

# FRESNO

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Mayor Ashley Swearingin, City of Fresno

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### Support from partners in the region

#### California State University, Fresno, Administrators and Faculty

1. President John D. Welty
2. Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Thomas McClanahan
3. Center for Irrigation Technology: Director David F. Zoldoske
4. Office of Community & Economic Development: Executive Director Mike Dozier
5. Lyles Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Executive Director Timothy M. Stearns  
*including background on the Lyles Center*

#### Private Companies and Attorneys

6. Lakos: Chairman Claude C. Laval III
7. Law offices of Andrew Fortney: Andrew D. Fortney, Sherrie M. Flynn, Anthony R. Jimenez, Bradley J. Levang, William K. Nelson, Ryan S. Dunning, Theresa J. Mahan
8. Corrigan Law Group: Ryan W. Corrigan
9. Klein Denatale Goldner Cooper Rosenlieb & Kimball: James M. Duncan
10. Walter & Wilhelm Law Group: Riley C. Walter
11. Walter & Wilhelm Law Group: Jake A. Soberal
12. Richard A. Ryan, Attorney at Law

#### Government Agencies and Business Organizations

13. U.S. Small Business Administration, Fresno Office: District Director Carlos Mendoza
14. UC Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network:  
Regional Director Diane R. Howerton
15. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley: Lead Executive Mike Dozier
16. Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County: CEO Lee Ann Eager
17. Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce: President & CEO Al Smith
18. Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: John Hernandez, CEO
19. Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce: President J. Tate Hill II
20. Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: CEO Dora Westerlund
21. Central Valley SCORE: Chairman Peter W. Fong





## MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

January 30, 2012

Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Submitted via email: [satelliteoffices@uspto.gov](mailto:satelliteoffices@uspto.gov)

Dear Mr. Khan:

On behalf of the City of Fresno, I am pleased to invite the United States Patent and Trademark Office to locate a satellite office in downtown Fresno.

Fresno is the capital city of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural and food innovation region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation-driven economy. In 2010, 30,076 patents were issued to Californian individuals and entities, roughly one quarter of all 121,164 domestic patents issued, and more than 3½ times the patents of the second most-prolific state, Texas. Even adjusting for size, California is still in the top three states for patents per capita. Moreover, California counties account for six of the top-eight U.S. counties home to inventors obtaining utility patents in 2010. To best serve the largest volume of its customers, we believe the USPTO must establish a California satellite. And, within California, Fresno is the only major city that offers the affordable, high quality of life required to stabilize the USPTO's workforce and operations and yield the most productivity possible.

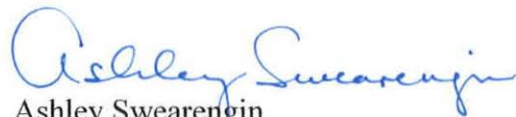
The San Joaquin Valley has a proud and growing innovation tradition in food and fiber production, and water and energy technology. We are located in the center of California, between the world-leading innovation economies of northern and southern California. A car or train trip of three hours, or an airplane flight of less than one hour, connects Fresno with the entire San Francisco Bay region and with the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Meanwhile our international airport, which is never closed due to weather, serves destinations in California and beyond, such as Seattle, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas, and Mexico.

Fresno is working to develop its economy in strategic and innovative ways. The City has launched a series of local business initiatives aimed at building the capacity of companies from the inside, and building on our region's strength in food production. We are working to revitalize downtown Fresno and the surrounding older neighborhoods by rewriting City plans and zoning codes, engaging the private sector, and improving City infrastructure. The City is aligning every possible federal, state, and local resource to achieve revitalization and economic development.

The robustness of the City's economic development efforts is one reason the White House chose Fresno to participate in the "Strong Cities, Strong Communities" (SC2) Initiative in 2011, along with five other U.S. cities (including Detroit, Michigan). Under SC2, Fresno's revitalization effort is receiving full- and part-time assistance from 12 federal agencies and departments, including the Department of Commerce. Two staff members, representing the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency, are actually located in Fresno and working out of the Mayor's Office for the next year. A USPTO satellite office in Fresno would greatly help the collaborative efforts of these federal resources.

Thank you for considering this invitation to locate a USPTO satellite office in Fresno. We are excited by USPTO's desire in establishing satellite offices to improve the patent examination process, and based on the information contained in the attached pages, we believe a downtown Fresno location fits naturally with USPTO's goals. Following your review of this material, the City's economic development partners and I look forward to showing you in person what a Fresno location has to offer, and answering any questions you may have about our region. Please direct correspondence to Elliott Balch, the City's Downtown Revitalization Manager, at [Elliott.Balch@fresno.gov](mailto:Elliott.Balch@fresno.gov) or (559) 621-8366.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Swearingin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Ashley Swearingin  
Mayor





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## USPTO Goal 1

Increase outreach activities to better connect patent filers and innovators with the USPTO, including the number of patent filings and grants by the city/region as well as other information that provides insight into the region's innovation activity.

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Locating a USPTO satellite office in Fresno, California will increase outreach activities to patent filers and innovators in two ways: (A) by connecting the USPTO with scientists in water, renewable energy, and food science research; and (B) by being a central hub for innovators from Silicon Valley and southern California.

### A. Fresno has built and continues to build an “ecosystem” to develop innovative technologies and jobs.

Key elements of the Central California innovative and business-oriented ecosystem include:

- **Research Innovation**  
Universities, private sector
- **Academia**  
California State University, Fresno  
University of California, Merced  
Community colleges
- **Business Incubation**  
Central Valley Business Incubator  
Water and energy technology entrepreneurs
- **R&D Testing**  
The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
UC Merced  
CSU Fresno
- **Tech Commercialization**  
Lyles Center
- **Tech Transfer**  
UC Merced  
CSU Fresno
- **Cooperative Governments**  
Federal, state, and local
- **Workforce Development**  
Workforce Investment Board  
Small Business Development Center
- **Industry Clusters and Alliances**  
San Joaquin Valley Partnership  
Regional Jobs Initiative  
Active MOUs
- **Affiliations**  
Regional, national and international
- **Funding**  
Venture capital and banking partners

Central California is at the forefront of innovative technologies in water, renewable energy, and food sciences. From 2009-2011, inventors residing in the City of Fresno filed about 430 patent applications, most of them in the agriculture and water technologies. Fresno County is the top crop producing county in the United States. The hot and dry climate combined with world-leading volumes of agricultural activity requires innovative irrigation control. Several world-



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class irrigation companies are located in Fresno, including Grundfos Management A/S, Lakos, Pure Sense, and Jain Irrigation.

Fresno is home to a well-established Water Cluster, a consortium of approximately 160 locally based water companies and about 200 nationally based companies that meet quarterly to share information relative to water technology. The International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) and the Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT), located on the campus of California State University, Fresno (Fresno State), are among the leading water and fluid science technology research, development and testing programs in the world. The area is at the innovative forefront of irrigation techniques, soil management, groundwater management, Smart Water Systems, and more.

The Water, Energy and Technology (WET) Center, home to the Claude Laval Water and Energy Technology Incubator and the testing facilities of the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT), provides an entryway for entrepreneurs, innovators and established and start-up businesses to accelerate commercialization, product and business launch and/or the development of practical application of new technologies. The region is branding itself the “Blue Tech Valley” to highlight the burgeoning regional water technology developments.

Fresno County, one of the world’s leading agricultural producing counties, supports hundreds of water technology businesses; and the fertile lands of the region make this area a living laboratory in which to develop, test and apply water and energy technologies, all of which support not only water innovations, but agricultural technology, on which a large part of our local economy is based. Fresno is deeply vested in promoting and supporting water technologies.

Additionally, the tenth and newest University of California campus, UC Merced, provides strong innovation support in the renewable energy sector. Merced, California is located only 58 miles from Fresno. UC Merced hosts the world-renowned Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI), as well as the University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute (UC Solar) and the UC Merced Energy Research Institute (UCMERI). As the world's hunger for energy grows and fossil fuel supplies become less certain, the need to develop alternative renewable energy sources is paramount. The most abundant source of renewable energy is the sun. Researchers at UC Merced are at the forefront of solar renewable energy product development.

The economic foundation of Central California is agriculture. There are many scientists in the region engineering new tree-fruit and vegetable varieties. Also, in the most productive agricultural region in the world, local inventors are constantly inventing the latest in automated food processing equipment to process food close to the harvest site. Fresno is the most innovative region for food science and processing technology.





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The City of Fresno is home to Fresno State, a world-class University that includes the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Lyles College of Engineering, and the College of Math and Science. Fresno State celebrated its centennial last year and is a pillar in the community. Fresno State is affiliated with the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which works with students and community members to commercialize products by refining them and building businesses to sell new and innovative products. The University recently created a technology transfer office and is committed to protecting, licensing and commercializing University inventions.

## **B. Fresno is the central hub for innovative regions of California.**

In addition to the innovative ecosystem described above, Fresno is very connected to the rest of California, especially the world-famous innovation centers of Silicon Valley and southern California. With investments by the state and federal government, California's high-speed rail system is expected to begin construction in the Fresno area later this year. At buildout, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. The "Silicon Valley" area of the San Francisco Bay lies about 150 miles to the northwest, with San Francisco located about 180 miles from Fresno. The California capital city of Sacramento is located about 180 miles north of Fresno. To the south, Los Angeles is about 220 miles away, with San Diego an additional 120 miles beyond. Fresno is located on the West Coast, which is easily accessible for inventors from Asian countries, who file many patents in the USPTO.

Within the San Joaquin Valley region, Downtown Fresno is the natural place for a USPTO satellite office. From the Valley's earliest days, downtown Fresno served as the hub of life in the region. Today downtown is served by 14 Amtrak trains per day, around the clock Greyhound bus service, eight local bus routes, and the intersection of three regional freeways. The City has received \$17 million in federal funding for two bus rapid transit lines to provide light-rail-equivalent service on two axes of the city that emanate from downtown Fresno. Over 4,000 parking spaces surround the Fulton Mall, the historic site of the region's "Main Street," in existing lots and garages. There is no other place in the San Joaquin Valley that can match the downtown area's level of connectivity to the rest of the region.



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## USPTO Goal 2

**Enhance patent examiner retention, including quality of life indicators such as average household income, cost of living factors, and other factors related to employee retention.**

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We understand that the quantity and quality of patent examinations can suffer when the majority of patent examiners stay with the USPTO for three years or less. Without a doubt, Fresno offers the best opportunity of any potential satellite office location in California to help the USPTO remedy the problem of high examiner turnover.

As with almost any employer, the decision by a young examiner to “put down roots” at the USPTO can hinge on factors well beyond the four walls of the office where he or she works. An employee whose salary affords a comfortable life will be less eager to leave quickly for new opportunities than an employee whose pay lags behind salaries in the region and affords only modest living quarters and a meager standard of living. The quality of the region’s amenities similarly affects the satisfaction of residents and employees with the place they live and work.

Fresno is uniquely able to offer both a low cost of living and a high quality of life to those who live and work here. Consider a patent examiner’s housing choices. In California in 2010, the median single family home cost \$301,790. In some areas of the state, such as the San Francisco Bay and San Diego, median prices ranged up to double this number. Purchasing a home in these locations is well beyond the means of most patent examiners. Yet in the same year, a median single family home in Fresno County costs only \$160,000, and in recent years, stately older homes in historic neighborhoods around downtown Fresno have been selling for even less out of foreclosure and short sale. A patent examiner’s salary in Fresno would allow purchasing a home at the median price or better, a feat that — as young homeowners in Fresno can attest — would be the envy of his or her friends in major metropolitan areas up and down California and across the nation.

The price of housing in Fresno correlates to a lower cost of living overall in the San Joaquin Valley than in the other heavily urbanized regions of California. Dinner at a fine restaurant, movie tickets, and cocktails are among the quality-of-life items that all generally cost 25-50% less in Fresno than they might in the Bay Area or Southern California. The cost of living is lower because incomes in general are lower. Census records show the 2009 median household income in Fresno County was \$45,219, or 23% lower than the median California household income that year of \$58,925. In a region where household incomes are lower and the cost of living is lower, every dollar paid to a patent examiner will simply go farther.

Of course, quality of life is not always measured in dollars and cents. Like many regions up and down our great state, the San Joaquin Valley boasts plenty of warm California sunshine — an average of 288 sunny days every year. Yet Fresno has assets no other area of California can





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claim. About an hour away lie the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the entrances to three great National Parks: Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia. Fresno County has hundreds of lakes, more than any other California county. All around the year, hikers, skiers, rock climbers, anglers, and whitewater rafters always find plenty to enjoy on a day or weekend trip. The area's natural assets have made outdoor recreation a part of Fresno's genetic code ever since the region's founding, and are the reason Fresno today is "California's year-round playground."

Fresno also offers a multitude of educational opportunities for patent examiners and their families. There is a local law school, the San Joaquin College of Law, where examiners and other employees of the USPTO satellite office can receive legal training. San Joaquin College of Law includes a part-time program where examiners could go to school in the evenings. Also, Fresno State has offers comprehensive post-graduate programs. The Fresno area boasts one of the finest pre-K-12 public educational systems in California and in the U.S. Many people move to the Fresno region for our outstanding public schools.

Fresno combines many of the advantages of a large city and a small town. The very longest commute from anywhere in the Fresno metropolitan area to downtown is 20 minutes, a feat typical of smaller towns but unheard of in California's larger megalopolises. Fresno's urban amenities in the downtown continue to take shape. In recent years over 100 cutting-edge downtown apartment units have been built within walking distance of potential USPTO office locations, and over 300 more units are in the planning stages now. The area already boasts an impressive collection of historic theaters and other buildings. The City's economic development strategy is centered on increasing the vitality of the urban core.

A high quality of life and a low cost of living go hand-in-hand with a healthy workplace in encouraging residents and employees to stay, invest, and put down roots rather than push on to the next available opportunity. Fresno's assets provide the USPTO an opportunity to offer a rich life to employees outside working hours.



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### USPTO Goal 3

Improve recruitment of patent examiners, including data on employment rates and other economic factors in the area, science and technology professionals, as well as legal professionals in the workforce and other related information.

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By locating a satellite office in Fresno, the USPTO would be able to recruit from a large number of highly trained, yet underemployed, young people.

Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, and our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.

Fresno State is the leading institution of higher learning in the region, with a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum, and masters degree programs in all departments. Fresno State has very strong science and technology departments. Table 1 shows the degrees Fresno State conferred in the different colleges. As shown below, many students graduate with science and engineering training.

**Table 1: Fresno State Degrees Awarded from 2005-2011**  
(UG = "undergraduate" and G = "graduate masters")

	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011	
	UG	G	UG	G	UG	G	UG	G	UG	G
College of Arts and Humanities	517	64	537	59	497	93	491	67	480	80
College of Health and Human Services	595	181	721	188	708	198	712	194	735	201
<b>College of Science and Mathematics</b>	350	38	377	58	364	64	404	77	<b>392</b>	<b>67</b>
College of Social Sciences	456	39	467	39	524	62	478	64	513	63
Craig School of Business	533	69	548	70	590	83	600	91	605	82
<b>Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology</b>	244	29	309	24	293	40	288	33	<b>327</b>	<b>36</b>
Kremen School of Education and Human Development	458	241	405	364	377	256	286	383	299	291
<b>Lyles College of Engineering</b>	189	12	183	19	178	26	186	23	<b>188</b>	<b>26</b>





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UC Merced is the newest University of California campus. Opened in the early 2000s, UC Merced is proud to be the first American research university established in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Table 2 lists the UC Merced undergraduate and graduate programs offered that are relevant to science and technology. UC Merced's student enrollment is increasing every year. In the fall of 2005, UC Merced enrolled its first undergraduate class of 875. By the fall of 2011, the undergraduate enrollment had increased to 5,198. A steady pipeline of young people trained in the technical sciences at UC Merced are ready to become patent examiners.

**Table 2: UC Merced Degree Programs**

<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Graduate</b>
Applied Mathematical Sciences, B.S.	Applied Mathematics
Bioengineering, B.S.	Biological Engineering & Small-Scale Technologies
Biological Sciences, B.S.	Cognitive Information Sciences
Chemical Sciences, B.S.	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Cognitive Science, B.S.	Environmental Systems
Computer Science and Engineering, B.S.	Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics
Earth Systems Science, B.S.	Physics and Chemistry
Environmental Engineering, B.S.	Psychological Sciences
Materials Sciences and Engineering, B.S.	Quantitative and Systems Biology
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.	Social and Cognitive Sciences
Physics, B.S.	
Psychology, B.A.	

Fresno desperately needs jobs for these bright young people who are technically trained. A patent office with open examiner jobs will be the perfect way to create technical jobs in a region that has high unemployment. Like Detroit, Fresno County has a higher unemployment rate than that of the rest of the nation. The unemployment data from November 2011 showed that Fresno County has an unemployment rate of 15.7% in Fresno County, while the state of California has an unemployment rate of 10.9%, and the U.S. as a whole has an unemployment rate of 8.2%.

Besides having many technically trained young people, Fresno also has an active and engaged legal community. The Fresno County Bar has a membership numbering over 1,200 active members. The San Joaquin College of Law is located in Clovis, California and is within 10 miles of downtown Fresno.

Fresno County is a growing region. From 2000-2010, Fresno County increased in population by 16.4%. That is higher than the 10% population increase in the entire state of California. By locating the satellite office in Fresno, the USPTO is guaranteed a large pool of potential employees who are eager to work in the technical fields and who want to stay in the region.



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## **USPTO Goal 4**

### **Decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination.**

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Decreasing the backlog of patent applications awaiting examination is directly related to patent examiner retention. More experienced examiners are more efficient examiners. Therefore, our discussion explaining why a satellite office in Fresno will achieve USPTO Goal 2, relating to examiner retention, also applies here.

Fresno's location in Central California and connectedness with the rest of the state enable inventors from around the California to easily talk or meet with patent examiners. Face-to-face meetings always help resolve patentability issues, leading to more efficient examinations. Currently, California inventors have to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with patent examiners. It makes sense to allow Californian inventors—who by far file the greatest number of patents—greater accessibility to patent examiners. It also makes sense to maximize Californians' access to such a location by placing it in the middle of the state, between the Silicon Valley and southern California regions to the north and south.

Fresno can offer lower lease and operating costs than these regions as well. Low operating costs means the USPTO can lease as much space as it needs and hire the examiners and staff necessary to decrease the patent backlog. The USPTO could lease much more space in Fresno compared to any large metropolitan area in California. Large processing operations could be cost-effectively housed in Fresno.

Moreover, if the USPTO ever decides to outsource patent searching, Fresno has the trained workforce to staff, and the facilities available to house, large scale patent searching operations. Our locally trained workers are experts in water, renewable energy, and food science technologies. These technical areas comprise the next wave of innovation, with a global market for real-world applications, and the USPTO should situate a satellite office in the heart of where this innovation is taking place.

City of Fresno staff and partners stand ready to help find the size and type of space that best meets the USPTO's needs. The most recent Grubb & Ellis office trends report indicates that full-service office lease rates in downtown Fresno are 15% lower than in downtown San Jose, 27% lower than in downtown Los Angeles, 32% lower than in San Francisco, and 66% lower than in Palo Alto. In addition, the downtown Fresno office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has indicated (see enclosed letter) that they have 2,200 s.f. available now to a federal co-tenant such as the USPTO.

Employees themselves are another important operating cost factor. Here again, Fresno offers the USPTO an opportunity to save. Unlike California's other heavily urbanized metro regions,



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Fresno does not have its own federal locality pay scale and instead uses the “rest of the U.S.” scale. The difference in outlay per employee is shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Comparison of Salaries Reflecting Locality Pay**

<b>Locality in California</b>	<b>GS12 Step 1 salary</b>	<b>Difference from Fresno rate</b>
Fresno and “Rest of U.S.”	\$68,809	
Sacramento-Arden Arcade-Yuba City	\$73,655	+7%
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos	\$74,854	+9%
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside	\$76,644	+11%
San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland	\$81,460	+18%



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## **USPTO Goal 5**

**Improve the quality of patent examination.**

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The quality of patent examination is directly related to patent examiner retention. Experienced and well-trained patent examiners will produce the best quality patent examination. Therefore, our discussion explaining why locating a satellite office in Fresno will achieve USPTO Goal 2, relating to examiner retention, also applies here.

Fresno offers patent examiners a high quality of life in comparison with other metropolitan areas in California. Fresno's climate is sunny for close to 300 days a year, and the region receives very little precipitation. It never snows in Fresno. Therefore, there are no weather-based reasons keeping patent examiners from coming into the office.

Moreover, the commute time into downtown is very short — typically 10 to 20 minutes — because there is little congestion on our roads or highways. Patent examiners will not have to leave the office early to beat the traffic jam at the end of the day. By locating a satellite office in Fresno, the patent examiners will not have to telecommute or miss work days because of weather or traffic. At the same time, if patent examiners are spending more time in the office as opposed to telecommuting, then patent examination quality will improve due to shared information and collaborative problem-solving.

In Fresno we can see the next wave of innovation: it is coming in water, renewable energy, and food science technologies. These technologies have a global market for real-world applications in countries rich and poor. Central California is where water, renewable energy, and agriculture/food science experts reside. A Fresno office of the USPTO gives patent examiners the chance to consult with experts in these burgeoning innovation areas. Fresno State has affordable graduate programs to educate patent examiners in relevant technologies.

Fresno offers everything to enable the USPTO to increase the quality of patent examination: higher standard of living to increase patent examiner retention, more face-time in the office, and access to experts and education in innovative technologies.





January 30, 2012

CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

Mr. Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program –  
Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am pleased to express my strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

California State University, Fresno is the largest University in Central California and has made engagement with the region a major priority. As such, we have developed a number of programs through the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to encourage the development of new products and services.

I believe that Fresno should be chosen as a USPTO Satellite Office for the Nationwide Workforce Program for the following reasons:

- Fresno is the capital city of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy.
- Fresno's emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.
- We also recognize the value of being located in the middle of the well known high-innovation economies to the north and south. Fresno is connected to all of these destinations by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less

**Office of the President**

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Fresno, CA 93740-8014

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Fax 559.278.4715



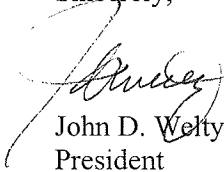
than 90 minutes. We believe this strategic location and connection to the state's regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.

- Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.
- Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities.

I am certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,



John D. Welty  
President

JDW/TS/mem



January 26, 2012

CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
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**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am writing to express my strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. I truly believe Fresno is the best location for a satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

I am the Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs at California State University Fresno (Fresno State). My office handles all of the grant, contract, and sponsored research procurement activity for the University. Over the last 15 years, our grant funding has tripled from \$10 million in the mid 1990's to close to \$40 million last year.

Fresno State is committed to doing world-class research. Last year, my office added a patent attorney to head the University technology transfer efforts. The University is revising its Intellectual Property Policy to lower any barriers to collaborations between University faculty and private industry. My office is excited about helping our faculty secure funding to support their innovative research and helping them license and commercialize the resulting technologies.

Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to Fresno State, which includes the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and the Lyles College of Engineering. The University is also home to a world renowned Water Cluster, including International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) and the Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT). In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. I am certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout California and the western United States, as well as easy access to high quality local technology human resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.

Thank you for your consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. If I may be of further assistance during your selection process, then please contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas McClanahan, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs  
California State University, Fresno

Office of Research  
and Sponsored Programs

4910 N. Chestnut Ave. M/S OF123  
Fresno, CA 93726-1852

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CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

January 27, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program –  
Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

We are pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

The Center for Irrigation Technology, part of California State University, Fresno, has a 30 year history of working with industry to develop new and innovative products and idea to improve water use efficiency. Additionally, in the last 10 years we have expanded our efforts to work with all water technology companies to test and evaluate new product ideas. Having a USPTO in Fresno would only add to the resources focused on innovation.

We would welcome the opportunity to have local support on Patent and Trademark activities. This is growing area for our University research efforts, any and all support in this area is appreciated.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David F. Zoldoske'.

Dr. David F. Zoldoske, Director  
Center for Irrigation Technology  
California State University, Fresno

Center for  
Irrigation Technology

5370 N. Chestnut Ave. M/S OF18  
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CALIFORNIA  
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UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

January 25, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: OCED Support for USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan,

On behalf of the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) at California State University, Fresno, I am writing to express support for a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. As articulated below, Fresno is the ideal and most strategic location for a new USPTO satellite office as it will best fit the needs of USPTO, its employees and patent filers.

Established in August 2000, OCED is an on-campus division of California State University, Fresno that is dedicated to aligning the University's intellectual capacity and innovation-driven economic development initiatives to improve the competitiveness and prosperity of the San Joaquin Valley region. Recognized regionally for its ability to link, align and leverage the University and its resources to the needs of the community, OCED continues to serve the region through several programs: 1) the Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) is a partnership of community and private-sector leaders who work together within twelve targeted industry clusters to leverage resources, share information, and empower local industries to compete globally; 2) the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership created by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005 that remains sharply focused on improving economic vitality and quality of life for the 4 million residents of the eight county region; and 3) the San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center which was created in 2010 to improve quality of life in rural communities by providing customized technical assistance that will enhance local capacity. Acting as a resource hub, the Rural Development Center provides solutions for public agencies in small, underserved communities by connecting them to experts who can provide specialized consulting to which they would otherwise not have access. OCED has also recently established the San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium, an initiative geared at bringing broadband infrastructure to un-served and underserved communities in the region.

Since our inception, OCED has facilitated numerous public/private partnerships geared at bolstering the spirit of entrepreneurialism and innovation in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley as a whole. Fresno's strength in this arena makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology. Located in California's San Joaquin Valley, Fresno is part of an agricultural powerhouse that accounts for almost 50% of the state's agricultural output, or roughly \$13 billion of California's GDP. Our agricultural economy remains at the forefront of innovation and technological advances, with nearby International Agricultural Exposition serving as the premiere global forum for showcasing new farming technologies.

The valley is also home to an expanding number of clean energy businesses with what has been referred to as a "solar goldrush" creating countless opportunities for innovation in the clean energy

Office of Community and  
Economic Development

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Fresno California 93740

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sector. The region is looking to develop a regional energy roadmap to craft a comprehensive vision that will secure the valley's long-term role as an innovation-driven green color business hub. With this in mind, Fresno's central location within the San Joaquin Valley makes it a prime location for a satellite office to better connect patent filers with USPTO.

Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities.

Locating a USPTO satellite office in Fresno is consistent with the goals and objectives of several initiatives administered by OCED to improve the economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley, notably the Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) and the Rural Development Center. The RJI has leveraged a variety of stakeholders to increase technological advancement and innovation within the valley and would be greatly benefited by a USPTO satellite office in Fresno. Similarly, the Rural Development Center has reached out to smaller communities in the valley and facilitated new opportunities for traditionally underserved residents. Both of these initiatives underscore the critical role the San Joaquin Valley will play as California's fastest growing region with an increasingly entrepreneurial, innovative and dynamic business climate.

At OCED, we understand that innovation and regional economic development are critical to the competitiveness of local communities, and are essential to job creation and economic recovery. Please consider the Office of Community and Economic Development at California State University, Fresno a supporter of locating an USPTO satellite office in Fresno.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Dozier', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Dozier, Executive Director  
Office of Community & Economic Development



CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

January 29, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

It is with pleasure that I have the opportunity to communicate my profound support for a USPTO Satellite Office located in Fresno, California. As a Coleman Chairholder of Entrepreneurship and Founder/Executive Director of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, I can state that the Central Valley is poised as a region to become a viable partner with the mission of the facility.

For nearly twenty years, California State University, Fresno under the guidance of President Welty has made a substantive and productive effort to transform the economic stagnation of the Central Valley by building an infrastructure around innovation and entrepreneurship. As you are aware, no region achieves successful transformation without a great effort to realign the institutions and attitudes of the population. The accomplishments to date have been significant and have fully prepared the region to capture the opportunity that innovation provides.

From the perspective of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, we have been able to achieve the following:

- Launched and built an undergraduate degree in entrepreneurship with over 150 majors graduating 60-70 each year. As is the case for most students in the university, a large majority of the students are from the region and build their careers in the region.
- Launched a graduate program with an emphasis on entrepreneurship that graduates 20-25 students a year.
- Built a first in the nation "Entrepreneur Pathway" linking the Lyles Center with twelve community colleges in the region through articulation, common training of instructors, and the launch of "e-centers" on each community college campus.
- Created a Technology Commercialization Program within the Lyles Center that works directly with faculty, students, staff, and innovators across the Central Valley to evaluate, enhance, and bring to market viable product ideas. The TDC works closely with the community colleges in the region as well.

Lyles Center for Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship

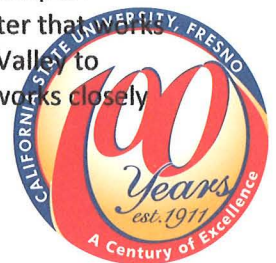
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M/S WC142

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CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

- Trained teachers in over 20 high schools in the region to teach entrepreneurship as an elective course. Students successfully completing the course can articulate to a community college or Fresno State.
- Co-produce the Central Valley Venture Forum, bringing over 25 venture capitalists to Fresno for the one day event to learn about opportunities and work with local entrepreneurs on investment capital opportunities.
- House two venture capital companies, The Central Valley Fund and the Bulldog Capital Fund, providing needed investment capital to existing companies as well as those in the launch phase.
- Have received over \$2 million in program investment from the Coleman Foundation of Chicago, Illinois to enhance programs, the largest investment in entrepreneurial education from the Foundation in the Western United States.
- A leader in inter-disciplinary entrepreneur education with faculty teaching entrepreneurship courses in their discipline on the Fresno State campus from such areas as anthropology, fashion design, culinary arts, organic gardening, engineering, architecture, real estate, urban studies, water technology, and sociology.
- Created Kids Invent!, a global program teaching K-8 students hands on learning around creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

While the Lyles Center has received much acclaim for its work since it was launched eight years ago, the tribute that comes closest to reflecting our efforts is from Entrepreneur magazine when they stated that Fresno State was one of twelve universities in the United States was in the "entrepreneur vanguard" for its extensive efforts to link campus with the community (April, 2009). Attached you will find an overview of the Lyles Center and a sample of its programs.

We believe that the continued growth of agriculture technology and water technology, two core industries in the Central Valley, will accelerate with the abundance of intellectual property that disseminates from these sectors. We also believe that a labor force with a strong work ethic and professional skills provides an opportunity for a Satellite office to operate as one of the best in the country.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Stearns", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Timothy M. Stearns  
Coleman Foundation Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies  
Executive Director/Founder, Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Lyles Center for Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship

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Located at California State University, Fresno, the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is one of the leading entrepreneurial centers in California. The Lyles Center offers assistance to students, entrepreneurs and innovators of all ages. Best known for its wide variety of programs and services, the Lyles Center delivers assistance to develop successful companies through applied learning, professional consulting and managed problem solving.

A recognized leader in entrepreneurship and innovation education, the Lyles Center employs its strategic position to leverage resources from the entire University to assist innovators and entrepreneurs in the development of their business. The Lyles Center is not only a stepping stone for young professionals, but a bridge as well for the campus and the community, linking resources of both to achieve success in the marketplace.

#### **HISTORY CREATED**



*Mr. William Lyles*

Founded in February 2003, the Lyles Center has rapidly become a highly-recognized leader in entrepreneurship education and future preparation. Dr. Timothy M. Stearns, Director of the Lyles Center, was working to establish a nationally recognized center for entrepreneurship in the Central Valley when he crossed paths with William “Bill” Lyles in 2000.

Mr. Lyles’ interest and enthusiasm about the opportunity led to an endowment and the launch of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The generous gift from the Lyles Family Foundation gave the Center the ability to build programs and activities that foster sustained growth of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the region as well as funding the dream of a brand new facility, which opened in April of 2006. Today, funding from both the Lyles Foundation and the Coleman Foundation continues to build upon this dream.

#### **CENTRAL VALLEY VENTURE FORUM ([www.ValleyVentureForum.com](http://www.ValleyVentureForum.com))**

A partnership between the Lyles Center, the City of Clovis and the Central Valley Fund, the Central Valley Venture Forum (CVVF) brings together a group of local business executives, angel investors, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, professional service





*California State  
Treasurer Bill Lockyer*

providers, educators and civic leaders to discuss financial and economic opportunities for the Central Valley of California.

Since its start in 2006, the CVVF has brought a multitude of high-profile business and community leaders to the Central Valley. The event has previously featured: Meg Whitman, former eBay CEO and former California gubernatorial candidate, California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, California State Controller John Chiang and Steve Westly, co-founder of eBay and venture capitalist.

The CVVF is designed to provide leaders in the Central Valley with helpful information and resources to help them succeed. The event provides attendees with information on raising capital and prospering even during California's current recession.

## **ENTREPRENEUR PATHWAY**

The Entrepreneurial Pathway program unites high schools and community colleges throughout the Central Valley with the Lyles Center. Created in October 2007, the program is currently overseen by Genelle Taylor, Associate Director of the Lyles Center, and Casey Lamonski. The Pathway program is funded by a grant presented from the Coleman Foundation of Chicago, to better prepare high school and community college students for the Entrepreneurship program at California State University, Fresno.

The Pathway begins work with individuals at the most important stages of adolescents' and young adults' lives to allow for better understanding of entrepreneurship.



*Students listen to guest speakers who  
have become entrepreneurs*

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION**

The Technology Commercialization Program was created in 2007 with consultation from the leaders of the successful program at the University of Utah. Rather than a focus on licensing and transfer, the Technology Commercialization Program has a unique model that focuses on the development of products for introduction to the market. Through coaching, feasibility teams, and professional services, the Program assists innovators and entrepreneurs in moving viable ideas through the critical steps.

## NFTE PROGRAM

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) was founded in 1987 by Steve Mariotti in New York City. The program's mission is "to provide programs that inspire young people from low-income communities to stay in school, to recognize business opportunities and to plan for successful futures." The Lyles Center has worked with NFTE since 2007; the program's goal-oriented curriculum to build strong business plans and entrepreneurial mindsets is a perfect fit for what the Lyles Center offers.



The program focuses on youth from low-income communities and allows them to create their own business plans with the opportunity to receive funding to execute their plan. Each year, the Lyles Center sends one student from the NFTE program to New York for the national NFTE Small Business Plan Competition. The Lyles Center's Project Coordinator for Educational Outreach continually trains new college student mentors and visits high schools to prepare for the school year's agenda.

*Cassandra Padilla (left), CEO of Dulce Sweets and graduate of the NFTE program, presented her business plan to Univision*

## KIDS INVENT!

The Lyles Center is offering Kids Invent! After School Program and Summer Camps. Through this program, children in grades K-8 are provided with hands-on applications of science and math through innovative and creative activities.

Kids Invent!™ was developed as a collaborative effort between Dr. Ed Sobey and Dr. Timothy Stearns. Dr. Sobey is a nationally-known expert on children's creativity and learning who has authored several books, served as the first Executive Director of the National Invention Center and the creator of the television show, "The Idea Factory." Dr. Stearns is a nationally-known educator in entrepreneurship at California State University, Fresno, having created programs that enable children and young adults to understand business creation.

In 1995, the Lemelson Foundation awarded both Dr.



*Students are challenged to build a tower of straws at a Kids Invent!™ after school program*

Sobey and Dr. Stearnsa grant to design and conduct a university program which young adults would create, develop, model and compose a business plan for a toy idea. Later, the knowledge gained from that experience helped to develop Kids Invent!™.

The program stimulates the creative instincts of children while they design and build mock-ups of toys, prepare business plans, present marketing materials, and create web pages. Kids are encouraged, through Kids Invent!™, to continue applying their creative talents long after the program has concluded.

## **STUDENT HATCHERY**

The Lyles Center Student Hatchery offers students support and office space to work on their business while attending school. The Hatchery can be compared to that of an incubator, but designed to support students while attending classes and building their business. This part of the Lyles Center offers students mentoring, a complete office and access to facilities at the Lyles Center.

A new facility, the Student Hatchery is a unique feature to the entrepreneurship program. The availability of office space and critical support by professionals will motivate students to push their business ideas forward. Mentors and other coaches are brought into the facilities to provide important services and advice pertaining to technology, legal, accounting, intellectual property and management of business. The Hatchery provides an opportunity for students to apply their entrepreneurial skills in an environment that is encouraging and supportive.



*Fresno State Student Kenneth Borg Jr. runs both a clothing and screen printing business out of his office in the Hatchery at the Lyles Center*

## **FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is creating an environment for student entrepreneurs to think in new ways and thrive for success. The Lyles Center Entrepreneur in Residence is a distinction awarded to a prominent entrepreneur each year. The entrepreneur spends three to five days on the California State University, Fresno campus, lecturing in classes, conducting seminars and meeting with visionary entrepreneurs in the community.

For more information on any program or resources provided by the Lyles Center, or more information about the Lyles Center itself, please visit our website at [www.lylescenter.com](http://www.lylescenter.com). Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



**Timothy M. Stearns, Ph.D.**

**Executive Director/ Coleman Foundation Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies**

Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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[timothys@csufresno.edu](mailto:timothys@csufresno.edu)

**Genelle Taylor**

**Associate Director**

Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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CLAUDE C. LAVAL III  
Chairman

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program-support for  
Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066

Dear Mr. Khan:

As a world-wide company, headquartered in Fresno, which manufactures filtration products covered by nearly 100 U.S. and foreign patents, we strongly support the location of a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees and the patent filers.

Lakos filtration products are sold world-wide to the Industrial, Heat Transfer, and agricultural markets. The company has a large research and development effort and its success in the market place is dependent on protecting its intellectual property. Because of the complexity of our propriety product, meeting with the patent office examiners is often required, hence making the establishment of a Fresno based Satellite USPTO office extremely important to us.

Fresno provides the best environment to maximize the retention of patent examiners as well as decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219 making an examiner's salary highly competitive.

[www.lakos.com](http://www.lakos.com) + [www.lavalunderground.com](http://www.lavalunderground.com)

**LAKOS**

1365 North Clovis Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727  
Tel 559 255 1601 + Fax 559 255 8093 + E [claval@lakos.com](mailto:claval@lakos.com)



Locating a satellite office in Fresno would not only improve USPTO service to us, and others like us, but also improve the recruitment of patent examiners. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses. I am quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.

Thank you for your consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect.

Sincerely,  
Claude C. Laval III  
Chairman

THE LAW OFFICES OF  
**ANDREW D. FORTNEY, PH.D., P.C.**  
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ANDREW D. FORTNEY, PH.D.  
SHARON E. BROWN TURNER  
SHERRIE M. FLYNN  
ANTHONY R. JIMENEZ\*  
BRADLEY J. LEVANG\*\*  
THERESA J. MAHAN  
WILLIAM K. NELSON  
RYAN S. DUNNING

\* ADMITTED IN WISCONSIN  
\*\* ALSO ADMITTED IN COLORADO

January 25, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE:** USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide  
Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
**PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

We write to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent applicants and owners in California and the western U.S.

As the leading intellectual property “boutique” in the San Joaquin Valley, the Law Offices of Andrew D. Fortney, Ph.D., P.C. focuses on intellectual property matters, including patent preparation and prosecution, trademark registration and use, litigation, non-infringement and invalidity opinions, licensing, contract preparation and interpretation, and formal and informal dispute resolution. We have extensive and diverse experience (both in-house and in-firm) in many aspects of intellectual property and business law, which enables us to help our clients use their intellectual property assets to accomplish their business objectives. Our clients are in a variety of disciplines, including integrated circuit design, semiconductor and other manufacturing, nanotechnology, software, chemicals, renewable energy, construction, consumer products, and others, and they are located in the Fresno area, throughout California, and elsewhere in the U.S. and the world. Being located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley in Central California, we are able to keep our costs low, and we are able to easily stay in touch with important business and technology



Mr. Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff, USPTO  
Re: Satellite Office Support for Fresno, CA;  
**PTO-C-2011-0066**

Page - 2 -  
January 25, 2012

centers in San Jose, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. At least part of our success is due to our location in Fresno, the true center of California.

Fresno is the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region and an important contributor to a state known for its innovation-based economy. Fresno's emerging strength in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office.

We recognize the value of being located in the middle of well-known high-innovation economies to the north and south, as we serve clients in both regions. Fresno is connected to these regions by freeways, Amtrak service, the Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail service, which is expected to begin construction in fall 2012. We believe that Fresno's strategic location and connections to the state's other regions will result in greater access for patent applicants and owners throughout California and the western US to the USPTO's resources and improved connectivity between such applicants/owners and the USPTO.

Fresno provides the best environment to maximize the retention of patent examiners and to decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is significantly less than the state average. In addition, the median household income in the Fresno area is relatively low in comparison to other major California cities, making an examiner's salary highly competitive here. Fresno County is home to the San Joaquin College of Law, where examiners and other employees of the USPTO satellite office can receive legal training. Among the undersigned are several graduates of San Joaquin College of Law, who are without question considered peers within our firm (which also includes graduates of more widely-known law schools, such as George Washington University School of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law, and the University of Wisconsin School of Law). Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year and close proximity to three major national parks (Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia), making our area a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds. We also offer an outstanding mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices. In addition, the Fresno area boasts one of the finest pre-K-12 public educational systems in California and in the U.S. For at least some of the undersigned, the public educational system is a big reason why we choose to live in this area.

Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in

Mr. Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff, USPTO  
Re: Satellite Office Support for Fresno, CA;  
**PTO-C-2011-0066**

Page - 3 -  
January 25, 2012

engineering education for over 90 years. Several of the undersigned are graduates of CSU Fresno, and our firm will continue to actively recruit there. We are quite proud of our relationship with CSU Fresno. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. We are quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western U.S., as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help the USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.

Lastly, the Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. We understand that the change in Fresno County's population from 2000 to 2010 was significantly greater than the statewide growth rate. That, coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, would make the impact of a decision by the USPTO to locate a satellite office here substantial and long-lasting on the local economy. The availability and affordability of commercial real estate in Fresno also makes Fresno a very attractive location for a USPTO satellite office.

We have been actively promoting Fresno as an emerging center for innovation, as well as actively promoting innovation-based activity within Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley. We would gladly partner with the USPTO in such activities, such as promoting public education and awareness of the importance of research and innovation to the local and national economies, providing testimonials as to the benefits of living in the Fresno area, and promoting the satellite office's resources and capabilities. A USPTO satellite office would mean a great deal to Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley, and we are willing to do what we can to help that office maximize its success.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are very excited by the prospect, and we stand ready to partner with the USPTO in whatever capacity we can.

Mr. Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff, USPTO  
Re: Satellite Office Support for Fresno, CA;  
**PTO-C-2011-0066**

Page - 4 -  
January 25, 2012

Sincerely,

THE LAW OFFICES OF ANDREW D. FORTNEY, PH.D., P.C.



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Reg. No. 34,600



Anthony R. Jimenez  
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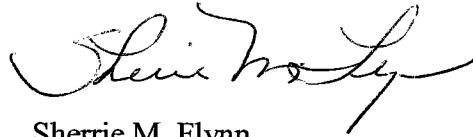


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January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

I write to you now to offer my strongest for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

My law practice encompasses trademark registration both at the USPTO and internationally, through Madrid and directly in a host of foreign countries. Having a local PTO office in Fresno would be a great benefit to me and my clients. Research has shown the following:

1. As you know California alone had over 32,000 patent filings in just one year, making a California satellite office a logical choice. Fresno would be an ideal location for a California (or West Coast) office for its proximity to both the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California, and because of the relative low cost of living in the Fresno area.
2. Fresno is the capital city of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy.
3. In regard to location, Fresno is linked to all of these destinations by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring



passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. We believe this strategic location and connection to the state's regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.

4. Finally, the Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only 10 percent statewide. That coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Very truly yours,

CORRIGAN LAW GROUP, PC

Ryan W. Corrigan

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January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for  
Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am writing to express my strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. I am a registered patent attorney in Bakersfield, California, which is about one hundred miles south of Fresno. My law firm, which has approximately fifty attorneys, operates a Fresno office and I have a variety of clients located in the Fresno area.

My firm's clients are predominantly sophisticated business enterprises and professionals in agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and medicine, among other things. The Fresno location would provide both convenience and improved prosecution for these clients by providing convenient access to the examining corp and USPTO filings.

In furtherance of your consideration of a Fresno Satellite Office, I offer the following observations:

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- Fresno is the capital city of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy.
- Fresno's emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.
- Fresno is connected to Los Angeles, San Francisco, the Silicon Valley, and Sacramento by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, a high-speed rail system which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. I believe this strategic location and connection to the state's regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.
- Fresno provides an ideal environment for maximizing the retention of patent examiners as well as decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219, making an examiner's salary highly competitive. Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year, making it a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds, and it offers an outstanding mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices.
- Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, its adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.
- Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. I am quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help the USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.
- Lastly, the Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only

January 26, 2012

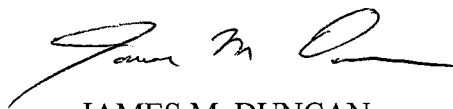
Page 3

10 percent statewide. A decision by the USPTO to locate a satellite office in Fresno would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

My law firm currently employs two full-time patent practitioners, and we are always on the alert for experienced patent attorneys, because of a substantial case load. We understand all too well the benefits of being able to personally meet with the patent examiners assigned to our cases to provide meaningful disclosure and explanation to further the prosecution of our client's applications. Unfortunately, the inconvenience and expense of traveling to the existing offices typically renders such trips prohibitively expensive.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. My law firm is excited by the prospect and stands ready to partner with the USPTO in promoting the interests of the inventors and applicants throughout California.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Duncan", written in a cursive style.

JAMES M. DUNCAN  
USPTO Reg. No. 44,664

JMD:kmr



WALTER & WILHELM  
LAW GROUP

January 27, 2012

Writer's Contact:  
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Direct: 559.490.0949

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am pleased to express my full support for placing a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. A satellite office of the USPTO in Fresno would enjoy the benefit of the vast economic, natural, and human resources that our region has to offer.

I am an owner of a business law firm in Fresno. Our firm represents clients ranging from dairymen and farms to innovators in software and water technology. It is our good fortune to work closely with this variety of professions and observe firsthand their respective ingenuity and expertise.

Fresno is home not only to some of the nation's highest producing farmers, ranchers, and dairymen, but also leaders in agricultural and water technology. The agricultural industry is not an easy one and demands innovation as a means of survival. The result is new technologies that are as durable as they are brilliant.

While Fresno has always been home to genius, in recent years we've become very good at fostering a culture of innovation and technological development. As a founding member of the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI), I have personally watched our city embrace inventive business and grow them from start-ups to standalones. CVBI has since expanded to the Claude Laval Center for Water and Energy Technology, focusing directly on the areas of innovation that the needs of our region compel.

This culture of innovation accompanies a city that is a very desirable place to call home. We enjoy tremendous value as a result of our geographic location, with access to our own talent-pool and that of our more well-known neighbors to the north and south. This accessibility will only continue to improve as the high speed rail will soon make it possible to complete a trip from Downtown San Francisco to Downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes.

Mr. Azam Khan  
January 27, 2012

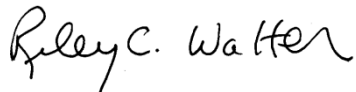
It should not be overlooked that the cost of living in Fresno is substantially lower than that of other California cities. It is within reach for young professionals to buy high-quality homes in nice areas. Fine dining and entertainment can be enjoyed for a fraction of the price of comparable offerings in Los Angeles or San Francisco. And we count as our backyard and playground the magnificent Sierra Nevada Mountains that can be reached in mere minutes.

These many qualities make Fresno an ideal place to innovate, grow, expand, build, and develop. Our population is growing rapidly as is the gross product of our local economy. These elements combine to make Fresno an ideal home for a satellite office of the USPTO.

The addition of a USPTO satellite office to Fresno would bolster our City's growing intellectual economy and provide the USPTO with the human capital that it will need to recruit and retain talented patent examiners to carry out its duties.

Very truly yours,

Walter & Wilhelm Law Group

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riley C. Walter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Riley C. Walter

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WALTER & WILHELM  
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January 27, 2012

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Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am enthusiastic to express my strong support for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) choosing Fresno as the site for a satellite office of the USPTO. Placing a satellite office of the USPTO in Fresno would mark a tremendous gain for Fresno and a wonderful new home for the USPTO.

I am an intellectual property attorney at a Fresno-based business law firm. In the legal profession we are fortunate to see all sorts of innovation every day, by every person and business that we touch. The practice of intellectual property, especially, is colored by the remarkable ingenuity of the clients that we represent.

Many in my profession are quick to conclude that ingenuity is a creature that exists exclusively in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles. I am just as quick to invite my colleagues to the hub of California's all too often overlooked middle, Fresno. You see, we don't have a bridge, a statute, or stars etched in the ground. No, we have a million people raised at the intersection of city life and citrus groves. The resulting citizen has a chip on his shoulder and ambition in his soul.

What's this got to do with the USPTO? Well, that citizen is the innovator whose genius the USPTO exists to protect; one whose circumstances compel creation and progress.

In addition to our regional identity, Fresno's characteristics make her an ideal site for a satellite office of the USPTO. Fresno sits at the center of one of the world's most productive agricultural regions, making it an ideal community to develop green, water, and food technologies. Further, Fresno is home to a burgeoning software industry, identified as an emerging hub of high-tech by Wired Magazine in 2011.

Mr. Azam Khan  
January 27, 2012

Equally as important, Fresno is a good and easy place to live. The average price of a home in Fresno is only slightly more than the average state wide, yet our residents still enjoy the global accessibility of an international airport. We are home to a nationally recognized grass-roots software development competition called 59 Days of Code and an internationally heralded film festival called Swede Fest. Fresno is among the only destinations in the United States where the weather allows for you to water ski and snow ski... on the same day.

Fresno is home to wonderful opportunity and thriving culture, but what sets her apart is her people. I am often asked to describe Fresno and my favorite description of late has been, "Fresno is a million good people who call California's heartland home."

The addition of the USPTO to this community would further its intellectual boom and attract new business to our region. The addition of Fresno to the list of places that the USPTO calls home would connect our nation's highest office of innovation with some of the brightest innovators our nation has to offer.

Very truly yours,

Walter & Wilhelm Law Group



Jake A. Soberal

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# RICHARD A. RYAN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Patents, Trademarks,  
Copyrights, Trade Secrets,  
Licensing and Related  
Intellectual Property  
Legal Matters

January 27, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program –  
Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am pleased to express my strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

As set forth above, I am a registered patent attorney with the USPTO (Registration No. 39,014) and my office is located in Fresno. I specialize in the preparation and prosecution of patents and trademarks for clients who are generally characterized as individual inventors or small businesses. The majority of my clients reside and/or do business in the greater Fresno area and throughout Central California. Most of these clients would directly benefit by locating a satellite office in Fresno. In addition to improving their access to the patent process and the various programs offered by the USPTO, a satellite office in Fresno will encourage inventors and other innovators to more fully consider taking the necessary steps to protect their valuable intellectual property.

Based on my many years of experience assisting Central California inventors and innovators, the following factors support placing the USPTO satellite office in Fresno:

- 1) Fresno is centrally located in California, a state well known for innovation and investment in such innovation. Access to the entire state is easily obtainable via the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport and Amtrak, as well as various highways and freeways. Plans for high-speed rail through Fresno will further provide easy access to the larger metropolitan areas of

California.

- 2) Fresno is the largest city in California's San Joaquin Valley, the most productive agricultural region in the nation. As a result, many types of new technology and innovative farming practices related to improved agriculture are initiated in and around the Fresno area.
- 3) Due in part to its agricultural-based economy and the availability of open spaces, many new areas of innovation, including improvements in food, water and energy technology, are emerging from the greater Fresno area.
- 4) Fresno will provide a wonderful place for a patent examiner to live. In addition to being located within close driving distance to three of the country's greatest national parks (Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia) and many other federal or state protected areas, Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219, making an examiner's salary highly competitive. Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year, making our area a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds. Fresno also offers an outstanding mix of shopping, dining and entertainment choices.
- 5) The benefits of living in the Fresno area, particularly being affordable to live and raise a family on a patent examiner's salary, will improve the recruitment and retainment of patent examiners.
- 6) Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities.
- 7) Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only 10 percent statewide. That coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

Based on the foregoing, Fresno is an ideal location for a USPTO satellite office. Naturally, as someone familiar with the USPTO and its operations, I would be happy to assist in any way I can with locating the new office in Fresno.

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
January 27, 2012  
Page 3

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. I am excited by the prospect of a Fresno USPTO satellite office.

Sincerely,

/s/ richard a. ryan

Richard A. Ryan

RAR:



**U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

FRESNO DISTRICT OFFICE  
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559-487-5791 • 559-487-5636 (FAX)

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Several of our partners have commented on the prospect of having the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office possibly locate a satellite office in downtown Fresno and this possibility would certainly benefit not only SBA's Small Business objectives, but also contribute to the high tech momentum that I have personally seen in the Valley. For the reasons outlined below the next step should be a site visit to Fresno where we can welcome you and your USPTO staff and show you first hand why your office will be a perfect match in Fresno.

1. The SBA district office here in Fresno serves the fifteen counties of Central California and we directly host many training and one-on-one counseling events where the topic of patents, trademarks and intellectual property always comes up. The co-location of the USPTO office here in Fresno will substantially add to our delivery of services in this very important field.
2. The SBA leases from the General Services Administration a 40,000 square foot facility at 801 R Street in downtown Fresno. SBA no longer has a need for approximately 2200 s.f. of office space and this space is immediately available to another federal agency. Having moved to downtown Fresno one year ago, I know for a fact that there are plenty of other available locations near our office that could be suited to meet your exact space requirements. The prospect of SBA and USPTO being in close proximity is simply exciting.
3. SBA in expanding its Servicing Center here Fresno (to 100 employees from 50) considered many economic and work factors that are relevant to the USPTO considering Fresno for its satellite office. A) Fresno's federal pay schedule still falls under "Rest of the United States" and does not have a special pay rate like most areas including San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and Sacramento. As you are aware this means clear cut savings in the cost of wages when compared to other high cost areas. B) Homes are affordable unlike the rest of California and many of our schools are simply par excellence from K to 12 not to mention Fresno State University and the nearby University of California at Merced. C) Fresno is centrally located between San Francisco and Los Angeles and has an international airport which will connect you to the rest of the nation. D) Fresno's family friendly reputation along with its two nearby National Parks contributes to a low employee turnover which is definitely a plus.
4. SBA has a number of partners who are actively pursuing high tech and technology transfer including the University of Merced Small Business Development Center Network, the WET Incubator under the Central Valley Business Incubator and Fresno State University's Tech Transfer program. USPTO's relocation to Fresno would certainly be a win-win situation for the Valley and its economy in the midst of enormous socio-economic challenges that are well documented.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Carlos Mendoza  
District Director

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

On behalf of the UC Merced Small Business Development Center Regional Network (UCM-SBDC), I am pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

The U.S. Small Business Administration awarded UC Merced the Cooperative Agreement in 2003 to be the State Regional Lead Center for the Small Business Development program (SBDC) throughout Central California. The UCM-SBDC mission is to provide entrepreneurs and small businesses with high quality education, consulting, support for innovation, access to information and tools necessary to build successful sustainable businesses. Fresno's emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.

- Fresno provides the best environment to maximize the retention of patent examiners as well as decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219, making an examiner's salary highly competitive. Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year, making our area a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds. We also offer an outstanding mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices.
- Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.
- Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities.

HOSTED BY:



**University of California, Merced Regional Network**  
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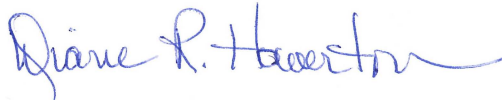


- We are quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.
- Lastly, the Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only 10 percent statewide. That coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

Having a USPTO office in Fresno, California will enhance and support the UC Merced Small Business Development Center's efforts to promote innovation through our workshops, consulting assistance relative to patents and trademarks.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,



Diane R. Howerton  
Regional Director



California Partnership for the  
**San Joaquin Valley**

January 25, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: California Partnership Support for USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan,

On behalf of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership), I am writing to express support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Located in California's fastest growing region, Fresno is in close proximity to numerous existing and emerging innovation-driven industries, making it a prime location for a USPTO satellite office.

The Partnership, created in June 2005 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger through Executive Order S-5-05, convened stakeholders from around the eight county San Joaquin Valley and developed a ten year Strategic Action Proposal with goals and objectives to guide activities to improve the quality of life in the region. Locating a USPTO satellite office in Fresno is consistent with these goals and objectives, more specifically, the mission of the Economic Development Work Group to "create a dynamic, entrepreneur-producing economic climate."

Currently, the Partnership is working with local stakeholders to develop a regional economic strategy that will become a part of a larger, statewide strategy assembled by California Forward. One of the key focus areas of this effort is promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural value chain sectors of support/suppliers, productions, processing and packaging, and distribution. The California Center of Excellence's 2011 Study "Agriculture Value Chain Scan" indicates there is the potential for approximately 180,000 five-year new jobs in California in the above sectors. In a region plagued by chronically high unemployment, this highlights how tremendous an asset a USPTO Fresno satellite office would be to local entrepreneurs to capture these jobs and ameliorate our region's economic vitality.

In addition to the potential of our local economic sectors, we also recognize the value of Fresno's central location between high-innovation economies to the north and south. Fresno is connected to all of these destinations by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. This strategic location and connection to the state's regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO throughout the western United States.

5010 N Woodrow Ave.  
2nd Floor, M/S WC 142  
Fresno, California 93740

559.294.6021 T  
559.294.6024 F

[www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org)

The Partnership is pleased to support Fresno as a USPTO satellite office location. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [mdozier@csufresno.edu](mailto:mdozier@csufresno.edu) or 559-294-6021 should you need additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Dozier', with a period at the end.

Mike Dozier, Lead Executive  
California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley



January 25, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

We are pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

The Economic Development Corporation *servng* Fresno County is a nonprofit organization established to market Fresno County as the premier location to expand and grow core industries. We strive to not only facilitate site selection for new businesses within Fresno County, but we also assist in the retention and expansion of businesses that are already located in the area.

The Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only 10 percent statewide. That coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

The EDC supports job creation and business expansion throughout the County and works to reduce unemployment by assisting our local businesses and creating an attractive environment for investment. With a USPTO satellite office in Fresno, our local agricultural and water technology community would be greatly enhanced and make Fresno a drastically more marketable area. With Fresno's emerging strength in the area of innovation, it is a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology. Attracting new companies to Fresno County becomes increasingly more important as the economy affects the area, and with a USPTO satellite office in Fresno, the EDC can more successfully attract investment to an area in dire need of economic development.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Eager

President/CEO  
Economic Development Corporation *servng* Fresno County



January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Fresno Chamber of Commerce is pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

Since 1885, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce has been working hard to strengthen our community, encourage growth and identify needs and opportunities of the business community. While helping nearly 1,700 member businesses guard their futures, we've helped turn the Fresno area into a great place to work, live and raise a family.

Fresno is the capital city of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy. Fresno's emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.

Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.

Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. We are quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.

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with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Al Smith', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Al Smith  
President & CEO



January 25, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for  
Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

The mission of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to promote, stimulate, educate and support Hispanic owned business. The Chamber will create, maintain, and improve a favorable business environment which strengthens the financial position of its members and contributes to the socioeconomic well-being of the community.

- Fresno is the capital city of Central California, the nation's most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy.
- Fresno's emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.
- We also recognize the value of being located in the middle of the well known high-innovation economies to the north and south. Fresno is connected to all of these destinations by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. We believe this strategic location and connection to the state's regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.



- Fresno provides the best environment to maximize the retention of patent examiners as well as decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219, making an examiner's salary highly competitive. Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year, making our area a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds. We also offer an outstanding mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices.
- Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.
- Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. [I am/We are] quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.
- Lastly, the Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only 10 percent statewide. That coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

John Hernandez  
CEO, Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
559-495-4817 – [info@cchcc.net](mailto:info@cchcc.net) – [www.cchcc.net](http://www.cchcc.net)





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January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce is pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce facilitates and serves as an advocate for the creation, development, growth, and general welfare of African-American business community in the greater Fresno area.

Fresno is an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years.

In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. We are quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination

The Fresno region has one of the fastest growing and most diverse populations in the state. Nearly half of the businesses in Fresno County are minority-owned firms that would benefit from USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office here and would create a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

Lastly, our chamber is working with local and federal agencies like the Minority Business Development Agency to increase participation of minority firms in public contracting and international trade. A satellite

**Mission:** To promote vibrant economic growth and development for our members



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office would create greater access for small and minority-owned firms who want to get their product to market.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

Jim Tate Hill II  
President





# Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

1444 Fulton Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 222-8705

January 26, 2012

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## Mission

"We are committed

To all aspects of

Economic Development

that strengthen

individuals, Business

and Community"

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA; PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Mr. Khan:

We are pleased to express our strong support for locating a United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO) satellite office in Fresno, California. Fresno is the most advantageous location for the satellite office and will best serve the needs of USPTO, their employees, and patent filers.

We are committed to all aspects of economic development that promotes innovation and an elevated entrepreneurial growth. We encourage private sector investment to start-up businesses that contribute to job creation and address the barriers for entrepreneurs of small and expanding businesses of the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

- Fresno is the capital city of California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy.
- Fresno's emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.
- We also recognize the value of being located in the middle of the well known high-innovation economies to the north and south. Fresno is connected to all of these destinations by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. We believe this strategic location and connection to the state's regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.

- Fresno provides the best environment to maximize the retention of patent examiners as well as decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219, making an examiner's salary highly competitive. Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year, making our area a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds. We also offer an outstanding mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices.
- Locating a satellite office in Fresno would improve the recruitment of patent examiners. The Fresno metropolitan region possesses an abundant workforce to help meet the needs of USPTO. While Fresno County's overall population is approximately 900,000, our adult working population is 397,920. Fresno County maintains the region's largest combination of higher education and training facilities with over 95,000 students pursuing higher education and training every year across almost a dozen public and private university and community college campuses.
- Fresno is also an ideal place for recruitment of talent throughout California and the western states, in general. Fresno is home to California State University, Fresno and the Lyles College of Engineering, a leading force in engineering education for over 90 years. In addition, Fresno is home to one of the best entrepreneurship programs in the country, and in close proximity to the University of California, Merced, one of the state's newest research universities. [I am/We are] quite certain that due to the high level of patent activity throughout the state and the western regions, as well as the access to innovative local resources and training, a Fresno satellite office will help USPTO improve the quality of patent examination.
- Lastly, the Fresno region has one of the fastest growing populations in the state. The change in population from 2000 to 2010 was 16.4 percent in Fresno County, while only 10 percent statewide. That coupled with a consistently high unemployment rate, USPTO's decision to locate a satellite office would have a substantial and long-lasting impact on the local economy.

With our new facility, the Downtown Business Hub (incubator), the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has the ability to foster innovative products and cultivate initiatives that enables us to create the next generation of jobs, investments, and growth. We are committed to achieving our mission of developing self-sustainable businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive and excel.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,



Dora Westerlund

CEO

Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

January 26, 2012

To: Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
M/S Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RE: USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program – Support for Fresno, CA;  
PTO-C-2011-0066**

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SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business” and Resource Partners with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), is a 501c(3) nonprofit association dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small business nationwide

Score has been “Trusted Mentors in Turbulent Times Since 1964, helping new entrepreneurs test ideas and form companies. When problems arise, SCORE provides management systems and decision making expertise to help entrepreneurs arrive at a solution. Historically, SCORE’s value has been based on several factors: free service, experience, local online services and National offerings.

**Our Vision:** Strengthen small businesses, local communities and America by supporting our nation’s proud heritage of entrepreneurs seeking opportunities and building success.

**SCORE’s Mission:** SCORE grows successful small businesses across America, one business at a time.

The following key factors for a USPTO Satellite Office are:

- Fresno is the capital city of California’s San Joaquin Valley, the nation’s most productive agricultural region located in the heart of a state known for its innovation economy.
- Fresno’s emerging strength in this area of innovation makes it a natural place for a USPTO satellite office that specializes in food, agriculture, water, and energy technology.
- We also recognize the value of being located in the middle of the well known high-innovation economies to the north and south. Fresno is connected to all of these destinations by freeways, Amtrak service, Fresno-Yosemite International airport, and, eventually, high-speed rail which will begin construction in fall 2012. When completed, high-speed trains will bring passengers from Los Angeles and San Francisco to downtown Fresno in less than 90 minutes. We believe this strategic location and connection to the state’s regions will result in an improved connection between patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.
- Fresno provides the best environment to maximize the retention of patent examiners as well as decrease the number of applications awaiting examination. Fresno has one of the most affordable



housing markets in the country. The median single-family home price in Fresno County is \$160,000 as opposed to the state's average of \$301,790. In addition, the median household income is \$45,219, making an examiner's salary highly competitive. Fresno proudly boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year, making our area a prime destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds. We also offer an outstanding mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices.

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As a resource partner for SBA, and other agencies SCORE, is a natural fit as a partner and collaboration fostering small business in America.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Fresno, California as a future satellite office location. We are excited by the prospect and stand ready to partner with the USPTO.

Sincerely,

*Peter W Fong*

Peter W. Fong, Chairman  
Central Valley SCORE 0380  
801 R Street, Ste 201, Fresno, CA 93720  
Phone: 559-487-5605 Ext 2718  
Email: [peter.fong@scorevolunteer.org](mailto:peter.fong@scorevolunteer.org)