



Central Valley Air Quality (CVAQ) Coalition

ABOUT US

The Central Valley Air Quality (CVAQ) Coalition is a partnership of more than 70 community, medical, public health, environmental and environmental justice organizations representing thousands of residents in the San Joaquin Valley that are unified in their commitment to improve the health of Californians by (a) seeking full and vigorous enforcement of the federal Clean Air Act in the San Joaquin Valley, (b) strengthening State law and District regulations relating to air quality, and (c) educating the public about the serious health impacts of air pollution.

VISION

To become a healthy, safe, and economically prosperous San Joaquin Valley where chronic air pollution and epidemic sickness due to poor air quality is eliminated.

MISSION

To work toward awareness, act as a watchdog, advocate for policy, and mobilize communities to create clean air in the San Joaquin Valley. To ensure that all communities, of all races, cultures, class or creed, have the opportunity to be involved in the policy development and regulatory processes improving regional health.

BACKGROUND

The Clean Air Act, passed by Congress in 1970, promised healthy air to all major urban areas in the United States by 1975. Today, we are still faced with air so dirty that we have to keep our children from playing outside on smoggy summer afternoons. In many areas of California, our air has become a foul brew of pollution emitted from hundreds of different sources, including automobiles, power plants, factories, farms and leaf blowers, to name a few. These pollutants include ozone and particulate matter pollution, which have serious impacts on the health of everyone living (and dying) in our state. Our bodies cannot tolerate these dangerous pollutants entering our airways and bloodstreams. When the pollution load is too great, we get sick, our breath shortens, we begin to cough and wheeze, and our hearts and lungs are damaged. Sadly, the impact of pollution is most severe on our most vulnerable populations: children, the elderly, and those with existing respiratory diseases. CVAQ was formed in 2003 to tackle these and other critical air quality issues.