



June 9, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Kennedy: SupervisorKennedy@saccounty.net

The Honorable Rich Desmond: richdesmond@saccounty.net

The Honorable Phil Serna: SupervisorSerna@saccounty.net

The Honorable Don Nottoli: nottolid@saccounty.net

The Honorable Sue Frost: SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net

Sacramento County Office of Planning and Environmental Review, Todd Smith: smithtodd@saccounty.net

827 7th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sacramento Area's Air Quality Ranking

Dear Supervisors and County Staff:

Sacramento County is once again identified as having some of the worst air quality in the country. The American Lung Association (ALA) 23rd Annual Report Card (<https://www.lung.org/research/sota>) shows Sacramento-Roseville ranked

- 9th highest for ozone out of 226 metropolitan areas,
- 7 for 24-hour fine particles out of 221 metropolitan areas, and
- 11 for annual fine particles out of 202 metropolitan areas.

Our polluted air is harmful to everyone, and especially to people of color, people experiencing poverty, children, older adults, and people with underlying health conditions.

It's clear that Sacramento County's elected leaders should take this situation seriously and act now for a brighter future.

The ALA's Report is clear on what local governments need to do:

“Local governments have the power to help ensure that city and county operations are zero-emission and that residents have the ability to choose zero-emission forms of transportation and electricity. These actions must benefit the communities most impacted by unhealthy air.

- Adopt a climate action plan. Reduce city- and county-wide emissions by supporting walking, biking and transit and zero-emission-vehicle infrastructure, and ensuring that building and parking policies support these goals. Include measures to address the impacts of climate change on residents, including health impacts.

- Purchase zero-emission fleet vehicles. Commit to purchasing zero-emission garbage and recycling trucks, transit buses, school buses and other vehicles.
- Power city and county operations with truly clean sources of electricity like wind, solar, geothermal or tidal.”

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors should support policies that reduce emissions by encouraging walking- biking- and transit-based communities. Most critically, the Board needs to exercise its land use authority to shift priorities from sprawl development to infill to support these modes of transportation and reduce vehicle miles traveled. This would decrease automobile exhaust, the largest source of local ozone and particulate pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

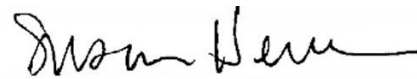
Without these changes, not only will our County remain on the ALA’s list year after year, but climate change will continue to accelerate – with extreme weather threatening us all.

We urge the Board to include a discussion of our ongoing air quality as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting, and make firm commitments that address the issues raised in this report. Our lives and that of our children and grandchildren depend upon it.

Sincerely,



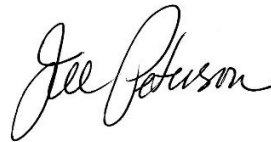
Barbara Leary
Chair, Sierra Club-Sacramento Group



Susan Herre
President, Environmental Council of Sacramento



Oscar Balaguer
CAP Team Co-Chair, 350 Sacramento



Jill Peterson
Local Issues Lead, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Sac’to

cc:

Board of Supervisors via email to BoardClerk@saccounty.net
 Ann Edwards, County Executive, CountyExecutive@saccounty.net
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