

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



INFORM-EDUCATE-ENGAGE

2024



Photo credit: Ron Baskett

WHAT'S IN OUR SUMMER AIR?

Sunny skies are here again! The high pressure dome that makes the Pacific Ocean glass smooth and creates our cool onshore sea breeze also pushes down on Northern California, creating our classic summertime temperature inversion. This traps the air in the lowest thousand feet of the atmosphere and creates potential for producing smog or ground-level ozone. But fortunately, even as our population increases, the increase in use of electric vehicles and landscaping equipment has helped lower ground-level ozone concentrations. Last summer, we only experienced **one day** in mid-August that exceeded the ozone standard!

That said, we also have our other summertime threat: potential wildfire smoke plumes blowing into our airshed. Now after years of awareness, we are prepared to minimize detrimental health effects by staying indoors if necessary. In addition to [Spare the Air Alerts](#) and the [U.S. EPA Fire and Smoke Map](#), you can now sign up on the [Air Quality Incident Notifications](#) web page to register for emails or text notifications about short- or long-term incidents specific to Alameda County.

Protecting the air we breathe means we have to understand what's in it. And lead is something we do not want to have in our air. We applaud the foresight of Pete Sandhu of Five Rivers Aviation for purchasing a UL94 tank many years ago and appreciate the Air District finalizing his permit in a timely fashion. With UL94 supplying smaller single engine planes this July, we encourage Livermore to accelerate their purchase of a UL100 tank to fuel the remaining larger piston aircraft. We look forward to the [Airport Land Use & Development Analysis Study](#) with the public input over the last few months. As an air quality scientist, I hope they listen to our input and correct their [misrepresentation that Livermore residents have negligible exposure to lead emissions from aircraft!](#)

From Ron Baskett, Chair



Photo credit: Ron Baskett

PLEASANTON PROHIBITS GAS LEAF BLOWERS!

On June 1, the City of Pleasanton's [rule](#) to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers took effect. We applaud the City's proactive stance to reduce air and noise pollution. The first three to six months of implementing the [ordinance](#) involves educating and informing the community of the new rule. Know someone who has questions or concerns about this change? Learn ways to help our neighbors and landscapers electrify their gas power tools from online resources such as [Electrify Now](#) and [Quiet Clean Alliance](#). For those who question the economics of making the switch, read a study making a [comparison between gas-powered and electric leaf blowers](#) from Santa Cruz Coalition for a Healthy & Safe Environment. In short, electric yard tools are better for our environment, our health, and our wallet. We hope more cities in the Tri-Valley will adopt the better choice.



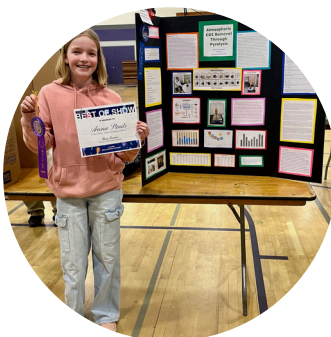
THE
SOLUTION
IS LESS
POLLUTION

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



As a community-based organization focused on air quality and climate, our team is gratified to be educating and engaging the public on these issues. In March, we judged at the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair and awarded two prizes, a High School Award and Middle School Award, for “Best Exhibit on Air Quality or Climate Change.” We interacted with over 1700 individuals at the [Tri-Valley Innovation Fair](#) in April and assembled 54 box fan air cleaners with our interns and high school volunteers to distribute at Marilyn Ave. Elementary Spring Festival. We have also been kept very busy mentoring interns, whose work includes creating social media content, supporting us at outreach events, and educating the public about air quality and health. Fabjola has been researching the extent of cancer risk associated with the largest sources of Toxic Air Contaminants in the Tri-Valley, David has been monitoring the progress of city Climate Action Plans, and Shae has been researching air quality effects on a hereditary lung condition. Many of our interns are Las Positas College students, with two who recently graduated. David is headed to UC San Diego and Shae is headed to UC Santa Cruz this Fall — congratulations!

As the summer heat begins, we are working to bring resources to the most vulnerable community members. In May, collaborating with WIC, Axis Community Health, and PUSD Parent Liaison team, we distributed free [WINIX air cleaners](#) granted to us by the Air District. We still have a few available, so if you know a family who could benefit from this resource, please direct them to us.



THIS WAY TO RESILIENCY

Even with the heat waves experiencing around the globe and the wildfires underway in some places in California, being a part of the Bay Area is being a partner in resiliency. Find out more how different communities are working to respond to climate change on ABC7 News Bay Area's show [Bay Area 2050: How Climate Change will Impact Region Over Next Few Decades](#). If you're driving an EV, know that you are making a difference in lowering the carbon footprint in the Bay Area according to a recent finding by a [UC Berkeley monitoring network](#). You can also make a difference by taking our new [survey](#) about transportation on our website. And despite the onslaught of fear-centric news reporting, "Let's not give up now--we're right on the cusp of success," says [Susan Solomon](#), the climate scientist whose study on the ozone layer helped us protect it. If people could come together to protect the ozone layer, we surely could collectively push for the progress needed to protect our planet.



Half Moon Bay, Photo Credit Terry Chang

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer. Stay hydrated, and reduce exposures and emissions where you can.

-Terry Chang, on behalf of the TVAQCA Team

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Management District



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TVAQCA is member of the [Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance](#).