



San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus

Happy New Year!

As Chair of the California State Legislative San Gabriel Valley Caucus, it's my pleasure to update you on some key policy issues of importance, which will impact you as a resident of the San Gabriel Valley. I look forward to continuing to work together to improve our quality of life and bring our region more of the resources we deserve. Happy Holidays, from my family to yours.



Foothill Gold Line

This year, the Caucus led a \$748 million budget request for state funding for the Gold Line. We secured 1.93 billion transit dollars for Southern California for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. We are continuing to advocate for project funding to LA Metro, the Governor's Infrastructure Advisor, and the California Transportation Agency.

Our local leaders continue to be critical in this effort, organizing community support from cities, educational institutions, businesses, and economic partnerships. LA Metro has included the Foothill Gold Line among its priorities in its application to the California Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program.

We remain committed to extending the Gold Line to Montclair and are optimistic about the impact of our efforts thus far. The Foothill Gold Line will make it easier for those in the Inland Empire to access the metropolitan hub of Los Angeles, and the cities along the way.

This expansion will strengthen local economies in several ways. The Foothill Gold Line will help downtown areas thrive as the project will attract new customers to businesses in our communities. Expanded public transportation also gives students new opportunities of where to attend college while providing an inexpensive and easy commute option for existing students.

The project will also reduce congestion on our infamously busy Southern California roads and serve as an expedient and environmentally-friendly mode of transportation between Los Angeles and San Bernardino. Finally, the project is expected to generate new jobs via the project itself and increased economic activity.

The Inland Empire has some of the worst air quality in California and our nation, further solidifying the importance of funding projects like the Gold Line that will help alleviate this issue. This project will eliminate an estimated 46.4 million vehicle miles traveled each year and 1.75 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution throughout its life.

The Foothill Gold Line can serve as a critical public transit hub in the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games. Ontario airport is one of just two international airports in the greater Los Angeles region and extending the Gold Line will make it easier for foreign and domestic visitors to fly in.



Extreme heat is an extended period of high heat above 90 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity: two, three, or more of these days constitute a heat wave. During extreme heat, the human body works harder to maintain a normal temperature. Prolonged exposure can lead to serious illness and even death. Older adults, young children, those who work outdoors, and people with medical conditions are particularly vulnerable.

The San Gabriel Valley experiences more extreme heat than areas near the coast. The valley air is warmer because the surrounding mountains block the cooling breeze. In urban areas covered by more hard surfaces than foliage, urban heat islands become hotter than other areas of the region.

Symptoms of heat-related dehydration and heat cramps include dizziness, fatigue, faintness, headaches, muscle cramps, and increased thirst. Individuals with these symptoms should move somewhere cooler and shaded, and drink water or sports drinks. Severe symptoms include diminished judgment, disorientation, pale and clammy skin, a rapid and weak pulse, and/or fast and shallow breathing, and require immediate medical attention.

As we begin the 2023-24 Legislative Session, I anticipate the Legislature will further examine how best to address and resolve heat islands and the impact they have on our most vulnerable neighbors.



This spring, the San Gabriel Valley Caucus exercised oversight of the State Water Resources Control Board, sending a letter to ensure of proper allocation of groundwater cleanup funds. The letter underscored the legislative history that led to voters' passage of both Propositions 1 and 68. The \$80 million authorized in the propositions was intended for use in the San Gabriel Valley's national top priority hazardous waste groundwater cleanup site.

Regional clean-up has both created treatment technological innovations that have been freely shared statewide and is far from complete – much remains to be accomplished to stop migrating contamination plumes. Therefore, it is important that our region continue to receive the necessary funding to continue groundwater treatment and achieve the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Act's mission of the human right to water and serve more than 40,000 residents in disadvantaged communities.



In June, Philip Crabbe with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) provided an update on the District's progress towards cleaner air in our region and reviewed legislative proposals with Caucus. SCAQMD discussed with us extending the Carl Moyer program to continue to remove nitrous oxide producing vehicles from our roadways and replace heavy-duty vehicles with zero emission alternatives.

We also learned about progress towards health-based federal air quality standards and accelerating much needed near-term emission reductions.

In the 2023-24 session, we look forward to continuing to work with all of our major stakeholders to improve quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley.