



Press Release

Office of Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN JOSE CLEAN TECH STRATEGIST APPOINTED AS
DELAWARE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

*Silicon Valley approaches to help advance “The First State’s” energy and
environmental challenges*

SAN JOSE, Calif. – March 17, 2009—Delaware Governor Jack Markell today announced in Dover, Del., that San Jose’s Clean Tech Strategist, Collin O’ Mara, is being nominated as the State of Delaware’s Secretary of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

In his new role, upon confirmation, O’Mara will focus on environmental protection, land conservation, outdoor recreation, and energy and climate change issues.

“Improving air, water and soil quality, restoring and preserving natural resources, and increasing renewable energy and clean fuel use, while creating green jobs, are all top priorities for my administration. This is why I’ve chosen

Collin O'Mara as Delaware's new secretary of natural resources and environmental control. He's proven with his work in San Jose that he is an expert at addressing environmental challenges while growing a green economy," said Markell. "On top of this, he has world-class academic training and innovative policy experience that brings a new vision and change to the department, and the strategic ability to translate this administration's vision into tangible results," said Markell.

O'Mara brings Silicon Valley expertise to his new role. While in California, he served as an architect and strategic lead of San Jose's Green Vision, a strategy that includes ten bold goals, including job creation, renewable energy usage, energy and water conservation, recycling, green building, alternative fuel vehicles, and land use planning. In this role, he has become intimately familiar with a wide range of federal, state, and local environmental regulation. O'Mara also helped design environmental regulations at the local and regional level, including the first mandatory green building for San Jose, the 10th largest city in the United States.

"San Jose is about incubating and inspiring the future. These have been the hallmarks of Collin O'Mara's vision and leadership. Most significantly, Collin has been a driving force behind the development and implementation of our Green Vision. His balance of idealism and pragmatism has encouraged business and community leaders to look at the opportunities that environmental sustainability offers for creating economy prosperity. While Collin will be sorely missed, he has helped us launch this vision for future success and will do the same for the people and businesses in Delaware," said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed.

While serving as San Jose's clean tech strategist, he laid the framework that helped to create more than three thousand green jobs, two billion dollars of investment, and the growth of clean tech sector in San Jose.

“Collin is a true environmental champion and proved that repeatedly in San Jose. He has a clear vision for what a sustainable world with a low-carbon economy can look like and the skill-set to help move Delaware into a national leadership position. He possesses the rare and valuable talent of seeing the world through the lens of the possible, not the established or ideological. His strong environmental and social ethos blend with a cool head, a keen mind, and a knack for problem solving—qualities that helped him fuel green innovation in Silicon Valley,” said Margaret Bruce, Western Regional Director, U.S., The Climate Group.

O’Mara was a key staff member in the San Jose Office of Economic Development, part of the San Jose Office of the City Manager. In addition to his work on the San Jose Green Vision, he addressed initiatives that drove the City’s Economic Development Strategy, a 15-point roadmap that focuses on growing the San Jose economy, providing economic opportunity for residents and businesses, and revenue growth to fund City services.

“A vital cycle of success in the public sector requires growing an economy that enables prosperity for all and helps create a vibrant, sustainable community with a high quality of life. Collin has directed projects that have done just that: he has worked tirelessly to ensure that economic development and environmental efforts benefit individuals at all levels of the economic spectrum as well as businesses at key stages in incubation, attraction and retention. He has been a wonderful asset to our City,” said Paul Krutko, Chief Development Officer, City of San Jose.

As O’Mara begins his new role, he intends to develop a new strategy for environmental protection—one that will combine consistent regulatory enforcement with policies and programs to seize the economic opportunities presented from the greening of the economy.

“Not only can Delaware be a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful state--it can become more prosperous in the process,” said O’Mara.

Prior to his position with the City of San Jose, O’Mara was a Marshall Scholar at the University of Oxford, a University Fellow at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and a Presidential Scholar at Dartmouth College.

O’Mara is a U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) and recently completed Stanford Business School’s Executive Management Program in Business Strategies for Environmental Sustainability.

ABOUT SAN JOSE’S GREEN VISION

On October 7, 2007, Mayor Chuck Reed introduced San Jose’s Green Vision, which sets 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development. This 15-year plan envisions: creating 25,000 Clean Tech jobs; building or retrofitting 50 million square feet of green buildings; installing 100,000 solar roofs (1/10 of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s 1 million solar roofs for California initiative); reducing per capita electricity use by half; becoming a zero waste city; recycling and reusing 100 percent of the city’s water; and moving to 100 percent renewable energy. San Jose, the nation’s tenth largest city, already is a leader in clean energy and solar innovation, with leading corporations such as SunPower, SoloPower, Stion, Nanosolar, Fat Spaniel, SunWize, Sopogy, and others headquartered in the city. Electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla Motors recently announced that it would locate its headquarters and new manufacturing plant in San Jose. For more information, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/.

ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, to work and to live. For more information, visit, www.sanjoseca.gov.

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