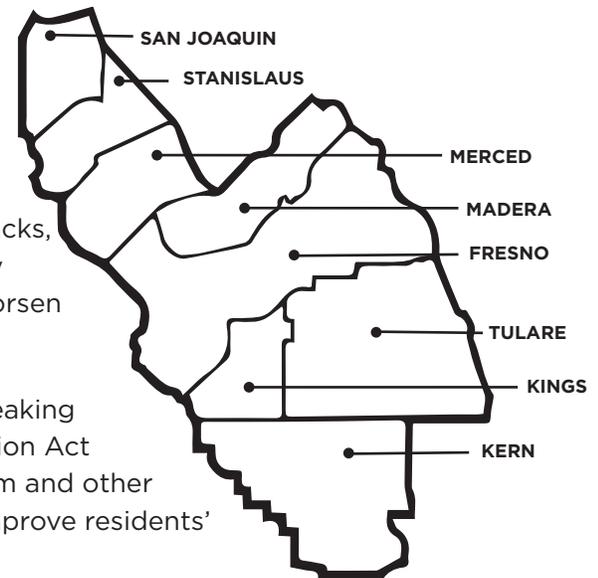


# The San Joaquin Valley's Clean Air Future

Today, the San Joaquin Valley is home to 10% of California's population and some of the most polluted air in the United States. This pollution causes 1,300 premature deaths, as well as asthma attacks, emergency room visits, and lost school and work days costing valley residents \$11 billion each year. And climate change is expected to worsen the valley's air pollution problems.

But it's not all bad news. While we have a long way to go, groundbreaking initiatives such as the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB375), climate investments from the state's cap-and-trade program and other pollution controls have created opportunities to reduce pollution, improve residents' health and create a clean air future.



**Ozone pollution, or "smog", is a highly irritating, but invisible gas. Ground-level ozone:**

- Triggers asthma attacks
- Increases the risk of hospital admission and emergency room visits
- Increases the risk of premature death



**Particle pollution describes microscopic bits of solids and aerosols in the air and increases the risk of:**

- Asthma attacks
- Respiratory distress
- Heart attacks
- Stroke
- Lung cancer
- Developmental and reproductive harm

## When air pollution is bad, who suffers?

While air pollution affects everyone, some groups are most at risk. These include children, the elderly, people with heart and lung disease or diabetes, and low-income residents. It also includes people living near major sources of pollution, including ports, rail yards and busy roadways.

**In the San Joaquin Valley this is a significant portion of the community. Here's how it breaks down:**

PERCENTAGE OF THE COMMUNITY



CONDITIONS AFFLICTING THE COMMUNITY

**ASTHMA 325,000 people**  
● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *1 in 6 children*

**CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE 135,000 people**

**HEART DISEASE 200,000 people**

**DIABETES 285,000 people**

## Where does air pollution come from?

### Transportation sector

85% of the emissions that cause air pollution come from mobile sources like vehicles, diesel trucks and buses, and the movement of goods through ports, rail yards and freight distribution centers.



### Other contributors:

- Residential wood burning
- Agricultural burning and operations
- Emissions from the oil and gas industry
- Wildfires

In the San Joaquin Valley, hot weather, bordering mountains and periods of stagnant air create ideal conditions for forming and trapping air pollutants.

# STATE OF THE AIR 2016

## National ranking for unhealthy air days by metro area

Bakersfield	#2 OZONE	#1 PARTICLES
Fresno	#4 OZONE	#2 PARTICLES
Hanford-Visalia	#3 OZONE	#3 PARTICLES
Modesto-Merced	#7 OZONE	#4 PARTICLES
Bay Area - Stockton	#16 OZONE	#8 PARTICLES

The State of the Air 2016 report finds that though progress is being made, cleaning up pollution in the San Joaquin Valley is a significant challenge as valley communities dominate top ten lists, with some of the most polluted air in the United States.

Seven counties saw a pollution increase from 2015. Fresno, Kern and Tulare County residents face over 100 unhealthy ozone days per year.

Climate-related impacts like the drought, wildfires and prolonged heat events are threatening to delay clean air progress.

## SUCCESSSES

Despite the short-term increase in bad air quality days, the valley has successfully cut air pollution since 2000 thanks to passenger vehicles and diesel emission controls and wood burning restrictions.

This has led to a:

**39% DROP** IN KERN COUNTY  
in unhealthy ozone days since 2000

**34% DROP** IN MERCED COUNTY  
in annual particles since 2004

**37% DROP** IN FRESNO COUNTY  
in unhealthy particle days since 2004

## So what's possible for your community?

Communities that are designed around driving suffer from traffic pollution and congestion, and limit opportunities for residents to lead healthy lifestyles. Past planning decisions in the San Joaquin Valley have contributed to higher-than-average rates of air pollution, asthma and other public health problems. But policies are now in place that can move the San Joaquin Valley forward in creating a clean air future.

### HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Healthy growth as envisioned by SB 375 focuses on improving and revitalizing neighborhoods to emphasize active transportation and local services. This is done in part by aligning land use and transportation planning.

Healthy growth makes existing communities more vibrant, and it can save a lot of money, too. A 2013 American Lung Association in California study found that healthier growth in the San Joaquin Valley would reduce health costs by \$416 million by 2035, compared to growth as usual.

### CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

California's cap-and-trade program has generated billions of dollars in revenue from polluters that is deposited into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). A quarter of the fund's proceeds are earmarked for low-income communities hardest hit by pollution.

#### *SJV Climate Investments:*

**122 projects**  
have been funded in  
the San Joaquin Valley

**More than  
\$56 Million**  
total investments

**Preventing more than  
235,000 MT**  
of greenhouse gas emissions

#### *Projects Support:*

- Improving transportation options, providing:
  - Alternative transportation for farm workers
  - Zero emissions transportation
  - Better access to transit
- Sustainable housing opportunities
- Water efficiency

## MORE IS NEEDED

**It's a good start, but more work is needed. You can help by encouraging your local government to apply for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds for healthy growth projects to build the valley's clean air future.**

**To apply, visit** <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/auctionproceeds.htm>

**For more information, visit** [www.lung.org/california](http://www.lung.org/california)