

Dear Mayor Lisa Gillmor,

*People are cancelling their tickets for the Super Bowl in Santa Clara because of poor air quality and extreme storms tearing down the city. This is not the news headline you will want to be reading in February 2026.*

In '[Clean Air Is an Expectation, Not a Luxury](#),' [Says Scientist Measuring LA Fires' Toll on Air and Health](#), author Nina Dietz explains how scientists are measuring the severe toxic impacts of climate change-caused disasters like the fires in Los Angeles on January 7th. Although this fire was suspected to be arson, without persistent droughts and the worsening Santa Ana winds, this severe disaster would have been reduced to a house fire. It's not just fires and air pollution- California is not ready for climate change or worse air quality, and Santa Clara must take action now. I have personally seen local California flooding after extreme storms, such as Lake Tulare in Central Valley, terrible air quality when driving by wildfires in Tahoe, and severe droughts while peeking over an empty reservoir in Pacheco Pass.

200 million people will be closely watching how well the leadership of Santa Clara hosts the Super Bowl in February. This is the opportunity for Santa Clara to set their reputation as a leading city in clean energy for other cities across America and the world.

As the Mayor of Santa Clara and host of the 2026 Super Bowl, you are uniquely positioned to address the climate crisis by pledging publicly that Santa Clara will be predominantly running on clean energy in the near future. After all, climate change is a systemic issue; it affects our quality of life, our economy, our health, and ultimately our future. A recent [UNICEF study](#) reveals that over one billion children globally reside in countries with high climate risk, including areas with extreme air quality, severe storms, and rampant diseases. The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) predicts that coastal cities, including Bay Area cities like Santa Clara, will be impacted by a sea level rise of 10-12 inches around 2050. This evidence is undeniable, and a major risk is imminent- we must take action now. Due to the Super Bowl, the Mayor of Santa Clara has the most power at her disposal to make this change. However, the voices advocating for a cleaner energy economy in the Bay Area aren't limited to me.

A Public Policy Institute of California survey explained that seven out of ten Bay Area residents believe that the government is not doing enough to address climate change. However, other globally recognized cities have adopted complete renewable energy sources. For example, Reykjavík in Iceland currently powers nearly its entire city on renewables such as geothermal, hydroelectric, and wind/solar, too. Reykjavík, along with Oslo, Vancouver, Copenhagen, and Portland, are proof that cities can run on predominantly clean energy, and with the right initiative, Santa Clara can be added to the list of globally recognized clean energy cities.

As Santa Clara becomes an increasingly important city on the world stage, you have the opportunity to lead on the issue of climate change and renewable energy. I urge you, as the Mayor of Santa Clara, to fight for renewable energy in the upcoming Super Bowl and for years to come, for you are ultimately fighting for the future of our youth.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Friesen