

# Speaker 1: Juan Garza

Hello. My name is Juan Garza and I have been the Superintendent of Kings Canyon Unified School District for the past seven (7) years. We serve nearly 10,000 students in Fresno and Tulare counties in the largely rural, agricultural communities of Reedley, Orange Cove, Squaw Valley, Dunlap and Miramonte – the heart of the Central Valley.

Our district is approximately 25 miles south of Fresno. Over 70% of our students are eligible for free and reduced meals.

We and the City of Reedley would like to thank the California Energy Commission and their staff for the opportunity to come before you today.

The City and the school district for past 10 years have worked collaboratively to improve the quality of life for our children and adults in the communities we serve.

A natural outgrowth of this unique regional relationship is a collaborative vision to develop an innovative, state-of-the-art, high performance, LEED certified, solar powered Central Valley Transportation Center that promotes good jobs, clean energy and green education.

It is widely known that the Central Valley is ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst air quality in the nation with the highest asthma rates. Each day we email to each of our schools an air quality health report that dictates outdoor student activity restrictions due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst air quality in the nation. One out of every 6 students in the valley carries an inhaler to class in addition to their books.

The Central Valley also suffers the worse unemployment rates in the nation. United States Congressional Reports refer to us as the “new Appalachia.” The unemployment rate among parents of our students is over 30%.

We share your vision to transform the transportation sector and to improve the economic and energy future. Our project will be a model to attain the state’s climate change goals.

We have a historically strong and unique partnership with the City of Reedley. I would like to introduce to you Reedley City Councilwoman, Mrs. Anita Betancourt.

## **Speaker 2: Anita Betancourt**

My name is Anita Betancourt. I am a Reedley City Council Member and a former School board member. But more importantly, I am a grandmother of ten. I have two grandchildren who have asthma and I am concerned about the air quality in our Central Valley. I work in a community made up of farm working families. I am very concerned with the unemployment in our communities.

Because of job loss this project is VERY important to our children and families in our communities. With the City and school district working together, and with your help, we can make a difference. TOGETHER, we will be able to provide CLEAN AIR and GOOD JOBS for our communities!!!

## **Speaker 3: Mark Garza**

(introduce yourself)

We are excited about this innovative project that will improve the health and quality of life of our valley residents through significant reductions of our carbon footprint, lowering emissions, attaining energy sustainability, achieving air quality improvements, and being self-sufficient.

The Central Valley Transportation Center is a collaborative partnership between the City of Reedley and Kings Canyon Unified School District to be shared with our regional partners to include other cities, school districts, ag industries, and other governmental agencies that will serve over 900 square miles.

The shared center will produce one mega watt of solar to include a hydrogen station and bio mass facility.

The City and school district are committed to convert our transportation fleets to hybrid electric and to renewable low carbon fuels to decrease the overall impact of harmful emissions.

The most exciting part of this project is the educational center that will teach the next generation of green technicians.

We will have a workforce training program geared to green technologies and providing multiple green career pathways.

Additionally, this center will provide our ag partners greener methods and technologies as they work their farms.

## **Speaker 4: John Clements**

(introduce yourself)

The Central Valley Transportation Center will offer alternative, renewable, clean vehicle fuels to serve our partnership and regional public needs not currently available to our area.

These fuels will include but are not be limited to bio diesel blends, super ultra low sulfur diesel, ethanol and cellulose blend fuels, compressed natural gas, and as technology emerges ... hydrogen fuel.

These alternative fuels will be public accessible through credit card/card-lock dispensing.

KCUSD plans to demonstrate commercially available plug-in hybrid electric school busses and other emerging technology vehicles with our Center partners in collaboration with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and other state agencies.

As more plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles become available, our Center will utilize the solar capacity to provide off-grid vehicle recharge.

This Center will have a diesel particulate trap regeneration station where public partners and private entities can exchange or renew their vehicle DPFs for continued cleaner diesel vehicle emissions.

The goal of this Center is to assist our partners and model to our surrounding school districts, governmental agencies, and other private business and ag partners to achieve a greener transportation environment.

## Speaker 5: Juan Garza (closing)

- We are seriously committed.
- We have invested money, time, energy, property, and infrastructure services.
- We have CMAQ funds to commit and we have the supportive partnership of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, PG&E and Chevron Energy Solutions.
- We have met with and have gained support from our local representatives regarding this innovative project
- We believe our vision for sustainable energy, improved air quality, training the next generation for green technology jobs and providing those jobs **matches** the Energy Commission's mission.
- This project could serve as a model for other regions and for the state.
- We have a dire need ... an immediate need ... we understand and accept our responsibility to be good stewards and leaders.
- We look forward to your consideration in funding a worthy project.