Protecting our Environment, Improving our Quality of Life

Protecting our environment and preserving our neighborhoods are essential to long term, sustainable economic growth and prosperity, and to improving our quality of life.

In the 12 years I’ve spent on the staff of Councilman Hal Bernson, much of my time has been spent leading the effort, on Hal’s behalf, to preserve the Chatsworth Reservoir and protect it from development by the Department of Water and Power.

The Chatsworth Reservoir is the last great open space left in the San Fernando Valley. I am proud to be part of a broad coalition of homeowners, community leaders, naturalists, environmentalists and business people who successfully fought to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy this vital natural resource.

I serve as Mayor Riordan’s appointment to the Southern California Regional Rail (METROLINK) Authority. No single greater threat to the livability of our neighborhoods and the economic productivity of our businesses exists than traffic, smog and gridlock.

While I’ve fought for increased and improved bus service and road and highway projects, the Valley does not receive its fair share of transportation funding, from the city, state or federal governments.

Local, state and federal representatives must work together to change this – now.

Frankly, we’ve got no one to blame for the lack of rail transit in the Valley but ourselves. Over the past twenty years we’ve let the self-interested politics of a privileged few prevail over the common good. While a handful of their neighborhoods have been “protected,” the resulting increases in traffic, congestion and smog seriously threaten many of our communities.

We need to reopen this issue of rail in the Valley, no matter how painful or difficult, because with out it our air, our quality of life, and our economy will suffer. We need to respect communities in the planning process, but the bottom line is that we need rail in the Valley.

The greatest threats to our neighborhoods and to our economic productivity are traffic, smog and gridlock...
The bottom line is that we need rail in the Valley.

Each and every one of us needs to focus on this the next time we are stuck in traffic on the Ventura Freeway – at 5 o’clock on a Sunday afternoon.

I completely reject the notion that we have to choose between what’s good for the economy and what’s good for our quality of life. I believe the two are inextricably connected.

I also believe that the best decisions are made when people of reason, with a shared commitment to solving our problems, sit down together and hammer out good, workable solutions.

So while I’m proud to have the endorsement and support of the Sierra Club, I am equally proud to be endorsed by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Having the support of the League of Conservation Voters and important business leaders like Ruth Richter of the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce and Ann Kinzie of the Reseda Chamber of Commerce means I’ll be a better, stronger, member of the City Council.
“Protecting our environment and preserving our neighborhoods are essential to long-term, sustainable economic prosperity and improving our quality of life. I’ve worked for many years here in the Valley to put these principles into action. I’m proud to be the environmental candidate in the contest for the West Valley seat on the L.A. City Council.”

Environmental concern, practical experience

Safe, Clean, Healthy Neighborhoods
- Reinvest in our neighborhood parks
- Expand urban tree planting and landscaping
- Empower Neighborhood Councils

Improve Our Quality of Life
- Reduce waste, require City of L.A. to increase recycling
- Replace diesel trucks and buses with cleaner technologies
- Oppose Ahmanson Ranch
- Expand rail and bus services to reduce traffic, congestion and smog

Protect Our Environment
- Close Sunshine Canyon Landfill once and for all
- Secure funding for open space acquisition, preserve Chatsworth Reservoir
- Push for clean-fuels technology in the City vehicle fleet
- Fully fund clean air and safe drinking water enforcement

Endorsements:
The Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
L.A. League of Conservation Voters
Councilman Hal Bernson
Mothers and Others Against the Dump
Dorothy Green, founder of Heal the Bay
Ed Begley, Jr., actor and environmental activist
Art Langton, teacher and past president, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society