

- 1. *State of the Air 2016* finds that California remains home to some of the worst air pollution in the country.** The Los Angeles and Bakersfield metropolitan areas top the list of the most polluted metropolitan areas in the country for ozone pollution and particle pollution, respectively, with many other California cities among the Top 10.
- 2. Statewide, over 32 million Californians (84%) live in counties affected by unhealthy air during the year.** Over 17 million Californians live in counties that received three failing grades in *State of the Air 2016*. At risk populations include children, seniors, those with asthma, COPD, heart disease, diabetes, and low income communities.
- 3. There is good news in the 2016 report.** Despite remaining challenges, California's innovative clean air policies and programs are driving steady progress in the fight for clean air, and a number of cities have had their cleanest year yet, including Los Angeles which saw the lowest number of unhealthy days ever for ozone and particle pollution.
- 4. The air is cleaner today because of the Federal Clean Air Act, California's groundbreaking clean air and clean energy laws, and local air pollution control programs.** California must continue to ramp up investments in zero emission vehicles including electricity and hydrogen, cleaner freight transport, renewable power, more sustainable community planning and cleaner alternatives to wood burning to reduce air pollution.
- 5. The 2016 report highlights the real public health crisis caused by air pollution.** Millions of residents live in polluted areas and are at increased risk for health emergencies. Air pollution can cause asthma attacks and other lung diseases, send people to hospitals and emergency rooms, contribute to heart attacks and strokes and even slow the development of children's lungs.
- 6. Climate change is slowing California's progress toward healthy air.** Climate change contributes to warming temperatures, droughts, heat waves and wildfires which can all create conditions for poor air quality and have devastating impacts on lung health. For example, in the southern San Joaquin Valley, drought weather conditions are contributing to increased unhealthy days for particle pollution.
- 7. Air pollution remains a serious health burden for San Joaquin Valley residents.** The San Joaquin Valley is home to four of the most particle-polluted cities in the United States, and has significant challenges to overcome in reducing particle pollution. Additionally, despite more steady progress on ozone, residents in several Valley counties face more than 100 unhealthy ozone days per year.
- 8. All communities deserve healthy air.** Many California communities face higher exposures and health risks due to their proximity to freeways, refineries, rail yards, freight corridors and other local pollution sources. The Lung Association supports targeted investments and clean up in vulnerable communities to ensure that all communities in California can breathe healthy air.
- 9. Health leaders support California's leadership on clean air and climate policies.** Now is a critical time for elected officials and all Californians to join them in showing strong support. One key way is to support SB 1383 (Lara) to set clear targets for reducing "super pollutants" like black carbon from diesel exhaust and wood burning that threaten health locally and accelerate climate change.
- 10. Everyone can make a difference for clean air.** Making decisions to drive less, carpool, walk or bike where possible, switch to electric transportation instead of gasoline cars, avoid wood burning and use less energy all contribute to cleaner air.