



PROPOSED POLICY PRINCIPLES

BREATHE LA Mission Statement:

Promoting clean air and healthy lungs through research, education, advocacy and technology

Policy Principles:

- A. Improve respiratory health in California, with a special emphasis on underserved populations, by supporting policies and initiatives that address the causes or treatments of lung-related disease and breathing-related conditions.
- B. Champion policies that:
 - a. Increase research and funding devoted to lung health issues;
 - b. Raise awareness of lung health issues, lung disease, air pollution, and breathing-related conditions;
 - c. Improve care and access to treatment for those with lung disease;
 - d. Improve access to disease management programs; and
 - e. Increase diagnosis of those with lung health issues.
- C. Promote innovative technologies that will benefit air quality and lung health.
- D. Promote solutions that support Southern California reducing air pollution levels below federal and state clean air standards, reducing the public health impacts of air pollution, and increasing awareness of the need to reduce air pollution and meeting state climate goals.

Policy Principle A. Improve respiratory health in California, with a special emphasis on underserved populations, by supporting policies and initiatives that address the causes or treatments of lung-related disease and breathing-related conditions.

Item 1: Outdoor Air Pollution. BREATHE LA supports policies that will reduce outdoor air pollution, including those:

- Reducing emissions from stationary sources of pollutants known to be harmful to lung health (e.g. oil refineries, oil drilling sites, chemical and manufacturing plants)
- Reducing emissions from mobile sources of pollutants harmful to lung health
- Focusing on underserved communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution and suffering from its adverse health impacts.
- Related to ports and goods movement and their related health impacts.
- Focused on wildfire prevention, management, and post-fire health effects treatment, especially as it relates to air pollution and the growth of wildfires as a byproduct of climate change.
- Reducing the amount and impact of air pollution and air toxics on those living along transportation corridors (i.e. freeway adjacent housing developments).
- Addressing climate change, insofar as it is a cause of increased air pollution, and many approaches to address the impact of climate change provide co-benefits which will result in reductions of air pollutants and toxic emissions.

Item 2: Indoor Air Pollution. BREATHE LA supports policies related to reducing indoor air pollution including those that:

- Reduce the levels of indoor air pollutants and exposure to indoor air pollutants, including, but not limited to, those that are known to trigger respiratory illnesses, such as smoking and secondhand smoke.

Item 3: Environmental Justice. BREATHE LA supports policies related to reducing disparities in exposure to air pollutants, such as those that:

- Address disproportionate air pollutant exposure based on race, socioeconomic status, age, or gender.

Item 4: Tobacco and Vaping. BREATHE LA supports policies related to reducing smoking tobacco and using electronic nicotine-delivery systems (i.e., e-cigarettes and vaping devices), such as:

- Policies that reduce the use of tobacco among the general population, reduce the harm from tobacco use, and increase the awareness of the harms from tobacco use.
- Policies that reduce the use of vaping devices, especially by those under 21, reduce the potential harms from the use of vaping devices, and increase awareness of the harms from using vaping and e-cigarettes.
- Policies that apply the same standards and restrictions to vaping and e-cigarettes that apply to smoking.

Policy Principle B. Champion policies that increase research and funding devoted to lung health issues; raise awareness of lung health issues, lung disease, air pollution, and breathing-related conditions; improve care and access to treatment for those with lung disease; improve access to disease management programs; and increase diagnosis of those with lung health issues.

Item 1: Research. BREATHE LA supports policies that encourage basic, translational, clinical and/or public health research on lung diseases and lung health issues, including those related to asthma, COPD, tuberculosis, tobacco use and the use and impacts of vaping.

Item 2: Access to Treatment. BREATHE LA supports policies that increase access to treatment of lung related diseases and breathing-related conditions, such as those that:

- Provide and/or increase Medi-Cal reimbursements for patient management programs for those with respiratory illnesses such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- Provide and/or increase funding for pulmonary rehabilitation services and other programs to improve the quality of life of those with COPD.
- Provide and/or increase funding for identifying and treating those with tuberculosis.

Item 3: Screenings and Testing. BREATHE LA supports policies that encourage greater diagnostic screening and testing for respiratory illnesses, such as policies that:

- Increase Medi-Cal reimbursements for testing and screening of respiratory illnesses such as COPD.
- Establish regular screening of lung health diseases, such as COPD, as a basic standard of care for those over 50.
- Increase funding for testing and treating those with tuberculosis.

Item 4: Focus on COPD. BREATHE LA supports policies that focus on addressing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) by providing financial support for items such as:

- Clinical and public health research.
- Patient self-management programs.
- Patient support programs.
- Smoking cessation programs for COPD patients who smoke.
- Outreach efforts to increase diagnosis and treatment among populations with higher incidences of COPD.
- Community engagement partnerships.
- Public awareness campaigns targeting the general public and communities with the highest rates of COPD incidence to increase awareness of COPD, its symptoms, and the need to get diagnosed.
- Medical education targeting primary care physicians regarding COPD, its incidence, the need to do lung screenings, and the latest treatment methods.

Policy Principle C. Support innovative technologies that reduce air pollution and/or improve diagnosis and treatment of lung health diseases.

Item 1: Zero- and Near-Zero Emission Technologies. BREATHE LA supports policies that will promote, provide funding for, increase access to, and/or increase the purchase and use of, clean fuel technologies and clean vehicle technologies, while disincentivizing and decreasing vehicles and machinery (such as landscaping equipment and generators) that run on gasoline, diesel and other emission-forming fuels.

Item 2: Health and Wellness Technologies. BREATHE LA supports technologies that will help diagnose, treat, assist, promote wellness, and improve the quality of life, of those with lung health diseases, and/or those providing treatment of care for lung disease patients

Policy Principle D. Promote solutions that support Southern California reducing air pollution levels below federal and state clean air standards,¹ reducing the public health impacts of air pollution, and increasing awareness of the need to reduce air pollution and meeting state climate goals.²

Item 1: Solutions to Reduce Air Pollution. BREATHE LA supports policies, funding, technologies, educational efforts, programs, and initiatives that will improve air quality in Southern California.

Item 2: Reduce Public Health Impact from Air Pollution. BREATHE LA supports policies that seek to address the public health impacts (particularly lung health impacts) of air pollution and sources of air pollution, reduce the numbers of people exposed to air pollution, and reduce or eliminate the sources of emissions causing impacts.

Item 3: Increase Awareness. BREATHE LA supports policies that increase awareness of the dangers of air pollution, the severity of air pollution in Southern California, the health impacts of air pollution, and the need to reduce sources that emit criteria air pollutants and toxic pollutants.

¹ The South Coast Air Basin, which includes all of Orange County, and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, is not in attainment with the NAAQS and CAAQS 1-hour ozone standard, the NAAQS and CAAQS 8-hour ozone standard, the CAAQS PM10 standard and the NAAQS and CAAQS PM-2.5 standards. The region must meet these by upcoming deadlines in 2023, 2031 and 2035. For more on the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), see <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/clean-air-plans/air-quality-management-plans/naaqs-caaqs-feb2016.pdf?sfvrsn=14>.

² The State's Climate Strategy seeks to have California reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, achieve a 50% reduction in petroleum use in vehicles, have the state achieve 50% of its energy from renewable sources, among other goals. For more on this, see <https://www.climatechange.ca.gov/>