



# Year in Review

A vertical graphic on the left side of the page. It features a photograph of a green tree against a bright blue sky with white clouds. The year "2024" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif numerals, oriented vertically and centered over the tree and sky image.

2024



# Message from the APCO

As we reflect on 2024, I'm proud to share the progress the Sac Metro Air District has made in advancing cleaner air, healthier neighborhoods, and a more sustainable future. These accomplishments, made possible through collaboration with community members and regional partners, set the stage for even greater achievements in the years ahead.

A major highlight was the development of the Capital Region Climate Priorities Plan, a collaborative effort with over two dozen agencies. Led by the Air District, the Plan represents our collective commitment to building a future where environmental health and justice go hand in hand.

We also reached a milestone as the South Sacramento-Florin community transitioned to a Community Emissions Reduction Program, with strong community and Board support. Building on the Community Air Monitoring Plan's success, we will collaborate over the next two years to create emission reduction strategies, focusing on environmental equity and public health improvements.

We teamed up with the City of Sacramento and other partners on an innovative street-by-street monitoring effort and distributed 200 portable sensors to schools and underserved areas, providing communities with real-time air quality data to help inform future projects and guide local decision-making.

Looking ahead to 2025, I'm excited to continue building on these achievements, pushing forward toward a healthier, more resilient Sacramento region.

## Dr. Alberto Ayala, Ph.D.

Dr. Ayala serves as the Air District's Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer. He leads our team of dedicated professionals focused on protecting public health and meeting national ambient air quality standards, the state's decarbonization goals, and local commitments for sustainability and climate resilience.





# About Us

The Air District is responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air pollution, and enforcing air quality regulations in Sacramento County. The Air District also plays a leading role in promoting decarbonization efforts through innovative programs, financial incentives, and projects throughout Sacramento County and the larger region. The Air District's mission is to achieve state and federal clean air and climate goals as we envision a clean air and low-carbon future for all.







**Patrick Kennedy,  
Chair**  
Sacramento County  
Board of Supervisors



**Sarah Aquino,  
Vice Chair**  
City of Folsom  
Vice Mayor



**Caity Maple**  
City of Sacramento  
Vice Mayor



**Eric Guerra**  
City of Sacramento  
Council Member



**Shoun Thao**  
City of Sacramento  
Council Member



**Mai Vang**  
City of Sacramento  
Council Member



**Kevin Papineau**  
City of Galt  
Council Member



**Sergio Robles**  
City of Elk Grove  
Council Member



**Porsche Middleton**  
City of Citrus Heights  
Council Member



**Donald Terry**  
City of Rancho Cordova  
Council Member



**Sue Frost**  
Sacramento County  
Board of Supervisors



**Patrick Hume**  
Sacramento County  
Board of Supervisors



**Rich Desmond**  
Sacramento County  
Board of Supervisors



**Phil Serna**  
Sacramento County  
Board of Supervisors

# Our Board

The Air District's Board is composed of 14 members, including all five Sacramento County Supervisors, four members of the Sacramento City Council, one member each from the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova, and one member representing the cities of Galt and Isleton.

Local leaders  
showcase clean air  
and climate projects  
for EPA Region 9  
Administrator Martha  
Guzman.



# Creating Connections

The Air District is building a future where strategic partnerships at the local, regional, state, and global levels become the foundation for transformative environmental change. By creating enduring connections, the District is advancing public health and driving innovative solutions to meet ambitious air quality and climate goals. The Air District's partnerships are more than cooperative efforts—they are bridges to a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable future for all.

- **Pursuing Shared Visions for a Sustainable Region:** Through creative collaboration with local, state, and federal officials, the Air District is leading efforts to shape a regional strategy for clean air and climate resilience. Emphasizing the importance of environmental justice and addressing the climate crisis, Congresswoman Doris Matsui expressed her support of the Air District's leadership in developing the comprehensive Capital Region Climate Priorities Plan.
- **Innovating Multilingual Health Education:** In collaboration with SMUD's Museum of Science and Curiosity, the Air District helped design and promote Health Connections, Conexiones de Salud, the museum's first bilingual exhibition. This interactive, groundbreaking exhibit invites the community to explore physical, social-emotional, and community health while recognizing the essential role of clean air in overall well-being.
- **Advancing Regional Advocacy Through State and National Leadership:** The Air District helps shape air quality policy as an active member of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association and the National Association of Clean Air Agencies and regularly participates in the annual Cap-to-Cap program in Washington, D.C., advocating for the Sacramento region's clean air and climate priorities to federal leaders, ensuring local voices influence national and state environmental policies.
- **Engaging National Leadership for Regional Progress:** Demonstrating its commitment to leadership and innovation, the Air District met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman and regional leaders, as part of an official visit organized by Congressman Ami Bera's office. The meeting focused on advancing climate initiatives, clean air projects, and environmental justice efforts and showcased Sacramento's regional leadership.
- **Building Global Bridges for Climate Innovation:** As part of its commitment to global climate action, the Air District hosted Danish agricultural innovators in September for discussions on renewable energy with the Greater Sacramento Economic Council and California Air Resources Board. In December, the Air District hosted a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment with the California-China Climate Institute to share strategies for industrial emission control. These visits highlight the collaborative nature of climate and air quality leadership.

# Fostering Community Engagement

The Air District's commitment to fostering meaningful connections with the community is central to driving positive environmental change. By engaging diverse stakeholders, building partnerships, and creating open channels for communication, the District strengthens ties that empower individuals and organizations to work together toward cleaner air and healthier communities.

- **Celebrating 30 Years of Collective Action:** In 2024, the Spare The Air campaign marked its 30th anniversary in the Sacramento region, symbolizing three decades of community-driven progress. Since its launch, the campaign has rallied the public to take proactive steps whenever air quality is forecasted to exceed safe levels. These alerts serve as a powerful reminder that everyone plays a role in reducing emissions, protecting the air we breathe, and creating a healthier future for all.
- **Connecting through Outreach and Education:** Each year, the Air District participates in numerous local events—from neighborhood festivals to National Night Out—reaching residents directly to discuss air quality, health, and sustainability. In 2024, the District supported more than a dozen community programs and events, engaging the public on a wide array of topics and reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility in protecting our environment.
- **Enhancing Transparency and Public Engagement:** In 2024, the Air District demonstrated its commitment to transparency by hosting multiple public workshops on permitting and environmental projects. In August, a bilingual informational session about the SacSewer wastewater treatment plant project provided community members an opportunity to ask questions, offer feedback, and gain insight into air quality impacts. By fostering open dialogue, the Air District ensures that residents can participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their environment and health.
- **Staying Connected through Digital Platforms:** The Air District uses its social media presence to connect with the community and raise awareness about air quality issues.



Monitoring, Planning and Rules division team members engage the community in a discussion about Community Air Protection program boundaries.



# Celebrating Clean Air Day

As part of its mission to foster community connections in the pursuit of cleaner air, the Air District proudly participates in California Clean Air Day, a statewide initiative that unites individuals and organizations for a powerful, collective day of action, encouraging everyone to take the Clean Air Pledge and commit to simple yet impactful steps that enhance the air quality for all.

## 2024 Sponsored Event

In collaboration with the City of Sacramento and local partners, the Air District hosted a Clean Air Day Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Meadowview Certified Farmers Market. The event drew 278 participants of all ages, sparking conversations and providing resources to encourage action toward improving local air quality. Attendees explored interactive booths, enjoyed live performances by Teatro Nagual, and took advantage of resources like the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates' free bike repair station.

Booths covered a range of engaging topics, including air quality monitoring, e-bikes, electric vehicles, tree planting, bike safety, and composting. The event also launched the Air District's Clean Air Pledge challenge, where participants committed to actions that support cleaner air and earned a chance to win an e-scooter, helmet, and lock.

### Key Event Highlights:

- Distributed \$750 in free vendor vouchers spent at the market
- Handed out over 250 reusable items, including tote bags, AQI magnets, and compost pails
- 49 attendees completed stamp cards and redeemed prizes
- 12 bicycles repaired at the free bike repair station
- 8 electric vehicles showcased, including the City's new electric garbage truck

By bringing together diverse community members, local organizations, and environmental advocates, the Air District created an event that helped educate and inspire a shared vision of cleaner air and a healthier future.

## 2024 News Conference

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the City of Sacramento in partnership with the Air District held a news conference at City Hall to celebrate Clean Air Day, highlight clean transportation, encourage residents to take the Clean Air pledge, and unveil a new story map highlighting an innovative community air monitoring project.

From February to April 2023, a specialized van equipped with sophisticated air monitoring equipment collected data across Sacramento neighborhoods to help reveal local air quality concerns. This initiative strengthened existing air quality monitoring, deepened community education, and provided invaluable insights to partner agencies and local organizations. The project, made possible by a one-time investment from the Sacramento City Council, also distributed 200 portable air sensors and developed a new student curriculum focused on careers in the green economy.

Discover more and explore the interactive story map at <http://bit.ly/4ekFcgu>.



Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and Scooter the Spare The Air mascot celebrate Clean Air Day with performers from Teatro Nagual at the Meadowview Certified Farmer's Market.



A coalition of local environmental leaders help highlight the importance of clean transportation and encourage Sacramento region residents to take the Clean Air Pledge.



Community Air  
Protection Steering  
Committee Members  
enjoy a moment  
together.



# Advancing Equity & Protecting Public Health

The Air District is committed to addressing air quality concerns and prioritizing underserved communities. Recognizing the deep connection between air quality and public health, the Air District listens to and engages with community members disproportionately impacted by environmental issues, working to protect all residents' well-being. Through targeted initiatives and collaboration, the Air District advances equity and ensures a healthier environment for Sacramento County and beyond.

- **Participating in Countywide Coordination:** During episodes of extreme heat, the Air District amplifies air quality alerts and forecasts through countywide coordination calls hosted by the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services. When a Spare The Air alert is active or anticipated, this coordination helps spread the word to partners throughout Sacramento and spur action to reduce air pollution and protect the health of those most at risk.
- **Ensuring Data Transparency:** The Air District's commitment to transparency is pivotal in ensuring that all communities, especially those in historically marginalized areas, have access to information about the pollutants impacting their air and health. Through our Annual Reporting program, we go beyond state requirements by gathering comprehensive emissions data from all permitted sources. This unfunded initiative upholds our duty to public transparency and empowers residents with critical knowledge, enabling informed decisions about their environment. This unfunded but critical effort requires ongoing assistance to impacted businesses and continued refinement to streamline program work and reporting requirements.
- **Safeguarding Air Quality in Sacramento Communities:** The Air District puts great emphasis and resources into reducing air pollution from various sources throughout the County with its air quality permitting and enforcement activities. Over 200 new permits are issued every year with a thorough analysis completed to ensure that air pollutants and toxics are controlled to the greatest extent possible. With roughly 4,300 active air quality permits issued to local businesses and agencies, the Air District performs inspections and investigates hundreds of public complaints to verify compliance with air quality standards.
- **Attaining the Federal Health Standard:** In 2024, the Sacramento region achieved a significant milestone in protecting public health by attaining the 2008 federal ozone health standard. This achievement signifies the dedicated work of the Air District and its commitment to achieving clean air for all.



- **Centering Community Voices:** Placing community voices at the heart of our work, the Air District, in partnership with the AB 617 Steering Committee, hosted an electric bus tour of the South Sacramento-Florin neighborhood, offering an opportunity for community members to share their air quality concerns and supporting efforts to redefine the boundaries of our Community Air Protection program. In 2024, the Steering Committee expanded the boundaries to include more communities in need, reflecting our commitment to ensuring that no neighborhood is left behind in the fight for cleaner air. With the Steering Committee's expansion to 21 members, we are amplifying diverse perspectives and building a more inclusive decision-making process that reflects the realities and aspirations of all residents. Together, we are shaping a future where every voice is heard, and every community thrives.

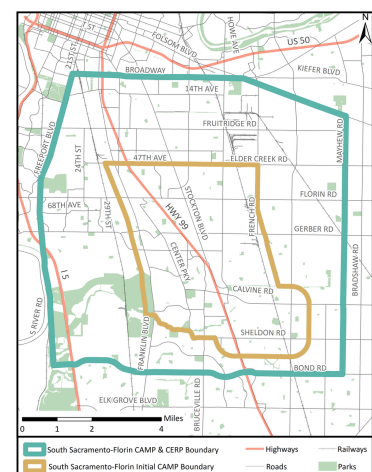
## South Sacramento-Florin Transitions to a CERP

In 2024, the South Sacramento-Florin community transitioned to a Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP), marking a major step forward in addressing community air pollution concerns and improving public health. Following the successful implementation of the Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP), this CERP transition was endorsed by the Steering Committee and received final approval from the California Air Resources Board on July 26, 2024. This milestone sets the stage for a more robust, community-led approach to reducing harmful emissions and advancing environmental equity in Sacramento.

During the implementation of CAMP, the Air District made considerable strides to enhance air monitoring capabilities, deploying portable sensors and a cutting-edge mobile air monitoring laboratory. This data-driven approach provided the community with invaluable insights into local air quality, particularly concerning pollutants like PM2.5 and black carbon. These efforts serve to inform emission reduction strategies and empower residents with real-time information about the air they breathe. As we transition into the CERP phase, this foundation of innovative air monitoring will guide the development of targeted, community-focused solutions that aim to deliver cleaner air for years to come.

In preparation for the CERP designation, the Air District and Steering Committee led a comprehensive outreach campaign, hosting community events and neighborhood meetings to gather input on CERP priorities. A dedicated capacity-building subcommittee drove this progress, fostering partnerships with local agencies and expanding program boundaries to include neighboring communities needing support. This expansion marks a transformative step toward environmental justice, ensuring more residents benefit from the collaborative spirit defining the Community Air Protection program.

As the South Sacramento-Florin community begins CERP development, public meetings and ongoing engagement will ensure local voices remain central to our work. This commitment strengthens the program's effectiveness and empowers residents to shape their environment's future. The Air District is actively seeking new Steering Committee members from the expanded boundaries, welcoming diverse perspectives to fuel a broader movement for cleaner air and healthier communities across Sacramento.



New South Sacramento-Florin boundaries.

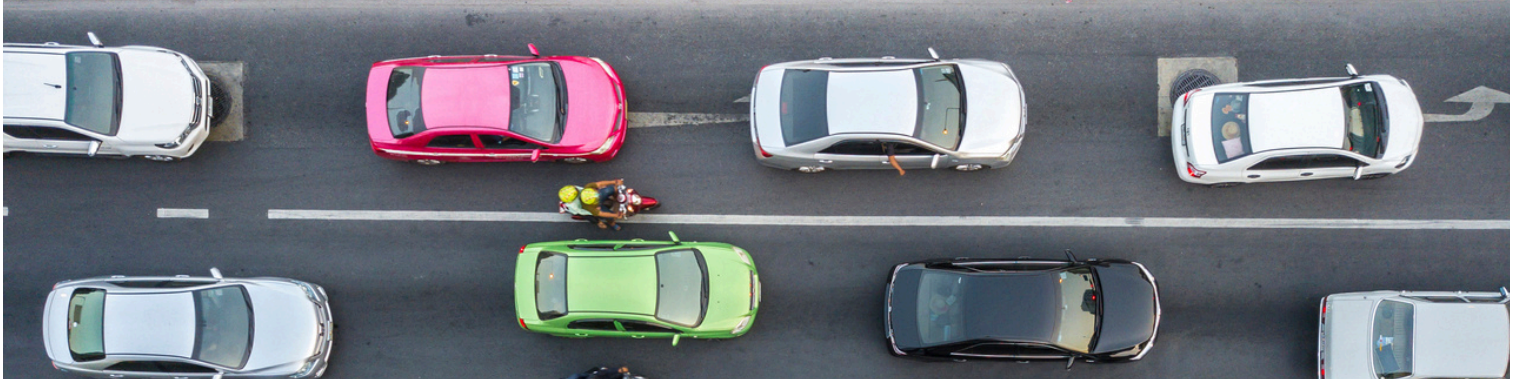
# Innovating the Future

The Air District is committed to driving innovation and sustainability in the Sacramento region. By embracing new technologies, streamlining services, and fostering strategic partnerships, the Air District is advancing efforts to reduce air pollution, address climate change, and support a thriving green economy. These forward-thinking initiatives demonstrate the District's dedication to creating a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for all.

- **Showcasing Innovative Air Monitoring Efforts:** As part of its partnership with the City of Sacramento, the Air District conducted innovative street-level monitoring using a van equipped with sophisticated equipment to reveal local air pollution trends in 2023. The results of the effort are detailed in a comprehensive story map in 2024. The project also included the distribution of 200 portable air monitoring sensors to residents and businesses in underserved Sacramento neighborhoods and schools throughout the city and the development of a new student curriculum that fosters healthy communities through the study of clean air technology, policy, and advocacy.
- **Accelerating the Future of Hydrogen:** In a major leap toward a cleaner energy future, the Air District has paved the way for SacSewer's bio-generation project, approved in August 2024. This project includes the installation of several engines, a new boiler, and a fuel cell, all of which will be used in the wastewater treatment process and onsite energy production. By embracing cutting-edge technologies, this project will reduce emissions and demonstrate how public agencies can accelerate the region's transition to a sustainable energy future.
- **Streamlining District Services:** As part of our commitment to operational excellence and innovation, the Air District has launched a custom-built software solution to enhance the way we serve our community through core business programs spanning permitting, compliance, billing, and revenue collection. Our new Online Services public portal is designed to simplify and streamline interactions with the Air District. From submitting permit applications and paying fees online to tracking progress and managing documents, our customers can now enjoy a seamless, transparent, and user-friendly experience.



An aerial view of SacSewer's EchoWater facility and the future location of their new bio-gen project.



# Reducing Climate Pollution

The Air District leads climate resilience strategies and clean air solutions in the Sacramento region. Through collaboration with diverse partners, the District is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all residents. By developing comprehensive local and regional plans, securing funding for innovative projects, and implementing programs to combat environmental challenges, the Air District is committed to reducing air and climate pollution for a sustainable future.

- **Investing Millions in the Sacramento Region:** In 2024, the Air District awarded nearly \$15 million in incentive funding for more than 45 projects including electric cars, trucks, and school buses, charging infrastructure, tractors, and agricultural equipment replacements. Over the past 20 years, the Air District has funded more than 8,500 projects and reduced emissions by 7.3 million lbs./year for NOx and 730,000 lbs./year for particulate matter.
- **Monitoring Heat Impacts With MaRTy:** In partnership with Elk Grove, Davis, and Arizona State University, the Air District is developing a program for operating an innovative tool, called MaRTy, to measure mean radiant temperatures and assess pedestrian and cyclist heat exposure. MaRTy will provide essential data on urban heat effects and the success of heat mitigation strategies, with deployment expected next summer.

## Driving Climate Action: Capital Region Climate Priorities Plan



In 2024, the Air District shaped the future of climate action in the Sacramento region through the Capital Region Climate Priorities Plan, developed under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. This comprehensive plan resulted from unprecedented collaboration among 29 local and regional partners led by the Air District.

The Plan outlines 24 climate measures to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions while providing co-benefits, including advancing equity, promoting opportunities in the clean energy transition, and addressing the unique needs of environmental justice communities, which have historically faced air quality disparities. The full Plan is available at [www.AirQuality.org/CPRG](http://www.AirQuality.org/CPRG).





# Advancing Zero-Emission Technology

To improve air quality and promote a sustainable future in the Sacramento region, the Air District is committed to funding a diverse array of projects that reduce emissions and benefit residents, businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies. These initiatives not only reduce fossil fuel combustion pollution but also support federal air quality standards and state decarbonization goals while fostering economic development. Together with key partners like SACOG, SMUD, and SacRT, the Air District is paving the way for a cleaner, greener Sacramento.

- **Overcoming Mobility Barriers:** To help create equitable access to clean transportation, the Air District's Our Community Car Share program continues to break down mobility barriers by offering discounted electric car reservations in underserved communities. This year, in partnership with the City of Sacramento, the program expanded into the Mangan Park neighborhood. Future plans include creating car-sharing hubs at City libraries and community centers—taking bold steps toward making zero-emission transportation a reality for all residents.
- **Making the Leap to EV Ownership:** The Air District's Clean Cars 4 All program is transforming EV ownership in Sacramento's underserved neighborhoods. To date, over 1,331 income-eligible residents have received grants up to \$12,000 to help transition to zero-emission vehicles, removing 869 high-polluting cars from Sacramento roads. Additionally, the District helped fund 210 home charger installations in partnership with SMUD and provided \$778,000 in public charging credits to program participants. In 2024, the program added e-Bikes as a mobility option and expanded across all Sacramento County ZIP codes, ensuring more income-eligible residents can participate in the transition to clean transportation.
- **Facilitating Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment:** This year, the Air District launched the Charlene McGhee Memorial Lawn and Garden Program, honoring a dedicated Air District employee who championed electric-powered landscaping equipment, emission reductions, and clean air. The program provides funding to commercial landscapers to replace old combustion-powered equipment with zero-emission battery-electric equipment. In 2024, the Air District awarded \$1.6 million towards zero-emission commercial lawn and garden projects.
- **Celebrating Electric School Bus Deployments:** In August, the San Juan Unified School District celebrated the launch of six electric school buses, marking a significant reduction in harmful diesel emissions and operational costs. Funded in part by the Air District, these buses embody our vision of a cleaner, safer environment for students and communities, and signify our ongoing partnership with local schools to promote zero-emission transportation.

- **Partnering for a POWER Hub:** The Air District is a proud partner of CALSTART's innovative POWER Hub project, which has been recommended for a \$44 million grant from CARB and the California Energy Commission. This groundbreaking initiative will introduce zero-emission equipment to off-road, remote job sites, helping to advance the state's clean energy and decarbonization efforts. While CALSTART will lead this effort, the Air District will contribute to this transformative project by engaging the community and stakeholders, supporting educational pathways, and helping advance zero-emission policies.
- **Fueling the Transition to Fuel-Cell Buses:** With a \$77 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration, SacRT will invest in 29 fuel-cell electric buses, the first in the Sacramento region. Supported by \$3 million in additional funding from the Air District, this landmark project will reduce transit emissions, and create a state-of-the-art maintenance facility and a workforce development program, positioning Sacramento as a leader in the future of sustainable public transportation.



Transportation and Climate Change division team members celebrate the deployment of six new electric school buses for the San Juan Unified School District.





# Looking Forward

As we transition into the new year, the Air District has set ambitious priorities to further advance our mission.

## Key goals for 2025 include:

- **Enhancing Zero-Emission Mobility:** Continuing efforts on the ZEV strategy, developed collaboratively by the Air District, SacRT, SMUD, and SACOG, and focusing on Mobility Hubs with transportation programs like Clean Cars 4 All, e-bikes, and other transportation alternatives.
- **Expanding Climate Resilience Initiatives:** Combating frequent and extreme summer heat waves and smoke from unpredictable wildfires with cool pavements, urban greening, sustainable design, and community education.
- **Fostering the Fuels of the Future:** Promoting biomass utilization for hydrogen and other low-carbon energy alternatives in the Sacramento region and investing transportation incentive funds on projects that produce and dispense hydrogen from renewable resources.
- **Strengthening Community Partnerships:** Working with the AB 617 Steering Committee to develop community projects that decrease emission pollution and exposures and benefit Sacramento's underserved communities.
- **Advancing Cleaner Air and a Lower Carbon Future:** Continuing to drive regional progress towards reducing emissions and supporting long-term climate resilience.
- **Maximizing Community Benefits from Clean Air Actions:** Aligning air quality initiatives with broader goals to enhance public health, equity, and local quality of life, especially in disadvantaged communities.
- **Improving Accessibility to Air Quality Information:**
  - Continuing to improve the Air District's internal systems and online services systems for customers.
  - Providing greater transparency and accessibility to air quality and emission information. Along with sharing a map of businesses with air quality permits, the District will make additional strides to collect emissions information from sources of air pollution. This information will be provided to the state to fulfill mandatory reporting of criteria and toxic air pollutants and be made available to the public.







# Connect With Us

Stay connected with the Sac Metro Air District! We're here to answer your questions, provide resources, and keep you informed about air quality programs and initiatives. Whether you're interested in permitting, clean air programs, grants, or simply want to stay up-to-date, we're just a call or click away!



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