



San Joaquin Valley  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT®



# Community Clean Air Day

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*A day of connecting with Valley communities to share clean air progress, learn about ongoing community engagement work, and take advantage of clean air programs for all.*

JUNE 22, 2024

— Fresno Convention Center —

harder  co | community  
research

[valleyair.org/community-clean-air-day](https://valleyair.org/community-clean-air-day)

# AGENDA

**9:00am**    **Breakfast and Networking**

**9:30am**    **Welcome and Setting the Stage**

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, Valley Air District

Dr. Amy Ramos, Harder + Company Community Research

**10:00am**    **Panel 1: Celebrating Community Engagement Success**

Panelists share stories and examples of how they have successfully engaged with their communities and key partners.

**Moderator: Nayamin Martinez, Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)**

Panel: Gustavo Aguirre Sr., Assistant Director, Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CRPE);

Pandora Crowder, President, Conway Homes Resident Council;

Lilia Becerril, Founder, Familias en Acción;

Anissa Andrade, Member, Tree Fresno

**11:00am**    **Panel 2: Opportunities for Community Engagement and Support**

Panelists share how communities can participate in helping drive policy and program development at all levels, and take advantage of District, State, and Federal funding.

**Moderator: Kevin Hamilton, Senior Government Affairs, Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC)**

Panel: Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board (CARB);

Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, Valley Air District;

Lily Lee, Assistant Director for the Permits & Rules Branch,

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);

Blanca Escobedo, Resilient Community Associate Planner, California, Strategic Growth Council (SGC)

**12 NOON**    **LUNCH AND VENDOR FAIR**

Enjoy lunch as you walk around and learn about how the Valley Air District and our community partners who are working together to improve community health.

**1:00pm**    **Keynote Address: Dr. Pacheco-Werner**

Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner will shed light on the importance of community-based participatory research and academic collaboration in addressing environmental health disparities. She will discuss practical strategies for engaging communities and fostering inclusive decision-making processes. Introduction from Samir Sheikh.

**1:45pm**    **Afternoon Roundtables for Leveraging Community Expertise**

Opportunities for building connections, networking, and sharing community lived experiences.

**2:45pm**    **Wrap Up and Looking Ahead**

What changes can you make to be a part of the clean air solution?

## PANEL 1: CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS



### **Moderator: Nayamin Martinez**

*Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)*

Ms. Martinez is the director of the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN). Ms. Martinez has vast experience working with immigrants and residents of disadvantaged communities across the San Joaquin Valley managing public health programs; conducting participatory research and launching leadership and civic engagement programs. Ms. Martinez holds a Master's Degree in both Public Health and Sociology.

### **Gustavo Aguirre Sr.**

*Assistant Director, Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CRPE)*

Gustavo Aguirre has over 40 years of labor and community organizing experience. Aguirre began organizing with the United Farm Workers. As union member, Aguirre volunteered for many union organizing efforts, boycotts and political campaigns.

In 1996 Aguirre started working full time with UFW as Regional Director in the Coachella Valley representing over 4000 union members. Aguirre also served on the board as National Vice President, serving until May 2006. Aguirre was part of the top UFW leadership team which included President Arturo Rodriguez and co-founder Dolores Huerta.

After his 25 plus years of involvement with UFW, in June 2006 Aguirre joined the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment. Aguirre has been key in CRPE efforts to develop community leaders and forming and structuring community base groups in Tulare and Kern counties. He provides leadership development trainings to staff of several sister organizations to build community and organizations power in the San Joaquin Valley. Aguirre has been instrumental in moving forward CRPE's campaigns including pesticides, air and water quality, and community's infrastructure investments. Aguirre has been key in the advocacy to secure many millions of investments for roads, sidewalks, lighting, sewer systems and park improvements in low income communities in south Kern County.



### **Pandora Crowder**

*President, Conway Homes Resident Council, Stockton, CA*

Pandora Crowder is a resident of Stockton since 2012. She came from the Pacific Northwest. She is a wife to her husband for 13 years, she has five children and seven grandchildren. She is currently the president of the Conway Homes resident council for the Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin. Everything she does for the council she does voluntarily. They work at bringing resources and information to our community. She has helped organize their annual backpack and resource fair for the past 7 years, their Thanksgiving giveaways for the past 8 years, and most recently she has been working on helping residents with the electric vehicles that housing authority has placed within public housing sites. She also sits on many different coalitions and boards throughout the city of Stockton, being currently part of the public health advocates climate leaders initiative program. She has spoken in front of City Hall in regards to warehousing in South Stockton, wood pellet facilities in the Port of Stockton and much more. In her free time, her and her family like to go spend time near the water and enjoy a day of fishing and relaxing together. She was very honored to be able to receive the key to the City of Stockton in April due to her community work for the city.



## PANEL 1: CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS CONT.



**Lilia Becerril**

*Founder, Familias en Acción, Fresno, CA*

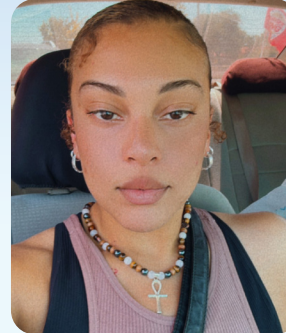
According to Lilia, past successes are the best predictors of the future, and she promised to continue working with her community to improve the future of children. Today Lilia works with different organizations and groups in her community, such as the Leadership Council, Cultivate Health, the Central California Environmental Justice Network and people like Amparo Cid of CRLAC, on legislative programs

such as DACA and DAPA. Lilia is also involved in immigration marches, marches for organic food, and fights for clean air that take place in the state capital of California.

In 2016, Lilia was recognized as a star parent by Fresno Unified School District where she was selected to represent the I'm Ready program. Another great achievement for Lilia, for the last consecutive years she was nominated as a national leader and representative of California in other states, reaching Congress to advocate for a fair reform for all our immigrant brothers, a better education for our children, and better medical care for low-income residents.

In 2021 Lilia was recognized as Woman of the Year by the city councilmember for District 5 where she and her family have lived for more than two decades. That same year she founded a nonprofit called Familias en Acción supported by Professor Raúl Moreno, founder of education and leadership, and Artie Padilla, founder of Every Neighborhood Partnership.

Today she is the founder of her own organization where she advises families in the Winchell Elementary community with educational workshops. Lilia organizes community cleanups where they plant trees to improve the environment, distributes food to approximately 100 families per week, and organizes community and cultural events. Lilia is always looking for resources through sponsors to continue helping families in need and to put an end to community misinformation since her focus today is to empower families and for them to be the voice of their family in and their communities.



**Anissa Andrade**

*Member, Tree Fresno; Youth Program Coordinator, EVOLV3 Pathway to Purpose; Member, Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce*

Anissa Andrade is the Youth Program Coordinator for EVOLV3 Pathway to Purpose at Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce and an active member of PowerCa. As a graduate of the Green Team Youth Ambassador Program she has strong commitment to environmental stewardship and economic empowerment, Andrade's work focuses on creating opportunities for youth and promoting sustainable practices within the community.

Andrade leads initiatives that engage young people in urban forestry and environmental conservation projects. She is passionate about educating the next generation on the importance of green spaces and the role they play in enhancing the quality of life. Her programs aim to instill a sense of responsibility and leadership in youth, encouraging them to take active roles in their communities.

As a member of the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, Andrade advocates for the professional development of young adults and economic understanding. She works to bridge the gap between environmental sustainability and economic growth, fostering a community where both can thrive. Andrade's efforts are instrumental in building a more inclusive and resilient Fresno, where the contributions of all residents are valued and supported.

## PANEL 2: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

### Moderator: Kevin Hamilton

*Senior Government Affairs,  
Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC)*

Kevin is focused on reducing the burden of chronic respiratory disease and environmental health impacts valley wide. He has served as developer, coordinator, administrator and director for multiple programs in both hospital and community-based settings serving poor and underserved communities in the San Joaquin Valley. Kevin serves on numerous boards and committees associated with grassroots community capacity building and local, state and regional policy development.

His education includes an AS in Respiratory Care, BS in Geology, extended course work in social work, mathematics, business and management training. He has worked extensively on different aspects of health care access and redesign around primary care, disease management, childhood and adult immunizations and behavioral health for over 35-years and is a well-known advocate for social and environmental justice.



As part of CARB's senior executive team, Ms. Fletcher serves as the primary internal and external contact for CARB on environmental justice, climate equity and community air protection efforts. Ms. Fletcher is also developing a training program to provide staff with the understanding and skills to more effectively partner with communities.

Prior to joining CARB, Ms. Fletcher served as Executive Director of ClimatePlan, a nonprofit organization focused on advancing policies and programs to address the relationship between land use policy and climate change to realize more sustainable and equitable development throughout California. She also served as Senior Policy Manager for the Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership. She has worked with environmental justice organizations including the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, as well as racial equity organizations including PolicyLink and Public Advocates to shape legislation and advocate for competitive grant programs that increase access and opportunity for low-income communities and communities of color.

Ms. Fletcher earned her Bachelor's degree in History from U.C. Santa Cruz and her Master in Public Administration from San Francisco State.



### Chanell Fletcher

*Deputy Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board (CARB)*

Chanell Fletcher was appointed to the position of Deputy Executive Officer of Equity, Communities & Environmental Justice in January 2021. Ms. Fletcher oversees CARB's Environmental Justice and Community Air Protection Program and is responsible for developing CARB-wide environmental justice policies. She plays a key role in

CARB's programs designed to address disproportionate impacts from air pollution and climate change and associated chronic health conditions affecting Black, Latinx and other communities of color across the state.

Ms. Fletcher is the executive lead for AB 617 and its related programs. She is focused on moving away from a top-down equity model to one that centers on building relationships and trust with partners in the environmental and racial justice movement at the community level.



### Blanca Escobedo

*Resilient Community Associate Planner, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)*

Blanca Escobedo is a Resilient Community Associate Planner for the Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE), which provides technical assistance and capacity building support to underinvested communities. In this role, Blanca focuses on the Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) and Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) Programs. Prior to joining the SGC team, Blanca worked with community-based organizations in the Central Valley and Sonoma County. Blanca grew up in Tulare County and draws from her lived experience and working with communities in these regions and advocating for climate resilient investments. Blanca holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relation from UC Davis.

## PANEL 2: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT CONT.



**Lily Lee**

Assistant Director for the Permits & Rules Branch,  
*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

Lily started with EPA in 1992, working on Climate Change and Environmental Justice as a special assistant to EPA Administrator Carol Browner. She moved to Region 9 in 1997 and has worked in and managed a number of EPA programs. She worked as the Guam Program Manager to help implement a State Implementation Plan related to fuel switching for sulfur dioxide reductions and worked in East Palo Alto with the Bay Area AQMD and local groups to help run a community-based air monitoring initiative. More recently, Lily was the lead for oversight of cleanup at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site and has led a team of 19 staff in Region 9's water program to oversee and provide technical assistance through over \$1 billion in annual infrastructure grants to the U.S.-Mexico Border, Pacific Islands, and other Region 9 disadvantaged communities. Lily has a BA in Physics from Princeton University, where she studied radon in indoor air, and an MS in Energy and Resources from UC Berkeley, where she studied air pollution and environmental justice in California.

**Jessica Olsen**

*Director of Community Strategies and Resources,  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District*

Jessica has nearly 10 years of experience in air quality management, including 5 years managing and directing equity-focused programs in the Valley, including the implementation of the Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) program at the District level. Ms. Olsen has been involved in establishing and growing the District's department of Community Strategies and Resources, which includes expanding the District's efforts to address environmental justice in the San Joaquin Valley. Through these efforts, Ms. Olsen has been directly responsible for the design, preparation, and co-facilitation of over 500 community meetings with residents and other stakeholders from underserved, low-income communities across the Valley. She is also the lead executive manager over the District's Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG) and sits on several statewide committees with agency and community partners to help address air pollution in EJ communities. Ms. Olsen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering from UCLA, a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from University of California, Irvine, and is a Certified Professional Facilitator. She lives in Madera, Ca with her husband and daughters.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner**

*Co-Director, Central Valley Health Policy Institute*

Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner is Executive Director at the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at Fresno State. Dr. Pacheco-Werner is also a member of the California Air Resources Board and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Governing Board. She is a medical sociologist by training and received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, San Francisco.

As a health policy researcher, Dr. Pacheco-Werner is focused on the social determinants of health (SDOH). She is an expert in community engagement for policy efforts, and has worked with a wide range of agencies and systems to integrate community engagement practices into their decision-making processes. She has long advocated for community expertise to be recognized and compensated, and through her role at CVHPI works to increase the capacity of community-based organizations to conduct, analyze, and present their own research.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner is a Mexican immigrant who grew up in the Central Valley. She hopes her work helps ground policy in the everyday, practical challenges faced by communities in California. She lives with her husband and sons in Sanger, California.

## VALLEY AIR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

### **Samir Sheikh**

*Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District*

Samir is the Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Samir has 25 years of experience in directing, developing, applying and administering air quality improvement programs to help improve public health for Valley residents, many of whom reside in some of the most underserved communities in California. Born in Puerto Rico, Samir first learned English in kindergarten after his parents migrated to the United States and decided to raise Samir in the San Joaquin Valley. After graduating from Chowchilla High School, Samir earned his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA, both from California State University, Fresno.

Samir leads the largest air district in the state of California with some of the most complex air quality challenges in the nation. To date, he has overseen the expenditure of over \$6 billion in public/private investment in the District's clean air efforts through voluntary incentives programs. With a staff of over 350 air quality professionals, Samir has made employees' welfare and wellbeing a top priority, while focusing on providing excellent customer service to the general public and the regulated community.

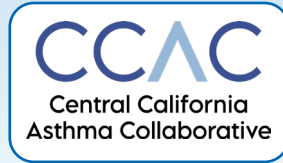


## LUNCH AND VENDOR FAIR

### Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC)

CCAC aims to provide education and direct services, build regional capacity and advocate for sensible policies that improve health and address inequities by reducing environmental impacts and emphasizing the prevention and management of chronic disease.

Website: [cencalasthma.org](http://cencalasthma.org)



### Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides. Our vision is a California where pest management is safe, effective and sustainable for everyone.

Website: [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)

### Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)

CCEJN's mission is to empower our communities and secure our children's future by eliminating negative environmental impacts in low income and communities of color in the Central Valley. For Community Clean Air Day, they will present on their partnership with Tree Fresno on the

Tree Adoption Program for residents in the Fresno AB617), provide information on the FRESSCA project and the filters that could help reduce indoor air pollution in homes with swamp coolers, and discuss how they provide information to farmworker communities regarding how to protect their health during wildfires

Website: [www.ccejn.org](http://www.ccejn.org)



### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Environmental Justice Office

The Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Program at EPA, created by the Inflation Reduction Act, provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities. Congress has appropriated \$2.8 billion for financial assistance, and \$200 million for technical assistance, to implement this new program at the EPA.

Website: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)



### Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK): Migrant Childcare

Our mission is to help the migrant families with a helping hand by providing a subsidized payment for childcare. We offer these services in six different counties. Please call us at 1-800-259-8866 if you have any questions or would like to apply. Our staff are all bilingual and ready to help.

Website: [www.capk.org](http://www.capk.org)



### Fresno County Department of Public Health

The Health Disparities Program works with Community-Based Organizations that utilizes Community Health Workers or Promotores to provide health education, care coordination services, and community linkage services related to social determinants of health to residents living in Fresno County at no-cost. Services are available in multiple languages such as Spanish, Hmong, Mixteco, Zapoteco, etc.

Information and resources will be available on the following program:

- CalFresh Healthy Living
- Tobacco Prevention

Website: [fcdph.org](http://fcdph.org)



## LUNCH AND VENDOR FAIR CONT.



### Fresno County Black Infant Health

The Public Health Nursing Division will be providing information on the Black Infant Health program. They will provide information on how their program helps our African American mothers have a healthy pregnancy and a wonderful first year of life with their new baby.

Website: [blackinfanthealth.org](http://blackinfanthealth.org)

### Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC): Energy Services

Fresno EOC Energy Services offers utility bill assistance and no cost home repairs to low income homeowners and renters in Fresno County.

Website: [www.FresnoEOC.org/energy](http://www.FresnoEOC.org/energy)

Facebook: [facebook.com/FresnoEOCEnergy](https://facebook.com/FresnoEOCEnergy)



The Stihl logo is the word "STIHL" in a bold, orange, italicized, sans-serif font, enclosed within a blue rounded rectangular border.

### Stihl

STIHL was built on a commitment to craftsmanship as well as a commitment to those who make and use our products.

STIHL offers a full line of battery-powered handheld outdoor power equipment for the professional and consumer and has been named as the number one selling brand of battery-powered handheld outdoor power equipment among landscape and tree care professionals in America.

Website: [www.stihlusa.com](http://www.stihlusa.com)

### Tree Fresno

Founded in 1985, Tree Fresno has been dedicated to expanding the urban tree canopy across the Central San Joaquin Valley for nearly 40 years. Propelled by the knowledge that trees lower temperatures and greenhouse gases, improve air and water quality, and lead to safer communities, the organization has planted over 53,000 trees in partnership with governmental agencies, local organizations, and schools.

Website: [treefresno.org](http://treefresno.org)



### Valley Air District: Fireplace Changeout

Replace your old wood- or pellet-burning device with a new, cleaner option! The Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out Program helps reduce particulate matter that comes from older wood-burning devices that contribute significantly to air pollution in the Valley during the Fall and Winter months.

For any questions about the program, please contact staff at (559) 230-5800, or via e-mail at [grants@valleyair.org](mailto:grants@valleyair.org).

Website: [valleyair.org/change-out](http://valleyair.org/change-out)

### Valley Air District: Lawn and Garden Equipment

Ready to take on your lawn and garden with a clean green yard machine? The Clean Green Yard Machines Residential Rebate Program (Residential CGYM) provides two flexible options for rebates to San Joaquin Valley residents. Replace an old gas/diesel -powered lawn mower with a new electric lawn mower or purchase new electric powered landscape equipment for your yard!

For any questions about the program, please contact staff at (559) 230-5800, or via e-mail at [grants@valleyair.org](mailto:grants@valleyair.org).

Website: [valleyair.org/cgym](http://valleyair.org/cgym)



## LUNCH AND VENDOR FAIR CONT.

### Valley Air District: Protecting Your Health

Air pollution generated from wildfires is significant and can well exceed the total industrial and mobile source emissions in the San Joaquin Valley, overwhelming all control measures and resulting in periods of poor air quality that can cause significant impacts to public health. Learn how to protect yourself from smoke impacts by checking air quality and improving your indoor air.

Website: [valleyair.org/wildfires](https://valleyair.org/wildfires)



### Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN): Vehicle Repair and Replacement

Own a 2006 or older high polluting car that you're willing to give up? Let us help pay to REPLACE it with a newer, cleaner car! Have a car that won't pass smog because of an emissions related problem? Let us help pay to REPAIR it! The Valley Air District with our partners at Valley CAN provide several great options to significantly reduce or even eliminate the pollution that comes from using your car.

Website: [valleyair.org/driveclean](https://valleyair.org/driveclean)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### *Thank you to our Community Clean Air Day Planning Committee*

- Gustavo Aguirre, Jr.**, *Central California Asthma Collaborative*  
**Nayamin Martinez**, *Central California Environmental Justice Network*  
**Gloria Alonso**, *Little Manila Rising*  
**Janet Gardner**, *Caglia Environmental*  
**Byanka Santoyo**, *Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment*  
**James Ottem**, *Valley Pacific Petroleum*  
**Harder + Company Community Research**  
**Valley Air District**

# Valley Air District Contact Information

## **www.valleyair.org**

4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356

(209) 557-6400

1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

(559) 230-6000

34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308

(661) 392-5500

## **Community Engagement**

[www.valleyair.org/community-engagement](http://www.valleyair.org/community-engagement) | (559) 230-6000

## **Grants and Incentives**

[www.valleyair.org/grants](http://www.valleyair.org/grants) | (559) 230-6000

## **File a Complaint**

[www.valleyair.org/complaints](http://www.valleyair.org/complaints)

**San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced: (800) 281-7003**

**Madera, Fresno, Kings: (800) 870-1037**

**Tulare, Valley portion of Kern: (800) 926-5550**



Follow us on social media

*This program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.*

