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NEWS

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2014 Progress Toward Clean Air report highlights California's air quality improvements Report compiles air quality data from 35 air districts statewide

Ventura - The California Air Pollution Control Officers' Association (CAPCOA), a statewide organization of local air quality regulators, today released the 2014 *California Progress Toward Clean Air* report.

The report compiles air quality data, progress and initiatives from the 35 local air districts throughout California in 2013. The report provides information useful to city, county and state planners as well as businesses and the general public. The report also addresses the continuing challenges air quality regulators face and presents air quality data in an accessible format, helping the public understand how statewide air has improved over time.

"The CAPCOA report shows that over the past 20 years, air quality in California has been a success story, with significant across-the-board decreases in air pollutants and dramatic cost-saving improvements in public health," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. "But as population and traffic in the state continue to increase, and as concerns about climate change loom ever larger, further improvements will call upon all the resources and ingenuity of local air districts to ensure that this trend continues into the future."

California's Progress Toward Clean Air is available for download at capcoa.org. Highlights include:

- Since 2000, air quality has steadily improved even as statewide population has increased. For example, in 2013 Ventura County experienced its cleanest year on record.
- Over the last 20 years, California's population increased by 22 percent and average daily miles driven increased by 45 percent. Over the same time, statewide emissions of smog-forming pollutants decreased by over 50 percent.
- An estimated 63 percent of California residents reside in areas that meet the federal standard for ground-level ozone, compared to only 24 percent in 1990.
- Particulate Matter is the air pollutant that poses the greatest risk to public health.

CAPCOA is a non-profit association of the air pollution control officers from all 35 local air quality agencies throughout California. To learn more, visit capcoa.org.

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