

ROMA

Comune di

il Sindaco

, 2010

Dear Mayor,

I was very pleased to receive your kind invitation to visit your City, to discuss with you matters of unquestionable importance and urgency for us all.

I share your opinion on the main challenges facing us at this time in history, when cities have to bear the brunt of an accumulation of factors that impact directly on our environment, due to the high growth in urban population : factors that threaten the hearth and the quality of life of our citizens.

The environmental question is, without any doubt, the major question of our time -just as the social question was in the 19th and 20th centuries.

We in Rome are impressed by what San Franciscans have achieved through your leadership, on the road to sustainability and protection of the environment, in particular with your Zero Waste approach in handling solid urban waste.

We think this is an example for communities around the world to build a better and more sustainable waste management system for our cities.

On the other hand, we would like to take this opportunity to present a new project which is being finalized in Rome. We called the project "A Heart in the Heart of Rome": it centers on Villa Borghese, an 80-hectares park in the city centre, dating back to the 17th century and home to a number of important museums.

With the support of La Sapienza University in Rome we have traced some eco-cultural itineraries through Villa Borghese, which involve the use of assisted bicycles (Coopenaghen Green Wheel by Ducati and MIT) and small electrical vehicles (freduc by Ducaty Energy) as well as iPod technology, which will provide vital information "en route" to each interested citizen or tourist.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Mayor of San Francisco , State
of California

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But the access to a concentrated enjoyment of nature, history and the masterpieces of art is not the only objective of this project. There is also an innovative scientific dimension to it: the project includes a methodology for the study of air pollution in a given area of the city, on a preliminary basis, and then on a broader metropolitan area.

I am sure that our conversations and our visit to San Francisco will be mutually productive. I am also hopeful it will mark the beginning of a close cooperation between our two Cities in the field of understanding and protecting the environment.

Please accept my best regards,

Giovanni Alemanno


