



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Air District celebrates Earth Day's 50th anniversary**

*Marking 50 years of air quality and environmental progress*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air District is celebrating 50 years of air quality progress as local residents and others around the world celebrate the golden anniversary of Earth Day this week.

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues. It is now a global celebration to raise public awareness of pollution. The theme of Earth Day 2020 is “climate action.” For decades the Air District has focused on developing comprehensive rules and strategies to improve and protect air quality and the climate.

“Since Earth Day started 50 years ago, the Bay Area has experienced dramatic improvements in air quality despite significant increases in traffic and population,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “It’s important to note, many challenges lie ahead. As progress made over the last 50 years is threatened by climate change and the rollback of emissions standards at the federal level, we must all commit to taking the necessary actions that will make a lasting difference moving forward.”

To celebrate Earth Day, the Air District will share significant air quality and climate achievements over the last 50 years. Residents can check the Air District’s Facebook and Twitter feeds for free Earth Day video conference backgrounds, a video and to view photographs showing air pollution from decades past in the Bay Area, as well as factoids highlighting improvements in public health and air quality.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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