

- 1. *State of the Air 2018* finds that California remains home to some of the worst air pollution in the country, affecting the health of millions of Californians.** The Los Angeles and Bakersfield metropolitan areas top the lists of the most polluted areas in the country for unhealthy ozone pollution and particle pollution days, and Visalia ranks second on the list for worst polluted areas with year-round particle pollution. Several other California cities rank among the Top 10 polluted areas for these hazardous pollutants.
- 2. Statewide, over 35 million Californians (90%) live in counties affected by unhealthy air during the year.** Over 8 million children and almost 5 million seniors live in affected counties along with other vulnerable groups. Children, seniors, those with asthma, COPD, lung cancer, heart disease, diabetes, low income communities and communities near pollution hot spots are at higher risk from smog and soot pollution.
- 3. *State of the Air* annually highlights the real public health crisis caused by air pollution.** Air pollution can cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer and other health impacts, send people to hospitals and emergency rooms, and even slow the development of children's lungs. Air pollution contributes to thousands of premature deaths each year in California and millions worldwide.
- 4. There is good news in the State of the Air Report!** Our air is cleaner today because of the Federal Clean Air Act, California's groundbreaking vehicle emission and fuel standards and local air pollution control programs. But, California must continue to ramp up key programs, regulations and investments promoting sustainable community planning, renewable energy and zero emission cars, trucks, buses and freight traffic as well as the electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure to support them.
- 5. Climate change represents a significant challenge to air quality progress in California.** Climate impacts including warming temperatures, droughts, heat waves and wildfires, all contribute to poor air quality and have devastating impacts on lung health. Unfortunately, extreme weather events have become the new normal for California.
- 6. Ozone increases highlight climate impacts.** While some areas of the state saw lower levels of particle pollution in SOTA 2018 with the pause in drought conditions, many communities throughout the state experienced significant increases in ozone pollution attributed to record temperatures. 2016 was the second warmest year on record in the United States, highlighting that climate impacts are happening now.
- 7. San Joaquin Valley residents continue to face significant air pollution challenges.** The San Joaquin Valley is home to the 3 most particle-polluted cities in the United States and 4 cities on the list of worst polluted cities for ozone. The Valley has experienced significant challenges with particle pollution during drought years. Additionally, despite progress on reducing ozone, residents in seven Valley counties face more than a month's worth of unhealthy ozone days per year, with two experiencing over 90 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, ports, warehouses and freight corridors and other local hot spots. The Lung Association supports stronger regulations and targeted investments to ensure that all Californians can breathe healthy air where they live, work or go to school.
- 9. Health professionals strongly support California's leadership on clean air and climate policies.** As the federal government works to dismantle key health protections against vehicle emissions, power plants and fossil fuel extraction, health professionals are speaking out for clean air. State and local elected officials should join with health leaders in strong support of California's climate leadership, strong vehicle pollution standards, and to push back against federal EPA attempts to delay, roll back and weaken air quality rules.
- 10. Everyone can make a difference for clean air.** Making decisions to drive less, carpool, walk, bike or take transit where possible, switch to electric transportation such as battery electric or fuel cell cars instead of gasoline cars, avoid wood burning and use less energy all contribute to cleaner air.