



Regional Air Quality Advocacy In 2021

Propelling Advocacy Efforts at the Federal and State Levels

***Virtual* Luncheon - Friday, March 26, 2021**



Federal Air Quality “Lay of the Land”

Erik White

Air Pollution Control Officer,
Placer County Air Pollution
Control District – Auburn, CA

Co-President,
National Association of Clean
Air Agencies (NACAA)



Federal Air Quality “Lay of the Land”

Miles Keogh

Executive Director,
National Association of Clean
Air Agencies (NACAA) –
Washington, D.C.





Actions in 2021

**NACAA / California Capital Region Call
March 26, 2021**

Miles Keogh, Executive Director, NACAA
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A lot has changed

- ❑ NACAA Priorities
- ❑ New Faces
- ❑ Executive Orders
- ❑ Regulatory Pauses
- ❑ Changes on the Hill
- ❑ Courts are Acting
- ❑ Industry is Responding

A Top Priority

“The National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) condemns racism and discrimination in all its manifestations. While the work of our state and local agency members has contributed to tremendous reductions in air pollution overall in the United States, the same communities that bore the greatest burden of harm decades ago continue to face the greatest public health threats from dirty air today. Some systems produce unequal and inequitable outcomes even when the people who implement them have the best intentions. **As a community, NACAA will work for systemic racial justice in the programs that alleviate polluted air, in our externally facing programs, and in our internal operations.** Because silence and inaction are themselves policies, in the coming 12 months NACAA will advance this goal by opening a dialogue to explore and take action on fundamental questions, including but not limited to, 1) How does our association currently express diversity, access, equity, and inclusion? 2) How do we advance and support equitable and just policies and programs that address diversity and prevent discriminatory outcomes? 3) Do NACAA and our member agencies reflect the diversity of the communities we serve? and 4) What can NACAA, as its own community, do to make a difference?”

3 - *Adopted by the Board of Directors, 10/19/2020*

Our transition letter recommendations:

- 1) Center Environmental Justice
- 2) Respect State and Local Authorities as a Pillar of the Clean Air Act
- 3) Ensure Scientific and Technical Integrity for Core EPA Actions
- 4) Advance New EPA Programs to Protect Public Health and the Environment and Address Climate Change
- 5) Reset Permitting and Enforcement Priorities to Emphasize Public Health and Equity
- 6) Improve Technical Assistance to State and Local Air Agencies
- 7) Address the Urgent Need for Significant Increases in Federal Funding

- 8) *Act in Partnership with State and Local Clean Air Agencies.*

New Faces

- ❑ EPA Administrator Regan
- ❑ OAR and other appointments
- ❑ DOT Secretary Buttigieg, NHTSA appointments
- ❑ White House, Climate Advisors Kerry & McCarthy
- ❑ DOE Secretary Granholm, appointments at EERE
- ❑ FERC Chairman Glick; 3-2 Republican majority
- ❑ Climate & Environmental Justice advocates across government appointments

Executive Orders

- ❑ Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis
 - ✓ Re-join Paris Agreement
 - ✓ Review 48 Deregulatory Actions: [The List at EPA](#) from “Build Back Better”
 - ✓ National security reviews for climate impacts
 - ✓ Pause new O&G leases; revoke KXL permit
 - ✓ Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies by Federal Govt
 - ✓ Establish Climate Conservation Corps
 - ✓ Social cost of carbon
 - ✓ HFCs – leak detection, Kigali
- ❑ Orders on restoring & elevating science, establishing environmental justice institutional infrastructure

De-Regulatory Pauses

- ❑ Benefit-Cost Analysis (Among others at EPA)
- ❑ Promoting Energy Independence & Economic Growth
- ❑ Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects
- ❑ Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects
- ❑ Efficient Federal Operations (Restores “Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade”)
- ❑ The 2-for-1 Rule

Changes on the Hill

- ❑ New Senate Leadership (EPW, Approps, etc).
- ❑ New bills
 - ✓ CLEAN Future Act
 - ✓ Republican EPA Energy Package
 - ✓ Numerous smaller bills
- ❑ Much broader range for action (likely through reconciliation)
- ❑ COVID stimulus
- ❑ 2 large infrastructure packages in the pipe
- ❑ Appropriations / “Skinny Budget”

The Courts are Making Decisions

- ❑ ACE Rule vacated in court 1/19/21
- ❑ DC Circuit granted EPA's and NHTSA's 2/1/21 motion to hold SAFE Part 1 in abeyance
- ❑ Transparency In Regulatory Science vacated 2/1/21
- ❑ These rules are under review by Biden EPA and also subject to litigation:
 - ✓ Safe Part 2
 - ✓ Aircraft GHGs (fin. 1/11/21)
 - ✓ New Power Plant NSPS under 111b (fin 1/13/21)
 - ✓ Methane NSPS for O&G
 - ✓ Trailer sections of Phase II Heavy Duty rule (stayed 9/20)

Companies are responding

- ❑ GM, Toyota, Hyundai, others withdraw from SAFE litigation
- ❑ Investments in EVs: GM “aspires to eliminate tailpipe emissions from new light-duty vehicles by 2035”; multibillion battery investments for GM, Ford, VW
- ❑ EEI Op-Ed: 100% zero emissions “possible with the right alignments”
- ❑ EPSCA announcements: support for broad electrification, decarbonization through market design
- ❑ API would “accept” “the right type of” “carbon tax”

Questions?

Happy to answer 'em!

Federal Policy: Priorities and Draft “Asks”

Erik White

Air Pollution Control Officer,
Placer County Air Pollution
Control District – Auburn, CA

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Federal Policy: Priorities and Draft “Asks”

1. Forest Health Investments

- Match California’s proposed \$1 Billion for wildfire mitigation
- U.S. Forest Service commitment to treat 500,000 acres of CA forests annually
- Clean Air Centers
- Incentives for biomass utilization

2. Grid Reliability and Electrification

- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- Energy storage
- Hydrogen
- Climate change (2021 Texas blackouts)

3. Transportation Infrastructure

- HR 2: Passenger rail, transit, goods movement, bridges, airports, ports, highways, and more

4. SAFE Vehicles Rule Part 1/2

- Restore stronger emissions standards for passenger vehicles

5. Heavy-Duty Truck Emissions

- Tighten standards for Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emissions
- Must be a 50-state-strategy due to interstate trucking and commerce

6. Funding for Local Projects

- Case-by-case basis
- Earmarks are popular again

Federal Policy: Meetings to Request (Full List)

U.S. Senate:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Alex Padilla

Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)

Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)

U.S. House of Representatives:

Congressman John Garamendi

Congresswoman Doris Matsui

Congressman Tom McClintock

Congressman Ami Bera

Congressman Doug LaMalfa

Congressman Jerry McNerney (9th District – Galt/Stockton)

Congressman Jim Costa (16th District - Fresno)

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)

Congressional Committees:

Minority/Majority Senate Committee on Ag. Nutrition & Forestry, Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources

Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works / Majority

Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works / Minority

House Select Committee on Climate Crisis

House Energy & Commerce - Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change (Matsui is Vice Chair)

House Natural Resources - Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands

Agencies:

USDA Forest Service, Office of Legislative Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Sustainable Communities; Office of Air & Radiation; Office of Intergovernmental Relations

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

Nonprofits:

American Lung Association

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

State Policy: Priorities for Air Quality

Alberto Ayala

**Executive Director/
Air Pollution Control Officer,
Sacramento Metropolitan Air
Quality Management District
(SMAQMD)**

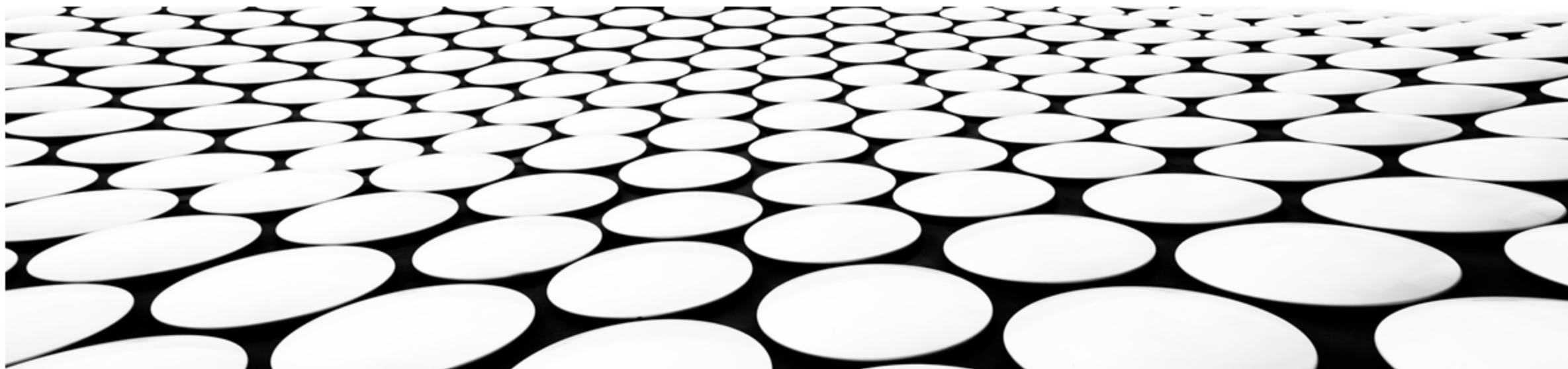


CLEANER AIR PARTNERSHIP STATE-LEVEL AIR QUALITY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

CAP LUNCHEON, MARCH 26, 2021

PRESENTED BY

ALBERTO AYALA, CEO, SAC METRO AIR DISTRICT

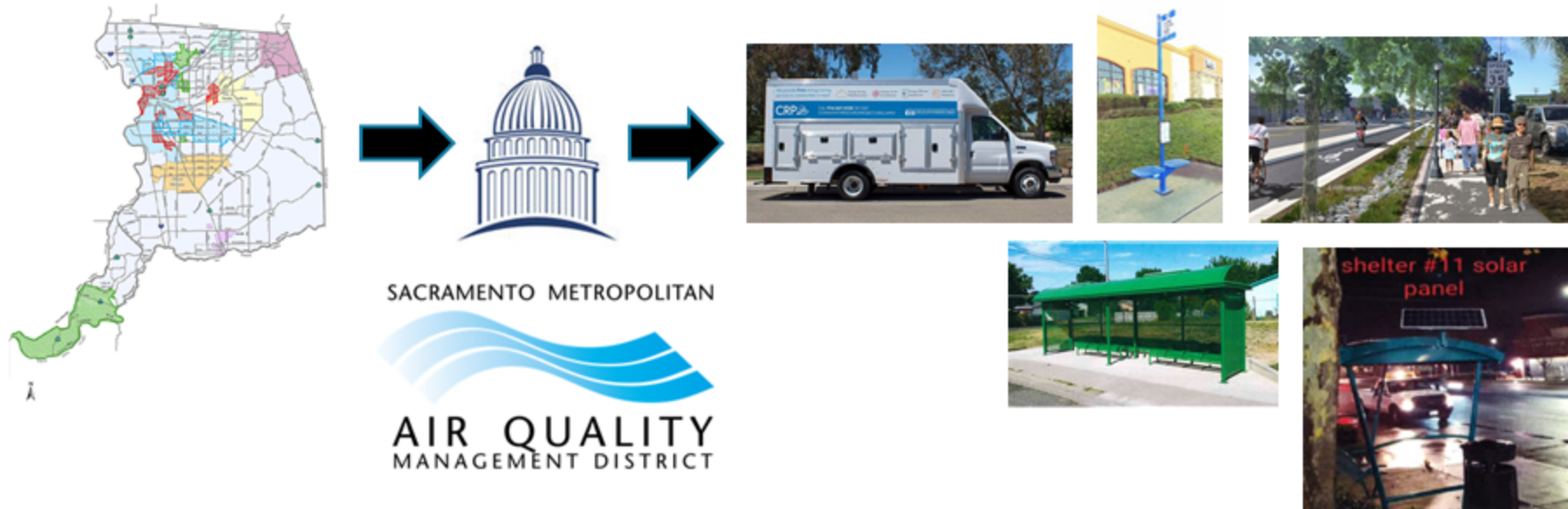


REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR CLEAN AIR PROJECTS

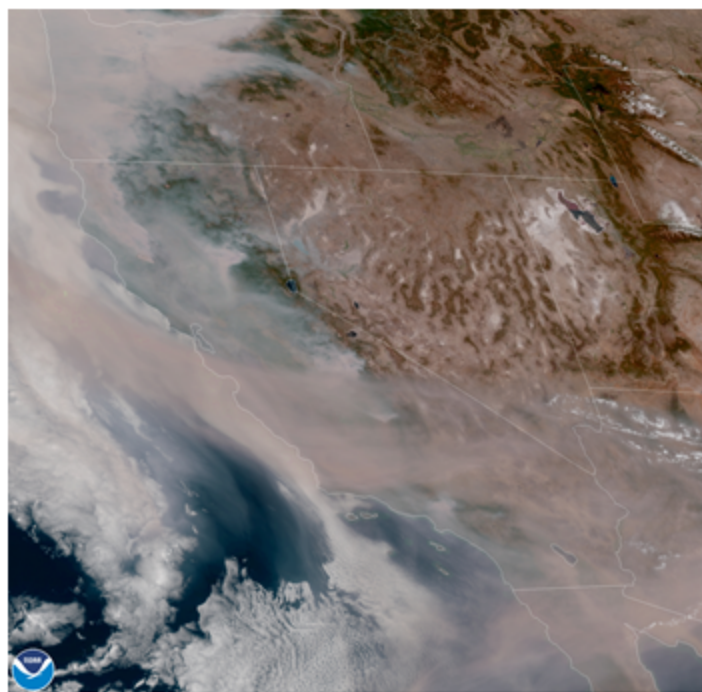
- SUNSETTING IN -2023 UNLESS REAUTHORIZED
- CARL MOYER/AB 923 INCENTIVES and AB 8 CLEAN AIR PROGRAMS
- MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES AND REGIONAL ECONOMIES
 - Private businesses, farmers, schools, public agencies, communities
- CRITICAL FOR AIR QUALITY PROGRESS
 - Since 1998, 68,000 combustion engines cleaned up to tune of 194,000 tons of NOx + ROG and 7,100 tons of PM avoided emissions statewide
 - School bus replacements, agricultural equipment, passenger car scrapping, etc.
- AB 617 COMMUNITY AIR PROTECTION PROGRAM (CAP)
 - Unkept promise for communities, air districts, and other stakeholders
 - Communities asking for tangible benefits yesterday
 - 3-year old state mandate that has been continually underfunded
 - No continuous appropriation, yet more state requirements being added (e.g., CTR, AB 1001, etc.)

NEW LEGISLATIVE FLEXIBILITY TO STATE INCENTIVES

- Historical issues with disinvestment, redlining, and poor land use planning will take time and a concerted collective effort to correct
- Solutions are beyond air quality actions. However, we can do more with additional and targeted flexibility for eligible projects
- Create a pilot in Sac Metro Air District (potentially others) to add flexibility for Moyer/CAP to fund broader type of incentive projects
- Examples: tree/solar canopy, streetscapes, bike lanes, cool pavement, cool roofs, EV purchase w/o scrap



WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND RESPONSE



11 Sep 2020 19:31Z NOAA/SDS/STAR GOES-West ABI GEOCOLOR

- More state investment to expand opportunities for prescribed burning for land management (SB 1260)
- \$2M/year implemented by air districts, ARB, CalFire
- 200,000 acres were treated and new targeted smoke air pollution monitoring deployed for 233 wildfires
- More state investment is needed for Air Resources Advisors, coordination, tracking, outreach
- Fund new incentive program for “clean air centers”
- More to come: broader package of bills making the rounds

