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Holding the Line: CCA's Legal Fight for Clean Air in 2026

The Coalition for Clean Air (CCA) is starting the year with a major legal victory for public health. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has granted our motion to **intervene in defense of California's Small Off-Road Engine (SORE) regulations**, allowing us to stand against industry attempts to block the phase-out of highly polluting gas-



powered equipment like leaf blowers and lawnmowers. This transition is a cornerstone of California's air quality strategy, projected to **prevent 2,490 premature deaths** and deliver over **\$25 billion in health benefits** by 2053. By joining this case, CCA ensures that the voices of residents, not just industry lobbyists, are heard in the fight for breathable air.

This intervention follows our recent legal actions in November 2025, where we sued several local governments to force compliance with state laws for streamlining EV charging permits. Whether we are defending state standards in federal court or pushing for local infrastructure, CCA is committed to holding both industry and government accountable. We will continue to use every legal tool available to remove bureaucratic hurdles and protect the health of all Californians.

Defending California's Clean Air Progress in the 2026 Budget



With 2.5 million ZEVs sold, California leads the nation, but federal rollbacks now threaten this momentum. Governor Newsom's proposed \$200 million for ZEV incentives is a critical signal, but the Coalition for Clean Air and our allies **are pushing the state to maximize this investment as a ceiling, not a floor.** Consistent funding is vital to protect the health of Californians and provide clean, affordable transportation options.

Equity must drive these new investments to ensure they reach those who need them most. As CCA Policy Director Bill Magavern [noted in Newsweek](#), **"The program design should be based on what's good for Californians... and not be based on what's good for large auto companies."** We are advocating for funds to target low-income drivers and to include the heavy-duty trucks and buses that remain primary sources of toxic air pollution.

Beyond technology, these programs are public health essentials that lower healthcare costs and improve lives across the state. We urge Governor Newsom and the Legislature to prioritize and expand clean transportation funding in the 2026–27 budget. Join our efforts to protect California's progress and keep our air clear by [making a donation to the Coalition for Clean Air today](#).



Join us on **March 25th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** at **The Sutter Club** in **Sacramento** for our [Toast to Clearing the Air](#), a premier gathering for leaders

dedicated to defending California's environmental legacy in 2026. We are honored to feature a distinguished lineup of speakers, including **Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón**, **Senator Josh Becker**, and **Lauren Sanchez**, Chair of the California Air Resources Board, with additional thought leaders to be announced. This evening offers a unique opportunity for climate advocates and policy-makers to connect and discuss the strategic direction for combating air pollution and climate change in the year ahead. Space is limited for this high-impact networking event, so please visit ccair.org/toast to learn more and secure your spot among the change-makers shaping our state's future.

Fueling California's Health: Training the Skilled Green Technicians of Tomorrow

The Cal State LA **Hydrogen Research and Fueling Facility (HRFF)** is not just a world-class research hub—it is the frontline for training the zero-emission workforce California needs to achieve a healthier future. As the only academic institution globally to produce hydrogen using 100% on-campus solar power, the HRFF provides a unique, hands-on environment where the next generation of skilled technicians masters the complex technology behind hydrogenic electrolyzers and high-pressure fueling systems.



At the Coalition for Clean Air, we believe a 360-degree approach to the climate crisis is essential; this means moving beyond policy advocacy to ensure we are actively supporting the technical expertise and infrastructure required to keep clean vehicles on the road. By investing in this vital **training pipeline**, we aren't just promoting equipment, we are empowering a local workforce to lead the charge against air pollution and sustain the innovations that protect our communities.

Take Action: Hold the Ports Accountable for Clean Air



The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are together [the largest sources of toxic air pollution in Southern California](#), yet a recently signed "Cooperative Agreement" between the ports and the South Coast Air Quality Management District **fails to set concrete emission reduction targets to protect communities from this pollution**. Instead of passing strong regulations, officials agreed to a five-year pause on rulemaking in exchange for infrastructure planning.

"This decision makes NOx attainment virtually impossible, losing a savings of \$18 billion in public health benefits," said CCA Policy Advocate Dori Chandler.

We need your voice at the Wilmington Senior Center on **Wednesday, January 28**, to demand real accountability.

This in-person community meeting is a critical opportunity to tell AQMD that [an "infrastructure deal" is not enough](#)—we need guaranteed emission reductions to protect our communities. While the ports claim this agreement is a first step, and that additional measures will be negotiated in part 2, called the "CAAP+ Measures," of the agreement, the Coalition for Clean Air remains concerned that without enforceable targets, and meaningful consequences for non-compliance, while our air quality continues to suffer. **Join us to advocate for stronger measures that prioritize the health of residents over the interests of the shipping industry.**

Meeting Details

When: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Where: Wilmington Senior Center, 1371 Eubank Ave., Wilmington, CA 90744

Schedule: 5:30 PM (Open House) | 6:00 PM (Official Meeting)

Note: Spanish translation is available. If you cannot attend, please submit your comments to ports_comments@aqmd.gov.

For more background on the agreement and the specific measures being discussed, you can visit aqmd.gov/portsagreement.

Next Up: The Untold Story of the Carl Moyer Program



Save the Date! Mark your calendar for a **free** webinar on **February 25** to explore how the Carl Moyer Program has evolved through legislation like SB 513 to fund the next generation of zero and near-zero emission technologies. Building on a legacy of over **\$1 billion in successful engine cleanup grants**, this session will provide vital insights into the program's modern role in California's air quality landscape. Thanks to [Cummins](#) for sponsoring this Conversation. **Stay tuned for the official date and registration link!**

**COALITION FOR
CLEAN AIR**

Our mission is to protect public health, improve
air quality, and prevent climate change.

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