



**A RESOLUTION OF THE AIR QUALITY WORK GROUP OF THE CALIFORNIA
PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**

**SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 3496, THE AIR AND HEALTH QUALITY
EMPOWERMENT ZONE DESIGNATION ACT OF 2008**

WHEREAS, Senator Barbara Boxer introduced S. 3496, the Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation Act of 2008 on September 16, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the legislation establishes criteria through which the San Joaquin Valley may apply for grants authorized for the purpose of replacing or retrofitting polluting vehicles or engines (or both vehicles and engines) in order to improve the health of the population; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley experiences the worst ozone and particulate air pollution in the nation, causing severe health, social and economic impacts. Its unique topography creates optimal conditions for creating and trapping air pollution and maintains a natural propensity to form and retain ozone gases; and

WHEREAS, seven of the nation's top ten agricultural counties are located in the San Joaquin Valley making it a vital contributor to the economy, while presenting air quality challenges; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley is one of the fastest growing areas of California expected to more than double in the next 40 years. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) have been increasing at 2-1/2 times the rate of population growth; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the nitrogen oxide emissions in the San Joaquin Valley come from mobile sources and over half of those emissions come from heavy duty diesel trucks. Diesel particulate matter accounts for 70 percent of the cancer risk from known airborne contaminants; and

WHEREAS, the Valley has been able to secure approximately \$100 million per year in incentive funding from local and state sources towards the goal of reaching attainment of federal Clean Air Act standards as quickly as possible ; and

WHEREAS, significant federal investment is needed to leverage state and local funding sources in order to reach attainment before 2024 or face federal sanctions; and

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WHEREAS, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley was created through Executive Order by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005 and is an eight-county public-private partnership focused on improving the San Joaquin Valley's economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.4 million residents that call it home. The Partnership Board developed a Strategic Action Proposal to provide actionable strategies for sustainable economic growth that will create jobs and improve environmental quality in the region, and was approved by the governor in November 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has ten work groups each assigned to carry out the goals and recommendations in the Strategic Action Proposal, one being the Air Quality Work Group. This work group contains over 300 organizations and members within the region; and

WHEREAS, S. 3496 is consistent with Goal 3, Objective C of the Air Quality Work Group recommendations in the Strategic Action Proposal to, "Enact federal-level incentives to accelerate adoption of stationary-emissions reduction technology and encourage investment in clean energy and alternative fuels," including exploring the concept of an "air quality empowerment zone."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE AIR QUALITY WORK GROUP OF THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, THAT:

Section 1. the Air Quality Work Group of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley hereby supports Senate Bill 3496, the Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation Act of 2008.

Section 2. suitable copies of this resolution shall be provided to all members of the San Joaquin Valley Congressional Delegation.

PASSED APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 14 day of October 2008, by the Air Quality Work Group of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.