



Voting District Authorization for Clean Air Legislation

Proposal: This bill seeks authorization from the Legislature to create a voting district in the South Coast region to allow local funding measures to be placed on the ballot. This bill would give the community the opportunity to pursue local ballot measures, similar to cities, counties, and transportation agencies, and determine if they want to invest in clean air and address climate change.

Need for Bill:

- Community members came to the South Coast AQMD seeking local solutions through voter initiative efforts to address air pollution and climate change.
- 17 million residents in the South Coast Air Basin breathe some of the most polluted air in the nation, with the highest levels of ozone and second-highest levels of particulate matter (PM). In 2017 the region exceeded the federal ozone standard on 145 days.
- Children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions are particularly vulnerable.
- Over 80% of regional nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions are from mobile pollution sources, with most from trucks and heavy-duty equipment.
- Funding for cleaner vehicles and equipment is urgently needed to improve public health and meet upcoming federal clean air deadlines, which require a 45% reduction of NO_x emissions by 2023 and 55% by 2031. Additional emission reductions will be required by 2038 to meet the more stringent 2015 federal ozone standard.
- **Federal sanctions are looming** that: 1) cut off billions of dollars in federal highway funds; 2) create stricter requirements for businesses; and 3) result in a federal takeover of local air quality efforts, likely resulting in draconian measures harmful to the local economy;
- Climate change is causing more and more harmful consequences, including wildfires, increased air pollution, rising oceans and extreme weather conditions.

Benefits: Funding could fully implement the Air Quality Management Plan and:

- **Eliminate unhealthy air pollution** in the South Coast region;
- **Meet statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals** in our region;
- Provide substantial funding to businesses, cities, counties and transportation agencies – e.g. clean vehicles and equipment, zero emission buses, clean commuter trains, and construction of clean infrastructure, creating jobs and reinvesting in the local economy;
- Deploy the cleanest technology as quickly as possible and transform the goods movement industry and industrial sectors to zero or near-zero emission technology;
- Greatly reduce serious health impacts, such as asthma, bronchitis, decreased lung growth in children, various cancer and cardiovascular risks, premature death, emergency room and hospital visits, and hundreds of thousands of health-related lost work days and missed school days – overall resulting in estimated monetized health benefits totaling over **ten billion dollars** every year; and
- Resolve environmental inequities in disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution.