



A COALITION FOR TREES, TRAILS AND GREENBELTS

October 9, 2014

TO: Jennifer Clark
Director of Development and Resource Management
City of Fresno
2600 Tulare Street, Room 3065
Fresno, California 93721

RE: 2035 General Plan – Comments

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Tree Fresno, who have approved a “Smart Growth” policy, we wish to submit the following comments for consideration in the 2035 General Plan.

Parks, Open Space, and Schools Element (POSS)

- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan to raise our **ParkScore** from last to the top 10 in 10 years to include preparation of a definitive master plan with funding methods (fees, grants, ballot measures and philanthropy) to create and care for regional parks, greenbelts, landscaped trails & greenways, neighborhood parks, and school playgrounds.
- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan for the **Valley Arboretum**, a multi-jurisdiction system of landscaped trails, greenways and greenbelts; a signature amenity for the Fresno region. (See attached map.)
- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan to optimize the use of all public and private school sites for community purposes.
- Designate lands outside of the Sphere of Influence for greenbelt purposes.

Community Resources

- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan for **Water Resource Conservation** to include
 - **Groundwater Recharge** through the creation of greenbelts, optimizing the use of flood control and irrigation facilities, and expanding our surface treatment capacity.
 - **Reduce Water Use for Landscaping** through planting low water use trees and plants, installing below-surface irrigation dedicated to trees and drip irrigation for plants, and reducing the use of cool season grasses.
- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan for the creation and care of the **Community Forest** to include a tree inventory, forest management plan, and arboriculture education.

Air Quality and Health

- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan to improve our air quality to include an expansion of the tree canopy, use of trees and greenwalls to reduce near-road pollution, adoption of land use policies that foster an increase in walking and a reduction of vehicle miles traveled, and adoption of codes to reduce wood burning.
- Approve a Goal and implementation Plan to improve the health of our residents to include respiratory illness, obesity, infant mortality, cancer, heart disease and longevity rates.

Economy, Education and Municipal Fiscal Structure

- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan to create a municipal financial structure that will fund high quality municipal services to include trees, trails and greenbelts.
- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan to foster the economy, environment, and education - that will enable the residents and businesses to comfortably fund high quality municipal services - with special attention to environmental education, student achievement and graduation rates, the percentage of residents with a college degree, the ratings of our education institutions, and job placement services for our residents.

Complete Neighborhoods

- Approve a Goal and Implementation Plan to provide a Complete Neighborhood for every resident and business to include the use of trees, plants and high quality landscape design to enhance the environment and sense of place.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Valentino
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