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MEDIA RELEASE

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BREATHE LA Board of Directors Adds Five New Members

LOS ANGELES—At its 2018 Annual Meeting on June 16, the Members of BREATHE California of Los Angeles County (BREATHE LA) elected five new members to its Board of Directors. The Board also selected its leadership team for 2018-19.

The new members of the Board of Directors, who will begin their terms on July 1, 2018, are:

Mario Chavez, Director of Government Affairs for St. John's Well Child & Family Center. Mr. Chavez has been with St. John's for over five years and has played various roles within the organization including as Director of Community Relations. Prior to joining St. John's, Mr. Chavez served as Director of Politics and Policy for SEIU Local 620 in Santa Barbara County, SEIU ULTCW (now SEIU Local 2015) the largest healthcare union in California, and "Justice for Janitors" SEIU Local 1877 (now SEIU USWW).

Larry Chung, Senior Vice President, Southern California, for public affairs firm Strategies 360. Mr. Chung brings years of experience in both the public and private sectors, spending several years as a public affairs consultant to some of the nation's most prominent companies. Mr. Chung previously worked as a top aide to former Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez.

Lucy M. Labruzzo, Senior Vice President of Energy Infrastructure for Cordoba Corporation, a statewide full-service engineering, program and construction management firm specializing in the delivery of infrastructure projects in the transportation, education, water and energy sectors. A Mechanical Engineer and Certified Energy Manager, Ms. Labruzzo has over 25 years of experience working with utilities across the US and Canada. Prior to joining Cordoba Corporation in 2014, she was an executive at a large global infrastructure firm and an engineer for the New York Power Authority, one of the nation's largest state public power organizations.

Janet Leader, MPH, RD, Lecturer and Associate Director of Field Studies in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Ms. Leader has extensive experience in directing public health nutrition programs, especially for vulnerable populations and directing public health research projects. She previously served as Director of Services at Second Harvest Food Bank in Santa Clara County, as Project Director at the Stanford School of Medicine, and as Director of the six-county Bay Area Nutrition and Physical Activity Collaborative. Ms. Leader began her career teaching health and nutrition as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon.

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Lauren Nevitt, Esq., Environmental Affairs Manager for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), a Sempra Energy regulated California utility. Ms. Nevitt manages a team of air quality experts responsible for engaging with the nine air districts within SoCalGas' service territory. She previously served as Senior Deputy District Counsel at the South Coast Air Quality Management District and as a litigation associate at Sidley Austin LLP.

“These five individuals all bring a wide range of skills and knowledge that will broaden the Board’s reach to new partners, volunteers and donors,” said Steven L Bryson, Chair of the Board of Directors of BREATHE LA. “We are thrilled to have them join us in our efforts to promote clean air and improve lung health throughout Southern California.”

The BREATHE LA Board also named Los Angeles attorney Lawrence M. Lebowsky, Esq., as its Chair for the 2018-2019 term. He will assume that role on July 1. Lebowsky previously served as Chair of the organization’s Board. Board members Cynthia Carter and Eugene Port, MPH will serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Board also selected Robert Berliner, Dr. Jud R. Schoendorf, and new Board member Lauren Nevitt, as the three at-large members of the Board’s Executive Committee.

“We are in good hands with Larry at the helm,” said Bryson. “He is deeply committed to this organization and has the interests of BREATHE LA, its programs, and the people it serves, at heart.”

BREATHE California of Los Angeles County (BREATHE LA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization promoting clean air and healthy lungs through research, education, advocacy, and technology. BREATHE LA provides asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), and environmental health education and empowerment programs to communities most impacted by alarming chronic lung disease rates and suffering from the region’s air quality, which is the poorest in the nation.

First formed in 1903 as an independent lung health organization called the Los Angeles Society for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, the organization has changed its name several times since then. It rebranded itself in 2006 as BREATHE LA with a renewed focus as an independent lung health organization working to address Los Angeles County’s specific air quality and health needs. The organization continues to pursue its mission of achieving clean air and preventing lung and other air pollution related diseases by educating the public, partnering with youth, advocating public policy, and supporting lung health research.

BREATHE LA is a member of the BREATHE America Alliance, a network of nationwide independent lung health organizations, and the BREATHE California Coalition which include the four other BREATHE California organizations around the state.

To learn more about BREATHE LA, visit www.breathela.org.

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