothermal wells. A number of projects have been suspended so the rig is presently idle. There is some indication that a large component of the Economic Stimulus Bill will be for alternative energy projects including substantial amounts for geothermal projects. In that event, we would reactivate the rig. We are also exploring its sale.

### **Mining Activity**

In 2007 our Select staff resigned to take full time positions with Duluth Metals. During the remainder of 2007, we continued our mining activities on a limited basis by outsourcing and using other staff.

In June of 2008, Mr. James G. Bush accepted the position of President of Select Resources and began dedicating his full efforts to Select in the subsequent month.

### **Precious Metals**

The 2007 precious metal program consisted largely of continued assessment and compilation of the geologic information collected in previous work programs associated with the Richardson and Shorty Creek properties in Alaska. Select also undertook an on-site reconnaissance for carrying out a 2007 field program for both the Richardson and Shorty Creek properties, including resolving access routing issues.

In 2008, the monthly average price of gold fluctuated from \$760.66 to \$968.43, averaging \$871.96 for the whole year.

The 2008 precious metal program consisted largely of continued assessment of information and replacing staffing. The most important accomplishment culminated in the late winter of 2008, with finding and beginning the reinterpretation of the old Shorty Creek drilling data.

Also in 2008, Select continued from 2007, annual repair and maintenance activities associated with the Richardson Roadhouse, 65 miles southeast of Fairbanks on the Alaska Richardson Highway, which is owned by us and has been used in the past as a base camp for Richardson related exploration activities.

The recent responses by the federal government to the economic downturn by all reasonable accounts point towards continued strength for precious metal prices. Given that it may well take years for complete economic turnaround, Select plans to maintain a strong focus on these properties.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Concentrated sampling and drilling in one small area of the Democrat Mine on the Richardson Property was independently engineered by M. J. Bright of Lakewood, Colorado, who estimated 15,000 ounces of gold probable. He acknowledges an earlier estimate by a geological consultant, Kent Ausburn, Ph.D, of 27,000 ounces. The average would be 21,000 ounces at a gross undiscounted value of \$20 million at \$940 per ounce.

### Base Metals

Select acquired two copper exploration properties in Nevada. The first property, the FARJK claims, target oxide copper in Nye County and covers roughly one square mile and the claim position can be expanded. Select controls 100% of this claim block. The second property, the Delcer property, with oxide and sulphide copper, covers approximately one square mile in Elko County. This property has experienced limited copper production that dates back to World War I. After further evaluation, it was determined that neither property suited our corporate purposes and they were dropped.

We agreed in April 2006 to assist Duluth Metals Limited, a Canadian corporation, in its initial public offering and listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Duluth Metals is involved in the acquisition and exploration of copper, nickel and platinum group metals in the Duluth Complex in northern Minnesota. Duluth Metals is providing Select financial remuneration, stock options and assistance by Duluth Metals on the monetizing of Select and its properties as compensation for Select's providing management and technical assistance to Duluth Metals. Duluth Metals' initial offering became listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange on October 10, 2006. Select continued to assist Duluth Metals in 2007 in its early stages of operation as Duluth Metals provides assistance to Select on the monetizing of Select and its properties. However, Select's two officers elected to join Duluth full time as president and senior geologist respectively. The post of Select president was filled by James G. Bush, former vice president of exploration for Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Co.

In 2008, Select focused on precious metals and industrial minerals.

### Industrial Minerals

The Admiral Calder calcium carbonate quarry in Alaska (100% owned and managed by Select) is on care and maintenance. Select continued its market and operational assessment studies for the Admiral Calder quarry product as the quarry is in the top 1% of high grade chemical and high brightness calcium carbonate deposits in the world, and one of the few deposits to be directly on tidewater. Repair and maintenance activities at the site were initiated in 2007, and expanded in 2008. The property is the subject of a favorable report by national industrial minerals expert, Stan Krukowski, and president Bush is in discussions with prospective customers, if successful, would necessitate re-starting quarry operations.

In 2007, Select conducted maintenance and repair activity at Calder and obtained an updated status of the facility. In conjunction with this Select began contacting potential parties to monetize this property.

In 2008, Select conducted a second maintenance and repair activity at Calder and obtained an updated status of the facility. During this season, equipment was operated and small batches of material processed to various extents. In conjunction with this Select continued contacting and began discussions with potential parties to monetize this property. Select also retained the services on a confidential basis of a national expert for further evaluation of the quarry.

The economic downturn in 2008 curtailed portions of the monetization plans for the Calder quarry, but all commodity forecasts ultimately converge on an eventual return to growth in the developing countries, with special emphasis on India and China. Thus Select continues to pursue monetization, but at a controlled pace and with focus on specific opportunities and objectives. The outlook for calcium carbonate is good, particularly in light of the shift to non-acidic processing of high-grade paper, and the continued use of calcium carbonate in nearly 1,200 different applications, many of which are key components of the basic construction industries.

**Results of Operations**

We lost approximately \$14.2 million in 2008 compared to losses of \$8.6 million in 2007 and \$0.9 million in 2006. Total revenue was \$8.1 million in 2008 compared to revenues of \$11.0 million in 2007 and \$4.9 million in 2006. In 2007 we had a comparatively high level of both revenue and loss due in large part to our execution of large scale drilling projects in that year.

**Revenues**

The Company identifies reportable segments by product. The Company includes revenues from both external customers and revenues from transactions with other operating segments in its measure of segment profit or loss. The Company also allocates interest revenue and expense, DD&A, and other operating expenses in its measure of segment profit or loss.

The following table sets forth our revenues by segment for 2008, 2007 and 2006, in thousands.

	2008		2007		2006	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Oil and gas						
Sales	\$ 3,759	46%	\$ 1,083	10%	\$ 1,168	23%
Partnership income	-	0%	30	1%	45	1%
Total oil and gas revenues	3,759	46%	1,113	11%	1,213	24%
Rig & refurbishing operations	1,451	18%	2,727	25%	873	18%
Minerals	142	2%	580	5%	230	5%
Drilling and development	2,589	32%	6,132	55%	2,497	50%
Non-segmented items (interest income & other)	184	2%	464	4%	124	3%
Total revenues	\$8,125	100%	\$11,016	100%	\$4,937	100%

Oil and gas operations include our share of revenues from oil and gas wells on which TVOG serves as operator, royalty income and production revenue from other partnerships in which we have operating or non-operating interests. It also includes revenues for consulting services for oil and gas related activities, which we include in other income on the statement of operations, and interest revenue attributable to our oil and gas operations, which we include in interest income on the statement of operations.

In 2008, total revenue from the oil and gas segment increased by 247% from 2007. The increase of \$2.7 million in oil revenue was a result of increased oil prices and increased oil production primarily in the Pleasant Valley wells. In 2007, revenues from oil and gas operations were \$1.1 million or 9% lower than 2006. Most of this decrease was a result of declining production in the Martin-Severins, Webb Tract and Hanson wells.

In 2006, we acquired drilling rigs and began rig operations through our subsidiaries, GVPS and GVDC. Our Revenue from rig operations decreased from \$2.7 million in 2007 to \$1.5 million in 2008. This was due to the sale of our GVPS rigs and our GVDC rig being stacked for most of the year. Our revenue from our rig operations in 2007 was \$2.7 million compared to \$0.9 million in 2006, due to an increase in our rig operations in 2007.



## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

In each of the past three years, a large source of revenue has been oil and gas drilling and development. Revenues from our drilling and development activities decreased from \$6.1 million in 2007 to \$2.6 million in 2008. This was due to a decrease in the number of wells drilled in 2008 to six. Revenues from drilling and development activities were \$6.1 million, an increase of \$3.6 million over 2006. This increase was due to an increase in the number of wells drilled in 2007 to seven in our drilling program. We record revenue received by us from joint ventures for drilling and development when we complete drilling wells that have been sold to joint venture partners, including the Opus-I drilling partnership.

In 2008, the minerals segment had revenue of \$142,000 for consulting services performed for our minerals operations compared to \$580,000 in 2007, a decrease of \$438,000. In 2007 we earned \$580,000 compared to \$230,000 in 2006 from consulting services pertaining to our minerals operations.

### Costs and Expenses

The following table sets forth our operating cost and expenses by segment in thousands:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Oil and gas	\$ 6,069	\$ 1,141	\$ 397
Rig & refurbishing operations	1,424	2,142	726
Minerals	371	618	644
Drilling and development	1,815	5,011	1,990
Non-segmented items (G&A, stock option expense, investment and other)	12,924	10,851	7,061
Total cost and expenses	\$ 22,603	\$ 19,763	\$10,818

Total operating expenses were \$ 22.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to \$ 19.8 million in year ended 2007. Total operating costs and expenses were \$8.9 million more for the year ended December 31, 2007, compared to year end 2006.

Oil and gas expense for the year ended 2008 was \$6.1 million compared to \$1.1 million for year ended 2007. In 2007, oil and gas cost and expense was \$0.7 million higher for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared to \$0.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. The \$4.9 million increase in 2008 was mainly due to impairment expense of \$4.8 million. Because of the dramatic price decrease in oil and gas prices during the second half of 2008, the Company was required to record impairment for proved reserves.

In 2008 rig & refurbishing segment operating costs, were \$ 1.4 million, a decrease of \$0.7 million in 2007, due to a decrease in the activity level in our rig operations segment because of the sale of our GVPS rigs and our GVDC rig being stacked for most of the year. Rig operating costs for GVPS and GVDC increased to \$2.1 million in 2007 from \$0.7 million in 2006 due to an increased activity level.

Minerals operating expenses were \$0.4 million 2008, compared to \$0.6 million 2007 due to a decrease in the general activity level. Minerals operating expenses were unchanged for the period ended December 31, 2007 compared to 2006.

Drilling and development segment costs were \$ 1.8 million in 2008, compared to \$ 5.0 million for year ended 2007, due to a decrease in drilling turnkey projects. Costs from drilling and development activities were \$3.0 million more in 2007 than in 2006 because of the increased drilling activity (seven wells drilled in 2007 compared to two wells drilled in 2006).

### Nonsegmented Items

General and administrative costs were \$ 0.2 million higher in 2008 compared to 2007 due to increased salaries expense; insurance expense and legal expense were higher due to a general increase in the Company activity level.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

General and administrative costs were \$4.3 million higher in 2007 compared to 2006 due in large part to the increased stock issuance expense and the increased activity in the rig operations segment of the Company. Increased salaries expense, insurance expense and legal and accounting expense were higher due to a general increase in the Company activity level.

The total Company interest expense for 2008 was \$218,000 versus \$259,000 during 2007. The decrease was attributed to a decrease in debt. Investment expense was \$169,000 during the year 2008 a decrease of \$35,000. The expense was attributable to additional cost of buying back minority interest in GVPS and GVDC during 2008 above par value. The total Company interest expense for 2007 was \$259,000 versus \$397,000 during 2006. The decrease was attributed to a decrease in debt. Investment expense was \$204,000 during the year. The expense was attributable to additional cost of buying back minority interest in GVPS and GVDC during 2007 above par value. There was no investment expense in 2006.

The following table summarizes our total operating income (loss) from continuing operations by segment in thousands:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Oil and gas	\$ (2,310)	\$ (28)	\$ 816
Rig & refurbishing operations	27	585	147
Minerals	(229)	(38)	(414)
Drilling and development	774	1,121	507
Non-segmented items	(12,740)	(10,387)	(6,937)
Total operating income (loss)	\$(14,478)	\$(8,747)	\$(5,881)

### Revenues from Discontinued Operations in 2006

In 2006, we sold our interest in the Tri-Western Resources, LLC, joint venture and an industrial site used for Tri-Western's mineral operations. These transactions had a total sales price of \$13.8 million and resulted in a non-operating gain of about \$9.7 million. The Company sold its interest in order to redeploy the capital into ventures it believes will increase share value at a faster rate. The sale also caused us to reclassify certain expenses in 2006 and prior years as losses from discontinued operations, but this reclassification did not change our total net loss in any year. See note 12 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a schedule of pro forma results.

### **Financial Condition**

#### Balance Sheet

At December 31, 2008, we had \$2.0 million in cash compared to \$7.7 million at December 31, 2007. \$3.7 million of the cash at year end 2007 is restricted for use by the OPUS I drilling partnership. All of the \$2.0 million in cash at year end 2008 is unrestricted for the use of Tri-Valley Corporation. The decrease in cash was due primarily to an increase in drilling activity and a pay down of accounts payable. The decrease in OPUS I drilling partnership cash was related to advances from joint venture participants becoming absorbed by operations and expenses for additional operations that were incurred and have yet to be funded by the joint venture participant creating a receivable due from the participants. Proved properties decreased from \$2.1 million in 2007 to \$0.2 million in 2008 due to an impairment of \$4.8 million dollars. Unproved properties decreased from \$2.4 million in 2007 to \$1.6 million in 2008 because of unproved properties at Pleasant Valley and Moffat Ranch being reclassified as proved. Rigs decreased from \$6.7 million in 2007 to \$1.5 million in 2008 due primarily to the sale of the rigs previously owned by GVPS. Deposits decreased about \$216 thousand in 2008 compared to 2007 due to deposits being recorded as revenue at GVDC. Accounts receivable TVOG production accrual increased from zero in 2007 to \$1.0

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

million in 2008 due to an increase in production at our Pleasant Valley lease, which resulted in revenue being received the following year. Investment in marketable securities decreased by \$407 thousand because of the Company's investment in Duluth Metals common stock decreased in value. (see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements)

Notes payable decreased from \$2.8 million in 2007 to \$2.2 million in 2008. This was due to the payoff and pay down of our notes payable. (see Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements)

Accounts payable and accrued expenses decreased from \$5.7 million in 2007 to \$3.9 million in 2008. The decrease was due to the pay down of our accounts payable. Advances from joint venture participants, net changed from \$3.7 million in 2007 to zero in 2008. The advances receivable from joint venture participants increased from zero in 2007 to \$4.0 million in 2008. Both of these changes were due to the increase in drilling activity on behalf of our joint venture participants.

Shareholder equity decreased from \$12.1 million in 2007 to \$6.8 million in 2008. This was primarily due to a net loss of \$14.2 million and stock issuance cost of \$1.3 million and other comprehensive income loss of \$0.2 million, offset by issuance of common stock of \$10.8 million. In 2008, the Company sold interest in GVPS. The sale of interest in GVPS less minority interest earnings was \$ 3.3 million in the minority interest section of the balance sheet during 2008.

### Commitments

Generally, our financial commitments arise from selling interests in our drilling prospects to third parties, which result in obligations to drill and develop the prospect. If we are unable to sell sufficient interests in a prospect to fund its drilling and development, we must either amend our agreements to drill the prospect or locate a substitute prospect acceptable to the participants.

Delay rentals for oil and gas leases amounted to \$501,000 in 2008. Advance royalty payments and gold mining claims maintenance fees were \$247,000 for the same period. We expect that approximately equal delay rentals and fees will be paid in 2009 from operating revenues.

### **Operating Activities**

Net cash used by operating activities was \$17.1 million for 2008, compared to \$3.9 million in 2007. Net loss increased from a loss of \$8.6 million in 2007 to a \$14.2 million loss in 2008. The increase in loss was related primarily to the impairment of proved properties and rigs. Stock based compensation costs decreased from \$0.8 million in 2007 to \$0.7 million in 2008. We adopted SFAS No. 123R *Shared Based Payment* on January 1, 2006 which required expensing of stock options.

We had \$2.1 million used by a decrease in accounts payable, compared to \$3.7 million used by an increase in accounts payable in 2007. The 2008 decrease in accounts payable is due to the pay down of accounts payable balances.

### **Investing Activities**

Cash used by investing activities in 2008 was \$0.3 million compared to cash used of \$11.1 million for the same period in 2007. In 2008, \$0.4 million in cash was used to buy back the outside third party interest in GVPS. 26% of GVPS, was subsequently sold back to outside third parties during the third and fourth quarters of 2008. \$7.4 million was provided from the sale of rigs and rig related equipment and steam generators and a heater treater, compared to no proceeds in 2007. Expenditures for capital equipment were \$7.3 million in 2008, compared to \$5.9 million used in 2007. The increase was primarily due an increase in the activity level at Pleasant Valley.

## Financing Activities

Cash provided by financing activities was \$11.7 million in 2008 compared to \$7.0 million for the period ending December 31, 2007. Principal payments on long term debt used \$0.5 million in cash in 2008 compared to \$1.1 million in 2007. Net proceeds from the sale of minority interest in GVPS were \$3.6 million in 2008 compared to zero in 2007. The net proceeds from the issuance of common stock options were \$8.6 million in 2008 versus \$7.9 million in 2007. The net proceeds from the issuance of warrants decreased from \$268 thousand in 2007 to zero in 2008 due to no warrants being issued during 2008.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

The recoverability of our oil and gas reserves depends on future events, including obtaining adequate financing for our exploration and development program, successfully completing our planned drilling program, and achieving a level of operating revenues that is sufficient to support our cost structure. The Company had a cash balance of \$2.0 million as of December 31, 2008 which has subsequently decreased. Current liabilities as of December 31, 2008 were \$5.2 million which has subsequently increased. The Company is dependent upon continued capital formation for operating and general and administrative expenses for fiscal 2009.

A primary source for this capital has been investors in the TVOG Opus I Drilling Program LP and the private placement of our common stock. Although we have always been successful in the past at attracting sufficient capital, we do not know particularly in the current economic climate if additional financing will be available when needed. Insufficient funds may prevent us from continuing our operations.

The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent on additional sources of capital and the success of the Company's plan. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary if the Company is unable to continue as a going concern.

Should we choose to make an acquisition of producing oil and gas properties, such an acquisition would likely require that some portion of the purchase price be paid in cash, and thus would create the need for additional capital. Additional capital could be obtained from a combination of funding sources. The potential funding sources include:

- Cash flow from operating activities,
- Borrowings from financial institutions (which we typically avoid),
- Debt offerings, which could increase our leverage and add to our need for cash to service such debt (which we typically avoid),
- Additional offerings of our equity securities, which would cause dilution of our common stock,
- Sales of portions of our working interest in the prospects within our exploration program, which would reduce future revenues from its exploration program,
- Sale to an industry partner of a participation in our exploration program,
- Sale of all or a portion of our producing oil and gas properties, which would reduce future revenues.

Our ability to raise additional capital will depend on the results of our operations and the status of various capital and industry markets at the time such additional capital is sought. Accordingly, there can be no assurances that capital will be available to us from any source or that, if available, it will be on terms acceptable to us. The Company has no off balance sheet arrangements.

## ITEM 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

*Oil and gas prices.* Our financial condition, results of operations and capital resources are highly dependent upon the prevailing market prices of, and demand for, oil and gas. These commodity prices are subject to wide fluctuations and market uncertainties due to a variety of factors that are beyond our control. We cannot predict future oil and gas prices with any degree of certainty. Sustained declines in oil and gas prices may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations, and may also reduce the amount of net oil and gas reserves that we can produce economically. Based on our year ended December 31, 2008 production, our gross revenues from oil and gas sales

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

would change approximately \$102,000 for each \$1.00 change in gas prices and \$26,000 for each \$1.00 change in oil prices.

We do not engage in hedging activities or purchases and sales of commodity futures contracts.

35

---

**ITEM 8: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
Report of Independent Auditor	37
Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2008 and 2007	38
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006	40
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006	41
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006	42
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	44
Supplemental Information about Oil and Gas Producing Activities (Unaudited)	70

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and

Shareholders of Tri-Valley Corporation

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Tri-Valley Corporation as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related statements of income, stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008. Tri-Valley Corporation's management is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Tri-Valley Corporation as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Company will continue as a going concern. As discussed in Note 14 to the financial statements, the Company is dependent on additional sources of capital and particularly in the current economic climate doesn't know if additional financing will be available when needed. These conditions raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern. Management's plans regarding those matters are also described in Note 14. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Tri-Valley Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated March 30, 2009 expressed a qualified opinion.

BROWN ARMSTRONG PAULDEN  
McCOWN STARBUCK THORNBURGH & KEETER  
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Bakersfield, California

March 30, 2009

37

---



## TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31, 2008	2007
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 2,000,787	\$ 3,955,610
Cash restricted to OPUS I use	-	3,712,083
Accounts receivable TVOG Production Accrual	963,413	-
Accounts receivable, trade	61,851	313,521
Prepaid expenses	12,029	12,029
Advances receivable from Joint Venture Participants	3,988,754	-
Total current assets	7,026,834	7,993,243
Property and equipment, net		
Proved properties	153,545	2,143,907
Unproved properties	1,616,919	2,414,843
Rigs	1,538,752	6,731,758
Other property and equipment	6,612,284	4,942,145
Total property and equipment, net (Note 3)	9,921,500	16,232,653
Other assets		
Deposits	122,913	338,772
Investment in marketable securities (Note 13)	32,668	440,000
Investments in partnerships	17,400	17,400
Deferred Tax Asset	123,079	-
Goodwill	212,414	212,414
Other	13,913	20,413
Total other assets	522,387	1,028,999
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 17,470,721</b>	<b>\$ 25,254,895</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



## TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

<u>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</u>	December 31,	
	2008	2007
Current liabilities		
Notes payable (Note 4)	\$ 389,648	\$ 402,003
Deferred revenue	-	242,163
Accounts Payable to Joint Venture Participants	912,173	281,419
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	3,852,502	5,699,153
Advances Payable to Joint Venture Participants (Note 11)	-	3,671,927
Total current liabilities	5,154,323	10,296,665
Non-Current Liabilities		
Asset Retirement Obligation (Note 11)	327,845	240,394
Long-term portion of notes payable (Note 4)	1,837,733	2,355,707
Total non-current liabilities	2,165,578	2,596,101
Total liabilities	7,319,901	12,892,766
Minority interest	3,334,596	249,945
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock, \$.001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 27,438,367 and 25,077,184 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2008, and 2007	27,438	25,077
Less: common stock in treasury, at cost, 100,025 shares at December 31, 2008 and 2007.	(13,370)	(13,370)
Capital in excess of par value	46,558,354	37,090,714
Additional paid in capital - Warrants	360,842	782,729
Additional paid in capital - Stock Options	1,869,997	1,800,642
Accumulated Deficit	(41,795,727)	(27,586,553)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(191,309)	12,945
Total stockholders' equity	6,816,225	12,112,184
<b>Total liabilities, minority interest and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 17,470,721</b>	<b>\$ 25,254,895</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Revenues			
Sale of oil and gas	\$ 3,322,353	\$ 761,279	\$ 1,029,606
Rig income	1,450,907	2,726,692	873,368
Partnership income	-	30,000	45,000
Interest income	39,273	282,785	72,707
Drilling and development	2,588,650	6,131,613	2,497,256
Other income	723,517	1,083,738	418,786
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>8,124,700</b>	<b>11,016,107</b>	<b>4,936,723</b>
Costs and expenses			
Mining exploration costs	386,994	391,255	510,583
Production costs	1,291,115	430,068	388,700
Drilling and development	1,815,085	5,010,799	1,799,792
Rig operating expenses	1,109,399	1,374,649	566,649
General and administrative	10,523,490	10,372,892	6,110,921
Interest	217,748	258,829	396,672
Investment	168,702	203,782	-
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	1,905,854	1,238,733	585,439
Impairment of costs	5,184,492	481,930	459,243
<b>Total costs and expenses</b>	<b>22,602,879</b>	<b>19,762,937</b>	<b>10,817,999</b>
Loss from continuing operations, before income taxes and discontinued operations	(14,478,178)	(8,746,830)	(5,881,276)
Tax provision	-	-	-
<b>Loss from continuing operations, before discontinued operations</b>	<b>(14,478,178)</b>	<b>(8,746,830)</b>	<b>(5,881,276)</b>
Loss from discontinued operations (Note 12)	-	-	(4,774,840)
Gain on disposal of discontinued operations (Note 12)	-	-	9,715,604
<b>Loss before minority interest</b>	<b>\$ (14,478,178)</b>	<b>\$ (8,746,830)</b>	<b>\$ (940,512)</b>
Minority interest	(269,005)	(139,939)	(27,341)
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>\$ (14,209,173)</b>	<b>\$ (8,606,891)</b>	<b>\$ (913,171)</b>
Basic net loss per share:			
Loss from continuing operations (Note 6)	\$ (0.54)	\$ (0.35)	\$ (0.25)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.21
<b>Basic loss per common share (Note 6)</b>	<b>\$ (0.54)</b>	<b>\$ (0.35)</b>	<b>\$ (0.04)</b>
<b>Weighted average number of shares outstanding</b>	<b>26,664,682</b>	<b>24,723,766</b>	<b>23,374,205</b>
<b>Potentially dilutive shares outstanding</b>	<b>29,515,887</b>	<b>28,061,401</b>	<b>26,377,537</b>

No dilution is reported since net income is a loss per SFAS 128

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

	Total Common	Treasury Shares	Par Value	Capital in Excess of Par Value	Additional Paid in Warrants & Stock Options	Accumu- lated Déficit	Treasury Stock	Other Comprehensive Income	Stockholders Equity
	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Par Value</u>	<u>Options</u>	<u>Déficit</u>	<u>Stock</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Equity</u>
Balance at December 31, 2005	22,806,176	100,025	\$ 22,806	\$25,629,775	-	\$(18,066,491)	\$(13,370)		\$ 7,572,720
Issuance of common stock	740,479		601	3,373,745	-	-	-		3,374,346
Stock issuance cost	-	-	-	(310,740)	-	-	-		(310,740)
Warrants (see note 10)	-	-	-	-	\$ 247,313	-	-		247,313
Stock Based Compensation (see note 5)	-	-	-	-	1,262,404				1,262,404
Net loss	-	-	-	-	-	(913,171)			(913,171)
Balance at December 31, 2006	23,546,655	100,025	\$ 23,407	\$28,692,780	\$1,509,717	\$(18,979,662)	\$(13,370)		\$ 11,232,872
Issuance of common stock	1,530,529		1,670	9,479,833	-	-	-		3,374,346
Stock issuance cost	-	-	-	(1,081,900)	-	-	-		(310,740)
Warrants (see note 10)	-	-	-	-	1,073,654	-	-		247,313
Stock Based Compensation (see note 5)	-	-	-	-	-				1,262,404
Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities								12,945	
Net loss	-	-	-	-	-	(8,606,891)			(913,171)
Balance at December 31, 2007	25,077,184	100,025	\$ 25,077	\$37,090,714	\$2,583,371	\$(27,586,553)	\$(13,370)	12,945	\$ 12,112,184
Issuance of common stock	2,361,183	-	-	10,815,816	-	-	-		10,815,900
Stock issuance cost	-	-	2,361	(1,348,176)	-	-	-		(1,345,815)
Warrants (see note 10)	-	-	-	-	(421,887)	-	-		(421,887)
Stock Based Compensation (see note 5)	-	-	-	-	69,356				69,355
Unrealized Loss on Marketable Securities (Net of Tax of \$123,079)								(204,254)	(204,254)
Net loss	-	-	-	-	-	(14,209,173)			(14,209,173)
Balance at December 31, 2008	27,438,367	100,025	\$ 27,438	\$ 46,558,354	\$2,230,840	\$(41,795,726)	\$(13,370)	(191,309)	\$ 6,816,225

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



## TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
<b>CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
			\$
Net loss	\$(14,209,173)	\$ (8,606,891)	(913,171)
Loss from discontinued operations	-	-	4,774,840
Gain on disposal of discontinued operations, net	-	-	(9,715,604)
Loss from continuing operations	(14,209,173)	(8,606,891)	(5,853,935)
Adjustments to reconcile net (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:			
Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	1,905,854	1,238,733	585,439
Impairment, dry hole and other disposals of property	5,184,492	481,930	459,243
Minority interest	(269,005)	(139,939)	(27,341)
Loss on buyback of minority interest	168,702	169,374	-
Stock-based compensation costs, net of taxes	745,640	831,752	1,262,404
Warrant costs from issuance of restricted common stock	(374,867)	384,352	247,313
Marketable securities	-	(380,000)	-
(Gain) or loss on sale of property	(773,565)	-	-
Property, mining claims & services paid with common stock	-	-	-
Director stock compensation	93,480	112,428	-
Changes in operating capital:			
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(711,743)	63,757	85,419
(Increase) decrease in prepaids	-	30,500	-
(Increase) decrease in deposits and other assets	222,359	(28,939)	(19,088)
Increase (decrease) in income taxes payable	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable, deferred revenue and accrued expenses	(2,088,814)	3,704,199	635,880
Increase (decrease) in amounts payable to joint venture participants and related parties	630,754	604	(82,680)
Increase (decrease) in advances from joint venture participants	(7,660,681)	(1,736,982)	90,264
Net cash provided by (used in) continuing operations	(17,136,568)	(3,875,122)	(2,617,082)
Net cash provided by (used in) discontinued operations	-	-	543,073
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(17,136,568)	(3,875,122)	(2,074,009)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
<b>CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property	7,388,654	-	461,752
Buy back of minority interest in GVDC/GVPS	(418,647)	(5,019,440)	-
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	79,998	-	-
Proceeds from sale of discontinued operations	-	-	13,838,625
Member capital distributions	-	(170,796)	-
Capital expenditures	(7,306,831)	(5,853,593)	(5,760,034)
(Investment in) marketable securities	-	(47,056)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) continuing operations	(256,826)	(11,090,885)	8,540,343
Net cash provided by (used in) discontinued operations	-	-	(225,042)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	(256,826)	(11,090,885)	8,315,301
<b>CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from long-term debt	-	-	1,017,559
Proceeds from long-term debt related parties	-	-	1,200,000
Principal payments on long-term debt	(530,328)	(1,109,241)	(4,909,204)
Net proceeds from the sale of minority interest	3,603,600	-	5,438,087
Net proceeds from the issuance of warrants	-	268,197	-
Net proceeds from the issuance of stock options	39,150	-	-
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	8,614,066	7,876,529	2,442,890
Net cash provided by (used in) continuing operations	11,726,488	7,035,485	5,189,332
Net cash provided by (used in) discontinued operations	-	-	(709,330)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	11,726,488	7,035,485	4,480,002
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(5,666,906)	(7,930,522)	10,721,294
Cash at Beginning of Year	7,667,693	15,598,215	4,876,921
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,787</b>	<b>\$ 7,667,693</b>	<b>\$ 15,598,215</b>
Interest paid	\$ 217,748	\$ 258,829	\$ 352,815
Income taxes paid	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Non Cash Investing and Financing</b>			
Property purchased with debt	\$ -	\$ 31,948	\$ -
Property & services paid with common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 620,716
Stock issued in exchange for mining claims	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.





**TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 GENERAL**

History and Business Activity

Tri-Valley Corporation ( TVC or the Company), a Delaware corporation formed in 1971, is in the business of exploring, acquiring and developing petroleum and precious metals properties and interests therein. Tri-Valley has five subsidiaries. Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company ( TVOG ) operates the oil & gas activities and derives the majority of its revenue from oil and gas; Select Resources which handles all precious and industrial mineral interests; Great Valley Production Services, Inc., which was formed in February 2006 to operate oil production, rigs, primarily for TVOG; Great Valley Drilling Company which was formed in 2006 to operate oil drilling rigs, primarily for third parties and Tri-Valley Power Corporation which is inactive (see Item 1 Business for detail of GVPS and GVDC). The Company sold its joint venture interest in Tri-Western Resources, LLC on November 15, 2006. GVPS had minority interest of 26% outside ownership by outside third parties as of December 31, 2008. GVDC is wholly owned by TVC as of year-end 2008.

The Company conducts its oil and gas business primarily through Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company. TVOG is engaged in the exploration, acquisition and production of oil and gas properties. Substantially all of the Company's oil and gas reserves are located in California.

Select conducts precious metals exploration activities. TVC has traditionally sought acquisition or merger opportunities within and outside of petroleum and mineral industries.

For purposes of reporting operating segments, the Company is involved in four areas. These are oil and gas production, rig operations, minerals, and drilling and development.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This summary of significant accounting policies of Tri-Valley Corporation is presented to assist in understanding the Company's financial statements. The financial statements and notes are representations of the Company's management, which is responsible for their integrity and objectivity. These accounting policies conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and have been consistently applied in the preparation of the financial statements.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company, its wholly owned subsidiaries, TVOG, Select, GVDC, Tri-Valley Power Corporation, since their inception. GVPS, where the Company has retained a 74% ownership interest, is also included in the consolidation. Other partnerships in which the Company has an operating or nonoperating interest in which the Company is not the primary beneficiary and owns less than 51%, are proportionately combined. This includes Opus I, Martins-Severin, Martins-Severin Deep, and Tri-Valley Exploration 1971-1 partnerships. All material intra and intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in combination and consolidation.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and some narrative disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The estimates that are most critical to our consolidated financial statements involve oil and gas reserves, recoverability and impairment of reserves, and useful lives of assets.



**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Oil and Gas Reserves. Estimates of our proved oil and gas reserves included in this report are prepared in accordance with GAAP and SEC guidelines and were based on evaluations audited by independent petroleum engineers with respect to our major properties. The accuracy of a reserve report estimate is a function of:

- The quality and quantity of available data;
- The interpretation of that data;
- The accuracy of various mandated economic assumptions; and
- The judgment of the persons preparing the estimate.

Because these estimates depend on many assumptions, all of which may substantially differ from future actual results, reserve estimates will be different from the quantities of oil and gas that are ultimately recovered. In addition, results of drilling, testing and production after the date of an estimate may justify material revisions to the estimate.

It should not be assumed that the present value of future net cash flows included in this Report as of December 31, 2008 is the current market value of our estimated proved reserves. In accordance with SEC requirements, we have based the estimated present value of future net cash flows from proved reserves on prices and costs on the date of the estimate. Actual future prices and cost may be materially higher or lower than the prices and costs as of the date of the estimate.

Estimates of proved reserves materially impact depletion expense. If the estimates of proved reserves decline, the rate at which we record depletion expense will increase, reducing future net income. Such a decline may result from lower market prices, which may make it uneconomic to drill for and produce higher cost fields. In addition, a decline in proved reserve estimates may impact the outcome of our assessment of its oil and gas producing properties for impairment.

Impairment of Proved Oil and Gas Properties. We review our long-lived proved properties, consisting of oil and gas reserves, at least annually and record impairments to those properties, whenever management determines that events or circumstances indicate that the recorded carrying value of the properties may not be recoverable. Proved oil and gas properties are reviewed for impairment by depletable field pool, which is the lowest level at which depletion of proved properties are calculated. Management assesses whether or not an impairment provision is necessary based upon its outlook of future commodity prices and net cash flows that may be generated by the properties. We determine that a property is impaired when prices being paid for oil or gas make it no longer profitable to drill on, or to continue production on, that property. Price increases over the past three years have reduced the instances where impairment of reserves appeared to be required.

Additional production data indicated the initial reserve estimates would not be achievable, so we reduced reserves accordingly. If petroleum prices, particularly natural gas prices, in Northern California begin to fall in the future, more of our proved developed reserves could become impaired, which would reduce our estimates of future revenue, our proved reserve estimates and our profitability.

Asset Retirement Obligations. We adopted SFAS No. 143, *"Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations"* effective January 1, 2003. Under this guidance, management is required to make judgments based on historical experience and future expectations regarding the future abandonment cost of its oil and gas properties and equipment as well as an estimate of the discount rate to be used in order to bring the estimated future cost to a present value. The discount rate is based on the risk free interest rate which is adjusted for our credit worthiness. The adjusted risk free rate is then applied to the estimated abandonment costs to arrive at the obligation existing at the end of the period under review. We review our estimate of the future obligation quarterly and accrue the estimated obligation based on the above.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Cash Equivalent and Short-Term Investments

Cash equivalents include cash on hand and on deposit, and highly liquid debt instruments with original maturities of three months or less. The majority of these funds are held at Smith Barney.

Goodwill

The consolidated financial statements include the net assets purchased of Tri-Valley Corporation's wholly owned oil and gas subsidiary, TVOG. Net assets are carried at their fair market value at the acquisition date. On January 1, 2002, Tri-Valley Corporation adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* (SFAS 142). Under SFAS 142, goodwill is a non-amortizable asset, and is subject to a periodic review for impairment. Prior to the implementation of SFAS 142, the Company had goodwill of \$212,414 that was being amortized. The carrying amount of goodwill is evaluated periodically. Factors used in the evaluation include the Company's ability to raise capital as a public company and anticipated cash flows from operating and non-operating mineral properties.

Advances Receivable/Payable from Joint Venture Participants

Advances received by the Company from joint venture partners for contract drilling projects, which are to be spent by the Company on behalf of the joint venture partners, are classified within operating inflows on the basis they do not meet the definition of financing or investing activities. When the cash advances are spent, the payable is reduced accordingly and the cash is absorbed. As expenses for additional operations are incurred any have yet to be funded by joint venture participants, the advances become a receivable due to the company. These advances do not contribute to the Company's operating profits and are accounted for or disclosed as balance sheet entries as a receivable from joint venture participants.

Revenue Recognition

*Sale of Oil and Gas*

Crude oil and natural gas revenues are recognized as production occurs, the title and risk of loss transfers to a third party purchaser, net of royalties, discounts, and allowances, as applicable. Oil and gas revenues from producing wells are recognized when title and risk of loss is transferred to the purchaser of the oil or gas. Oil and gas production is recorded each month based on when the cash is received.

*Drilling and Development*

Oil and gas prospects are developed by the Company for sale to industry partners and drilling investors. These prospects are usually exploratory, and include costs of leasing, acquisition, and other geological and geophysical costs (hereafter referred to as GGLA) plus a profit to the Company. Prior to 2002, the Company recognized revenue and profit from prospects sales when sold, irrespective of drilling commencement (spudding).

Starting 2002 the Company changed its prospect offerings by inclusion of estimated costs of drilling in addition to GGLA costs. This offering is termed a turnkey exploratory drilling opportunity because drilling investors are charged only one certain amount in return for Tri-Valley drilling a well to the agreed total depth. The drilling investor only is charged the total turnkey amount, and is not liable for any additional costs associated with drilling to the agreed total depth. Once the well is drilled to total depth and revenue has been recognized, the drilling partners own 75% of the well and Tri-Valley owns 25% of the well.

If the well has been spudded and the well is not drilled to total depth or goes unlogged, Tri-Valley is responsible to drill another well to the agreed total depth per the turnkey contract. The drilling partners are not obligated for any additional costs to drill another well other than the original turnkey amount.



**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Once the well is spudded, drilling investor money is not refundable. In conformity with the guidelines provided in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) Topic 13, Tri-Valley only recognizes revenue when it is realized and earned.

Tri-Valley considers turnkey revenue to be earned when the well is logged. Amounts charged are included in an Authority for Expenditure (AFE), which is a budget for each project well. Tri-Valley prepares the AFE and bears all risk of well completion to total depth. If the well is drilled to total depth for actual costs less than the AFE amounts, the Company realizes a profit. Conversely, if actual costs exceed the AFE, Tri-Valley realizes a loss and is liable for all costs beyond the turnkey amount.

During 2008, the Company developed and sold equipment to industry partners and drilling investors. This equipment is used for the production and shipment of oil at the Pleasant Valley leases. The company realizes a profit from the sale of equipment if the amount received for sale of assets exceeds actual costs. Conversely, if actual costs exceed revenue, the Company records a loss on the sale. Revenue and costs related to these assets are recorded in the statement of operations under drilling and development.

*Drilling Agreements/Joint Ventures*

Tri-Valley frequently participates in drilling agreements whereby it acts as operator of drilling and producing activities. As operator, TVOG is liable for the activities of these ventures. In the initial well in a prospect, the Company owns a carried interest and/or overriding royalty interest in such ventures, earning a working interest upon commencement of drilling. Costs of subsequent wells drilled in a prospect are shared by a pro rata interest.

Receivables from and amounts payable to these related parties (as well as other related parties) have been segregated in the accompanying financial statements. For turnkey projects, amounts received for drilling activities, which have not been spudded are deferred and remain within the joint venture liability, in accordance with the Company's revenue recognition policies. Revenue is recognized upon the completion of drilling operations and the well is logged. Actual or estimated costs to complete the drilling are charged as costs against this revenue.

Impairment of Long-lived and Intangible Assets

The Company evaluates its long-lived assets (property, plant and equipment) and definite-lived intangible assets for impairment whenever indicators of impairment exist, or when it commits to sell the asset. The accounting standards require that if the sum of the undiscounted expected future cash flows from a long-lived asset or definite-lived intangible asset is less than the carrying value of that asset, an asset impairment charge must be recognized. The amount of the impairment charge is calculated as the excess of the asset's carrying value over its fair value, which generally represents the discounted future cash flows from that asset, or in the case of assets the Company evaluates for sale, at fair value less costs to sell. A number of significant assumptions and estimates are involved in developing operating cash flow forecasts for the Company's discounted cash flow model, sales volumes and prices, costs to produce, working capital changes and capital spending requirements. The Company considers historical experience, and all available information at the time the fair values of its assets are estimated. However, fair values that could be realized in an actual transaction may differ from those used to evaluate the impairment of long-lived assets and definite-lived intangible assets. Therefore, assumptions and estimates used in the determination of impairment losses may affect the carrying value of long-lived and intangible assets, and possible impairment expense in the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

Oil and Gas Property and Equipment (Successful Efforts)

The Company accounts for its oil and gas exploration and development costs using the successful efforts method. Under this method, costs to acquire mineral interests in oil and gas properties, to drill and complete exploratory wells that find proved reserves and to drill and complete development wells are capitalized. Exploratory dry-hole costs, geological and geophysical costs and costs of carrying and retaining unproved properties are expensed when incurred, except those GGLA expenditures incurred on behalf of joint venture drilling projects, which the Company defers until the GGLA is sold at the completion of project funding and the target prospect is drilled. Expenditures

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

incurred in drilling exploratory wells are accumulated as work in process until the Company determines whether the well has encountered commercial oil and gas reserves.

If the well has encountered commercial reserves, the accumulated cost is transferred to oil and gas properties; otherwise, the accumulated cost, net of salvage value, is charged to dry hole expense. If the well has encountered commercial reserves but cannot be classified as proved within one year after discovery, then the well is considered to be impaired, and the capitalized costs (net of any salvage value) of drilling the well are charged to expense. In 2008, 2007, and 2006 there was \$4,869,162, \$481,930 and \$459,243 respectively, charged to expense for impairment of exploratory well costs. These impairments charges were related to oil and gas property impairments and do not include additional impairment charges related to equipment. Depletion, depreciation and amortization of oil and gas producing properties are computed on an aggregate basis using the units-of-production method based upon estimated proved developed reserves.

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company carried unproved property costs of \$1.60 million and \$2.4 million, respectively. Generally accepted accounting principles require periodic evaluation of these costs on a project-by-project basis in comparison to their estimated value. These evaluations will be affected by the results of exploration activities, commodity price outlooks, planned future sales or expiration of all or a portion of the leases, contracts and permits appurtenant to such projects. If the quantity of potential reserves determined by such evaluations is not sufficient to fully recover the cost invested in each project, the Company will recognize non cash charges in the earnings of future periods.

Capitalized costs relating to proved properties are depleted using the unit-of-production method based on proved reserves. Costs of significant non-producing properties, wells in the process of being drilled and development projects are excluded from depletion until such time as the related project is completed and proved reserves are established or, if unsuccessful, impairment is determined.

Upon the sale of oil and gas reserves in place, costs less accumulated amortization of such property are removed from the accounts and resulting gain or loss on sale is reflected in operations. Impairment of non-producing leasehold costs and undeveloped mineral and royalty interests are assessed periodically on a property-by-property basis, and any impairment in value is currently charged to expense.

In addition, we assess the capitalized costs of unproved properties periodically to determine whether their value has been impaired below the capitalized costs. We recognize a loss to the extent that such impairment is indicated. In making these assessments, we consider factors such as exploratory drilling results, future drilling plans, and lease expiration terms. When an entire interest in an unproved property is sold, gain or loss is recognized, taking into consideration any recorded impairment. When a partial interest in an unproved property is sold, the amount is treated as a reduction of the cost of the interest retained, with excess revenue and carrying costs being recognized. Upon abandonment of properties, the reserves are deemed fully depleted and any unamortized costs are recorded in the statement of operations under leases sold, relinquished and impaired.

As of January 1, 2005, the Company adopted FASB Staff Position FAS 19-1, *Accounting for Suspended Well Costs*. Upon adoption of the FSP, the Company evaluated all existing capitalized exploratory well costs under the provisions of the FSP. As a result, the Company determined that there were no capitalized costs of exploratory wells during 2008, 2007 and 2006, and does not include amounts that were capitalized and subsequently expensed in the same period.

**Asset retirement obligations**

The Company has significant obligations to remove tangible equipment and facilities and to restore land at the end of oil and gas production operations. The Company's removal and restoration obligations are primarily associated with plugging and abandoning wells and removing and disposing of oil and gas wells. Estimating the future restoration and removal costs is difficult and requires management to make estimates and judgments because most of the removal obligations are many years in the future and contracts and regulations often have vague descriptions



**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

of what constitutes removal. Asset removal technologies and costs are constantly changing, as are regulatory, political, environmental, safety and public relations considerations.

On January 1, 2003, the Company adopted the provisions of SFAS 143. SFAS 143 significantly changed the method of accruing for costs an entity is legally obligated to incur related to the retirement of fixed assets. SFAS 143, together with the related FASB Interpretation No. 47, *Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations*, an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 143 (FIN 47), requires the Company to record a separate liability for the discounted present value of the Company's asset retirement obligations, with an offsetting increase to the related oil and gas properties on the balance sheet.

Inherent in the present value calculation are numerous assumptions and judgments including the ultimate settlement amounts, inflation factors, credit adjusted discount rates, timing of settlement, and changes in the legal, regulatory, environmental and political environments. To the extent future revisions to these assumptions impact the present value of the existing asset retirement obligations, a corresponding adjustment is made to the oil and gas property balance.

The Company's asset retirement obligations primarily relate to the future plugging and abandonment of proved properties and related facilities. The Company has no assets that are legally restricted for purposes of settling asset retirement obligations. (see Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a table of the Company's asset retirement obligations.)

Gold Mineral Property

The Company has invested in several gold mineral properties with exploration potential. All mineral claim acquisition costs and exploration and development expenditures are charged to expense as incurred. We capitalize acquisition and exploration costs only after persuasive engineering evidence is obtained to support recoverability of these costs (ideally upon determination of proven and/or probable reserves based upon dense drilling samples and feasibility studies by a recognized independent engineer). Currently, no amounts have been capitalized.

Other Properties and Equipment

Properties and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Office furniture and fixtures	3 - 7 years
Vehicle, machinery & equipment	5 - 10 years
Building	15 years

Leasehold improvements are amortized over the life of the lease.

Maintenance and repairs, which neither materially add to the value of the property nor appreciably prolong its life, are charged to expense as incurred. Gains or losses on dispositions of property and equipment other than oil and gas are reflected in operations.

Concentration of Credit Risk and Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company places its temporary cash investments with high credit quality financial institutions and limits the amount of credit exposure to any one financial institution. Total uninsured cash at year end was \$2.0 million.

Fair value of financial instruments is estimated to approximate the related book value, unless otherwise indicated, based on market information available to the Company.



**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Stock Based Compensation Plans /Share-Based Payment

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment ( SFAS No. 123 (R) ). This Statement revises SFAS No. 123 and supersedes APB No. 25. SFAS No. 123(R) focuses primarily on the accounting for transactions in which an entity obtains employee services in share-based payment transactions. SFAS No. 123(R) requires companies to recognize in the statement of operations the cost of employee services received in exchange for awards of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of those awards. This Statement is effective and was adopted in the first quarter of 2006. The Company adopted SFAS No. 123(R) using the modified prospective method, whereby the Company expensed the remaining portion of the requisite service under previously granted unvested awards outstanding as of January 1, 2006 and new share-based payment awards granted or modified after January 1, 2006. The Company used the Black-Scholes valuation method to estimate the fair value of its options. The Company calculates that implementation of SFAS No. 123(R) resulted in additional expense related to share-based employee and director compensation of approximately \$1,600,000 before tax in 2007. See Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 for a further discussion related to the Company's Stock Incentive Plan.

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
Net Income	\$ (14,209,173)	\$ (8,606,891)
Add: Stock-based compensation expense included in reported net income, net of tax benefit	745,640	831,752
Deduct: Stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of tax	(745,640)	(831,752)
	\$	\$
	Pro forma (14,209,173)	(8,606,891)
Earnings per share	As reported (0.54)	(0.35)
	Pro forma (0.54)	(0.35)

Warrants are accounted for under the guidelines established by APB Opinion No. 14 *Accounting for Convertible Debt and Debt issued with Stock Purchase Warrants (APB14)* under the direction of Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 98-5, *Accounting for Convertible Securities with Beneficial Conversion Features or Contingently Adjustable Conversion Ratios, (EITF 98-5)* EITF 00-27 *Application of Issue No 98-5 to Certain Convertible Instruments and (EITF 00-27)*.

The Company calculates the fair value of warrants issued with the convertible instruments using the Black-Scholes valuation method, using the same assumptions used for valuing employee stock options for purposes of SFAS No. 123R, except that the expected life of the warrant is used. Under these guidelines, the Company allocates the value of the proceeds received. The price allocated for the warrants is calculated by subtracting the current market price of the stock from the total proceeds of the sale of the restricted stock with the warrant attached. The allocated fair value is recorded as capital paid in warrants. This allocated fair value of the proceeds from the sale of warrants is subtracted from the value of the warrants using the Black-Scholes valuation method to calculate the stock issuance expense.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Treasury Stock

The Company records acquisition of its capital stock for treasury at cost. Differences between proceeds for reissuance of treasury stock and average cost are charged to retained earnings or credited thereto to the extent of prior charges and thereafter to capital in excess of par value.

**Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

Accounting for Business Combinations

During December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141 (R), *Business Combinations* ( SFAS No. 141(R) ), which establishes new accounting and disclosure requirements for recognition and measurement of identifiable assets, liabilities and goodwill acquired and requires that the fair value estimates of contingencies acquired or assumed be considered as part of the original purchase price allocation. SFAS No. 141(R) is effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We adopted this Interpretation during 2008 and we do not expect the adoption to have material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*, which permits an entity to measure certain financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The objective of SFAS No. 159 is to improve financial reporting by allowing entities to mitigate volatility in reported earnings caused by the measurement of related assets and liabilities using different attributes, without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions. Under SFAS No. 159, entities that elect the fair value option (by instrument) will report unrealized gains and losses in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. The fair value option election is irrevocable, unless a new election date occurs. SFAS No. 159 establishes presentation and disclosure requirements to help financial statement users understand the effect of the entity's election on its earnings, but does not eliminate disclosure requirements of other accounting standards. Assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value must be displayed on the face of the balance sheet. The Company adopted this statement effective beginning January 1, 2008, and the adoption did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Noncontrolling Interest in Consolidated Financial Statements

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements - An Amendment of ARB No. 51*. SFAS No. 160 establishes new accounting and reporting standards for a noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. Specifically, this statement requires the recognition of a noncontrolling interest (minority interest) as equity in the consolidated financial statements. The amount of net income attributable to a noncontrolling interest will be included in consolidated net income on the face of the income statement. SFAS No. 160 requires that changes in a parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary that do not result in deconsolidation are equity transactions if the parent retains its controlling financial interest. In addition, this statement requires that a parent recognize a gain or loss when a subsidiary is deconsolidated. Such gain or loss will be measured using the fair value of the noncontrolling equity investment on the deconsolidation date. SFAS No. 160 also includes expanded disclosures regarding the interests of the parent and its noncontrolling interest. SFAS No. 160 will be effective for the Company on January 1, 2009. We do not expect the adoption of SFAS No. 160 to have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. SFAS No. 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles used in the preparation of financial statements of nongovernmental entities that are presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. The new standard becomes effective 60 days following the



**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411. SFAS No. 162 is not expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Fair Value Measurements

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. This Statement replaces multiple existing definitions of fair value with a single definition, establishes a consistent framework for measuring fair value and expands financial statement disclosures regarding fair value measurements. This Statement applies only to fair value measurements that already are required or permitted by other accounting standards and does not require any new fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 is effective for fiscal years beginning subsequent to November 15, 2007. We adopted this Statement in the first quarter of 2008 and do not expect the adoption to have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

**NOTE 3 PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Properties, equipment and fixtures consist of the following:

	2008	2007
Oil and gas - California		
Proved properties, gross	\$ 1,175,566	\$ 3,026,660
Accumulated depletion	(1,022,021)	(882,753)
Proved properties, net	153,545	2,143,907
Unproved properties	1,616,919	2,414,843
Total oil and gas properties	1,770,464	4,558,750
Rigs	2,864,485	7,492,975
Accumulated depreciation	(1,325,733)	(761,217)
Total Rigs	1,538,752	6,731,758
Other property and equipment		
Land	21,281	21,281
Building	45,124	45,124
Machinery and Equipment	7,601,054	4,875,326
Vehicles	890,272	803,296
Transmission tower	51,270	51,270
Office furniture and equipment	154,624	149,229
	8,763,625	5,945,526
Accumulated depreciation	(2,151,341)	(1,003,381)
Total other property and equipment, net	6,612,284	4,942,145
<b>Property and equipment, net</b>	<b>\$ 9,921,500</b>	<b>\$ 16,232,653</b>

Depreciation and depletion expense for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$1,851,744 and for the year ended December 31, 2007 was \$1,096,251. Carrying amount of assets pledged as collateral for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$3,060,683. In 2007, the carrying amount of assets pledged as collateral was \$5,027,268.



**NOTE 4 NOTES PAYABLE**

Note payable to Rabobank dated October 5, 2005, secured by a vehicle, interest at 6.5%, payable in 60 monthly installments of \$599.

Note payable to Jim Burke Ford dated November 18, 2005; secured by a vehicle; interest at 6.49%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$714.

Note payable to Sealaska Corporation dated July 15, 2005; secured by mining machines and equipment; imputed interest at 7.5%; payable in 10 yearly installments of \$1,324.

Note payable to Three Way Chevrolet dated April 03, 2006; secured by a vehicle; interest at 5.90%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$577.

Note payable to Three Way Chevrolet dated February 24, 2006; secured by a vehicle; interest at 9.70%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$1,324.

Note payable to Moss Family Trust dated February 14, 2006; secured by 100,000 shares of Tri Valley corporation unregistered restricted common stock; interest at 6.90%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$622.

Note payable to Moss Family Trust dated March 8, 2006; secured by 40,000 shares of Tri Valley corporation unregistered restricted common stock; interest at 4.90%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$927.

Note payable to Three Way Chevrolet dated January 22, 2007; secured by a vehicle; interest at 6.90%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$622.

Note payable to Three Way Chevrolet dated September 11, 2006; secured by a vehicle; interest at 4.90%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$927.



**NOTE 4 NOTES PAYABLE (Continued)**

Note payable to Three Way Chevrolet dated September 11, 2006; secured by a vehicle; interest at 6.90%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$633.

Note payable to Three Way Chevrolet dated October 31, 2006; secured by a vehicle; interest at 9.70%; payable in 60 monthly installments of \$1,679.43.

Note payable to Gary D, Borgna and Julie R. Borgna, and Equipment 2000 dated December 30, 2006; secured by Rig Equipment; imputed interest at 8.00%

Less current portion

Long-term portion of notes payable

Maturities of long-term debt for the years subsequent to December 31, 2008 are as follows:

2009	\$ 389,648
2010	481,970
2011	304,293
2012	273,892
2013-2016	777,578
	\$ 2,227,381

**NOTE 5 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Employee Stock Options

The Company has a qualified and a nonqualified stock option plan, which provides for the granting of options to key employees, consultants, and non employee directors of the Company. The 2008 stock option expense was \$745,640.

The purpose of the Company's stock option plans is to further the interest of the Company by enabling officers, directors, employees and consultants of the Company to acquire an interest in the Company by ownership of its stock through the exercise of stock options granted under its stock option plan which are vested in one to five years.

The option price, number of shares and grant date are determined at the discretion of the Company's board of directors. The 1998 stock option plan was supplemented with the 2005 plan. All newly issued stock option grants are issued from the 2005 plan. The 2005 plan provides for the issuance of 2,625,000 stock options with 1,597,500 remaining to be issued as of December 31, 2008. Options granted under the plans are exercisable upon vesting. The vesting dates are determined in the stock option award and the contractual life is up to ten years. The plan expires in October 2015.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes American option-pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions used for grants in 2008.

Year	Expected Life	Expected Dividends	Expected Volatility	Risk-Free Interest Rates
2008	3.00	None	41%-115%	1.0% - 2.7%

The expected exercise life is based on management estimates of future attrition and early exercise rates after giving consideration to recent employee exercise behavior. Expected dividend yield is based on the Company's dividend history and anticipated dividend policy. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility for the Company's common stock. The risk-free interest rate is based on a yield curve of interest rates at the time of the grant based on the contractual life of the option.

The following table summarizes information about fixed stock options outstanding at December 31, 2008:

Range of Exercise Prices	Number Outstanding at December 31, 2008	Number Outstanding & exercisable at December 31, 2008	Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life	Weighted-Average Exercise Price	Intrinsic Value <sup>(1)</sup> at December 31, 2008  (in thousands)
\$ .50 - \$10.00	2,405,350	1,860,350	3.5 years	\$3.49	\$ 590

(1) Based on the difference between the exercise price per share and the \$1.80 market price per share as of December 31, 2008

**NOTE 5 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (Continued)**

**Employee Stock Options (continued)**

The following table summarizes information about fixed stock options outstanding at December 31, 2007:

	Number Outstanding	Number Outstanding & exercisable	Weighted-Average	Weighted-Average	Intrinsic Value <sup>(1)</sup> at December 31, 2007
Range of Exercise Prices	at December 31, 2007	at December 31, 2007	Remaining Contractual Life	Exercise Price	<u>(in thousands)</u>
\$ .50 - \$10.00	2,967,350	2,417,850	3.8 years	\$2.64	\$11,509

(1) Based on the difference between the exercise price per share and the \$7.40 market price per share as of December 31, 2007

The following table summarizes information about fixed stock options outstanding at December 31, 2006:

	Number Outstanding	Number Outstanding & exercisable	Weighted-Average	Weighted-Average	Intrinsic Value <sup>(1)</sup> at December 31, 2006
Range of Exercise Prices	at December 31, 2006	at December 31, 2006	Remaining Contractual Life	Exercise Price	<u>(in thousands)</u>
\$ .50 - \$10.00	2,914,850	2,674,850	3.6 years	\$2.26	\$19,340

(1) Based on the difference between the exercise price per share and the \$9.49 market price per share as of December 31, 2006

**NOTE 5 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)**Employee Stock Options (continued)

*Unrecognized Compensation Expense.* At December 31, 2008 there was \$1,252,783 of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested awards granted under the Company's stock option plan. This amount is expected to be charged to expense over a weighted-average period of 2 years.

A summary of the status of the Company's fixed stock option plan as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 and changes during the years ending on those dates is presented below:

	2008	Weighted-Average Exercise Price	2007	Weighted-Average Exercise Price	2006	Weighted-Average Exercise Price
	Shares		Shares		Shares	
<u>Fixed Options</u>						
Outstanding at beginning of year	2,967,350	\$ 3.50	2,914,850	\$ 2.67	2,757,600	\$ 2.03
Granted	350,000	\$ 6.06	700,000	\$ 7.41	445,000	\$ 6.19
Exercised	(796,000)	\$ 1.29	(440,000)	\$ 1.99	(287,750)	\$ 2.03
Cancelled	(116,000)	\$ 8.41	(207,500)	\$ 8.26	-	-
Outstanding at end of year	2,405,350	\$ 4.37	2,967,350	\$ 3.50	2,914,850	\$ 2.67
Options exercisable at year-end	1,860,850	\$ 3.49	2,417,850	\$ 2.64	2,674,850	\$ 2.26
Weighted-average fair value of options granted during the year	\$ 1.89		\$ 4.00		\$ 4.78	
Available for issuance	1,597,500		1,831,500		824,000	

A summary of the status of the Company's nonvested options as of December 31, 2007 and changes during the year ended December 31, 2008, is presented below:

	Number of Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Nonvested at December 31, 2007	549,500	\$ 7.28
Granted	350,000	\$ 7.45
Vested	(354,500)	\$ 8.55
Nonvested at December 31, 2008	545,000	\$ 6.56

**NOTE 5 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)**Partnerships

Tri-Valley sells oil and gas drilling prospects and equipment to partnerships that are sponsored by Tri-Valley and sold to private investors for the purpose of oil and gas drilling and development. The Company accounts for these partnerships on the pro rata combination method. Drilling and development revenue related to the Opus-I partnership for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are as follows:

	December 31, 2008	2007	2006
Drilling and development revenue	\$ 2,588,650	\$ 6,131,613	\$ 2,497,256
Drilling and development costs	\$ 1,815,085	\$ 5,010,799	\$ 1,990,000

Oil and gas income from the Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Exploration Programs 1971-1 for fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are as follows:

	December 31, 2008	2007	2006
Partnership income, net of expenses	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 45,000

**NOTE 6 EARNINGS PER SHARE**

Year	Full Year Basic Earnings (Loss) Per Share	Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding	Weighted-Average Potentially Dilutive Shares Outstanding
2008	\$ (0.54)	26,664,682	29,515,887
2007	\$ (0.35)	24,723,766	28,061,401
2006	\$ (0.04)	23,374,205	26,377,537

The diluted earnings per share amounts are based on weighted-average shares outstanding plus common stock equivalents. Common stock equivalents include stock options and awards, and common stock warrants. Common stock equivalents excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share due to the effect was antidilutive.

**NOTE 7 - INCOME TAXES**

As of December 31, 2008, the Company had available net operating loss carryforwards for federal and state tax purposes of \$36,177,144 and \$32,047,719, respectively, which begin to expire in 2025 and 2015, respectively. The Company also had available as of December 31, 2007 federal and state statutory depletion allowance carryforwards of \$1,842,179, which do not expire. The Company had unrealized loss on investments available for sale of \$308,976, which begin to expire in five years after the sale of investment.

The components of deferred tax assets at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are composed of:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Net operating loss carryforwards	\$ 14,813,815	\$ 9,219,236	\$ 4,867,050
Statutory depletion carryforwards	684,835	540,330	508,050
Unrealized loss on investment available for sale	123,079		
	15,621,729	9,759,566	5,375,119
Less: deferred tax asset valuation allowance	(15,498,650)	(9,759,566)	(5,375,119)
<b>Net deferred tax assets</b>	<b>\$ 123,079</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Income tax benefit (provision) is computed as follows:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Current:			
Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0
State	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Deferred:			
Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0
State	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total income tax benefit (provision):			
	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Continuing operations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Discontinued operations	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$0

**NOTE 8 - MAJOR CUSTOMERS**

Oil and Gas

Substantially all oil and gas sales have occurred in the California market. The Company receives substantially all of its oil and gas revenue from two customers. Our total oil and gas sales amounted to \$3,322,353, \$761,279 and \$1,029,606 for the year ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. We receive about 70% of our revenue from Company A and about 30% from Company B and C combined. All of our oil and gas is sold at spot market.

**NOTE 9 - FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELATING TO INDUSTRY SEGMENTS**

The Company reports operating segments according to SFAS No. 131, *Disclosure about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information*.

The Company identifies reportable segments by product. The Company includes revenues from both external customers and revenues from transactions with other operating segments in its measure of segment profit or loss. The Company also includes interest revenue and expense, DD&A, and other operating expenses in its measure of segment profit or loss.

The Companies' total reportable segment revenue and segment net income (loss) do not correspond with the enterprises consolidated revenue and consolidated income (loss) before income taxes. The Company's segment revenue excludes other income and partnership income which are not affiliated with external customers, when compared to the enterprises consolidated revenue. The company's segment net income (loss) does not include minority interest when compared to the enterprise's consolidated income (loss) before income taxes.

The Company's operations are classified into four principal industry segments:

- *Oil and gas operations* include our share of revenues from oil and gas wells on which TVOG serves as operator, royalty income and production revenue from other partnerships in which we have operating or non-operating interests. It also includes revenues for consulting services for oil and gas related activities.
- *Rig and refurbishing operations* began in 2006, when the Company acquired drilling rigs and began operating them through subsidiaries Great Valley Production Services, LLC, and Great Valley Drilling Company, LLC. Rig operations include income from rental of oil field equipment and income received from refurbishing and selling oilfield equipment.
- *Minerals* include the Company's mining and mineral prospects and operations, and expenses associated with those operations. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 the Company recorded minerals revenue from consulting services performed for the mining and minerals industry, which are included on the operating statement as other income.
- *Drilling and development* includes revenues received from oil and gas drilling and development operations performed for joint venture partners, including the Opus-I drilling partnership. Revenues also include the sale of equipment to joint venture partners to assist in the production at partnership leases.

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

NOTE 9 - FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELATING TO INDUSTRY SEGMENTS (Continued)

	Oil and Gas	Rig & refurbishing		Drilling and	Non segmented items	
	<u>Production</u>	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Minerals</u>	<u>Development</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Year ended December 31, 2008</u>						
Revenues	\$ 3,759,000	\$ 1,451,000	\$ 142,000	\$ 2,589,000	\$ 184,000	\$ 8,125,000
Interest expense	\$ 79,084	\$ 53,858	\$ 84,805	\$ -		\$ 217,748
Operating income (loss)	\$ (2,310,000)	\$ 27,000	\$ (229,000)	\$ 774,000	\$(12,740,000)	\$(14,478,000)
Expenditures for segment assets	\$ 6,103,164	\$ 1,203,667	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,296,048	\$ 22,602,879
Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	\$ 929,518	\$ 734,991	\$ 241,345	\$ -		\$ 1,905,854
Total assets	\$ 9,102,943	\$ 2,340,362	\$ 1,816,206	\$ -	4,211,210	\$ 17,470,721
Estimated income tax benefit (expense)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Net income (loss)	\$ (2,310,000)	\$ 27,000	\$ (229,000)	\$ 774,000	\$(12,740,000)	\$(14,478,000)
<u>Year ended December 31, 2007</u>						
Revenues	\$ 1,113,000	\$ 2,727,000	\$ 580,000	\$ 6,132,000	\$ 464,000	\$ 11,016,000
Interest expense	\$ 101,322	\$ 71,859	\$ 85,644	\$ -		\$ 258,829
Operating income (loss)	\$ (28,000)	\$ 585,000	\$ (38,000)	\$ 1,121,000	\$(10,387,000)	\$(8,847,000)
Expenditures for segment assets	\$ 2,280,187	\$ 3,471,352	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 5,751,539
Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	\$ 229,354	\$ 766,905	\$ 242,474	\$ -		\$ 1,238,733
Total assets	\$ 23,033,171	\$ (139,739)	\$ 2,361,463	\$ -		\$ 25,254,895
Estimated income tax benefit (expense)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Net income (loss)	\$ (28,000)	\$ 585,000	\$ (38,000)	\$ 1,121,000	\$(10,387,000)	\$(8,847,000)



Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

	Oil and Gas	Rig & refurbishing		Drilling and	Non segmented items	
	<u>Production</u>	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Minerals</u>	<u>Development</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Year ended December 31, 2006</u>						
Revenues	\$ 1,213,000	\$ 873,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 2,497,000	\$ 124,000	\$ 4,937,000
Interest expense	\$ 26,834	\$ 2,373	\$ 367,465	\$ -		\$ 396,672
Operating income (loss)	\$ 816,000	\$ 147,000	\$ (414,000)	\$ 507,000	\$ (6,937,000)	\$ (5,881,000)
Expenditures for segment assets	\$ 1,146,146	\$ 5,444,646	\$ 15,000	\$ -		\$ 6,605,792
Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	\$ 159,289	\$ 81,530	\$ 344,620	\$ -		\$ 585,439
Total assets	\$ 18,517,488	\$ 7,853,046	\$ 2,283,591	\$ -		\$ 28,654,125
Estimated income tax benefit (expense)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Net income (loss)	\$ 816,000	\$ 147,000	\$ (414,000)	\$ 507,000	\$ (6,937,000)	\$ (5,881,000)

**NOTE 10 - COMMON STOCK and WARRANTS and MINORITY INTEREST**

Common Stock

During 2008 the Company issued the following shares of common stock. All of these securities were issued pursuant to privately negotiated transactions in reliance on the exemption contained in Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

- During the year various directors and employees of the Company exercised stock options previously granted. The new shares issued pursuant to the stock option plan amounted to 632,979 shares.
- The Company issued 946 shares to one employee in lieu of salary at the closing market price of \$7.40 for a total consideration of \$7,000.
- The Company issued 2,000 shares each to seven board members for services rendered.
- The remaining 1,713,258 shares were issued in private placements at prices of \$4.00 to \$8.00 per share for a total consideration of \$9,331,272, or a weighted average price of \$5.45.
- During the year the common stock issuance cost amounted to approximately \$1,348,176.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

During 2007 the Company issued the following shares of common stock. All of these securities were issued pursuant to privately negotiated transactions in reliance on the exemption contained in Section 4(2) of the Securities Act.

62

---

**NOTE 10 - COMMON STOCK and WARRANTS and MINORITY INTEREST (Continued)**

- During the year various directors and employees of the Company exercised stock options previously granted. The new shares issued pursuant to the stock option plan amounted to 377,791 shares.
- The Company issued 5,000 shares to one employee in accordance with his employment contract.
- The Company issued 2,000 shares each to six board members for services rendered.
- The remaining 1,135,738 shares were issued in private placements at prices of \$6.00 to \$9.00 per share for a total consideration of \$10,815,900, or a weighted average price of \$6.31.
- During the year the common stock issuance cost amounted to approximately \$1,081,900.

Warrants

During 2008, the Company issued no new warrants.

During 2007, the Company issued warrants to accredited investors in conjunction with the sale of restricted common stock. 291,443 warrants were attached to these restricted shares. The warrants are exercisable for a period of two years from the date of issuance. The warrants are exercisable at \$7.00 to \$10.00, depending on when they were issued. The warrants were valued using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, which resulted in charges to additional paid in capital of \$652,549 and resulted in charges to stock issuance expense of \$384,352.

Warrants are accounted for under the guidelines established by APB Opinion No. 14 *Accounting for Convertible Debt and Debt issued with Stock Purchase Warrants (APB14)* under the direction of Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 98-5, *Accounting for Convertible Securities with Beneficial Conversion Features or Contingently Adjustable Conversion Ratios, (EITF 98-5)* EITF 00-27 *Application of Issue No 98-5 to Certain Convertible Instruments and (EITF 00-27)*. The Company calculates the fair value of warrants issued with the convertible instruments using the Black-Scholes valuation method, using the same assumptions used for valuing employee options for purposes of SFAS No. 123R, except that the expected life of the warrant is used. Under these guidelines, the Company allocates the value of the proceeds received. The price allocated for the warrants is calculated by subtracting the current market price of the stock from the total proceeds of the sale of the restricted stock with the warrant attached. The allocated fair value is recorded as capital paid in warrants. This allocated fair value of the proceeds from the sale of warrants is subtracted from the value of the warrants using the Black-Scholes valuation method to calculate the stock issuance expense.

Minority Interest from the Sale and Purchase of Interest in Subsidiaries

During 2006, the Company sold 49% of the interest in GVPS to 35 individuals for \$3,881,447. Also during 2006, the Company sold 49% of the interest in GVDC to 15 individuals for \$1,556,640. The total minority interest for these two LLC s was \$5,438,087, which is being consolidated under FASB Interpretation No. 46R, *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities*. In 2007, the Company bought back all of the minority interest in GVDC making it 100% owned by Tri-Valley at year-end 2007. The Company bought back 39% of the minority interest in GVPS, making it owned 90% by Tri-Valley and a minority interest of 10% owned by outside third parties. The company recorded an investment expense of

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

\$203,782 during the year due the buyback of minority interest above par value.

During 2008, the Company bought back the remaining 10% of the minority interest in GVPS, making it 100% owned by Tri-Valley by the end of the second quarter. Starting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the Company sold new interests in GVPS to 13 individuals for \$3,603,600. A total of 26% of the interest has been sold as of year-end 2008.

63

---

**NOTE 11 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

Contingencies

The Company is subject to possible loss contingencies pursuant to federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. These include existing and potential obligations to investigate the effects of the release of certain hydro-carbons or other substances at various sites; to remediate or restore these sites; and to compensate others for damages and to make other payments as required by law or regulation. These obligations relate to sites owned by the Company or others, and are associated with past and present oil and gas operations.

The amount of such obligations is indeterminate and will depend on such factors as the unknown nature and extent of contamination, the unknown timing, extent and method of remedial actions which may be required, the determination of the Company's liability in proportion to other responsible parties, and the state of the law.

Natural Gas Contracts

The Company sells its gas under three separate gas contracts. During 2008, 2007, and 2006, the Company sold all of its produced gas under these agreements. The terms of the agreements are identical among the contracts. During 2008, 2007, and 2006, the terms of the agreements were as follows: 100% of the produced gas was sold at the monthly spot price.

Advances Receivable from Joint Venture Participants

As discussed in Note 1, the Company receives advances from joint venture participants, which represent funds raised to drill exploratory wells. The Company receives a carried working interest if the well is successfully drilled and completed. The Company acts as both the fiduciary agent and Operator during the period required to drill and equip the well, and as Operator while the well is produced. The Company is obligated to use these funds for expenditures of the joint venture prospect. The joint venture agreements specify that the Company must drill the subject well or substitute another prospect. Some agreements require that the interest earned on joint venture advances be credited to the project account. Expenditures of the projects are charged directly against the obligation.

The balance of the joint venture advance represents the sum of amounts contributed for drilling prospects, net of expenditures for the projects. Receivable balances are held and reduced as the Company raises more capital from participants. The balance at December 31, 2008 consists primarily of the following projects:

Opus

In May of 2002 the Company began raising funds for a one hundred million dollar wildcat exploration drilling program named OPUS-I. The program originally called for the drilling of 26 prospects, 23 in California and 3 in Nevada. As of December 31, 2006 the program has drilled twenty wells. The drilling portion of these prospects is turn-keyed, meaning the drilling portion is done for a fixed cost and the completion portion is done at the actual cost. However, in 2006, the OPUS I program changed to a development program for the Pleasant Valley, Temblor Valley and Moffat Ranch East properties.

The Opus Drilling Program joint venture status at December 31, 2008 is as follows:

Total Opus Contributions	\$ 85,921,289
Total Opus Expenditures	\$ 89,910,043
Remaining Receivable	\$ 3,988,754

Interest credited to joint account	\$ -
------------------------------------	------

**NOTE 11 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)**

Contractual Obligations and Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

The table below presents our fixed, non-cancelable contractual obligations and commitments primarily related to our outstanding purchase orders, certain capital expenditures and lease arrangements as of December 31, 2008

	Payments Due By Period				Total
	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	After 5 years	
Long term debt <sup>(1)</sup>	389,648	1,060,155	777,578	-	2,227,381
Operating lease commitments <sup>(2)</sup>	185,640	216,580	-	-	402,220
Total contractual cash obligations	\$ 575,288	\$1,276,735	\$ 777,578	-	\$ 2,629,601

(1) Represents cash obligations for principal payments and interest payments on various loans that are all secured by the asset financed. For further detail, see Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

(2) Lease agreement of corporate headquarters in Bakersfield, California, lease terms are until March 2011 at a monthly payment of \$15,470.

Asset Retirement Obligations

The following table summarizes the Company's asset retirement obligation transactions recorded in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 143 during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006.

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
<b>Beginning asset retirement obligations</b>	<b>\$ 240,394</b>	<b>\$ 216,714</b>	<b>\$ 92,108</b>
Liabilities assumed in acquisitions	33,341	<sup>(3)</sup> 2,380	<sup>(2)</sup> 111,364 <sup>(1)</sup>
Accretion of discount	54,110	21,300	13,242
<b>Ending asset retirement obligations</b>	<b>\$ 327,845</b>	<b>\$ 240,394</b>	<b>\$ 216,714</b>

1) The Company's portion of the liability for the plugging and abandonment of the wells acquired from the C & L/Crofton & Coffee lease, the Claflin lease and the SP/Chevron lease.

(2) The Company's portion of the liability for the plugging and abandonment of wells drilled from the Temblor Valley and Pleasant Valley acquisitions.

(3) The Company's portion of the liability for the plugging and abandonment of wells drilled from the Pleasant Valley and Moffat Ranch acquisitions.

**NOTE 12 ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSITIONS**Sale of interest in Tri-Western Resources, LLC and an industrial minerals site - Pro Forma Information

In 2006, the company had a \$9,715,604 gain on the sale of the operation, and had an operating loss of \$4,774,840 loss during the year.

The following pro forma unaudited financial information has been prepared by management to present consolidated financial results of operations of the Company to give effect to the loss of control over our interest in Tri-Western Resources, LLC. The pro forma condensed consolidated statement of losses for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 present pro forma results as if the Company never owned an interest in Tri-Western Resources.

The unaudited pro forma financial information is not necessarily indicative of the actual results of operations or the financial position which would have been attained had the acquisitions been consummated at either of the foregoing dates or which may be attained in the future.

**TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION****UNAUDITED PROFORMA CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF LOSSES****DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	For the year ended December 31, 2008		
	As Presented	Pro Forma Adjustment	Pro Forma
Total Revenue	\$ 8,124,699	-	\$ 8,124,699
Total Costs and Expenses	\$ 22,602,879	-	\$ 22,602,879
Net loss from continued operations	\$ (14,478,178)	-	\$ (14,478,178)
Income (loss) before minority interest	\$ (14,478,178)	-	\$ (14,478,178)
Minority interest	(269,005)	-	(269,005)
Net loss	(14,209,173)	-	(14,209,173)
Continued operations loss per common share	\$ (0.54)	-	\$ (0.54)
Basic loss per common share	\$ (0.54)	-	\$ (0.54)
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	26,664,682	-	26,664,682
Potentially dilutive shares outstanding	29,515,887	-	29,515,887

	For the year ended December 31, 2007		
	As Presented	Pro Forma Adjustment	Pro Forma
Total Revenue	\$ 11,016,107	-	\$ 11,016,107
Total Costs and Expenses	\$ 19,762,937	-	\$ 19,762,937
Net loss from continued operations	\$ (8,746,830)	-	\$ (8,746,830)
Income (loss) before minority interest	\$ (8,746,830)	-	\$ (8,746,830)
Minority interest	(139,939)	-	(139,939)
Net loss	(8,606,891)	-	(8,606,891)
Continued operations loss per common share	\$ (0.35)	-	\$ (0.35)
Basic loss per common share	\$ (0.35)	-	\$ (0.35)
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	24,723,766	-	24,723,766
Potentially dilutive shares outstanding	28,061,401	-	28,061,401





	For the year ended December 31, 2006		
	As Presented	Pro Forma Adjustment	Pro Forma
Total Revenue	\$ 4,936,723	\$ -	\$ 4,936,723
Total Costs and Expenses	\$ 10,817,999	\$ -	\$ 10,817,999
Net loss from continued operations	\$ (5,881,276)	\$ -	\$ (5,881,276)
Loss from discontinued operations	\$ (4,774,840)	\$ (4,774,840)	\$ -
Gain from sell of discontinued operations	\$ 9,715,604	\$ 9,715,604	\$ -
Income (loss) before minority interest	\$ (940,512)	\$ 4,940,764	\$ (5,881,276)
Minority interest	(27,341)	-	-
Net loss	(913,171)	\$ 4,940,764	\$ (5,881,276)
Discontinued operations earnings per common share	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.00
Basic loss per common share	\$ (0.04)	\$ ( 0.21)	\$ (0.25)
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	23,374,205	-	23,374,205
Potentially dilutive shares outstanding	26,377,537	-	26,377,537

### NOTE 13 INVESTMENT

In the second quarter of 2007, the Company received 150,000 stock options for Duluth Metals common stock for providing executive and geological services for Duluth Metals. The stock options are exercisable at \$0.30 Canadian. During the fourth quarter of 2007, the options were exercised and converted into stock at a cost of \$47,055. During 2008, 30,000 shares of stock were sold at an average price of \$2.82 Canadian. The Company follows the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 115 (SFAS 115), *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*. SFAS 115 requires companies to classify their investments as trading, available-for-sale or held-to-maturity. The Company's securities consist of stock which has been classified as available-for-sale. These are recorded in the financial statements at fair market value and any unrealized gains (losses) will be reported as a component of shareholder equity. At December 31, 2008, the cost basis net of write-downs, unrealized gains, unrealized losses and fair market value of the Company's holdings are as follows:

	December 31, 2008
Net cost of equities	\$ 347,056
Unrealized Losses	(314,388)
Fair Market Value	\$ 32,668

SFAS 115 requires that for each individual security classified as available-for-sale, a company shall determine whether a decline in fair value below the cost basis is other than temporary. If the decline in fair value is judged as such, the cost basis of the individual security shall be written down to fair value as a new cost basis and the amount of the write-down shall be reflected in other comprehensive income of the equity section. At December 31, 2008, the company's marketable securities had a fair market value of \$32,668. The net unrealized gain of \$68,384 for the fourth quarter is reported as accumulated other income bringing the net unrealized loss inception to date to \$191,309.

This investment was translated into U.S. Dollars in accordance with SFAS No. 52, *Foreign Currency Translation*. The investment was translated at the rate of exchange on the balance sheet date.



**NOTE 14 GOING CONCERN**

The Company had a cash balance of \$2.0 million as of December 31, 2008 which has subsequently decreased. Current liabilities as of December 31, 2008 were \$5.1 million which has subsequently increased. The Company is dependent upon continued capital formation for operating and general and administrative expenses for fiscal 2009.

A primary source for this capital has been investors in the TVOG Opus I Drilling Program LP and the private placement of our common stock. Although we have always been successful in the past at attracting sufficient capital, we do not know particularly in the current economic climate if additional financing will be available when needed. Insufficient funds may prevent us from continuing our operations.

The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent on additional sources of capital and the success of the Company's plan. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary if the Company is unable to continue as a going concern.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (unaudited)**

The following estimates of proved oil and gas reserves, both developed and undeveloped, represent interests owned by the Company located solely in the United States.

Disclosures of oil and gas reserves, which follow, are based on estimates prepared by independent petroleum engineers for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006. Such analyses are subject to numerous uncertainties inherent in the estimation of quantities of proved reserves and in the projection of future rates of production and the timing of development expenditures. These estimates do not include probable or possible reserves.

These estimates are furnished and calculated in accordance with requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Because of unpredictable variances in expenses and capital forecasts, crude oil and natural gas price changes, largely influenced and controlled by U.S. and foreign government actions, and the fact that the basis for such estimates vary significantly, management believes the usefulness of these projections is limited. Estimates of future net cash flows presented do not represent management's assessment of future profitability or future cash flows to the Company. Management's investment and operating decisions are based upon reserve estimates that include proved reserves as well as probable reserves, and upon different price and cost assumptions from those used here.

It should be recognized that applying current costs and prices and a 10 percent standard discount rate does not convey fair market value. The discounted amounts arrived at are only one measure of the value of proved reserves.

Capitalized costs relating to oil and gas producing activities and related accumulated depletion, depreciation and amortization were as follows:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Aggregate capitalized costs:			
Proved properties	\$ 1,175,566	\$ 3,026,660	\$ 2,169,496
Unproved properties	1,616,919	2,414,843	2,792,340
Accumulated depletion, depreciation and amortization	(1,022,021)	(882,753)	(761,571)
Net capitalized assets	\$ 1,770,464	\$ 4,558,750	\$ 4,200,265
Supplemental Information (unaudited)			

The following sets forth costs incurred for oil and gas property acquisition, exploration and development activities, whether capitalized or expensed, during:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Acquisition of producing properties and productive and non-productive acreage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000
Exploration costs and development activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Supplemental Information (unaudited)**

Results Of Operations From Oil And Gas Producing Activities

The results of operations from oil and gas producing activities are as follows:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Sales to unaffiliated parties	\$ 3,322,353	\$ 791,279	\$ 1,074,606
Production costs	(1,291,115)	(430,068)	(388,700)
Depletion, depreciation and amortization	(164,993)	(229,354)	(159,289)
	1,866,245	131,857	526,617
Income tax expense	-	-	-
Results of operations from activities before extraordinary items (excluding corporate Overhead and interest costs)	\$ 1,866,245	\$ 131,857	\$ 526,617

Changes In Estimated Reserve Quantities

The net interest in estimated quantities of proved developed and undeveloped reserves of crude oil and natural gas at December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, and changes in such quantities during each of the years then ended, were as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2008</u>		<u>December 31, 2007</u>		<u>December 31, 2006</u>	
	<u>Oil</u> <u>(BBL)</u>	<u>Gas</u> <u>(MCF)</u>	<u>Oil</u> <u>(BBL)</u>	<u>Gas</u> <u>(MCF)</u>	<u>Oil</u> <u>(BBL)</u>	<u>Gas</u> <u>(MCF)</u>
Proved developed and undeveloped reserves:						
Beginning of year	372,048	791,128	275,452	787,017	218,030	779,598
Revisions (a), (b), (d), (e), (h),	(345,749)	(50,115)	(44,448)	20,299	(65,673)	88,336
Purchases (f), (i)	-	-	148,049	-	125,413	-
Improved recovery (c), (g), (j)	-	56,982	-	29,741	4,282	5,260
Production	<u>(26,299)</u>	<u>(102,070)</u>	<u>(7,006)</u>	<u>(45,928)</u>	<u>(6,600)</u>	<u>(86,177)</u>
End of year	<u>-</u>	<u>695,931</u>	<u>372,047</u>	<u>791,128</u>	<u>275,452</u>	<u>787,017</u>
Proved developed reserves:						
Beginning of year	<u>372,048</u>	<u>791,128</u>	<u>275,452</u>	<u>787,017</u>	<u>154,673</u>	<u>779,598</u>
End of year	-	695,931	372,048	791,128	275,452	787,017

(a) In 2008, our estimated proved reserves were reduced by 49,771 mcf from current evaluations of the Hanson Lease and Webb Tract # 1 wells. Gas reserve estimates of 344 mcf for one small, non-operated lease were reduced to zero.

(b) In December 2008, the average oil price for properties we operated was \$30.126, which is \$53.372 lower than the previous year evaluation average oil price of \$83.498 (a decrease of 63.92%). Due to the dramatic drop in oil

**Supplemental Information (unaudited)**

prices, all producing properties in which Tri-Valley held interests at year end were operating at uneconomic levels when assessed applying the parameters prescribed by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, at year end, oil reserves were reduced by 345,749 barrels, to zero (a 100% decrease).

(c) In 2008, completion of wells in the Moffat Ranch Field and extended production of the Martins-Severin # 6 and Webb Tract # 2 wells increased reserves by 56,982 mcf.

(d) In 2007, 44,448 barrels of oil, previously classified as proved undeveloped, were eliminated from reserves because wells drilled did not justify further development in Kern County, California.

(e) In 2007, our estimated proved developed producing gas reserves were revised upward by 20,299 mcf as a result of improved performance on a producing lease in Solano County, California.

(f) In 2007, we drilled and completed an oil well in Ventura County, California. Two additional wells drilled in Ventura County in 2007 were completed as oil wells in 2008.

(g) In 2007, improved recovery estimates on proved developed producing gas wells resulted from a partially successful recompletion and improved performance from leases in Contra Costa County, California.

(h) In 2006, our estimated proved developed producing gas reserves were revised upward by 175,295 mcf as a result of improved performance on a producing lease in Solano County, California. This was partially offset by a net downward revision of 86,959 mcf to proved developed non-producing reserves and a minor change in proved developed non-producing oil reserves due to a partially successful recompletion that was not as beneficial as expected in Contra Costa County, California. In 2006, 63,357 barrels of oil, previously classified as proved undeveloped, were eliminated from reserves after two new wells drilled did not justify further development. This drilling activity also resulted in reduction of proved developed non-producing oil reserves by 3,380 barrels and an increase in proved producing oil reserves of 1,065 barrels.

(i) In the third quarter of 2006, we purchased two properties in Kern County, California, which are estimated to contain 125,413 barrels of proved non-producing oil reserves.

(j) In 2006, improved recovery estimates on proved developed producing gas wells resulted from a partially successful recompletion and improved performance from leases in Contra Costa County.

**Standardized Measure Of Discounted Future Net Cash Flows Relating To Proved Oil And Gas Reserves**

A standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows is presented below for the year ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006.

The future net cash inflows are developed as follows:

- (1) Estimates are made of quantities of proved reserves and the future periods during which they are expected to be produced based on year-end economic conditions.
- (2) The estimated future production of proved reserves is priced on the basis of year-end prices.
- (3) The resulting future gross revenue streams are reduced by estimated future costs to develop and to produce proved reserves, based on year end cost estimates.
- (4) The resulting future net revenue streams are reduced to present value amounts by applying a ten percent discount.

Disclosure of principal components of the standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows provides information concerning the factors involved in making the calculation. In addition, the disclosure of both undiscounted and discounted net cash flows provides a measure of comparing proved oil and gas reserves both with



**Supplemental Information (unaudited)**

and without an estimate of production timing. The standardized measure of discounted future net cash flows relating to proved reserves reflects income taxes.

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Future cash in flows	\$ 4,911,415	\$ 36,745,611	\$ 19,415,065
Future production and development costs	(1,406,356)	(12,714,080)	(5,858,187)
Future income tax expenses	(200,908)	(1,568,917)	(722,868)
Future net cash flows	3,304,151	22,462,614	12,834,010
10% annual discount for estimated timing of cash flows	1,557,893	10,138,224	6,712,715
Standardized measure of discounted future net cash flow	\$ 1,746,258	\$ 12,324,390	\$ 6,121,295

\* Refer to the following table for analysis in changes in standardized measure.

Changes In Standardized Measure Of Discounted Future Net Cash Flow From Proved Reserve Quantities

This statement discloses the sources of changes in the standardized measure from year to year. The amount reported as "Net changes in prices and production costs" represents the present value of changes in prices and production costs multiplied by estimates of proved reserves as of the beginning of the year. The "accretion of discount" was computed by multiplying the ten percent discount factor by the standardized measure as of the beginning of the year. The "Sales of oil and gas produced, net of production costs" is expressed in actual dollar amounts. "Revisions of previous quantity estimates" is expressed at year-end prices.

The "Net change in income taxes" is computed as the change in present value of future income taxes.

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
Standardized measure - beginning of period	\$ 12,324,390	\$ 6,121,295	\$ 7,056,072
Sales of oil and gas produced, net of production costs	(3,090,340)	(690,155)	(640,515)
Revisions of estimates of reserves provided in prior years:			
Net changes in prices	973,607	8,801,793	(2,215,972)
Revisions of previous quantity estimates	2,641,502	1,641,446	(2,512,220)
Extensions and discoveries	86,986	4,718,914	-
Property acquisition	-	-	2,370,080
Accretion of discount	1,485,846	(15,970,845)	434,411
Changes in production and development costs.	(11,307,724)	6,855,893	1,566,035
Net change in income taxes	(1,368,009)	846,049	63,404
Net increase (decrease)	10,578,132	6,203,095	(934,777)
<b>Standardized measure - end of period</b>	<b>\$ 1,746,258</b>	<b>\$ 12,324,390</b>	<b>\$ 6,121,295</b>



**Supplemental Information (unaudited)**Quarterly Financial Data (unaudited)

	2008 First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,678,847	\$ 2,262,189	\$ 1,425,456	\$ 2,758,206
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,107,883)	\$ (3,340,668)	\$ (1,197,399)	\$ (7,832,228)
Net Income per Common Share - Basic	\$ (0.09)	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.27)
	2007 First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,516,300	\$ 1,299,709	\$ 3,912,591	\$ 4,004,721
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (2,402,019)	\$ (2,810,243)	\$ (1,038,643)	\$ (2,355,986)
Net Income per Common Share - Basic	\$ (0.09)	\$ (0.11)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.10)
	2006 First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Operating Revenues	\$ 369,765	\$ 978,340	\$ 1,356,311	\$ 2,532,307
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (3,064,107)	\$ (3,240,179)	\$ (2,673,198)	\$ 8,064,313*
Net Income (Loss) per Common Share	\$ (0.13)	\$ (0.14)	\$ (0.11)	\$ 0.34

\* In the fourth quarter we sold Tri-Western Resources and an associated building for a net gain of \$9,715,604.

## ITEM 9A Controls and Procedures

### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls

The Company conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of December 31, 2008.

Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report were effective as of December 31, 2008 as discussed in Management's Report on Internal Control.

### Limitations on the Effectiveness of Controls

Our management, including our CEO and CFO, does not expect that our Disclosure Controls or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the objectives of a control system are met. Further, any control system reflects limitations on resources, and the benefits of a control system must be considered relative to its costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within Tri-Valley Corporation have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of a control. A design of a control system is also based upon certain assumptions about potential future conditions; over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and may not be detected.

### Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined by SEC rules adopted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Our internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. It consists of policies and procedures that:

Pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets;

Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and

Provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the President and Chief Financial Officer, we made an assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. In making this assessment, we used the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on our evaluation, we concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was not effective as of December 31, 2008. A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in there being more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the annual or interim financial statements



will not be prevented or detected. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects a company's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process and report external financial data reliably in accordance with GAAP. While our control deficiencies have not resulted in any material misstatements of account balances or disclosures that we are aware of, they could result in misstatements or disclosures which could cause a material misstatement of annual or interim financial statements that would not be prevented or detected. Accordingly, management has determined that these control deficiencies constitute a material weakness.

In connection with management's assessment of our internal control over financial reporting, we identified two material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008:

- 1) We did not maintain effective controls, including procedures, over accounting for property and equipment. System of controls over existence and valuation are not being followed to ensure that asset retirement obligations are properly calculated and valued. As a result, asset retirements may not be identified and their values may not properly be assessed and adjusted for based on their status in the proper accounting period.
- 2) We did not maintain effective controls related to the initiation, recording and processing of transactions related to the preparation and review of documentation to support financial statement close procedures.

Because of the two material weaknesses described above, management has concluded that we did not maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on the *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by COSO.

#### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There have not been any changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2008 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

#### **Remediation of Material Weaknesses in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

It is management's goal to remediate these material weaknesses as soon as feasible during 2009

management will communicate its endorsement and reinforce its commitment to maintaining sound and effective internal controls with all staff;

management will strive to fully staff and train accounting professionals so that sufficient preparation time and review time will be available to increase the accuracy level of financial transactions.

management will review and improve procedures to reduce the likelihood of errors in recording financial transactions.

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and

Stockholders of Tri-Valley Corporation

Bakersfield, California

We have audited Tri-Valley Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Tri-Valley Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying report from management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

A material weakness is a control deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. The following material weakness has been identified and included in management's assessment: A lack of controls, or ineffective application of controls related to the initiation, recording and processing of certain transactions related to preparation and review of documentation to support financial statement close

76

---

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

procedures. This material weakness was considered in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit tests applied in our audit of the 2008 financial statements, and this report does not affect our report dated March 30, 2009 on those financial statements.

In our opinion, because of the effect of the material weakness described above on the achievement of the objectives of the control criteria, Tri-Valley Corporation has not maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the balance sheets and the related statements of income, stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows of Tri-Valley Corporation, and our report dated March 30, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion.

BROWN ARMSTRONG PAULDEN  
McCOWN STARBUCK THORNBURGH & KEETER  
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Bakersfield, California

March 30, 2009

**PART III****ITEM 10 Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant**

All of our directors serve one year terms from the time of their election to the time their successor is elected and qualified. The following information is furnished with respect to each director and executive officer who served as such during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008:

Name of Director	Age	Year First Became Director or Executive Officer	Position With Company
F. Lynn Blystone	73	1974	CHOB, President, CEO, Director, TVC, CEO and Director, TVOG CEO, Director Select
Loren J. Miller <sup>(1)(6)</sup>	63	1992	Director
Henry Lowenstein, Ph.D. <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	54	2005	Director
G. Thomas Gamble <sup>(1)(2)(6)</sup>	47	2006	Director
Paul W. Bateman <sup>(1)(6)</sup>	51	2007	Director
Edward M. Gabriel <sup>(3)</sup>	58	2007	Director
James S. Mayer <sup>(6)</sup>	51	2008	Director
Arthur M. Evans	60	2005	Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer
Joseph R. Kandle	66	1999	President, TVOG
James G. Bush	59	2007	President, Select

(1)- Member of Audit Committee

(2)- Member of Personnel & Compensation Committee

(3)- Member of Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

(4)- Member of Finance Committee



## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

### **F. Lynn Blystone - 73**

President and Chief Executive Officer of Tri-Valley Corporation 1974 and Tri-Valley Power Corporation, CEO of Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company and Select Resources Corporation, which are three wholly owned subsidiaries of Tri-Valley Corporation - Bakersfield, California

Mr. Blystone became president of Tri-Valley Corporation in October, 1981, and was nominally vice president from July to October, 1981. His background includes institution management, venture capital and various management functions for a mainline pipeline contractor including the Trans Alaska Pipeline Project. He has founded, run and sold companies in several fields including Learjet charter, commercial construction, municipal finance and land development. He is also president of a family corporation, Bandera Land Company, Inc., with real estate interests in Orange County California. A graduate of Whittier College, California, he did graduate work at George Williams College, Illinois in organization management. He gives full time to Tri-Valley and its subsidiaries.

### **James S. Mayer 51**

Director

2008

Since 2007, Mr. Mayer has been the President of Magic Investment Projects, LLC, a U.S. private equity firm. He formerly served as the first vice president, investments for Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. from 2005-2006 and as vice president, alternative investments group for Merrill Lynch from 1999-2005. Prior to that, he was executive vice president of North American operations for Netzsch Inc., a large private German firm. He served as director, strategic business development for the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. Mr. Mayer has a bachelor's degree in chemistry with a minor in physics from State University of New York with graduate studies in finance, securities law, alternative investments and international marketing. He serves on the Finance Committee. Mr. Mayer was appointed to the Board of Directors in August 2008. He is an independent member of our Board of Directors.

### **Loren J. Miller, CPA 63**

Director

1992

Mr. Miller has served as Treasurer of the Jankovich Company from 2001 until his retirement in 2008. Prior to that he served in other positions at Jankovich from 1994 to 2001. He served successively as vice president and chief financial officer of Hershey Oil Corporation from 1987 to 1990 and Mock Resources from 1991 to 1992. He was senior financial vice president and general manager of Tosco Production Finance Corporation from 1975 to 1986 and was a senior auditor for the accounting firm of Touche Ross & Company from 1968 to 1973. Mr. Miller is a member of financial executive international, the nation's leading senior financial executive organization and is currently serving as president of the Los Angeles chapter. He is experienced in exploration, production, product trading, refining and distribution as well as corporate finance. He holds a B.S. in accounting and a M.B.A. in finance from the University of Southern California. Mr. Miller is an independent member of our Board of Directors.

### **Henry Lowenstein, Ph.D - 54**

Director

2005

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Dr. Lowenstein is Dean and Professor of Management at the E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina. Prior to joining the Coastal Carolina University faculty in 2007, he was Dean of Business and Public Administration at California State University Bakersfield since 2000. Dr. Lowenstein has broad background in management within business, academic, government and public service organizations. He serves on the Pre-Accreditation Committee of AACSB International, the top accreditation agency for business schools worldwide. Previous academic positions include universities in Illinois, Virginia and West Virginia. Dr. Lowenstein is published in fields of human resource management, public policy and transportation. In business he was a corporate officer for Kemper Group-Insurance and Financial Services, Dominion Bankshares Corporation, and Americana Furniture, Inc. He previously served as a management analyst for the Executive Office of the President of the United States-Office of Management and Budget under the Gerald Ford Administration. Dr. Lowenstein received his Ph.D. in Labor and Industrial Relations from the University of Illinois; an M.B.A. from George Washington University; and B.S. in Business Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. He serves on Tri-Valley's Personnel and Compensation Committee and is Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Dr. Lowenstein is an independent member of our Board of Directors.

### **G. Thomas Gamble - 47**

Director

2006

A graduate of UCLA, Mr. Gamble is a successful rancher and businessman with current active investments in agriculture, food processing, educational services, oil, gas and minerals. From 2001 to the present, Mr. Gamble is a manager and partner in Davis and Gamble, a wine production and sales company. In 2003, the California State Senate proclaimed privately owned Davies and Gamble, which produces critically acclaimed wines in California's Napa Valley, its Green Entrepreneur Of The Year, and in 2005, Mozzarella Fresca, the nation's premier producer of fresh Italian cheeses, of which he is a director and original investor, received the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition as business of the year. He is also a director and original investor in Boston Reed College which provides educational opportunities to busy adults seeking stable and growing careers in the California health care industry. Mr. Gamble is an independent member of our Board of Directors.

### **Paul W. Bateman - 51**

Director

2007

Mr. Bateman is President of the Klein & Saks Group, a Washington, DC-based firm that advises clients, principally in the mining and metals industries, on public policy matters. He joined the firm in 1994 and became its president in 1997. He began his career in the late 1970s, as an aide to then former President Richard Nixon. In 1981, he joined the White House staff under President Reagan and subsequently served in that Administration in senior positions at the Departments of Commerce and Treasury. From 1989 to 1993, he served on President George H.W. Bush's White House staff as Deputy Assistant to the President for Management. Since 2005, Mr. Bateman has been the Chairman and chief executive of the International Cyanide Management Institute, which administers a voluntary industry program aimed at improving the management of cyanide used in gold mining. He is a member of the Economic Club of New York, the nation's leading nonpartisan policy forum, and was its president from 2004-2007. He is currently the Chairman of the Reform Institute, a nonpartisan think tank dedicated to advancing a solutions-based reform agenda. Mr. Bateman is an independent member of our Board of Directors.

### **Edward M. Gabriel - 58**

Director

2007

Dr. Gabriel is the former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco and since 2002 is President and CEO of the Washington D.C. based public affairs firm, The Gabriel Company, LLC. Ambassador Gabriel brings a diverse background in a variety of petroleum and other energy sources. Mr. Gabriel's experience is both domestic and international, with extensive relationships in U.S. and Middle Eastern governments, as well as capital resources interested in energy. He is on the advisory board of Guggenheim Partners, a private wealth management firm. His career includes senior management positions with firms such as CONCORD and Madison Public Affairs Group in which he advised Fortune 100 Companies on multi-national matters in technology, energy, banking, environmental, and tax policies. Ambassador Gabriel served the Federal Energy Administration/U.S. Department of Energy as Senior Economic Analysts. He serves as Member, Global Advisory Board of George Washington University and Vice-Chairman of the American Task Force for Lebanon. He is on the board of directors of the American School of Tangier and the Casablanca American School. He is a graduate of Gannon University, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Gannon, and he is a member of the University Economics Honor Society. Mr. Gabriel is an independent member of our board of directors.



## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

**Arthur M. Evans, CPA, CMA, CFM - 60** Chief Financial Officer of Tri-Valley Corporation, and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company, Tri-Valley Power Corporation, Select Resources Corporation and Great Valley Production Services, Inc. 2005

Bakersfield, California

Named as Tri-Valley Corporation's chief financial officer in November 2005. Prior to coming to Tri-Valley, Art was a self-employed financial consultant from 2000 to 2005. Mr. Evans has a full range of accounting, mergers and acquisitions and financial management experience in several industries as well as oil, gas and mining and with Fortune 500 companies as well as independents like Tri-Valley. He held several senior financial management positions with Getty Oil and Texaco. He holds a B.S. in accounting from Weber State University, a M.B.A. in finance from Golden State University and a M.S. in systems management from the University of Southern California. His professional designations include Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant and Certified Financial Manager.

**Joseph R. Kandle - 66** President and Chief Operating Officer Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company, wholly owned subsidiary of Tri-Valley Corporation Bakersfield, California 1998

Mr. Kandle was named as president of Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Co. February 1999 after joining the Company June 1998 as vice president - engineering. From 1995 to 1998 he was employed as a petroleum engineer for R & R Resources, self-employed as a consulting petroleum engineer from 1994 to 1995. He was vice president - engineering for Atlantic Oil Company from 1983 to 1994. From 1981 to 1983 he was vice president for Star Resources. He was vice president and chief engineer for Great Basins Petroleum from 1973 to 1981. He began his career with Mobil Oil (from 1965 to 1973) after graduating from the Montana School of Mines in 1965.

**James G. Bush - 59** Vice President Exploration Tri-Valley Oil & Gas Company, wholly owned subsidiary of Tri-Valley Corporation Bakersfield, California 2007

Mr. Bush joined the Company in June 2007. Mr. Bush brings a wide range of experience with over 30 years in the natural resource industry (oil, gas, and minerals), the consulting business, and in heavy industry. Prior to Tri-Valley, Jim spent 10 years with the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a manager of Business and Technology Development from 1996 to 2007, and the previous 10 years with ICF Kaiser Engineers. Prior to that, he worked for Atlantic Richfield (on and off-shore Alaska and Texas), Aspen Exploration, and the Anaconda Copper Co. His areas of expertise include oil and gas exploration and drilling, uranium exploration and drilling, and metals exploration, with particular expertise in gold placer exploration and mining (he was the finding geologist for Alaska's recent Valdez Creek gold mine). Jim received his Bachelors of Science degree in Geology from Ohio State University and his Masters of Science from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Jim is certified by the American Institute of Professional Geologists, and is a registered geologist in the States of Alaska and Washington. It should be noted that Jim also served three years in the U.S. Navy Seabees.

### Audit Committee

The independent directors that serve on the audit committee are Loren J. Miller, Chair, Paul W. Bateman and G. Thomas Gamble. The board of directors has determined that Loren J. Miller is considered to be the audit committee financial expert. Please see his biography above.



## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

### Finance Committee

The independent directors that serve on the finance committee are G. Thomas Gamble, Chair, Loren J. Miller, Paul W. Bateman and James S. Mayer.

### Personnel and Compensation Committee

The independent directors that serve on the personnel and compensation committee are Dr. Henry Lowenstein, Chair and G. Thomas Gamble.

### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The independent directors that serve on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Dr. Henry Lowenstein, Chair and Edward M. Gabriel.

### Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Securities and Exchange Commission regulations require that the Company's directors, certain officers, and greater than 10 percent shareholders file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC and must furnish the Company with copies of all such reports they file. Based solely on the information furnished to the Company, we believe that no person failed to file required Section 16(a) reports on a timely basis during 2007.

### Code of Ethics

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to our directors, officers and employees. The code is also posted on our website ([www.tri-valleycorp.com](http://www.tri-valleycorp.com)).

## **ITEM 11 Executive Compensation**

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

The core mission of Tri-Valley Corporation is *to increase the value and liquidity of Tri-Valley stock in order to build the wealth of Tri-Valley Corporation investors*. To fulfill this mission, we have developed a tightly defined business strategy. This strategy is to identify, obtain, and transform exploration projects of exceptional size and potential where exploration, discovery, and operational success may substantially grow the intrinsic value of the company and market value of its stock to investors.

Tri Valley strives to incorporate a team approach to its business in order to achieve strong operating and financial results. Consistent with this philosophy, Tri-Valley maintains a policy of executive compensation commensurate with long-term risk-value assumed by Tri-Valley Corporation investors and shareholders. Consequently, Tri-Valley's Chief Executive Officer compensation is structured in the form of a base cash compensation recognized to be below comparative peer corporate levels, coupled with stock options which may result in competitive to above-competitive levels at some future date, depending on the market performance of TIV's stock.

The philosophy of low base salary coupled with options has now been implemented in the recruitment of executives at the Vice President level of Tri-Valley and its subsidiary companies. This approach has proven successful in attracting key talented individuals with major industry experience who share the Company's long-term shareholder value philosophy and performance motivation. Given the competitive human resources market and industry within which Tri-Valley Corporation operates, equity options are now being used to secure key staff and operating personnel within the organization as a means to counterbalance lower base compensation.



## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

### Overview of Tri-Valley Corporation Executive Compensation Program

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (CD&A) reviews the compensation policies and decisions of the Personnel and Compensation Committee with respect to the following individuals:

F. Lynn Blystone, CEO and President, Tri-Valley Corporation

Arthur M. Evans, CFO, Tri-Valley Corporation

Joseph Kandle, President, Tri-Valley Oil & Gas

James G. Bush, President, Select Resources, Tri-Valley Corporation

Tri-Valley Corporation executive compensation program has fixed compensation elements, which comprise base salary and benefits, as well as variable compensation elements related to performance. Each compensation component is described in further detail below.

### Objectives of Tri-Valley Corporation Executive Compensation Program

Tri-Valley Corporation believes the skill and dedication of Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers and other management personnel are critical factors impacting Tri-Valley Corporation's long-term success in meeting its business objectives as well as fostering growth and profitability. Accordingly, the Personnel and Compensation Committee has designed Tri-Valley Corporation's compensation program in accordance with the company's compensation philosophy, the objectives of which are to:

motivate and retain Tri-Valley Corporation current executive officers,

attract new executives with the requisite skill sets to implement and achieve Tri-Valley Corporation business strategy, and

align executive compensation with the attainment of strategic business objectives that increase shareholder value.

### Setting Executive Compensation and Role of the Personnel and Compensation Committee, Management, and Corporate Board of Directors

The Personnel and Compensation Committee reviews, monitors, evaluates and recommends Tri-Valley Corporation executive compensation policies and programs to the Corporate Board of Directors. The Committee recommends both current compensation levels and short and long term incentives for Tri-Valley Corporation executives to the Corporate Board of Directors. In order to perform its function, the Personnel and Compensation Committee relies, in part, on input from the Chief Executive Officer and other members of senior management in determining the needs of Tri-Valley Corporation and their perceptions of the employment market environment in which the corporation operates. Input from the human resources department of Tri-Valley Corporation is important in determining availability of talent, and, from the Chief Financial Officer, in determining appropriate resource ability of the company for compensation.

### Use of Benchmarking and Peer Company Comparisons



The Personnel and Compensation Committee strives to support an executive compensation program that is structured to provide Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers with compensation packages which are commensurate with the Corporation's size and sufficient to retain personnel considered essential. To achieve this objective, the Personnel and Compensation Committee compares all compensation components for Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers, at least annually, with data on similar positions at other organizations in Tri-Valley Corporation industry that are similar in number of employees, level of operations, gross revenue and total assets with which we compete for talent.

Tri-Valley researched comparative market data on executive compensation practices and programs (the Survey Data ) based on an analysis of six (6) energy related companies that are competitors of Tri-Valley Corporation (the Peer Group ). ~~The~~ Peer Group, reviewed annually by the Personnel and Compensation Committee, is used to

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

benchmark executive compensation levels against companies that have executive positions with responsibilities similar in breadth and scope to Tri-Valley Corporation and have global businesses that compete with us for executive talent. With this information, the Personnel and Compensation Committee reviews and analyzes the Survey Data for each senior executive officer as well as general economic conditions and marketplace compensation trends, and recommends adjustments as appropriate.

The following six (6) companies comprised the Peer Group used for the Personnel and Compensation Committee's 2008 compensation decisions: Gasco Energy, Panhandle Oil & Gas, PrimeEnergy, CanArgo Energy, Meridian ResTri-Valley Corporation and Double Eagle Petroleum. These companies were selected as peers based upon the fact that all six (6) of peer companies are in the oil exploration and production industry, based on the availability of the data related to the company, based on the level of operational sophistication, and based on market capitalization. Tri-Valley uses the same six (6) companies in its corporate Survey Data and Peer Group for last year's 2007 Annual Report. The corporation believes that the peer group used for Tri-Valley Corporation compensation decisions provides a more appropriate comparison for Tri-Valley Corporation compensation program.

In addition to the Peer Group noted above, the Personnel and Compensation Committee uses nationally recognized compensation surveys to assess the broader market competitiveness of Tri-Valley Corporation executive compensation. This data is the product of published and private surveys Tri-Valley Corporation representing compensation amounts for similar positions within Tri-Valley Corporation industry. The Personnel and Compensation Committee uses data from these surveys to provide additional data against which they may compare the competitiveness of Tri-Valley Corporation executive compensation based against the broader market. Collectively, this competitive market data provides a frame of reference for the Personnel and Compensation Committee when evaluating executive compensation, but is not the determinative factor for the compensation of Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers.

By comparing the peer group numbers to the Tri-Valley executive compensation table, Tri-Valley baseline executive compensation is approximately 25% of industry average for President/CEO and 35% of industry average for Senior Officers and Vice-Presidents.

These results assure shareholders that Tri-Valley Corporation does not engage in excessive executive compensation. It is further assurance that Tri-Valley Corporation executives, like Tri-Valley Corporation shareholders, accept compensation based upon the long-term performance of TIV toward its ultimate attainment of rewards tomorrow that would in other organizations be received today.

*Section 162(m).* The Company believes that all compensation paid or payable to its executive officers covered under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code will qualify for deductibility under such Section.

### Compensation Components

Tri-Valley Corporation executive and key management compensation is comprised of three major components: (1) base salary evaluated annually by the Personnel and Compensation Committee, with recommendations to the Board as appropriate; (2) non-guaranteed annual cash bonuses awarded based on individual performance and the performance of Tri-Valley Corporation company; and (3) long-term equity-based incentives, typically delivered through stock option and/or restricted stock grants awarded based on individual performance and the performance of Tri-Valley Corporation. Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers may also be eligible for other elements of indirect compensation, comprised of health and welfare benefits, retirement and savings plans and certain perquisites. These are provided on a non-discriminatory basis to all of Tri-Valley Corporation employees. The Personnel and Compensation Committee considers each of these elements when evaluating the overall compensation program design.

Base Salary

The Personnel and Compensation Committee establishes base salaries that are sufficient to attract and retain individuals with the qualities it believes necessary for Tri-Valley Corporation long-term financial success and that are competitive in the marketplace. An executive officer's base salary generally reflects the officer's responsibilities, risk, tenure, job performance, and direct competition for the executive officer's services. The Personnel and

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Compensation Committee reviews the base salaries of each executive officer, including the Chief Executive Officer, on an annual basis. In addition to these annual reviews, the Personnel and Compensation Committee may at any time review the salary of an executive officer who has received a significant promotion, whose responsibilities have been increased significantly or who is the object of competitive pressure. Any adjustments are based on the results of the annual review of market salary data, increases in the cost of living, job performance of the executive officer over time and the expansion of duties and responsibilities, if any. No pre-determined weight, formula, or emphasis is placed on any one of these factors.

### Annual Cash Bonus Awards

*Guaranteed Bonuses.* There are no guaranteed annual bonuses per the employment contracts of all Tri-Valley executives.

*Annual Incentive Compensation.* Annual cash bonus awards are subjective and non-guaranteed. If distributed, annual cash bonus awards are intended to compensate, and thus provide incentives to, individuals for exceptional effort and job performance, thereby facilitating Tri-Valley Corporation's continued growth and success by providing rewards that are commensurate with individual achievement. Cash bonus awards are favored by the Personnel and Compensation Committee in situations where it believes that an executive is worthy of an incentive-based award and when it believes that the base salary of such executive is not at the level of competitiveness that the Personnel and Compensation Committee feels appropriate. The Personnel and Compensation Committee considers the achievements of Tri-Valley Corporation, and the employee's relationship thereto, in order to determine the level of the cash bonus, if any, to be awarded. The Personnel and Compensation Committee's considerations focus on Tri-Valley Corporation earnings, the return on shareholders' equity, the growth in proved oil and gas reserves and the successful completion of specific projects to determine the level of bonus awards, if any.

### Long-Term Equity Based Incentives

Stock option and restricted stock awards are utilized for aligning the executives' interests with those of the shareholders by giving each executive an individual direct ownership in Tri-Valley Corporation. The company further believes these awards serve as an incentive to remain with Tri-Valley Corporation since unvested stock grants and options are forfeited should the executive terminate their employment. The Personnel and Compensation Committee focuses on Tri-Valley Corporation's earnings, the return on shareholders' equity, growth in proved oil and gas reserves and the successful completion of specific projects to determine the level of stock option and restricted awards, if any. The Personnel and Compensation Committee recommends awards of stock options in order to provide a form of tangible compensation which is also tied to Tri-Valley Corporation performance and provides incentives to retain an employee. Stock option awards are given as long-term incentives to Tri-Valley Corporation employees to establish a vested interest in Tri-Valley Corporation performance and to remain an employee over the long term. Decisions to grant stock options are normally made when industry conditions cause concern of serious employee turnover. Periodic long-term equity based incentives are recommended by the Personnel and Compensation Committee to the executive officers.

### Other Benefits

In addition to base salaries, annual cash bonus awards and long-term equity-based incentives, Tri-Valley Corporation provides the following other forms of compensation:

*401(k) Profit Sharing Plan.* TIV has a defined contribution profit sharing/401(k) plan, designed to assist Tri-Valley Corporation eligible officers and employees in providing for their retirement. The company matches the contributions of

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Tri-Valley Corporation employees to the plan, in cash, at the rate of up to three percent (3%) of an employee's wages or salary. Tri-Valley Corporation matching contribution vests immediately upon receipt.

85

---

*Health and Welfare Benefits.* Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers are eligible to participate in medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and flexible healthcare spending accounts to meet their health and welfare needs. These benefits are provided so as to assure a competitive compensation position in terms of attracting and retaining officers and other employees. This is a fixed component of compensation and the benefits are provided on a non-discriminatory basis to all employees.

#### Employment Agreements, Severance Benefits, and Change in Control Provisions

Tri-Valley Corporation maintains employment and other compensatory agreements with certain of its corporate officers to ensure they will perform their roles for an extended period of time. Certain provisions contained in these agreements, such as change in control payments are essential to retaining Tri-Valley Corporation talent and protecting Tri-Valley Corporation stockholders. The company believes it is appropriate to compensate individuals to refrain from working with competitors following termination, and its compensation enhances the enforceability of such agreements. These executive agreements and Tri-Valley Corporation severance terminology are described in more detail elsewhere within this report. These agreements provide for severance compensation to be paid should the officer's employment terminate under certain defined conditions, such as among others, following a corporate change, involuntary termination, termination by us for cause, death or disability, each as defined in the applicable executive's agreement.

The employment and other compensation agreements between Tri-Valley Corporation and *Named Executive Officers* and the related severance provisions are designed to provide incentive to those officers to remain in Tri-Valley Corporation employ. Tri-Valley Corporation agreements with the Named Executive Officers provide different types of compensation for terminations with cause, termination without cause and for circumstances involving a change of control of the company. By providing minimal or no benefits in the cases of voluntary resignation or termination with cause, the Named Executive Officers are motivated to remain in the employ of Tri-Valley and perform their duties as required. On the other hand, they are given security and are encouraged to remain with Tri-Valley Corporation by providing extra compensation and benefits in the event of termination without cause or in conjunction with a change in control.

#### Stock Ownership Guidelines and Hedging Prohibition

Tri-Valley Corporation Insider Trading Policy prohibits Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers from entering into certain types of derivative transactions related to Tri-Valley Corporation common stock.

#### Tax Treatment of Executive Compensation Decisions

In conducting Tri-Valley Corporation executive compensation programs, the Personnel and Compensation Committee considers the effects of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, which denies publicly-held companies a tax deduction for annual compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to their chief executive officer or any of the corporation's four other most highly compensated corporate officers, other than the chief financial officer, who is employed on the last day of a given year, unless their compensation is based on performance criteria that are established by a committee of outside directors and approved, as to their material terms, by Tri-Valley Corporation stockholders. The company has in the past and may from time to time in the future, pay compensation that is not deductible to Tri-Valley Corporation executive officers.

#### Accounting Treatment of Executive Compensation Decisions

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Tri-Valley Corporation accounts for stock-based awards based on their grant date fair value, as determined under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Board No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* ( SFAS 123(R) ). Compensation expense for these awards, to the extent such awards are expected to vest, is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the award (or to an employee's eligible retirement date, if earlier). If the award is subject to a performance condition, however, the cost will vary based on Tri-Valley Corporation estimate of the number of shares that ultimately will vest over the requisite service or other period over which the performance condition is expected to be achieved. In connection with its approval of stock-based awards, the Personnel and Compensation Committee is cognizant of and sensitive to the impact of such awards on stockholder dilution. The Personnel and Compensation Committee also endeavors to avoid stock-based awards made subject to a market condition, which may result in an expense that must be marked-to-market on a quarterly

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

basis. The accounting treatment for stock-based awards does not otherwise impact the Personnel and Compensation Committee's compensation recommendations to the Board of Directors.

### Personnel and Compensation Committee Report

The Personnel and Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management, and based upon such review and discussion, it has recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Submitted by the Personnel and Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Henry Lowenstein, Chair

G. Thomas Gamble

### Summary Compensation Table

The following table summarizes the compensation of the executive officers of the Company and its subsidiaries for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
Name	Fiscal Year Ending	Salary	Stock Awards (1)	Option Awards (2)	<u>Company 401-K</u> Contribution	Total Compensation
F. Lynn Blystone, CEO	12/31/08	\$210,000	\$38,950	\$0	\$6,300	\$255,250
	12/31/07	\$159,000	\$37,000	\$0	\$4,770	\$200,770
	12/31/06	\$159,000	\$47,450	\$0	\$4,770	\$211,220
Arthur M. Evans, CFO	12/31/08	\$138,407	\$0	\$42,430	\$4,152	\$184,989
	12/31/07	\$120,000	\$0	\$17,000	\$3,600	\$140,600
	12/31/06	\$120,000	\$0	\$56,550	\$3,600	\$180,150
Joseph Kandle, Pres. TVOG	12/31/08	\$180,350	\$5,922	\$3,780	\$5,410	\$195,462
	12/31/07	\$170,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,100	\$175,100
	12/31/06	\$163,333	\$0	\$0	\$5,875	\$169,208
James G. Bush, Pres., Select	12/31/08	\$169,758	\$0	\$84,980	\$5,093	\$259,831
	12/31/07	\$112,560	\$0	\$96,000	\$3,377	\$211,937

(1) Stock awards are valued at the closing market price on the date of issuance.



Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

(2) Stock option awards are valued on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes model see note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8.

87

---

**Employment Agreement with Our President**

We have an employment agreement with F. Lynn Blystone, our President and Chief Executive Officer, which ends on January 1, 2011. The terms of the contract are for a base salary amount of \$210,000 per year plus 5,000 shares of our common stock at the end of each year of service. Mr. Blystone is also entitled to a bonus (not to exceed \$25,000) equal to 10% of net operating cash flow before taxes, including interest income and excluding debt service. Mr. Blystone is also entitled to a bonus of 4% of the company's annual net after-tax income. The total of the bonuses from cash flow and net income may not exceed \$50,000 per year, although the Board of Directors may authorize additional bonuses and compensation if it so desires. The employment agreement also provides a severance payment to Mr. Blystone if he is terminated within 12 months after a sale of control of Tri-Valley. The severance payment equals \$150,000. For purposes of the severance provision, a sale of control is deemed to be the sale of ownership of 30% of the outstanding stock of Tri-Valley or the acquisition by one person of enough stock to appoint a majority of the board of directors of the company.

We carry key man life insurance of \$500,000 on Mr. Blystone's life.

**Employee Pension, Profit Sharing or Other Retirement Plans**

During 2008, the Company established a 401-K program allowing for the deferral of employee income. The plan provides for the Company to contribute 3% of gross wages. For the year ended December 31, 2008 the Company contributed \$91,580 to such plan.

**Aggregated 2008 Option Exercises and Year-End Values**

The following table summarizes the number and value of all unexercised stock options held by the Named Executive Officers and the Directors at the end of 2008.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
			Number of Securities	Value of Unexercised In
			Underlying Unexercised	The Money Options at FY End
	Shares Acquired		Options at FY End Exercisable/	(\$)
<u>Name</u>	<u>On Exercise (#)</u>	<u>Value Realized (\$)</u>	<u>Unexercisable</u>	<u>Exercisable/ Unexercisable</u>
F. Lynn Blystone	28,000	\$136,186	701,350/0	\$317,755/\$0
Arthur M. Evans	5,000	\$10,800	69,500/30,500	\$2,175/\$6,525
G. Thomas Gamble	0	0	60,000/20,000	\$0/0
Paul W. Bateman			40,000/60,000	\$0/0
Edward M. Gabriel			40,000/60,000	\$0/0
Joseph R. Kandle	0	0	427,000/8,000	\$265,750/0
James G. Bush			42,000/98,000	\$0/0
Henry Lowenstein			80,000/20,000	\$0/0
Loren J. Miller	0	0	0/0	\$0/0
James S. Mayer	0	0	20,000/80,000	\$0/0

\*Based on a fair market value of \$1.80 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the American Stock Exchange on December 31, 2008

**Option Grants During the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008 to Named Executive Officers**

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

The following table sets forth information regarding options for the purchase of shares granted during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 to the Named Executive Officers.

88

---

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Name	Number of Shares Underlying Options Granted	% of Total Options Granted to Employees in Fiscal Year	Exercise Price Per Share (\$/Security)	Market Value of Securities Underlying Options(6)	Expiration Date
Arthur M. Evans <sup>(1)</sup>	20,000	0.6%	\$5.03	\$0	1/2018
James G. Bush <sup>(2)</sup>	10,000	0.3%	\$6.10	\$0	7/2018
Arthur M. Evans <sup>(3)</sup>	10,000	0.3%	\$6.10	\$0	7/2018
Joseph R. Kandle <sup>(4)</sup>	10,000	0.3%	\$6.10	\$0	7/2018
Arthur M. Evans <sup>(5)</sup>	30,000	0.8%	\$1.51	\$0	12/2018

(1) The options were granted January 23, 2008 and all options were vested as of December 31, 2008

(2) The options were granted July 3, 2008 and 2,000 options were vested as of December 31, 2008

(3) The options were granted July 3, 2008 and 2,000 options were vested as of December 31, 2008

(4) The options were granted July 3, 2008 and 2,000 options were vested as of December 31, 2008

(5) The options were granted December 18, 2008 and 7,500 options were vested as of December 31, 2008

(6) Based on the difference between the exercise price per share and the market price of \$1.80 per share as of December 31, 2008

Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

Outstanding Equity Awards Table to Named Executive Officers and Directors

Name ( a )	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options		Option Exercise Price (d)	Option Expiration Date (e)
	Exercisable (b)	Unexercisable (c)		
Paul W. Bateman	40,000	60,000	\$6.37	8/2/2017
F. Lynn Blystone	100,000	0	\$2.00	8/22/2010
	51,350	0	\$0.50	6/19/2010
	50,000	0	\$2.43	9/16/2010
	200,000	0	\$1.22	11/10/2010
	300,000	0	\$1.35	10/22/2011
James G. Bush	40,000	110,000	\$7.88	5/23/2017
Arthur M. Evans	30,000	10,000	\$9.55	11/18/2015
	5,000	0	\$5.84	8/15/2016
	15,000	0	\$5.03	1/23/2017
	10,000	0	\$6.10	7/3/2017
	30,000	22,500	\$1.51	12/18/2017
Edward M. Gabriel	40,000	60,000	\$6.49	8/1/2017
G. Thomas Gamble	60,000	20,000	\$6.35	5/8/2016
Joseph R. Kandle	50,000	0	\$0.50	6/19/2010
	100,000	0	\$1.00	9/1/2010
	50,000	0	\$2.43	9/16/2010
	150,000	0	\$1.22	11/10/2010
	75,000	0	\$1.35	10/22/2011
Henry Lowenstein	80,000	20,000	\$6.35	5/8/2016
James S. Mayer	20,000	80,000	\$7.25	8/14/2013
Loren J. Miller	0	0	0	0

**Compensation of Directors**

The Company compensates non-employee directors for their service on the board of directors.

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation paid to outside directors in 2008.

(a) <b>Name</b>	(b) <b>Fees</b>	(c) <b>Stock Awards (1)</b>	(d) <b>Option Awards (2)</b>	(e) <b>Total Compensation</b>
Paul W. Bateman	\$ 11,500	\$15,580	\$45,000	\$ 72,080
Edward M. Gabriel	\$ 8,500	\$15,580	\$40,800	\$ 64,880
G. Thomas Gamble	\$ 13,000	\$15,580	\$90,400	\$118,980
Dr. Henry Lowenstein	\$ 10,500	\$15,580	\$90,400	\$116,480
James S. Mayer	\$ 4,500	\$15,580	\$56,250	\$ 76,330
Loren J. Miller	\$ 13,500	\$15,580	-	\$ 29,080

(1) This column represents the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the 2008 fiscal year for the fair value of stock granted in 2008. Fair value is initially calculated using the closing price of our stock on the date of grant. In 2008, each director was granted shares of common stock on January 2, 2008, per share, for services rendered in 2007. The initial value of the stock granted to each director on that date was \$15,580, based on a closing market price of \$7.79 per share.

(2) Stock option awards relate to the accounting expense for options vested in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004) Share-Based Payment, which requires the expensing of equity stock awards based on the grant date of the option. The grant date for Mr. Mayer is August 14, 2008; Mr. Bateman is August 2, 2007; Mr. Gabriel is August 1, 2007; Mr. Gamble and Dr. Lowenstein the grant date was May 6, 2006.

Each director is compensated at the rate of \$2,000 per board meeting and \$500 for each committee meeting as of December 31, 2008

**ITEM 12 Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

As of December 31, 2008, there were 27,438,367 shares of the Company's common stock outstanding. The following persons were known by the Company to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of such outstanding common stock:

<b><u>Name and Address</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Shares</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
F. Lynn Blystone	1,190,203 <sup>(1)</sup>	4.3%
P.O. Box 1105		
Bakersfield, CA 93302		
G. Thomas Gamble	2,213,650 <sup>(2)</sup>	8.1%
1250 Church Street		
St. Helena, CA 94574		

(1) Includes 701,350 shares of stock Mr. Blystone has the right to acquire upon the exercise of options.

(2) Includes 80,000 shares of stock Mr. Gamble has the right to acquire upon the exercise of options.

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock as of December 31, 2008 by each director, by each of the executive officers named in Item 11, and by the executive officer named in Item 10 and directors as a group:

<b><u>Directors and Executive Officers</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Shares</u></b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b> <sup>(2)</sup>
F. Lynn Blystone	1,190,203	4.3%
Arthur M. Evans	105,000	0.4%
G. Thomas Gamble	2,213,650	8.1%
Paul W. Bateman	103,000	0.4%
Edward M. Gabriel	102,000	0.4%
Joseph R. Kandle	510,946	1.9%
James G. Bush	143,500	0.5%
Henry Lowenstein, Ph.D.	104,200	0.4%
Loren J. Miller	249,236	1.1%
James S. Mayer	100,000	0.4%





**Directors and Executive Officers (continued)**

	<b>Number of <u>Shares</u></b>	<b>Percent of <u>Total</u></b>
<u>Total group</u> (all directors and Executive officers - 10 persons)	5,023,299	18.3%

- (1) Includes shares which the listed shareholder has the right to acquire from options as follows: F. Lynn Blystone 701,350, Arthur M. Evans 100,000, G. Thomas Gamble 80,000, Joseph R. Kandle 435,000; Dr. Henry Lowenstein 100,000, William H. Mo Marumoto 100,000, Paul W. Bateman 100,000, Edward M. Gabriel 100,000, James S. Mayer 100,000, James G. Bush 140,000.
- (2) Based on total outstanding shares of 27,438,367 as of December 31, 2008. The persons named herein have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by them, subject to community property laws where applicable.

**ITEM 13 Certain Relationships and Related Transactions**

none

**ITEM 14 Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

YEAR	AUDIT SERVICES	TAX SERVICES	AUDIT RELATED
2008	\$ 103,607	\$28,226	\$32,303
2007	\$ 132,592	\$60,390	\$54,202

All of our auditors were full time, permanent employees of the accounting firm auditing our financial statements.

**Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Auditors**

The Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services provided by the independent auditors prior to the engagement of the independent auditors with respect to such services. The Chairman of the Audit Committee has been delegated the authority by the Committee to pre-approve interim services by the independent auditors other than the annual exam. The Chairman must report all such pre-approvals to the entire Audit Committee at the next committee meeting.

## Edgar Filing: TRI VALLEY CORP - Form 10-K

### ITEM 15 Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, incorporated by reference to Exhibit A of the Company's 2000 Proxy Statement and Definitive Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on July 26, 2000.
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2007, filed with the SEC on November 9, 2007.
4.1	Rights Agreement, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of the Company's Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 1999, filed with the SEC on March 24, 2000.
10.1	Employment Agreement with F. Lynn Blystone executed on March 10, 2009, filed herewith.
10.2	Tri-Valley Corporation 2005 Stock Option Plan, as amended, incorporated by reference to Exhibit A of the Company's 2007 Proxy Statement and Definitive Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on August 2, 2007.
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 21.1 of the Company's Form 10-K filed with the SEC on April 2, 2007.
31.1	Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) / 15d-14(a), filed herewith.
31.2	Certification Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) / 15d-14(a), filed herewith.
32.1	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, filed herewith.
32.2	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, filed herewith.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ F. Lynn Blystone*  
F. Lynn Blystone  
President and Chief Executive Officer, and  
CHOB

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ Arthur M. Evans*  
Arthur M. Evans  
Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this Report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates included:

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ Paul W. Bateman*  
Paul W. Bateman, Director

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ Edward M. Gabriel*  
Edward M. Gabriel, Director

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ G. Thomas Gamble*  
G. Thomas Gamble, Director

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ Henry Lowenstein*  
Henry Lowenstein, Ph.D., Director

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ James S. Mayer*  
James S. Mayer, Director

March 30, 2009                      *By: /s/ Loren J. Miller*  
Loren J. Miller, Director

