



DATE: April 24, 2019
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Alberto Ayala, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer
SUBJECT: American Lung Association's State of the Air report 2019

The Sac Metro Air District appreciates the American Lung Association highlighting in the State of the Air 2019 report the fact that much more work needs to be done to reduce air and carbon pollution in order to improve air quality in our region. Over the last several decades, we have made tremendous progress and our air has dramatically improved due to the tightening of state and local regulations on emissions and the effective use of public dollars for cleaner vehicles, equipment, and fuels for large and small mobile sources.

In addition, with the implementation of the county-wide Check Before You Burn program, our Air District is in attainment of the federal small particle pollution standard. But clearly the raising concentrations of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere suggest that we need to accelerate action on clean air and low-carbon solutions.

The report is a strong statement on the fact that we are basically paying a climate penalty. That is, the global climate is changing very dramatically for the worse, including in our region, and this change will make it much more difficult to get to lower ozone and particle pollution levels in our ambient air in order to protect public health. We also recognize the threat and impact from wildfires, which are a growing challenge and erode the good progress being made to improve California's air. We strongly agree with the ALA that additional resources are needed to support this work at the state and local level.

Our Air District is working in partnership with various regional leaders to implement a number of policies and programs to get the region as quickly as possible to a cleaner and more sustainable future. And we appreciate the residents of Sacramento County supporting our on-going efforts.

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