



CLEAN AIR CA

Clean Cars and Clean Air Act Fact Sheet – Public Health

Supporters*

American Lung Association
CA Electric Transportation Coalition
CA Environmental Voters
CA State Pipe Trades Council
CAL FIRE Local 2881
Climate Resolve
Coalition for Clean Air
Lyft
Mary Nichols, former Chair - CA Air Resources Board
Natural Resources Defense Council
Move LA
Public Health Advocates
Rivian
State Association of Electrical Workers - IBEW
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Partial list.*

California's Poor Air Quality Is a Serious Threat to Public Health

Climate-driven extreme wildfires and transportation emissions are creating a public health emergency in California.

California's air quality is now among the worst in the country, posing a serious hazard to public health and our quality of life throughout the state. A recent [American Lung Association air quality report](#) gave nearly every county in the state a failing grade on either ozone pollution, particle pollution, or both.

Polluted air has serious impacts on our health: increased asthma attacks, pre-term pregnancies and low birth weight, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer, impaired cognitive functioning and even premature death.

These risks are elevated for women, children and seniors, and for low-income and disadvantaged communities where air pollution is frequently more acute. All of which translates into billions of dollars in higher health care costs for families, employers and the state.

Tackling the Source of Air Pollution and Carbon Emissions

Wildfire and [transportation emissions](#) are the top sources of climate change emissions in our state and among the top sources of the particulate emissions polluting our air. To restore clean healthy air to Californians, we must address both.

The Clean Cars & Clean Air Act: Healthier Air for All Californians

A coalition of public health advocates, environmental groups, state firefighters, labor and businesses are sponsoring the Clean Cars and Clean Air Act (CCCAA) for the ballot this November to fight and prevent wildfires and reduce vehicle emissions.

The Act provides roughly \$100 billion in new revenue over 20 years to fund:

- Subsidies to help make light-, medium- and heavy-duty electric (EVs) and other zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) more affordable;
- Development of infrastructure to ensure more convenient, affordable access to charging / fueling of EVs / ZEVs; and
- Fighting and preventing wildfires, including resilience measures to protect communities, homes and businesses.



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The Act includes strict transparency and accountability measures to ensure the money is spent as intended, including 1) regular audits by the State Auditor, and 2) prohibiting the State Legislature from using these funds to supplant existing programs.

The CCCAA addresses the two barriers many Californians face in purchasing an EV – affordability and convenient charging – accelerating our transition toward a zero-emission transportation sector. The Act requires 50% of the funding for vehicle subsidies and infrastructure to be spent to benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities. Air pollution disproportionately impacts low-income communities and disadvantaged communities, so focusing efforts there helps address a key social and structural determinant of health.

The Act also provides new resources for fighting and preventing wildfires, helping to reduce the number of catastrophic wildfires plaguing our state.

Clean cars + fewer extreme wildfires = cleaner, healthier air.

The CCCAA Will Save Lives and Lower Health Care Costs

The ozone and particle pollution in California placed the health of over 38 million residents at risk in 2021. Air pollution costs Californians \$1 billion in asthma hospitalizations each year. According to the American Lung Association, the reduced emissions from shifting to zero-emission vehicles in California will avoid:

- \$169 billion in health care costs,
- 440,000 asthma attacks,
- 15,300 premature deaths, and
- 2,160,000 lost workdays.

The reduction of extreme wildfires will result in additional health benefits. Even short-term exposure to wildfire smoke has resulted in increased hospital and ER visits. The particular health risks from long-term exposure to wildfires are still being researched, but early research suggests the particulate matter from wildfires could present a greater risk than from other particulate sources.

Current Efforts Are Not Enough: We Need to Act Now

California is far behind track to meet its climate and zero-emission vehicle goals, even accounting for recent proposals and programs. Absent strong action today to boost our efforts, we will face more wildfires, worse air quality and the consequences from both.

Ad paid for by Clean Air California, a Coalition of Rideshare Companies, Labor, and Environmental Groups.

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California Environmental Voters

Funding details at www.fppc.ca.gov