

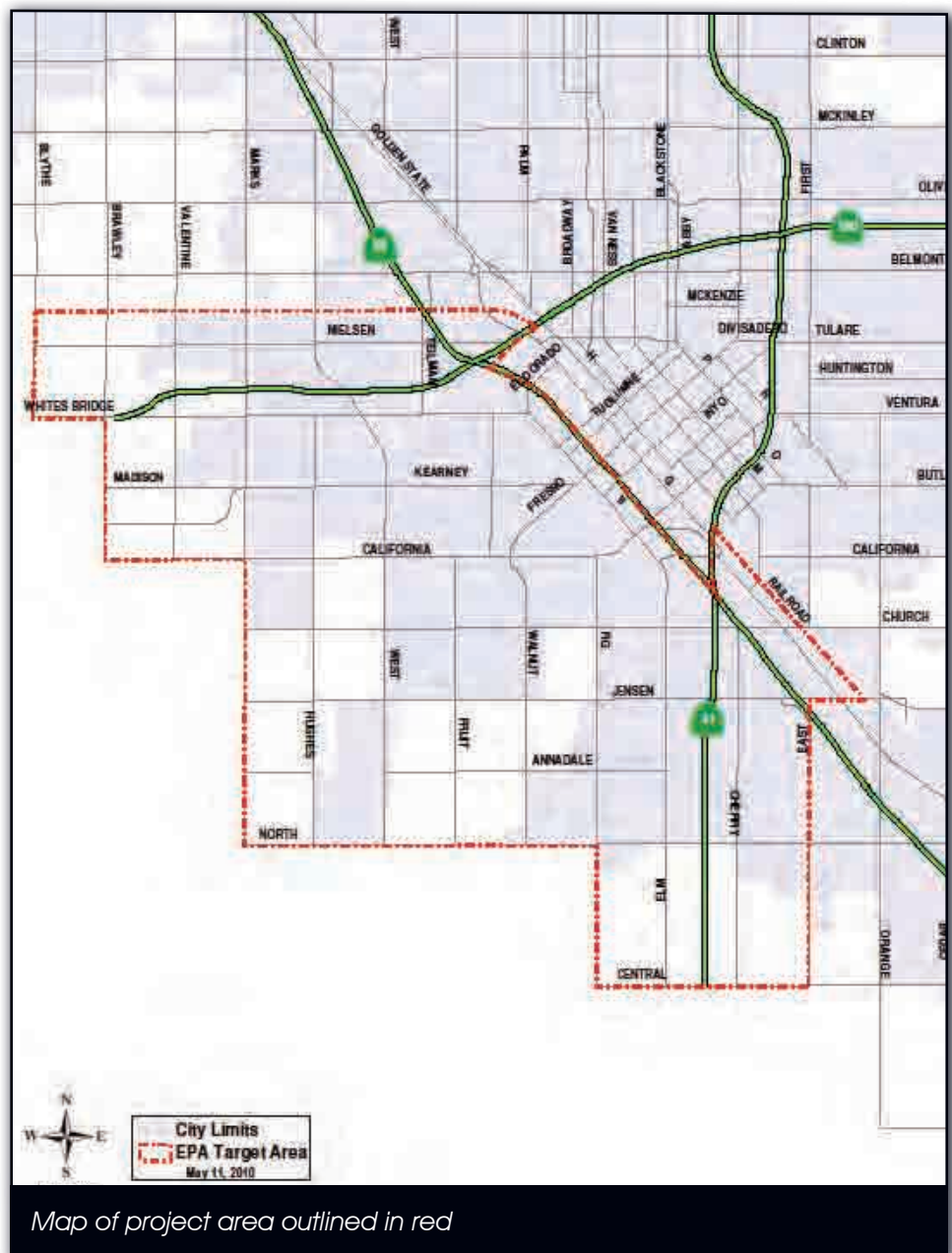
# Transforming the Golden West Side: A Sustainable Communities Partnership Pilot, Fresno, California

West Fresno is located in California's San Joaquin Valley and is bounded by State Road 99, Highway 180, and Highway 41. A mix of industrial and commercial sites interspersed with residential sections, the community suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation, lacks many public services and amenities, and has some of the highest concentrations of poverty in the nation. Residential housing is located close to industries not commonly located near residential areas, such as rendering plants and meat packers. The area has identifiable brownfield sites with suspected contamination from auto and food processing businesses.

The Redevelopment Agency of Fresno attracted various projects to West Fresno that provided affordable housing, a grocery complex, a library within a one-stop government center, and millions of dollars in improved infrastructure. However, despite these accomplishments, blighted or contaminated properties continue to stymie development.

To support the city's redevelopment efforts, EPA's Land Revitalization Program is supporting a pilot project in West Fresno in conjunction with the HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities and Region 9's Federal Regional Council. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is providing additional support. Two local stakeholder groups, the Golden West Side Planning Committee and Concerned Citizens of West Fresno, are cosponsoring and assisting with pre-planning for this initiative. The aim is to create a resident-led platform for advocacy, provide scenarios for reuse of the cleaned-up parcels, and empower residents with detailed knowledge of the health and economic benefits that accrue through contaminated site cleanup.

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities is an agreement between the EPA and the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development to help communities identify opportunities to link housing, transit, and brownfields revitalization. The three agencies will work together, and with the community,



Map of project area outlined in red

to improve coordination and funding to support local priorities, such as increased transit for better access to jobs and services and beneficial linkages between future high-speed rail stations in downtown Fresno and West Fresno. Participants will evaluate the suitability of redeveloping local brownfield sites into green space, commercial development, and transit-oriented development.

EPA Region 9 staff will convene community meetings to learn how area residents view future development and whether specific brownfields redevelopment projects will improve the livability of the West Fresno community. The goals are to raise awareness about brownfields, create a map of existing and potential brownfield sites in West Fresno, and help community residents identify goals for brownfields reuse. A project report will capture community ideas for redevelopment and summarize next steps and short- and long-term goals.