



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Clean Air Centers Program

**NACAA Fall Membership Meeting
October 18, 2023**

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Introduction



9 counties
101 cities
7.5 million people

Presenter:
Alan Abbs, Legislative Officer

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Established in 1955 by State Law
Delegated Authority to Implement Federal and State Laws
24-Member Board of Local Elected Officials

Mission Statement
The Air District aims to create a healthy breathing environment for every Bay Area resident while protecting and improving public health, air quality, and the global climate.

Largest California Wildfires



Eight of the ten largest wildfires in California have occurred since 2017.

<i>FIRE NAME (CAUSE)</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>	<i>ACRES</i>	<i>STRUCTURES</i>	<i>DEATHS</i>
1 AUGUST COMPLEX (<i>Lightning</i>)	August 2020	Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake, & Colusa	1,032,648	935	1
2 DIXIE (<i>Powerlines</i>)	July 2021	Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta & Tehama	963,309	1,311	1
3 MENDOCINO COMPLEX (<i>Human Related</i>)	July 2018	Colusa, Lake, Mendocino & Glenn	459,123	280	1
4 SCU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (<i>Lightning</i>)	August 2020	Stanislaus, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, & San Joaquin	396,625	225	0
5 CREEK (<i>Undetermined</i>)	September 2020	Fresno & Madera	379,895	858	0
6 LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (<i>Lightning/Arson</i>)	August 2020	Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo, Lake, & Colusa	363,220	1,491	6
7 NORTH COMPLEX (<i>Lightning</i>)	August 2020	Butte, Plumas & Yuba	318,935	2,352	15
8 THOMAS (<i>Powerlines</i>)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,893	1,060	2
9 CEDAR (<i>Human Related</i>)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
10 RUSH (<i>Lightning</i>)	August 2012	Lassen	271,911 CA / 43,666 NV	0	0

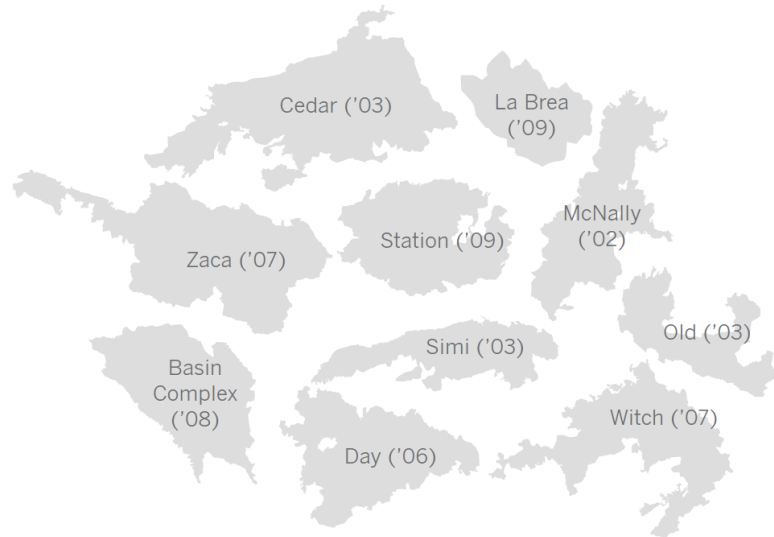
Source: [CAL FIRE - Top 20 Largest California Wildfires](#)

Wildfires in California Have Intensified

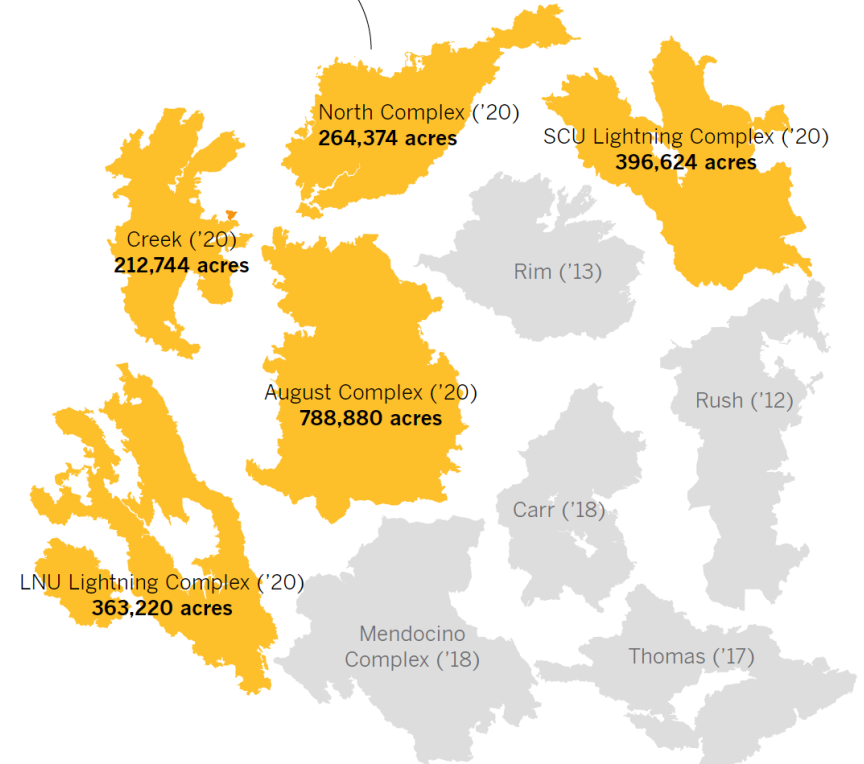


Five of these fires were burning simultaneously in 2020

San Francisco
30,000 acres



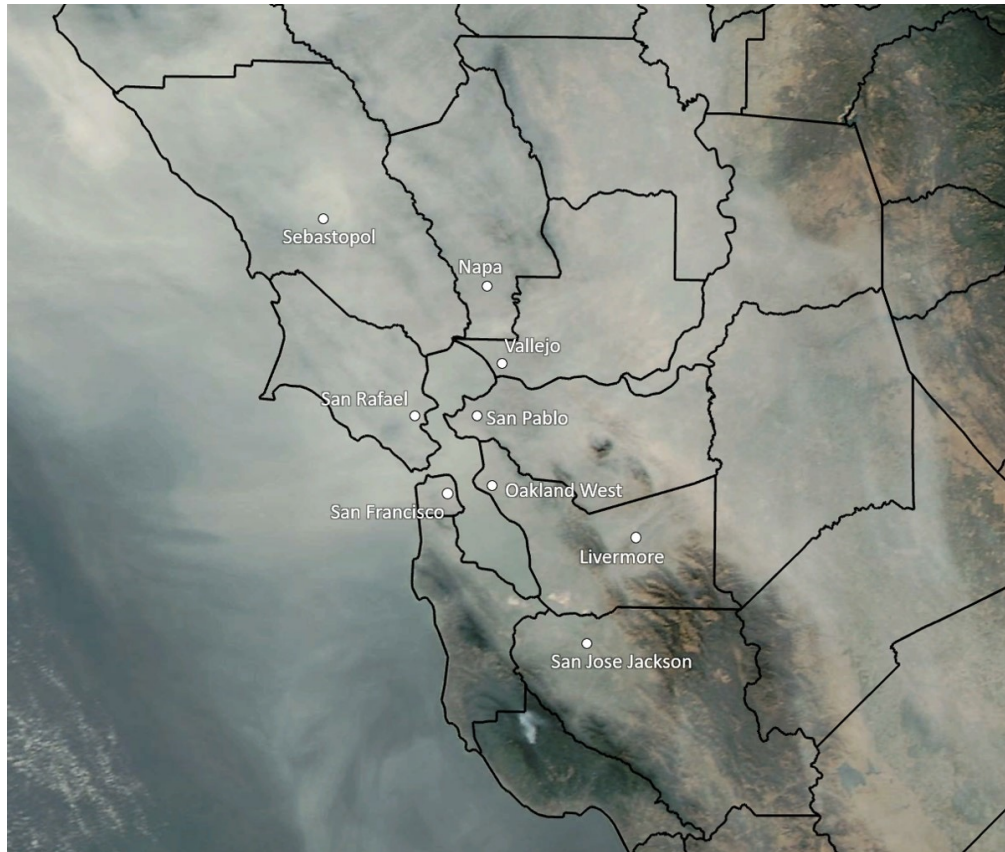
Biggest wildfires, 2001-10
1.6 million acres burned



Biggest wildfires, 2011-20
3.5 million acres burned

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-fires-damage-climate-change-analysis/>

Wildfire Smoke Impacts



Satellite image from 2018 Butte County fire.



Wildfire smoke blanketing the Bay Area.
September 9, 2020

Wildfire Air Quality Response Program



Assembly Bill 836



[AB 836 \(Wicks, Chapter 393, Statutes of 2019\)](#)

Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program

- Sponsored by Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
- Established a grant program, administered by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), that provides funding to upgrade ventilation systems and purchase portable air cleaners to create a network of publicly accessible clean air centers, where vulnerable populations can find respite from wildfires and other smoke events.
- Eligible projects include facility retrofits, portable air cleaners and replacement air filters.

Assembly Bill 836 (cont.)



Evolution of AB 836:

- Originally introduced as the “Bay Area Clean Air Incentive Program” due to “... *the unique circumstances that the Bay Area was significantly affected by smoke impacts during the wildfires of the last several years.*”
- Later amendments expanded it to a statewide program administered by CARB, added criteria for choosing locations, and made program contingent on a budget appropriation.
- Passed every committee and floor vote without a single no vote.
- Signed by Governor on October 2, 2019.

Assembly Bill 836 (cont.)



Advocacy Tactics

- Highlighting wildfire smoke impacts on health (and ambient air quality standards).
- Use visuals.
- Link between income, home ownership, and likelihood of having adequate filtration.
- Highlight ongoing partnerships with organizations like the Red Cross.
- Answering the question of “How do we know they’ll be used?”

Program funded with \$5 million in FY 2020-21 California State Budget

Clean Air Centers Program Funding



Funding made available for communities across the state impacted by wildfires and other smoke events.

Budget Allocation	
Air District	Allocation
Bay Area Air Quality Management District	\$3,000,000
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	\$750,000
South Coast Air Quality Management District	\$250,000
Other Air Districts (administered by CAPCOA)	\$1,000,000
Total	\$5,000,000

Air Districts will use the allocated funding to run their own program for projects in their jurisdiction according to the [CARB grant guidelines](#). CAPCOA will use its funding on behalf of all other air districts.

Bay Area Clean Air Centers Program



- The Bay Area [Clean Air Centers Program](#) provides portable air cleaners or HVAC upgrades to schools and other buildings that can serve the public when air quality reaches unhealthy levels.
- More than 75 percent of Clean Air Centers in the Bay Area will benefit vulnerable communities most impacted by air pollution.





**CLEAN AIR
CENTER**

Launch of First Clean Air Center



On September 20, 2022, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, California Air Resources Board and San Francisco Department of Emergency Management announced the launch of the state's first Clean Air Center in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood in San Francisco, California.



Clean Air Center launch location: Bayview/Linda Brooks-Burton Branch Library
5075 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94124

Future Clean Air Center Funding



- The pandemic underscored the importance of air filtration and healthy buildings.
- [Community Resilience Centers Program](#) - Clean air centers rolled into the “Resilience Center” concept administered by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which includes retrofit projects that provide or expand heating centers, cooling centers, clean air centers, hydration centers, broadband internet service, and other neighborhood services.
- In May 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom [announced](#) nearly \$200 million available to help communities build resilience centers that can protect people from extreme heat and other climate-driven extreme weather.

Clean Air Filtration Program



The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's [Clean Air Filtration Program](#) aims to provide access to high efficiency air filtration to help those who are most vulnerable to wildfire smoke and air pollution.

Ongoing and upcoming Air District partnerships and efforts to reduce health impacts from wildfire smoke and improve health equity across the Bay Area:

- Home Air Filtration Program
- Partnerships with County Offices of Emergency Services
- Clean Air Centers
- Pilot Program and Partnership with American Red Cross
- School Air Filtration Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)
- **Coming Soon!** Solicitation for Donations

Lessons Learned



- Air districts didn't historically get involved in indoor air quality, but wildfire smoke problems showed that no one had taken a leadership role.
- People are skeptical about new programs, but FOMO is real!
- Getting the funding is just as hard as getting the bill passed.
- Advocate to Republicans and Democrats.
- In California, everyone has been, or knows someone that has been affected by wildfire or wildfire smoke.



Q & A