

COALITION FOR  
**CLEAN AIR**

# HONORING CLEAN AIR CHAMPIONS



**JUNE 14** 2024

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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Every day, we are working hard for our communities, our environment, and our future. We're bringing more clean and renewable sources of energy to Southern California. And we're working hard to power electric vehicles. We're cutting emissions and greenhouse gases to provide cleaner air for everyone.

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**California Air Quality Awards**

Congratulations to today's honorees.

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# HONORING CLEAN AIR CHAMPIONS



**Leadership in Government**  
**The Honorable Lena Gonzalez**  
*Majority Leader, California State Senator*

**Clean Air Leadership**  
**The JETSI Project**

**Corporate Environmental Leadership**  
**Southern California Edison**

**Environmental Advocacy**  
**The NRDC China Shipping Legal Team**



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# Welcome



## Transporting California towards a clean air future.

Dear Friends of the Coalition for Clean Air,

Welcome to our annual California Air Quality Awards. Each year, we celebrate the policymakers, businesses, and advocates working to change California's legacy of air pollution by adopting new technologies, empowering communities, and passing life-saving regulations.

We are honored to recognize our outstanding honorees this year.

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez represents California's 33rd District, serving nearly 1 million residents in Southeast Los Angeles County. Since her election in 2019, Senator Gonzalez has championed issues such as environmental justice, digital inclusion, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, and the economic vitality of small businesses. As a leader in environmental legislation, she has authored over 20 bills, including SB 1137 to end neighborhood oil drilling and SB 84/AB 126 to secure over \$2 billion for zero-emission transportation. Her leadership continues to drive significant progress in environmental and social justice across California.

Southern California Edison, a subsidiary of Edison International, is one of the largest electric utilities in the U.S., serving over 15 million people in Southern California. Committed to a clean energy future, SCE's Countdown to 2045 initiative aims for carbon neutrality by 2045, significantly improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2023, Edison International donated \$20 million to community programs focused on education, environment, and public safety. We are proud to honor SCE for their dedication to sustainability and community support.

The Joint Electric Truck Scaling Initiative (JETSI) is a pioneering project led by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) to deploy 100 Class 8 battery-electric trucks (BETs) and charging infrastructure in Southern California. This initiative, supported by Daimler Truck North America and Volvo Trucks North America, aims to advance the market for BETs by demonstrating scalable deployment and best practices. JETSI serves as a model for large-scale electrification of freight transport, showcasing how fleets can effectively reduce their environmental footprint while providing better working conditions for drivers.

The NRDC China Shipping Legal Team is being honored for their 23 years of tireless advocacy representing the Coalition for Clean Air, homeowners, and local communities. Their lawsuits have forced the Port of Los Angeles and China Shipping terminal to comply with California environmental law, resulting in significant pollution reduction measures. Their work has been instrumental in holding the port accountable and ensuring environmental justice for the residents of the Los Angeles Harbor area.

Our honorees are our partners in the fight for cleaner air, healthy communities, and climate change mitigation. We applaud them for their vision, commitment, and leadership. We're proud to work with them to achieve effective and equitable public policy and practical business solutions that change the lives of all Californians for the better.

This event is made possible each year by the generous support of our sponsors, advertisers, and guests, and the dedicated work of our board, staff, and volunteers. Thank you all for helping to make the Coalition for Clean Air the most effective voice for air quality advocacy in California.

Sincerely,

*Tom Epstein*  
Tom Epstein





# PROGRAM

## Opening Remarks

**Tom Epstein**, Chair, Coalition for Clean Air Board of Directors  
**Sherry Jackman**, Vice Chair, Coalition for Clean Air Board of Directors  
**Dr. Joseph K. Lyou**, President & CEO, Coalition for Clean Air

## Lunch

## Awards presentation

**The Honorable Lena Gonzalez**  
California State Senator  
*Leadership in Government*

**Caroline Choi**  
Southern California Edison  
*Corporate Environmental Leadership*

**Wayne Nastri**  
The JETSI Project  
*Clean Air Leadership*

**Melissa Lin Perrella**  
The NRDC China Shipping Legal Team  
*Environmental Advocacy*

## Panel discussion with honorees

Moderated by **Dr. Joseph Lyou**  
President and CEO, Coalition for Clean Air

## Board of Directors

**Tom Epstein** – Board Chair  
**Sherry Jackman** – Vice Chair  
**Estela de Llanos** – Secretary  
**Beth Reid** – Treasurer

**Genevieve Amsalem** – Member  
**Ed Begley, Jr.** – Member  
**Erica Bowman** – Member  
**Todd Campbell** – Member  
**Ron Loveridge** – Member  
**Cristina Marquez** – Member  
**Bruce Melgar** – Member  
**Matt Miyasato** – Member  
**Erik Neandross** – Member  
**Laura Renger** – Member  
**Tom Swenson** – Member  
**Christy Ubellacker** – Member  
**Tessa Verhoef** – Member  
**Tony Williamson** – Member

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Dr. Jennifer Lentz  
Bill Magavern  
Sofia Rafikova  
Nicole Roberts  
John Shim  
Malemsana Thokchom

# SPEAKERS



**JOSEPH K.  
LYOU, Ph.D.**

Dr. Joseph K. Lyu believes everyone has the right to breathe clean air. He serves as President and CEO of the Coalition for Clean Air, a state-wide organization dedicated to protecting public health, improving air quality, and preventing climate change.

From January 2020 to January 2024, Dr. Lyu served as the Speaker of the Assembly appointee to the California Transportation Commission, an independent public agency that programs and allocates more than \$5 billion annually for the construction and maintenance of highway, passenger rail, transit, and active transportation projects throughout California.

From 2007 to 2019, Dr. Lyu served as the Governor of California appointee to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board, the public agency responsible for improving air quality for more than 17 million people living in Southern California.

Tom Epstein serves as Board Chair for the Coalition for Clean Air. He is a long-time environmental advocate who served in the administrations of President Clinton, Governor Brown and Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi.

He is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and a Senior Fellow at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.



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# THE HONORABLE LENA GONZALEZ

## MAJORITY LEADER CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR



Senator Majority Leader Lena A. Gonzalez represents California's 33rd District, advocating for nearly 1 million residents in Southeast Los Angeles, Signal Hill, South Los Angeles, Lakewood, and Long Beach. Since her election in 2019, Senator Gonzalez has championed issues such as environmental justice, digital inclusion, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, and the economic vitality of small businesses.

As a leader in environmental legislation, she has authored over 20 bills, including SB 1137 to end neighborhood oil drilling and SB 84/AB 126 to secure over \$2 billion for zero-emission transportation. She has also been a strong voice for workers, expanding paid sick leave and ensuring workplace safety with SB 616 and SB 606.

Senator Gonzalez is dedicated to digital equity, securing significant funding for broadband infrastructure to close the digital divide in California. Her leadership continues to drive significant progress in environmental and social justice across California.

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

## CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP



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Award to be accepted by **Caroline Choi**, *Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy*

Southern California Edison (SCE), a subsidiary of Edison International, is one of the largest electric utilities in the U.S., serving over 15 million people in Southern California. Committed to a clean energy future, SCE's Countdown to 2045 initiative aims for carbon neutrality by 2045, significantly improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SCE delivers power through an extensive network of 125,000 miles of transmission lines and offers tools like Budget Assistant to help customers manage energy usage efficiently. In 2023, Edison International donated \$20 million to community programs focused on education, environment, and public safety. We are honored to receive the 2024 California Air Quality Award from the Coalition for Clean Air for our dedication to sustainability and community support.



# THE JETSI PROJECT

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY



Award to be accepted by **Wayne Nastri**, *Executive Officer, SCAQMD*

The Joint Electric Truck Scaling Initiative (JETSI) is a pioneering project led by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) to deploy 100 Class 8 battery-electric trucks (BETs) and charging infrastructure funded by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in Southern California. This initiative, supported by Daimler Truck North America and Volvo Trucks North America, aims to significantly advance the market for BETs by demonstrating scalable deployment and best practices.

NFI and Schneider will operate these BETs along Southern California's freight corridors, improving air quality in disadvantaged communities and reducing emissions. JETSI serves as a model for large-scale electrification of freight transport, showcasing how fleets can effectively reduce their environmental footprint while providing better working conditions for drivers through decreased noise and vibration.

# THE NRDC CHINA SHIPPING LEGAL TEAM

## CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY



Award to be accepted by **Melissa Lin Perrella**, *Chief Equity & Justice Officer*

We are honored to recognize the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) China Shipping Legal Team for their 23 years of work representing Coalition for Clean Air (CCA), homeowners, and local communities in lawsuits that have forced the Port of Los Angeles and China Shipping terminal to comply with California environmental law. On June 14, 2001, NRDC, CCA, and two San Pedro homeowners groups sued to protect residents living near the port from large increases in diesel pollution that would result from the construction and operation of the China Shipping terminal. That lawsuit led to a landmark settlement requiring a project-specific environmental impact report (EIR) and \$50 million to mitigate environmental and aesthetic impacts. It was a critical milestone that marked the beginning of an era of accountability at the San Pedro Bay ports.

In 2015, NRDC and their co-plaintiffs discovered that the port had not implemented a number of the air pollution mitigation measures promised as a result of the first lawsuit. The NRDC China Shipping Legal Team filed a second lawsuit, which resulted in a May 2024 court order directing the port and China Shipping to implement a series of air pollution reduction measures and take other actions to protect community members. For the past 23 years, the NRDC China Shipping Legal Team has been a tireless, tenacious, and effective advocate for environmental justice at the Port of Los Angeles.

# What We Do

The Coalition for Clean Air protects public health, improves air quality and prevents climate change.

CCA advocates for innovative policies and engages in outreach, training, and educational activities.

Despite our many victories, our work is not done. Nine out of ten Californians breathe air that violates federal health standards. We look forward to the day no one has to breathe dirty, polluted air.



"I have supported CCA for more than 20 years, simply because they achieve clean air for our state through fast and effective solutions."

— Ed Begley Jr., environmental activist, actor and CCA board member

## Recent Accomplishments

**Your support makes our work possible. Our recent accomplishments include:**

- Enactment and implementation of SB 210 (Leyva, 2019), which reduces toxic diesel exhaust by establishing inspection and maintenance requirements for heavy-duty trucks, similar to the Smog Check for cars.
- Renewal through 2035 of about \$170 million annually to put cleaner trucks, buses and cars on the road throughout California, primarily in disadvantaged and low-income communities (AB 126 (Reyes), 2013).
- A requirement that all small off-road engines like lawnmowers and leaf-blowers sold new in California have zero emissions of air pollution (AB 1346 (Berman), 2021/CARB SORE rule, 2021).
- Adoption by CARB of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule, the truck omnibus rule and the ships-at-berth rule. Together, these measures are expected to save more than 4,000 lives and \$40 billion in health costs.
- Hosted a Port and Freight Solutions Tour of the San Pedro Bay ports, giving policy-makers and business leaders a chance to witness firsthand zero-emission terminal operations, a zero-emission short-haul locomotive, and other clean technologies.
- Working with Los Angeles Unified School District and Clarity Movement to establish the largest school-based air quality sensor network in the country.
- Managing California Clean Air Day, an annual event that gives everyone the opportunity to take action to fight air pollution.
- Hosted intensive 2-day All About Air Quality Bootcamp training programs for community members in Los Angeles, Oakland, Fresno, and we are planning another in the Inland Valley for November 2024.



# more than **50** years of excellence

## Areas of Work



### California's Climate Crisis

Combating climate change and its effects on those who suffer from air pollution



### Ports & Freight Transport

Cleaning up the ships, trucks, trains, and equipment that move freight in California and throughout the nation



### Driving Clean Transportation

Advancing the cars, trucks, trains, planes and buses Californians use every day



### Outreach and Education

Informing and educating the public about the need for clean air and climate protection



### Air Quality Advocacy

Advocating for policies to reduce air toxins and pollution at the local, state and federal levels

## Looking Forward



Reach 8 million electric vehicles on California roads by 2030



Assure that California makes climate investments that directly benefit and empower disadvantaged communities



Usher in a new clean freight future at our ports and throughout the supply chain industry by supporting new rules and the development of new technologies that result in cleaner ships, trains, trucks, and equipment



Train and educate the next generation about air quality through the All About Air Quality Bootcamp



Support new South Coast AQMD regulations securing diesel emission reductions at rail yards and the San Pedro Bay ports



Inspire millions of Californians to take action for clean air as part of the 7th annual California Clean Air Day



**Air Products congratulates the  
Coalition for Clean Air and its 2024  
Honorees for their ongoing efforts to  
improve air quality**

**GENERATING A CLEANER FUTURE**

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As part of our mission to be Earth's most customer-centric company, we co-founded The Climate Pledge – a commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across our business by 2040. Our local communities, planet, and future generations need us to be better every day.

Here in **California**, we are proud to partner with **Coalition for Clean Air** and support their work to build a healthier community.

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# ***Congratulations*** ***to JETSI project partners***

on your leadership in zero-emission freight transport.



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# Congratulations to all the Air Quality Award Awardees!

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AND ITS BOARD CHAIR

**TOM EPSTEIN**

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# Congratulations to the Coalition for Clean Air 2024 Honorees!

We celebrate your hard work  
and advocacy for clean air  
in California, which uplifts  
communities today and for  
generations to come.



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be a breath of fresh air.**



**Donate today!**



# CALIFORNIA CLEAN AIR DAY

A PROJECT OF THE COALITION FOR CLEAN AIR

**OCTOBER 2, 2024**

Take the Clean Air Pledge and help us get  
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**CLEANAIRDAY.ORG**

**IN 2023**

 **121**  
events

 **16,500+**  
participants

 **22**  
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 **336**  
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CLEAN AIR**