

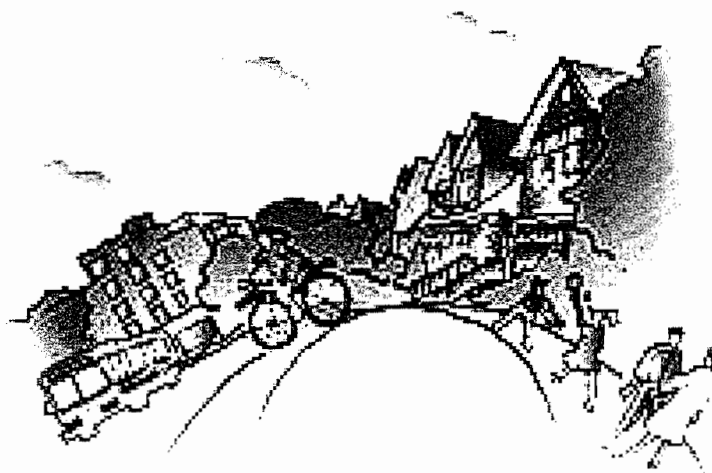
Air Quality

Issue: The County is part of a non-attainment area for the federal and state ambient air quality standards for ozone (a.k.a. smog).

Constraint: Neither the 1996 General Plan nor current project review processes make any consistent effort to reduce the impact of development on air pollution.

Opportunity: CalEPA and the Air Resources Board have produced a guide to help local jurisdictions to incorporate air quality concerns into land use planning processes, including general plan and zoning amendments. The County could use this to guide them in dealing with air quality concerns in the General Plan Update.

AIR QUALITY AND LAND USE HANDBOOK: A COMMUNITY HEALTH PERSPECTIVE



April 2005

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Air Resources Board



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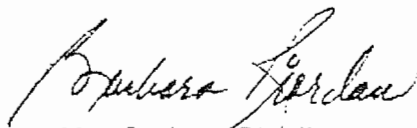
To My Local Government Colleagues....

I am pleased to introduce this informational guide to air quality and land use issues focused on community health. As a former county supervisor, I know from experience the complexity of local land use decisions. There are multiple factors to consider and balance. This document provides important public health information that we hope will be considered along with housing needs, economic development priorities, and other quality of life issues.

An important focus of this document is prevention. We hope the air quality information provided will help inform decision-makers about the benefits of avoiding certain siting situations. The overarching goal is to avoid placing people in harm's way. Recent studies have shown that public exposure to air pollution can be substantially elevated near freeways and certain other facilities. What is encouraging is that the health risk is greatly reduced with distance. For that reason, we have provided some general recommendations aimed at keeping appropriate distances between sources of air pollution and land uses such as residences.

Land use decisions are a local government responsibility. The Air Resources Board's role is advisory and these recommendations do not establish regulatory standards of any kind. However, we hope that the information in this document will be seriously considered by local elected officials and land use agencies. We also hope that this document will promote enhanced communication between land use agencies and local air pollution control agencies. We developed this document in close coordination with the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association with that goal in mind.

I hope you find this document both informative and useful.



Mrs. Barbara Riordan
Interim Chairman
California Air Resources Board

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