



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Clean Air Blueprint for Southland Adopted by California Air Resources Board**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District's 21<sup>st</sup> century blueprint for clean air, calling for stringent regulations combined with incentives to provide healthful air for the region's 17 million residents, was approved today by the California Air Resources Board.

"The primary goal of this Air Quality Management Plan is to meet clean air standards and protect public health, including ensuring benefits to our environmental justice and disadvantaged communities," said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD's executive officer. "An enhanced analysis shows that these communities will benefit most from the actions in this plan."

Now that the plan has been approved by the state, it will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its review. If approved by EPA, the plan becomes federally enforceable.

The Air Quality Management Plan was developed over the past three years with extensive public input, including more than 200 meetings with community and environmental groups, churches, local governments and business groups across SCAQMD's four-county region. Some highlights of the plan include:

- Stringent stationary-source measures across all sectors, including the largest industrial facilities under the RECLAIM program;
- A sunset for the RECLAIM program with a return to command-and-control regulations;
- A specific process to help implement the state's mobile source commitments locally, through identifying enforceable actions to reduce emissions at facilities such as ports, warehouses, railyards, and airports; and
- An honest assessment of the needed incentive programs to reach attainment, designed to help small businesses and residents who are least able to afford equipment upgrades.

"The collaborative partnership between SCAQMD and CARB will continue to ensure that California's economy is viable while working to ensure every resident will breathe clean air," said Nastri.

SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.