



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 28, 2023

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Sac Metro Air District Highlights Air Quality Benefits of Teleworking and Teleconferencing as COVID Emergency Ends

Sacramento, Calif. – With the post-pandemic era upon us and Governor Gavin Newsom’s declared State of Emergency ending today, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) is encouraging the continuation of teleconferencing and telework policies in our region citing the air quality benefits revealed in a focused and cutting-edge study conducted by the District.

The study evaluated air quality data during COVID shelter-in-place restrictions when traffic and driving were markedly reduced due to telework and showed significantly less vehicle-related air pollution in the Sacramento region. Shelter-in-place restrictions resulted in 28% less particulate matter pollution (PM_{2.5}), 13% less nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution, and 10% less ground-level ozone (O₃) pollution.

“The Sac Metro Air District is committed to promoting teleconferencing and telework given the significant air quality and climate benefits they can achieve, as demonstrated by our study,” said Air Pollution Control Officer Alberto Ayala. “The COVID emergency proved that we have the technology and ability to offer teleworking and teleconferencing opportunities, and we encourage our region’s leaders to continue to do so, whenever possible, to help improve our region’s air quality.”

The Sac Metro Air District’s study results were shared in a letter sent today to nearly 300 regional leaders, public agencies, businesses, and partners. The letter also included the District’s recommendations for using specific Brown Act provisions for local agencies to teleconference at public meetings. State agencies have similar teleconferencing options under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. Read the letter and its attachments [here](#).

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