

Developers: Fast rides, wild animals planned for Quay Valley

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Quay Hays, developer of the Quay Valley new town project, speaks to a crowd at Fresno State Tuesday. A couple of Los Angeles developers treated a noontime Fresno State crowd today to a vision of rural Kings County as African Serengeti and transportation technology hotspot along Interstate 5.

The proposed new town of Quay Valley and its five-mile test "hyperloop" track was subject of a talk by Quay Hays, CEO of GROW Land and Water, and entrepreneur Dirk Ahlborn, CEO and co-founder of online crowd sourcing platform JumpStartFund.

A near-capacity crowd in the Fresno State Satellite Student Union — many of them engineering students — received an overview of plans The Business Journal first reported in February for a 7,500-acre town in southwest Kings County Hays first proposed in 2006.

Ahlborn and his JumpStartFund is crowdsourcing a project to build a 200-300 mph hyperloop test track in a tourist-oriented portion of the 75,000-population town.

Hays anticipates permitting for the project to be complete by the end of the year, with infrastructure work starting next year. The project calls for 25,000 solar-powered homes to be built out of the next couple decades, with a median price of \$276,000.

He said a five-mile stretch of the property fronts Interstate 5, and would be an ideal location for some 2 million square feet of destination retail and other tourist amenities located on 1,900 acres.

Hays added that a number of announcements should be made in the coming months of businesses that plan to locate in Quay Valley. He did reveal that one resort hotel will feature an African Serengeti theme that would feature overlooks of a preserve featuring animals as part of a program with the San Diego Zoo.

Mantis, a group of global boutique hotels, game reserves and so-called "eco lodges," is on board with that resort project, Hays said.

Ahlborn offered an overview of the hyperloop's technology, which uses a suspended pressurized tube to shunt capsules full of people or freight at theoretical speeds of up to 700mph via magnetic levitation.

Construction on the slower Quay Valley test track should begin next year, with an anticipated 2018 opening where members of the public could pay \$30 for a ticket.

"Being next to [Interstate 5], we are sure many people will stop and be interested in riding," Ahlborn said.

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