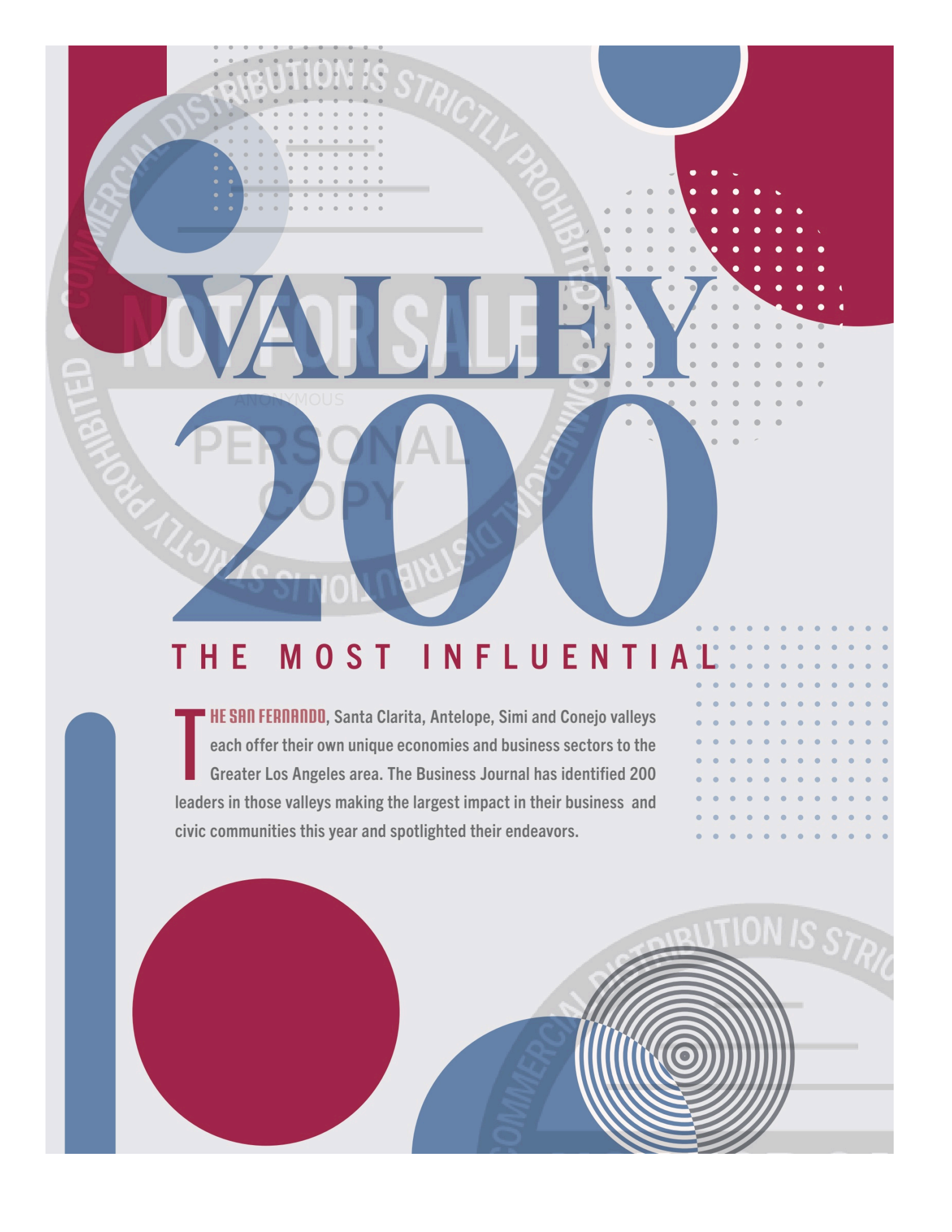


The background features a light gray field with various geometric elements. There are large, semi-transparent circles in blue and maroon. A repeating pattern of small dots is visible in the upper right and lower right. A faint, circular watermark with the text "COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED" and "NOT FOR SALE" is centered behind the main title. The title itself is in a large, blue, serif font.

VALLEY 2000

THE MOST INFLUENTIAL

THE SAN FERNANDO, Santa Clarita, Antelope, Simi and Conejo valleys each offer their own unique economies and business sectors to the Greater Los Angeles area. The Business Journal has identified 200 leaders in those valleys making the largest impact in their business and civic communities this year and spotlighted their endeavors.



TREVOR GERSZT

Founder, Chief Executive
Goldco

Trevor Gerszt, founder and chief executive of Goldco, launched the Calabasas-based precious metals investment firm after the 2008 financial crisis exposed vulnerabilities in traditional retirement planning. Goldco specializes in helping clients roll over IRAs and 401(k)s into gold and silver IRAs. Gerszt, a South Africa native who was first drawn to precious metals through coin collecting, founded Goldco to provide ethical practices in an industry that had less scrupulous providers. Goldco ranked No. 18 on Inc. Magazine's 2025 Regionals: Pacific list and got a Gold Stevie Award in 2024 for Fastest Growing Company at the American Business Awards.



TAMARA GURNEY

President,
Chief Executive
Mission Valley Bank

Tamara Gurney founded Sun Valley-based Mission Valley Bank in 2001 after spending roughly two decades working for various L.A. County community banks. Before going her own way, Gurney served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at American Pacific State Bank. Under her leadership, Mission Valley Bank broke even within a year of opening and has since grown to \$760.4 million in assets, more than 6,000 clients, and four branches including its newest branch in Arcadia opening in early 2026. Gurney is a member of the California Community Banking Network and serves as vice chair of the Valley Economic Alliance.



DANIELLE HASTIE

Chief Executive
California Commercial
Investment Group

Danielle Hastie is the chief executive of California Commercial Investment Group (CCI). Hastie has guided CCI's growth from a regional firm into a national organization over her 20-year tenure. She previously led acquisitions, dispositions, and refinances, overseeing hundreds of complex real estate transactions nationwide, including affordable housing and LIHTC projects. Hastie says she's passionate about expanding housing opportunities for seniors.

FAVORITE BOOK: "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt

FAVORITE PASTIME OR HOBBY: Hiking

FAVORITE QUOTE: "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." — Maya Angelou

CALIFORNIA BANK & TRUST



CONGRATULATIONS WAYNE WARD!

SVP, Regional Manager of Greater Southern
California West

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VALLEY 200, **CELEBRATING THE
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LEADERS**

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**MIKEY
TAYLOR**
*Co-President
Commune Capital*

Mikey Taylor parlayed a 20-year career as a professional skateboarder into a second act in private equity real estate, co-founding Commune Capital in Thousand Oaks. His firm focuses on multifamily and self-storage assets in supply-constrained California markets. Managing more than \$315 million in commercial real estate, Commune has cultivated a young investor base through social media. Taylor previously co-founded Saint Archer Brewing Co., which MillerCoors acquired in 2015. He also launched Ayni Labs, which focused on digital marketing. He currently serves as mayor of Thousand Oaks.



**RAUL
VARGAS**
*Chief Executive
Farmers Group Inc.*

Raul Vargas became chief executive and a member of the executive team at Farmers Group Inc., the Woodland Hills-based subsidiary of Zurich Insurance Group, in 2023. Vargas has more than two decades of international insurance leadership experience, including eight years as chief executive of Zurich Santander Insurance America, where he led personal lines and life insurance distribution across Latin America. Prior to that, Vargas was the head of distribution and proposition management at Zurich Santander. He is a board member of The Institutes Risk and Insurance Knowledge Group and the Southern California Leadership Council.



**WAYNE
WARD**
*Senior Vice President,
Regional Manager
California Bank & Trust*

Wayne Ward has led California Bank & Trust's Greater Southern California West Region since 2008, overseeing 14 business banking offices across the Los Angeles area. He joined CB&T in 2007 as a business center manager at the Long Beach main office and earned a promotion within a year. With more than 35 years in commercial banking across government and private sectors, he is one of CB&T's most recognized leaders — earning the "Leader of Influence in Banking" honor from the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2023 and the "Top 100 Banker" designation in 2025. He serves as vice chair of CB&T's African Americans in Banking initiative.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY OF BURBANK MAYOR

TAMALA TAKAHASHI

FOR HER SELECTION TO THIS YEAR'S VALLEY 200!



The City of Burbank is excited to join the international celebration for FIFA World Cup 2026 as an official Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone in Downtown Burbank July 18 and 19.



CITY OF
BURBANK

For tickets and information
visit fanzone.dtnbur.com.

