

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 8, 2013 Contact: Chris Kutz 559.320.2526

## FUEGO TO PARTNER WITH SIX LOCAL YOUTH SOCCER CLUBS IN COLLABORATION OF SOCCER COMMUNITY

Goal to identify and develop local players for future Fuego teams

FRESNO, Calif. – The Fresno Fuego will partner with six local youth soccer clubs starting in 2013 to create a identification system that will help develop local youths into future Fuego team members, the Fuego announced today. This collaboration will allow the Fuego staff to directly identify local players within these clubs, working toward achieving the Fuego vision of providing a team of Central San Joaquin Valley talent. The six local clubs include Argentina Fresno Soccer Club, Bullard United Soccer Club, California Odyssey Soccer Club, California Odyssey South Soccer Club, Central California Soccer Alliance and South Valley Chivas.

"We are excited to take this new step in uniting different youth soccer clubs from the Central Valley and working together," said Jeremy Schultz, General Manager of the Fresno Fuego. "While each club provides a slightly different approach in their development model, we all have the common goal of constant age appropriate training principles and are eager to instill knowledge of the game to our young players. The Directors within our affiliate clubs recognize the incredible growth of the sport in our country and understand the importance of the Fresno Fuego in our community. The Fuego will support each level of development within each club, maintaining our overall vision of creating an avenue to maximize our local player's opportunity and exposure for advancement in the game."

For each of the six youth soccer clubs, the Fuego will serve as the highest level in the Central Valley that each athlete will strive to reach. The system will help the Fuego identify elite athletes around the Valley that can play for the Fuego in the future.

For more information about new clubs affiliating with the Fuego and accomplishing the organization's goals, please contact Jeremy Schultz at (559) 320-2543.

## **About the Fresno Fuego**

Founded in 2003, the Fresno Fuego compete in the Premier Development League (PDL) of the United Soccer Leagues (USL), the fourth tier of the American Soccer Pyramid. The team has never suffered a losing season, helped in part by the fourteen former Fuego players that have gone on to sign professional contracts over the last 10 years. All home games are played at Chukchansi Park in Downtown Fresno. Tickets to Fuego games are free for all ages. Please visit <a href="http://www.FresnoFuego.com">http://www.facebook.com/FresnoFuego</a> to learn more on printing free ticket vouchers for the 2013 home campaign.

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