



August 2, 2018
For Immediate Release

Media Line: 916-874-4888

Sac Metro Air District Denounces Trump Administration's Rollback of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards on Vehicles

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District today released this statement from Air Pollution Control Officer Alberto Ayala on the Trump Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to roll back the adopted greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicles:

"What impeccable timing for EPA. At a time when half of the country is under heat advisories and raging wildfires and the other half is under flood threat -- all events that demonstrate that the global climate is changing at an alarming rate and for the worse -- the agency releases one of their most detrimental proposals for the local and global environment thus far. The decision to flatline the car efficiency standards at the 2020 level is bad for our local air quality, bad for the planet and, ironically, also a double-hit for consumers -- more pollution from cars to damage public health and a lot more of their money for gas at the pump.

"This decision is ludicrous and the auto industry knows it. Today, we already have many cars on the road that meet or exceed those standards. The GHG car standards to be rescinded require about 54.5 miles per gallon (mpg) in 2025, but this is the official fuel economy rating. In reality, due to differences between the tests and real-world driving and with widespread emission-credit gimmicks available to the automakers, the rescinded standards would have translated to only a modest 40 mpg at best. For the weaker limits just released, it means automakers don't have to do much, if anything at all.

"Today, thanks to collision sensors, airbags and other solutions that could come to future cars, automakers don't have to make cars bigger and heavier to make them safe, contrary to the administration's claims attempting to justify the rollback. That is just not supported by the technical evidence available to EPA and the Department of Transportation.

"At a time when all one has to do is look out the window to get a glimpse of what is to come, more -- not less -- action is needed. With global carbon emissions from the transportation sector rising rapidly, outdoor pollution still leading to millions of premature deaths and the effects of our changing climate becoming more apparent, the GHG car standards are a critical down payment on clean air and low-carbon progress.

"Children and adults afflicted with asthma or other lung and heart problems will suffer more because Trump's EPA is dragging us backward. To achieve clean air for everyone in the Sacramento region, we need to reduce air pollution from and increase the efficiency of our largest source of emissions -- cars, trucks, buses and other mobile sources. This decision will make that task much harder.

"This is the opposite of environmental protection. History will harshly judge Trump's abdication of his responsibility to clean air and a sustainable world. President Obama said there is such a thing as

being too late when it comes to climate change. Let's hope for humanity's sake this EPA action is not the tipping point of no return.

“We join many others in opposing this federal action.”

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District is a public health agency whose mission is to achieve state and federal clean air goals while advancing the capital region's climate agenda. Learn more at www.AirQuality.org.