

TRI VALLEY CORP  
Form 8-K  
May 22, 2009

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

**May 18, 2009**

**Tri-Valley Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**001-31852**

(Commission File Number)

**84-0617466**

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**4550 California Blvd., Suite 600**

**Bakersfield, California 93309**

(Address of principal executive office)

Issuer's telephone number: **661-864-0500**

**Section 5 Corporate Governance and Management**

**Item 5.02 Appointment of Principal Officers**

On May 18, 2009, Tri-Valley Corporation elected Maston N. Cunningham to be its president and chief executive officer, succeeding F. Lynn Blystone who remains chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Tri-Valley and its five subsidiaries. In addition, Tri-Valley director G. Thomas Gamble has been elected vice chairman of the board of directors. A press release announcing the appointment of Mr. Cunningham and election of Mr. Gamble is attached.

Tri-Valley and Mr. Cunningham have entered into a letter agreement concerning his employment, by which Mr. Cunningham will be paid a monthly salary of \$15,835 and will receive options to purchase 100,000 shares of Tri-Valley's common stock which vest incrementally over the next three years. He is also eligible for a company vehicle and will receive the insurance and retirement benefits that are generally available to Tri-Valley employees

**Section 9 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release

**Signatures**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

TRI-VALLEY CORPORATION

Date: May 22, 2009

/s/ F. Lynn Blystone  
F. Lynn Blystone, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer