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Form 3

December 21, 2009

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement TRI VALLEY CORP [TIV] GREGORY MICHAEL D (Month/Day/Year) 11/01/2009 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 4550 CALIFORNIA AVE #600 (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer _ Other Person BAKERSFIELD, CAÂ 93309 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One Controller Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)

Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial

Ownership (Instr. 5)

or Indirect
(I)
(Instr. 5)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security		4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	(Instr. 4) Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Price of Derivative Security	Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	(Instr. 5)

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Stock Option - Right To Buy (1)

10/21/2009<u>(2)</u> 10/21/2014

Common

50,000 \$ 2.83

D Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer

Â

Other

GREGORY MICHAEL D 4550 CALIFORNIA AVE #600 BAKERSFIELD, CAÂ 93309

Â

Controller Â

Signatures

MICHAEL D GREGORY

12/21/2009

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Incentive stock option granted under Issuer's 2005 Stock Option Plan
- (2) Vests 5,000 shares 12/31/09; 7,500 shares 4/30/10; 7,500 shares 10/31/10; 7,500 shares 4/30/11; 7,500 shares 10/31/11; 7,500 shares 4/30/12; and 7,500 shares 10/31/12, provided continuous employment with the issuer on the date of vesting

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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