

The AQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. This area of 10,743 square miles is home to nearly 17 million people - about half the population of the whole state of California. It is the second most populated urban area in the United States and one of the smoggiest.

We believe that all residents have a right to live and work in an environment of clean air; and are committed to undertaking all necessary steps to protect your health from air pollution, being sensitive to the impacts of our actions on the community and businesses.



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

CleanAirCongress.org

Cleaning the air that we breathe...™



**COMMUNITIES OF
FAITH**



From the moment we draw our first breath into the sanctuary of our bodies, and feel our first nurturing embrace, we become connected to our family, our home, and the world around us.

The basic need to be cared for and protected is sewn deeply within our being.

So is the need to protect and care for others.

To many, caring for our environment is a sacred calling; transcending resource management to become a stewardship centered upon foundational moral responsibilities.

We at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) understand this and invite you to be part of our *Clean Air Congress Communities of Faith Partnership*. Our goal is to inform and to encourage your participation in critical policy issues surrounding air quality and its impacts on our health and environment.

The *Communities of Faith Partnership* represents a wide cross section of faith communities throughout the AQMD region. We agree with the importance of environmental stewardship and are committed to engaging faith-based organizations to be an active part of the decision making process and join in the effort to restore clean, healthful air within our region.

Over the last five decades we've made significant progress in cleaning the air, but the air pollution in our region is still among the worst in the nation. People who are more susceptible to air pollution include: children, elderly, and people with existing heart & lung problems.

The problem is significant, which is why we need to work together to share information and take action to help clean it up.

The health impacts of air pollution include asthma and other respiratory diseases, lung damage, cancer, birth defects, and premature death.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that fine particle air pollution is linked to as many as:

- 5,400 premature deaths annually
- 2,400 hospital admissions
- 980,000 lost work days
- 140,000 asthma & lower respiratory symptoms
- 5,000,000 minor restricted activity days in the region





The *Communities of Faith Partnership* is a special part of the *Clean Air Congress*, our free service to inform and encourage public participation in policy issues surrounding air quality and its impacts on our health and environment.

Our goal is to build bridges and empower everyone to make a difference in their community. Membership is open to all religions and faith-based groups within our jurisdiction. We hope that you will become active members. Working together we can improve the quality of our air, and the quality of our lives.

Your organization can make a difference by:

- Informing your congregants about air quality and environmental issues
- Hosting special guests for presentations
- Attending and testifying at selected hearings on air quality
- Coordinating faith-based environmental/health fairs

For more information visit our website at www.CleanAirCongress.org or call the Public Advisor's Office at (909) 396-3185.