



My “Clean Air, Clean Energy” Platform

Making Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley a Model for Clean Air

Fresno residents have experienced poor air quality for too long. As a mom with a child who has asthma, I am particularly empathetic to the feelings of Fresno residents who want to see us make significant and immediate progress on cleaning our air. As Mayor, this will be a priority for me from day one.

Clean air and clean energy are interconnected. Energy conservation and clean energy mean less conventional power generation, which in turn means cleaner air and fewer greenhouse gases. I want to help make Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley one of the greenest region in the country. Doing so will be good for both our **environment** and our **economy**. The San Joaquin Valley has abundant raw materials for clean energy, from sun to biomass. Converting these resources into energy will result in high-paying jobs. Fresno should aspire to be the capital of the “clean energy economy.”

FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN ENERGY

We have made some important progress on air quality issues recently. I intend to build on that work by implementing the following five-point plan for clean air and clean energy:

1. Provide regional leadership to achieve federal clean air standards;
2. Make Fresno a model city for air quality;
3. Make Fresno a model city for energy efficiency and development of clean energy;
4. Ensure that our land use and transportation decisions are consistent with good environmental practices;
5. Make Fresno an attractive place for companies that wish to develop and commercialize clean air and clean energy technologies.

PROVIDE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE CLEAN AIR STANDARDS

Air quality does not recognize political boundaries. Instead, it is a function of climate and geography. Fresno’s air quality issues must be primarily addressed at the regional level of the San Joaquin Valley air basin, which covers the eight-county area from San Joaquin County to Kern County.

Our bowl-shaped geography and hot summer days make our air basin ideal for ozone formation and retention. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has submitted a plan to reach attainment of Federal 8-hour ozone standards in 2024. That's way too long for this region to wait for clean air. It is my intention to participate in a regional leadership effort to reach the federal standards within a decade.

Gross Polluting Vehicles and Particulate Matter

It is important to know that more than 85% of our ozone comes from mobile sources, with heavy-duty diesel trucks being the most significant contributor to the problem. While engine technology has improved dramatically, our problem is that trucks last a long time – 23 years on average in the U.S. Tractors last even longer. There are no “silver bullets” that will fix our air quality problems, but if I had only one bullet, I would use it to accelerate the modernization of the Valley's fleet of trucks and agricultural equipment and to replace the 10% of passenger vehicles (so-called “gross polluting vehicles”) that contribute more than 50% of our ozone from that source.

Particulate matter is an even more harmful pollutant than ozone, especially the very small particles below 2.5 microns in size that penetrate the lungs. Much of that pollution also comes from mobile sources. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has developed a draft plan to achieve federal standards for particulate matter 2.5 by 2015. I will ensure that Fresno does its part to achieve this goal.

Because the jurisdiction for mobile source pollution rests with the California Air Resources board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and because a significant part of our ozone and particulate matter pollution results from air drift from Northern California, it is important that the state and Federal government participate both technically and financially in the solution of our air quality problems in the Valley.

Providing Regional Leadership

The mayor of the largest city in the San Joaquin Valley has an obligation to help provide leadership on the resolution of Valley-wide issues. As the lead executive for the Governor's Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, I have already participated in such efforts and have been an effective advocate for the Valley. As the Mayor of Fresno, I will continue to be a strong advocate for the city and the region and will ensure the following specific steps are taken:

- Play a lead role in securing incentive funding from state and Federal sources to help accelerate the modernization of the Valley fleet of vehicles;
- Aggressively advocate for state and Federal actions, including regulation and technology development, that will help us achieve our clean air and clean energy objectives;
- Assign a senior manager at City Hall to participate in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's “Fast-Track Task Force,” which has set a goal of attainment of federal standards for 8-hour ozone by 2017;
- Encourage other Valley agencies to enroll in a common carbon registry, such as the California Climate Action registry, which will enable the San Joaquin Valley to better track regional progress;
- Advocate for innovative ways of moving goods and people, including high speed rail and short sea shipping.

MAKE FRESNO A MODEL CITY FOR AIR QUALITY

Every resident, every business, and every public sector organization can contribute to our clean air goals. It is important for the City of Fresno be a good role model for the rest of the Valley, the state and the nation. Mayor Autry's *Fresno Green* plan is a good start, but there is more that can be done. I will build on that plan as follows:

- Require that air quality considerations be included in the request for authorization of all capital expenditures by the City;
- In my first 100 days as Mayor, I will propose an ordinance to give preference to vendors that offer the most attractive air quality benefits;
- Establish a joint program with the Air District to replace leaf blowers, lawnmowers and wood stoves; and
- Establish a policy that will provide incentives for city employees to car pool, and support telecommuting where practical.

MAKE FRESNO A MODEL CITY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND USE OF CLEAN ENERGY

The City of Fresno has made some important strides towards becoming a leader in energy conservation and clean energy. I will accelerate that progress as follows:

- In my first 100 days as Mayor, I will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization inviting them to help us draft a "green community" ordinance, including green building standards;
- In my first 100 days as Mayor, I will propose an ordinance requiring that all new light-vehicle purchases be hybrids, unless hybrids are unavailable for the specific application;
- Adopt a purchase policy for plug-in hybrid vehicles, with expected mileage up to 100 MPG, as they become available for fleet use;
- Work with the utility companies to establish a model energy conservation program for City operations;
- Expand the City's residential solar incentive program to include incentives for businesses;
- Expand the City's renewable energy generation portfolio. Maximize power production from wastewater and landfill methane, reducing greenhouse gas impacts;
- Accelerate conversion of the City's truck fleet to clean fuels, maximizing the use of available state and Federal grants and incentive programs;
- Work with all school districts to help them take advantage of the state school bus replacement program and to green their maintenance fleet;
- Support incentive programs that encourage the private sector to "build green," advocate for funding of such programs from Federal and State sources, and provide outreach programs to ensure that Fresno residents and businesses are taking maximum advantage of available programs.

ENSURE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

The San Joaquin Valley has been and is expected to be one of the fastest growing regions in the country. We cannot absorb this growth with “business as usual” approaches. We must avoid sprawl and find more efficient ways of moving goods and people.

The Councils of Government from the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley are participating in a “Regional Blueprint” planning process to determine the best way to accommodate the Valley’s growth. This process will result in land use and transportation recommendations that will help us manage our growth in the most environmentally sensible way. Additionally, the City of Fresno and the Regional Jobs Initiative have been evaluating approaches that will provide an energy-efficient, air-quality-friendly, balanced approach to economic growth, environmental quality, preservation of agricultural land and enhancement of our quality of life through parks, trails and open spaces. The most notable of these efforts is the “Metro-Rural Loop.” As Mayor, I will build on these efforts and ensure the following steps are taken:

- Ensure active participation and leadership by the City of Fresno in the Blueprint Planning process and ask staff to update the City’s general plan within 180 days from the date of completion of the Blueprint Planning Process to adopt the recommendations that are consistent with making the City of Fresno a leader in sustainable development;
- Support the evaluation of approaches like the “Metro-Rural Loop,” ensure that they are coordinated with the Blueprint process, and lead the implementation of the agreed upon approach;
- Evaluate and implement transit options that will make it attractive for Fresno residents to use options other than driving their cars, including improvements to the City’s FAX system;
- As lead executive for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, I have played a key advocacy role for improvements to Highway 99 and implementation of high-speed rail. As Mayor, I will continue to provide the leadership necessary to achieve these objectives.

MAKE FRESNO ATTRACTIVE FOR COMPANIES WISHING TO DEVELOP AND COMMERCIALIZE CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

“Going Green” has become good business. The amount of venture capital going into companies that are developing green technologies has exploded. With the abundance of clean energy resources in Fresno County, particularly sun and biomass, Fresno should and could be one of the leading clean energy centers in the world. Here are the specific steps I will take to encourage this to happen.

- Form a coalition with the Regional Jobs Initiative, the Fresno Economic Development Corporation, and the Central Valley Business Incubator to support the formation of local clean energy companies and to attract clean energy companies to Fresno;
- Encourage the creation of these companies through favorable City policies and incentive programs;
- Form a coalition with Fresno State and UC Merced to encourage the development and adoption of green technologies in Fresno; and

- Partner with Fresno, Clovis and Central Unified School Districts, the building trades, State Center Community College District, Fresno State and the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board on policies and programs to develop the workforce skills needed to support a clean energy industry.

Fresno must aggressively build on the foundation that is currently being developed to improve the quality of the air we all breathe. The Mayor must take the lead in making this happen for all of our residents.