



## Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails Climate Change Policy Statement

Climate change, such as global warming is a real and defining issue of our time with serious negative impacts for California and most of the world's population. Based on the work by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 "*global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning hundreds of thousands of years. The global increases in carbon dioxide concentration are due primarily to combustion of coal, petroleum and natural gas, and land use change, while those of methane and nitrous oxide are primarily due to agriculture.*"

Any increase in climate temperature will likely result in an increase in the number and severity of days with unhealthy ozone pollution levels and *enhanced air pollution mortality*<sup>1</sup>. Greenhouse gas emissions must be significantly reduced in order to avoid serious human health and environmental consequences. The greenhouse gas reduction goals adopted by the state of California, as outlined in The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, are a good first step and a model for other governments.

Immediate attention needs to be directed towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improved land use, improved transportation planning, and transitioning away from the burning of carbon-based fuels to generate electricity and heat.

Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails resolves to remain committed to air quality improvements and global warming reduction. We support the ongoing efforts of the California Air Resources Board in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, governments and regulators cannot achieve these goals alone. It is up to individuals to make the necessary lifestyle changes needed to reduce greenhouse gases. We commit to continuing education and outreach, advocacy, and research (particularly in area of ultra fine particulates) on lung health, air quality and global warming in this community and beyond.

Most importantly, individuals can make significant contributions to global greenhouse gas reductions through simple behavioral changes. Significant personal contributions can be made by altering lighting and appliance use, water use, driving habits, use of public transit, walking, biking, diet and food sourcing, and community involvement. Individuals can influence local city and county leaders to adopt and implement building and energy ordinances that reduce and eliminate reliance on carbon-based fuels. Individuals can insist that their city and county governments put in place funding provisions that encourage rooftop installations of solar electric, solar water heating and solar thermal space heating and cooling as the technologies mature. And, individuals can insist that their city and county

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<sup>1</sup> A phenomenon known as the Jacobson Effect (after Mark Jacobson, Director, Atmosphere/Energy Program, Stanford University) concluded after 18 years of research "that carbon dioxide domes over cities and carbon dioxide buildup since preindustrial times have enhanced air pollution mortality through its feedback to particles and ozone [which] served as a scientific basis for the Environmental Protection Agency's approval of the first regulation of carbon dioxide from vehicles in the United States (the California waiver)." Source: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/> and "The Enhancement of Local Air Pollution by Urban CO2 Domes" dated October 3, 2009 at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/CO2loc0709EST.pdf>

governments provide incentives and regulations supporting mixed-use, compact, and sustainable communities centered on high-quality transit service and complete streets.<sup>2</sup>

Much of Breathe California of Sacramento- Emigrant Trails' work has been and is directed at education, advocacy and research to reduce air pollution. There is much more to be done including expanding our youth air quality programs, increasing our advocacy and policy work in areas of land use planning and continuing our innovative particulate monitoring and research.

Our policy strategies based on our clean air agenda include, but are not limited to:

- policy implementation of smart land use, transportation planning and complete streets to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- replacing old technology with renewable energies and cleaner and carbon-free technology as soon as it is available
- incentivizing clean engines
- regulating those industries where many reductions are feasible but are not occurring
- supporting a market-based system to achieve the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction goals
- aggressive tree planting
- incentivizing or requiring energy efficiency in buildings
- encouraging voluntary actions
- encouraging individuals to reduce the carbon content to produce and transport food for their diet
- in general, any measure that leads toward ultimate abandonment of carbon-based fuels

*Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails is dedicated to healthy air and preventing lung and other air-pollution related diseases by partnering with youth, advocating public policy, supporting air pollution research and educating the public.*

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<sup>2</sup> Research indicates that the combination of housing and transportation takes up over 44% of the median household budget. Sustainable urban form and good public transit reduce this burden significantly.